

Worship Helpers for April

USHERS:

- 1: Dick & Gloria Winters
- 8:
- 15:
- 22: Dick & Gloria Winters
- 29:



SOUND SYSTEM

Ken Bell

FELLOWSHIP TIME:

- 1: TBD
- 8: Rosemary & Luke
- 15: Bring a Snack Sunday
- 22:
- 29: 5th Sunday Potluck



April Worship Schedule

4/1-Easter

Communion
Mark 16: 1-8
"A Journalist Asks Questions about Jesus - Why?"

4/8-Second Easter

Ask A Question Sunday
John 20: 19-31

4/15-Third Easter

Guest Pastor Bruce Roller

4/22-Fourth Easter

Guest Pastor Roger LaWarre

4/29-Fifth Sunday

Hymn Sing
John 15: 1-8
"Abiding"

Birthdays in April



- 3 Aubrey Voshel
- 4 Dave Olwin
- 4 Tom Mee
- 10 Jose Hauser
- 15 Maison Cook
- 16 Michael Belfast
- 21 Bill Barends

Anniversaries in April

- 30 Don & Sue Cornell

Vacation



Pastor Jon will be taking a vacation from April 13th to April 22nd. If you have a pastoral need, please contact Nancy Carlson at 652-6824 or call the office.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

One Easter Sunday morning as the pastor was preaching a children's sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?"

"I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed, "pantyhose!"

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

432 Quarterline • Newaygo, MI 49337 • (231) 652-6624



Jonathan Riedel, Pastor

The Churchmouse

April, 2018



Earth Day

"The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants too." Psalm 24:1

I spent many days in the summers of my childhood picking through slag piles on the Keweenaw Peninsula. (that's in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for those unfamiliar with the geography). The tall stacks of debris were leftovers from the copper mines, whose carved-out entrances were often nearby, gathering water and litter. These discarded rocks still had slivers of copper in them, but not enough for the mining companies to bother with. So they were tossed aside and left to crumble, to avalanche, and to get sorted by amateur rock hounds, such as my family, who were looking for capillaries of greenish metal. The piles were waste, a stumbling-block for those who did not watch their steps. They were a reminder of an era when human beings took what they wanted from the world around them and left the refuse behind.

Nature does, however, reclaim some of our messes. Thorn bushes and some low-lying berry patches grew in the more worn stones. Snakes and insects found places to hide from the mid-day sun and from predators. I suppose raccoons and skunks might have skirted around the edges, looking for prey, if our tumbling of rejected rocks hadn't scared them into hiding. Rain and snow have pounded sections into dirt durable enough to hold saplings and tall grass. Nature, given time and non-interference, can erase our cavalier use of its resources.

As a Christian, I believe that all that is around me is, directly and indirectly, a gift from God. Trees, Mountains, fertile fields-all God's presents. The buildings we live in, the clothes we wear, the technology we enjoy and sometimes throw away for something better-all products of human creativity, itself an attribute that God gave us. Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Birds, and our fellow mammals-all issued from the drive for procreation and companionship set in us by God's enduring love. If we pull back the layers upon layers of life, the intricate connections of what surrounds us, I believe that it all stems from God. The Psalmist was right indeed-all of this belongs to God and is given to us only as a matter of safe-keeping, a matter of stewardship. We are called by God to be the caregivers of creation, therefore, though we often disagree on how to do this.

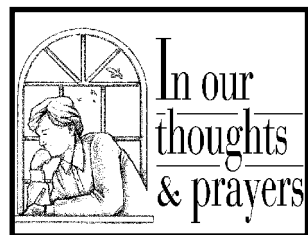
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How we resolve this disagreement is vital for our world's survival and for our own well-being. I once had a parishioner tell me that he thought people could do whatever they wanted to nature because God had left us in charge. His understanding was the dominion promised to us in Genesis 1 was a license, permission to lord it over all of what God had created. I kept silent, but I went home to look at the passage in Hebrew. God gave humanity a superior position, a gift graced to them because they were made in God's image. Though the meaning of this phrase is highly debated, it asks to consider what we share in common with God—creativity, compassion, a curious intelligence, and the organizational skills necessary to rise above bare instinct and to build civilizations capable of adapting to change and to need. So this dominion is not merely about power, it is about using power wisely. It is not about meeting our needs, but the needs of the future; it is not about taking care of just people and animals we know, but it about taking care of people and worlds we can barely imagine. Why? Because if we are called to lead as God would, to be the imitators as the image of God contained with us urges us to do, we must do what as God would. Would God litter, pollute, exploit, and destroy with no thought of what might come after? I believe, with my whole heart, the clear answer to that is 'no'.

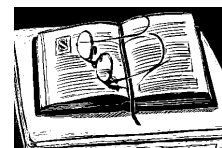
So on Earth Day I may go outside for a walk. It will not matter if it is raining or clear. I will remind myself to put plastic and newspaper into my recycling bin. I will pay attention if there is a news report about industrial waste and other careless treatment of the environment and write my representatives to express my concern. Most of all, I will bag all the litter I find and make sure that all I find is disposed of properly.

I will not be doing this to make a political statement, but rather because of what I believe about God. If God has placed me to here to take care of the world around me, I need to pick up the garbage. I aim to be a better steward, a better caregiver, of what the world gives me, so I will sort through what I throw away to make I am not tossing something that is reusable. Most of all, I want to be appreciative, yes, even deeply thankful, just as I was when I rustled through the rocks looking for thin green lines and, at the same time, absorbing the beauty of the contours of every stone. To recognize the giftedness of it all and to respond accordingly. I can think of no better way to celebrate the day.

The Rev. Jonathan D. Riedel
Pastor, Newaygo Congregational UCC



Al, Carolyn, Conrad Jr.,
Fred & Lucas, Maxine, Carolyn S. and
Marcia S.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

We are continuing our study of the
prophesy of Isaiah. We meet in the prayer
room at 9 a.m.

Bring your questions. We'll supply the
Bibles.



Smile Awhile . . .

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

* * * * *

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calles it a poem, and they give him \$25."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$200."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money!"

* * * * *

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

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Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

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The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

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UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"Then how come He doesn't answer?" she asked.

April

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Gloria in Office 10-12	3 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	4 Gloria in Office 10-12	5 Gloria in Office 10-12	6 Gloria NOT in Office	7	
8	9	10 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	11 Worship & Pastoral Care 10:30 a.	12	13 Pastor Jon on Vacation	14 Pastor Jon on Vacation	
15 Guest Pastor Rev. Bruce Roller Bring A Snack Sunday	16	17 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am Sewing 10-4	18 Pastor Jon on Vacation	19	20	21	
22 Guest Pastor Rev. Roger Laware	23 Churchmouse Deadline	24 Women's Bible Study 9:00 am	25	26	27	28 Men's Breakfast at NUMC at 8 am	5
29 5th Sunday Potluck Bring a Dish to Pass	30	1	2	3	4		

Tuesday Adult Study Class- noon and repeating at 7 p.m.

Christian Thinkers You Should Know

We are continuing this snapshot series on some of the greatest thinkers in Christian history. These are people whose lives and beliefs influence us to this day. We will meet at both noon and 7 p.m. on Tuesdays-you can pick the time that works the best for you. No reading is required for this class; your questions, of course, are welcomed. Here is a schedule of our topics.

- 4/3 - John Wesley
- 4/10 - The Heretics
- 4/17 - off
- 4/24 - Reinhold and H. Richard Niebuhr



Canned Goods for Food Pantry

We are continuing the collection of Canned Goods for the food pantry. There is a special need at this time of the year. There will be a box under the coat racks in which to put your donations.

Thank You

Deadline for the May Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **May Churchmouse** to the office by **Monday, April 23**. You may e-mail information to: churchmouse@newaygoucc.org or leave a hard copy in the office.



Treasurer's Report

**February 16 to
March 15, 2018**

	Income	Total Exp.
Feb. 18	\$ 902.00	
Feb. 25	2,936.00	
Mar. 4	1,924.00	
Mar. 11	1,671.00	
Total	\$7,433.00	\$12,670.34
Difference		(-\$5,237.34)

Phillips Fund	\$175,267.34
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Thank you during this Eastertide for all your diligence to the church.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer

Pick a Topic Sermons



Pastor would like to hear from you about which topics you would like Pastor Jon to feature during his *Pick a Topic* sermons. If you have a suggestion, you can call Pastor at 652-6624, put a note in the offering plate, or email him at

revjdriedel@gmail.com.

We Request Your Input

The Church Council is in the process of conducting Pastor Jon's Annual Evaluation. It is our responsibility to provide Pastor with positive and constructive feedback and to receive feedback from him as to how we can better support his ministry.

We invite the congregation to provide feedback, positive or constructive to this process. You are welcome to use the enclosed form and return it to Gloria. If you prefer, you can also contact either Bill Leaver at (515) 205-1400, or Julie Otto at (231) 689-3052 and speak to us directly. Your feedback will be shared (anonymously and confidentially) with Pastor Jon.

We will be meeting with Pastor Jon to discuss this feedback on April 11.

Thank you for your help in this important work of the church.

Bill Leaver Council Chair	Julie Otto Pastoral Relations Committee
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Circles Meal

The next meal that NCUCC will serve to the Circles Group is April 26.

The food donations needed for this meal are:
Egg Noodles • Dinner Rolls • Fresh Fruit: green and red grapes • Halos & Clementines • Canned Corn • Pudding Snack Cups (vanilla or chocolate)

If you can help by donating any of the needed foods it would be greatly appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall with the quantities needed.

If you would like to donate money to help purchase the food, we welcome that also.

Thank you so much for your support of Circles as our church's community project. We voted to accept this project as NCUCC's Community Service.

--Gloria



Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine".

Seedlings, your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help provide and offer nourishment and income. When we contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing we are part of God's work in the World.

Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will be held on April 15. Give generously!

Thank You from Emily Holderman



I am speechless by the LOVE I feel from your congregation. I am so humbled to be blessed by people who don't even really know me or my family. Kidney disease and dialysis are hard enough but knowing that my family is being thought of and especially being prayed for is HUGE. How good to be able to not stress and worry about getting to my appointments and dialysis.

I have had the pleasure of working with the kiddos from the church for several years and look forward to being able to for many more! Our son, Keegan, has taken part in

Kids Klub and vacation bible school and absolutely LOVES it. You have become more than just a church to us, but family. Again, THANK YOU!

MUCH LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Emily Holderman and family!

Update:

Emily Holderman has a four day kidney transplant evaluation scheduled the week of June 5 at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota!!! Prayers for her travels and for the doctors who will be evaluating her.

Neighbor to Neighbor Program

The hospitals will no longer inform the Pastor that you are in the hospital without written permission from you, due to Confidentiality Policies.

If you wish to have Pastor notified, you will need to fill out a form authorizing the hospital to disclose your health information.

These forms are available in the office from Gloria or Pastor Jon.



Thank You . . .

Thank You for all the prayers and cards. They help me so much knowing my church family was there for me and my family.

Thank You!

Love and Blessings,
Dorothy Bos & Family