

## Worship Helpers for May

### USHERS:

6: George & Anne Passage  
 13: Dorothy Bos & Gloria Winters  
 20: Dick & Gloria Winters  
 27:

### SOUND SYSTEM



Ken Bell



### FELLOWSHIP TIME:

6: Luke & Dewey  
 13: Julie Otto & Rosemary Strohpaul  
 20: Bring a Snack Sunday  
 27:

## May Worship Schedule

### May 06-Communion

Psalm 98

“Friends Together”

### May 13-Festival of the Christian Home

Pick A Topic Sunday

### May 20-Pentecost

Hymn Sing

Acts 2: 1-21

“Birthday Party”

### May 27-Trinity Sunday

Hymn Sing

Isaiah 6: 1-8

“Encountering Mystery”

## Birthdays in May



2 Allen Raterink  
 3 Charlie Johnson  
 15 Stan Mercer  
 16 Ken Bell  
 17 Marcia Eager  
 26 Don Cornell  
 28 Julie Jenuwine Otto

## Anniversaries in May

8 Jim & Donnielle Cook  
 27 Bud & Marilyn Spaulding

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2018. Please have all your reports for the Annual Meeting to Gloria *NO LATER* than Sunday, May 27th.

You can e-mail them to me or you can drop them off at church or put them in my mailbox.

Thank you for your cooperation.

--Gloria

*In  
 Loving  
 Memory*

Ruth Rottier would like to remember her dear husband Ken Rottier who went to be with the Lord one year ago on May 14th. He was always faithful in attending with me when I played the organ. He enjoyed visiting with all the dear people of this congregation.

Thank you  
 Ruth

## Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



## The Churchmouse

May, 2018



## Rural Life Sunday

*“Make no mistake. God is not mocked.  
 A person will harvest what they plant.”*

Galatians 6:7 CEB

One of the peculiarities of this city-raised and city-educated pastor is that I have primarily served churches in rural areas. I suspect that there are many reasons for this; some may include the willingness for rural churches to take a chance on a minister with a speech impediment, my enjoyment of the close relationships and often smaller scale (people, not programs) that preoccupy those who live in a less populated regions, and the urgent sense of calling to serve those often left behind by what technology calls ‘progress’. In a world that has seen a vast migration over the last 120 years (from 86% of our population on farms to less than 15), I have learned to value each person who passes through my church’s doors. In a society that seems to have lost contact with how its food is produced and what moral decisions are involved with its sowing and reaping, where people grow up believing that bananas can grow year-round and milk comes from a store around the corner, I know the impact of dirt, fertilizer, over-production, poor and better labor practices, and bio-engineering have on who are and who we want our children to be. Despite living through a culture that believes that we can always be ‘on’ and ‘active’, I chose to live in a world where seasons, growth, and fallowness are real and not artificially induced, where much of the growing life spent in those states is worthy of imitation if we are to claim any relationship to a healthy life that God is calling us all to live.

Paul the Apostle also seemed to be no stranger to agriculture. In his letter to the Galatians, he is urging his readers to live out their faith in Jesus by being generous and genuinely caring about those in their communities. Trust in Jesus may be the place to start in this new way of following God, but living out the love you have discovered there is the proof of what you have really committed yourself to. So if all you do brings disharmony among the people you belong to, hostility and violence to the world around us, and selfishness as the seeming motive behind everything you do, than it should follow that you are not taking this Jesus business very seriously, are you? You might be smooth and clever enough to fool some of the people most of the time, but you cannot fool God because God sees through to the heart of your motives and knows the real reasons why you are doing things. To put a horticultural spin to the matter, you can convince some people that skunk

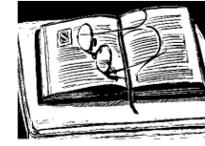
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cabbage is a low-lying, gamey-smelling member of the rose family but God already knows that you have not bothered pruning your Aunt Matilda's finest. A rose is a rose indeed, but so is a cabbage no matter how nicely you dress it up. If your actions reap only bitterness and anger, you probably did not start out aiming for family love and peace to begin with. Your real intentions always reveal themselves in the results and if the results are always the opposite of your stated intentions, maybe you should look more carefully at your starting point. You can, after all, only harvest corn if you plant seeds that have the general shape and genetic materials of what we call 'corn'.

Oftentimes people look at rural areas and see only prejudice and backwardness and, yes, those narrow and damaging attitudes can be painfully obvious simply because you notice people's voices more when the population is not huge. I would, however, like to suggest that the general flavor of rural America is a healthy skepticism. People in small towns and towns have seen many ideas, well-thought-out and inspiring, fly out of town with their children. They have learned to trust only what sticks around, what bears the weight of hard work and perseverance. Survivors in rural society trust only those who bother to get to know them, bother to listen to them, and bother to share in their hopes and dreams. Call it the fallout from years of disappointment, but most people who live near farms know you only grow what you plant. So if your plans and your intentions, although they might strike a veteran farmer as weird and new-fangled, actually do work, actually do help, and actually do bring new life to an often-dwindling economy and lifestyle, you will discover they will be taken up by others. With your name removed and the credit more generally shared, of course, but you will discover that your inspiration will take on a shelf-life that is longer-lasting and more multi-directional than you even imagined. Which is why, I suspect, micro-breweries, marijuana dispensaries, artists' colonies, poverty prevention support groups, and strange sports parks have managed to work their way into the fabric of rural society. Time alone will tell if these ideas will bear much good fruit, but, for the time being, they seem to show the promise of working and bringing new life to our communities and that is why these conservative communities have entertained these ideas to begin with.

I suspect that God waits in the same way. God waits for the harvest, for the end results, before calling a judgment of what we have pulled off. God does not demand that we do things in ways so cut and dry that their edges have flaked off, but God does ask us to be mindful of our intentions and to check the results against what our original goals might have been. God urges us to make sure what we are reaping is what we intended to plant to begin with. Most importantly, God is calling us to take the results of what we do as they really are, not to disguise or ignore them. Sometimes, as any good farmer knows, if you are not raising a good crop, it's time to do better planting. It is best to check your seed or let the field go fallow if we really expect to see something new and healthy. And that piece of wisdom is something I will share as Rural Life Sunday rolls around, as it does every May on my church's calendar.

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



## Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

The Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9 a.m.

We are still exploring the prophesy of Isaiah.

Bring your questions; we'll supply the Bibles.

### Tuesday Bible Study Classes Noon and 7:00 pm

This month is a split menu. On the 1st and 8th we will continue our series on *Christian Thinkers You Should Know*. We will first look at Dietrich Bonhoeffer and then we will be study the *Liberation Theologians*. The rest of the month we will reflect on the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Here is a schedule:

May 15th-Proverbs

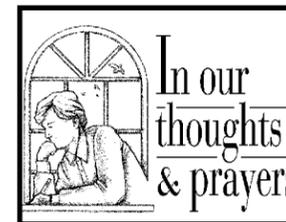
May 22nd-Job

May 29th-Ecclesiastes

Come and join us.

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a. m.  
on Tuesdays



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

## Smile Awhile . . .

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"  
"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '*Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.*'"

=====  
A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

=====  
The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

# May

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                    | Friday                | Saturday                                    |
|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 29<br>Circles Meeting<br>Grand West Mtg.<br>2:30 pm<br>at Hudsonville UCC       | 30   | 1<br>Women's Bible Study<br>10:00 am  | 2<br>Admin Mtg.<br>10:00 am<br>Choir Practice<br>5:30 pm              | 3                           | 4                     | 5   |
| 6<br>Circles Meeting<br>Grand West Mtg.<br>2:30 pm<br>at Hudsonville UCC        | 7  | 8<br>Women's Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Adult Bible Study<br>12 pm                                  | 9<br>Worship & Pastoral Care<br>10:30 am<br>Choir Practice<br>5:30 pm | 10                          | 11                    | 12  |
| 13<br>Mother's Day  | 14   | 15<br>Women's Bible Study<br>10 am<br>Sewing - 10-4<br>Adult Bible Study<br>12 pm                   | 16<br>Choir Practice<br>5:30 pm<br>Council Mtg.<br>7:00 pm            | 17<br>NCUCC<br>Circles Meal | 18                    | 19  |
| 20<br>Pentecost<br>Christian Ed. Mtg.<br>after worship for<br>children & adults | 21   | 22<br>Women's Bible Study<br>10:00 am<br>Adult Bible Study<br>12 pm                                 | 23<br>Choir Practice<br>5:30 pm                                       | 24                          | 25                    | 26<br>Men's<br>Breakfast at<br>NUMC at 8 am |
| 27<br>Trinity Sunday  | 28<br>Memorial Day<br>Office Closed<br> | 29<br>Women's Bible Study<br>10 am<br>Adult Bible Study<br>12 pm<br><b>Churchmouse<br/>Deadline</b> | 30<br>Gloria in Office<br>Choir Practice<br>5:30 pm                   | 31                          | 1<br>Gloria in Office | 2   |

## Remembering Loved Ones

During the May 27th worship service we will remember those loved ones who have died since the last Memorial Day. If you have a friend or family member you would like Pastor Jon to name, please let the office know by calling (231) 652-6624 by the 23rd.



### 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

*Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want but the realization of how much you already have*

### Deadline for the June Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **June Churchmouse** to the office by **Monday, May 28**. You may e-mail information to: [churchmouse@newaygoucc.org](mailto:churchmouse@newaygoucc.org) or leave a hard copy in the office.



## Treasurer's Report

March 16 to April 15, 2018

|                   | Income            | Total Exp.        |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mar. 18           | \$1,987.00        |                   |
| Mar. 25           | 1,656.77          |                   |
| Apr. 1            | 3,555.00          |                   |
| Apr. 8            | 1,672.00          |                   |
| Apr. 15           | No Church Service |                   |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$8,870.77</b> | <b>\$4,784.90</b> |
| <b>Difference</b> |                   | <b>\$4,085.87</b> |

Phillips Fund \$167,235.13

One Great Hour of Sharing \$50.00  
only \$50 yet, but will receive the majority of this gift next week (April 23) due to the cancellation of our church service on April 15.

Thanks be to God for all our gifts and donations. We are so blessed by his gift of Jesus Christ and so cared for by the Holy Spirit..

Spring will be here soon  
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](mailto:revjdriedel@gmail.com).

## Mission Trip in 2019



Christian Education, is doing a mission program for the year 2019 (probably summer). We would like to know who would be interested in:

1. learning about another culture
2. learning what mission work is
3. learning to work with others
4. learning to set and meet goals by fundraising
5. learning what serving Christ is all about

Activities that may be put before us are as follows:

- Building and delivering bunk beds for children
- Repairing homes, including roofing, siding, and trailer skirting

- Securing and delivering firewood during the winter months
- Installing outhouses
- Building wheelchair ramps for elders
- Helping with community gardens
- Immersing our volunteers in Lakota Culture and teaching Native American history
- Building relationships between staff, volunteers, and the Oglala Lakota people

How much does a volunteer trip cost?  
The total cost for a week long service-learning trip (Saturday to Friday) is \$549.00 for volunteers age 12 and over, This fee includes a 4.5% tax.

WE WILL HAVE TO DO MULTIPLE FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN ORDER TO RAISE THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY PER EACH PERSON GOING.

An interest sign up sheet and will put it in the Fellowship Hall for folks to sign up if they are interested in going.



The next meal that NCUCC serves to the Circles Group is May 17.

The food donations needed for this meal will be listed on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving tacos, so items for topping a taco will be needed.

If you would like to donate money to help purchase needed items for this meal or our upcoming meals, that is also appreciated.

Thank you for your help.

Gloria

## Dear Parent, Grandparents, Guardians of Children and Teens,

Children in our church are a gift to us and a sign that our church is growing. The way we welcome them and keep them safe within the church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.



In our church we have a policy of Safe Sanctuary. This means that two adults must be present at all times with any group of children or with an individual child during Sunday School, VBS, or Kids' Klub. This policy assures us that children are safe from abuse of any kind from adults or from other children. This policy is strictly followed.

Before the church service starts and after Sunday School is dismissed, it is the responsibility of the adults who have brought the children to church to keep them within their view. Following our safe sanctuary policy, children of any age should not be alone or alone with other children anywhere in the church

Before service and during fellowship time, children should be near their guardians in the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall.

Please encourage your children to walk inside the church. As we say in Children and Worship, "You have all the time that you need. We can walk more slowly and speak more softly, because someone might be talking with God, and we don't want to disturb them". This is a way of being in the Church which keeps everyone safe, including those with canes, walkers or balance challenges.

Unless a child is invited or helping the adult who brought them to church, children should not be in the kitchen or in the refrigerator. Again, the goal is to have a clean and safe environment for all. Children will be asked to help serve, wash and clear dishes - all a part of learning service to our church family, but only if their adults are present to supervise.

To the members of the congregation: please get to know the children of our church by name, welcome them with smiles, encourage their parents, catch them doing good work.

We love these children, love worshipping with them, love sharing Bible stories with them, and love the adventure of seeing them grow in their faith.

We invite the children, and whoever brings them to our church, to a short meeting right after the service in the bell choir room on **Sunday, May 20**.



Sincerely,

Your Christian Education teachers