

Worship Helpers for August

USHERS:
5: Dorothy
12 Dick & Gloria
19
26

SOUND SYSTEM



Ken Bell

FELLOWSHIP TIME:
5: Jim and Jean
12
19 Bring a Snack Sunday
26



Birthdays in August



2 Sherry Tagle
4 Dawn Anderson
9 Sue Johnson
9 Ben Riedel
11 Denise VanGessel
16 Karen Veenstra

Anniversaries in August

6 Greg & Nancy Myers
15 Paul & Audrey Eno
27 Allen & Sheila Raterink

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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



Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



The Churchmouse

August, 2018



Holocaust Remembrance Day

“The Lord proclaims: A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and wailing. It’s Rachel crying for her children. She refuses to be consoled because her children are no more.” Jeremiah 31: 15 CEB

In the middle of the room lined with names etched into the walls is an eternal flame. On closer examination, the names are not individuals. Instead they are reminders of neighborhoods, even whole villages. Villages full of people who worked, loved, ate together, worshipped, and slept and, carefully and systematically, they were eliminated. Their inhabitants were stripped of their belongings, separated from their children, imprisoned in camps, and died from execution or starvation. The intense, but modest flames burns in their memory, the memory of all six million Jewish people who perished. Horrible as that steep number is, the atrocities committed by the Nazi regime did not end there. Factor in the number of Communists, gay people, Romany Gypsies, and nationalist groups also gassed and starved and the death toll rises past nine million. All of this done in the name of a pure race, a perfect German people, and an ideal society. I stood in this room at Michigan’s Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills unable to move.

Part of my immobility came from my awareness of the horror of our not-so-distant past, perpetrated by people who shared my ethnic heritage, who could be my distant cousins, people who did not see themselves as producing soldiers and civilians capable of executing such violence. Yet most of my silent vigil stems from my knowledge, then as well as now, of how many times we have tried to annihilate those among us who differ, physically and spiritually, from those in power. Cambodia. The Sudan. Palestine. The American West. Manchuria. The Armenian communities in Turkey. The Ukraine. Argentina. Chile. Ireland. And so on. Perhaps the greatest tragedy is not so much that we have to burn memorial candles for those we have exterminated, but that the fact that such shoahs do not dissuade us from killing again and again.

People have asked me, as a minister, what I think of the basic nature of humankind-whether we are basically good or evil? My answer is not particularly reassuring to the questioner. I tell him or her that human beings are opaque. Some, because of nature, nurture, and guidance by God, tend to the clarity of good. Others, because of poor choices, neglect, and spiritual despair, grow more and more clouded until all of their actions destroy something fundamental in themselves and in the

August Worship Schedule

The Bible in 13 Chapters

08/05-The Bible in 13 Chapters
Chaos
Daniel 12: 1-13
Communion

08/12-The Bible in 13 Chapters
Conception
Luke 1: 26-38
Mission of the Month

08/19-The Bible in 13 Chapters
Cross
Matthew 27: 37-44
Hymn Sing

08/26-The Bible in 13 Chapters
Conclusion
Revelation 21: 1-8
Hymn Sing

(continued from page 1)

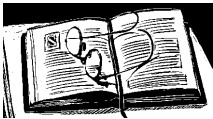
world around them. Pointless destruction is the heart of what we call ‘evil’. Humankind has to be bent, guided if you will, into some direction in order to make any move at all. It has to be moved to respond. The greatest glory of human beings is when they are inspired to be creative in arts, in relationships, in the care for the worlds God has given them. And their greatest shame is when they cannot do anything but mar and obliterate all the good that surrounds them.

And how do we respond to this opaqueness? We need to listen. After I left the room of the eternal flame, I listened to a Holocaust survivor describe his experience. He survived because he was a young man capable of mining the tin mines of Czechoslovakia. He was fed better because the camp directors needed him to pound rock. He was liberated from the camps by the Allied Forces only to discover he was the only one among his family alive. After he told his story, he paused to allow us to ask questions. I asked him what he thought about God. It was an unfair question, one born from my sheltered middle-class position, but I was curious. He demurred and left my question unanswered. As I was leaving, he pulled me aside and told me quietly that he could no longer believe in a God who would have let his people die so horribly, particularly in the presence of those who claimed to speak on God’s behalf and yet were the one preaching death for his people and were the first to hold the guns that killed so many of his family. I apologized for asking the question and thanked him for his honesty. I suspect that I would have felt the same if I were in his place.

Thinking back on that conversation, I wonder if that is precisely what God would have urged me to say. Instead of giving him a glib and clueless lecture about God’s mercy and love, I listened and truly heard what he had to say. Instead of trying to ease my heart with a sure answer, I walked with him into the question, into the pain, into the loss, if only for a moment. I did not judge. I did not reject. I did not reel in fear of being contaminated by his deep sorrow. Perhaps, if we had had a chance, we might have talked more about God, about what could believe in and what we could not. Perhaps we could discovered something we both could have called ‘good’ in a world scarred by Holocausts. Together we might have honored the memories of those lost by recognize what we shared in common and, out of that common bond, vowed to confront the powers of prejudice and hatred that deprive so many of their rights and possibilities as human beings. I think, in some small way, we did that. By walking together for those moments we saw the God-giveness of each other and it is those small moments of grace that make ‘never again’ a possibility.

On August 6th, I will light a candle and pray for a never again. I may not be able to stop being from destroying one another but I can work to make that I do not. I can encourage and teach others so they do not. I can reach out to the people I disagree with and dislike so that, even in the passions of politics and morality, I never forget our common humanness. I cannot think of a better way to remember the dead, small and insignificant it might seem. Sometimes, however, in a deep darkness it is best to light even the smallest of lights.

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



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

We are exploring Isaiah. Join us at 9 a.m. We’ll supply the Bibles.

August Film Series

“Jesus of Montreal”

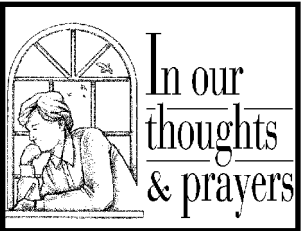
What’s happens when a theatre troupe updates the passion of Christ for modern times? What effect does it have on the church hosting the event and on the actors discovering the story for the first time? What secrets and hopes does listening to this old story of God’s reveal in our fast-moving lives of today? Join us as we discuss this challenging Denys Arcand production. This is a film for adults only. It does contain material not suited for younger viewers. We will meet at 12 noon Tuesdays in the back meeting room.

Women’s Bible Study

Women’s Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the front room.

Congregators Meal

Adults only-Monday, August 27th—6 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. Come and join the conversation.



Al, Carolyn, Conrad Jr.,
Fred & Lucas, Maxine, Carolyn S. and
Marcia S., Nancy Carlson, Dawn Anderson

Labor Day Parade



NCUCC wishes to have a float again this year in the Newaygo Labor Day Parade on Sunday, September 2.

We are in need of donations of candy we can pass out to the kids along the parade route. Your donations will be greatly appreciated (NO chocolate, please).

You can give your candy to Pastor Jon or Gloria.

--Thank You

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am	30	31 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	1 Worship & Pastoral Care 9 am	2 Circles	3	4
5 Circles Mtg. Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am CROP Mtg. 7	6	7 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	8	9 Circles	10	11
12 Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am Circles Mtg.	13 4-1 Quartet 7:00 pm	14 Women's Bible Study 10 am Sewing - 10-4 Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	15	16 Circles	17	18
19 Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am Bring a Snack Sunday	20	21 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	22	23 NCUCC serves Circles Meal	24	25 Men's Breakfast at NUMC at 8 am
26 Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am	27 Congregators Meal 6 pm	28 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	29 Churchmouse Deadline	30 Circles	31	1

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.



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 September Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **September Churchmouse** to the office by **Wednesday, August 29**.

You may e-mail information to: churchmouse@newaygoucc.org or leave a hard copy in the office.



Treasurer's Report

June 16 to July 15, 2018

	Income	Total Exp.
May 21	\$830.00	
May 28	1,221.00	
June 3	3,292.00	
June 10	3,605.00	
Total	\$16,728.75	\$21,804.59

Difference (\$5,075.84)

Phillips Fund \$169,814.57

Thank you to everyone for their generous giving/sharing for God's work.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer



Mission and Social Action News

School Supplies



Summer time again and soon stores will have "Back to School" sales. Some families in our county are not financially able to buy the supplies their children need. Lucky for them, our members and friends have always been willing to help out.

Please bring your purchases to church and put them in the "School Box". We will collect supplies until Sunday, August 26.

Items Needed

Yellow Pencils
Block Erasers
Glue Sticks
Crayola Crayons
Markers - washable
Pointed Fiskar scissors
Plastic Pencil Box
Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks
Colored Pencils
Spill-proof water bottles

Please DO NOT Bring:

Trapper Keepers
Permanent Markers
Mechanical Pencils

Thank you for your help

--Mission & Social Action Commission



Smile

Cost of a Sermon

One beautiful Sunday morning, a pastor announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Preaching

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went.

Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again.

After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

Late for Bible Class

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!"

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

APPEARING IN CONCERT



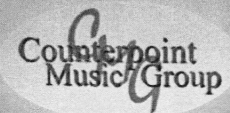
4ONE QUARTET

www.4onequartet.com

DATE: **Monday, August 13th, 2018**

TIME: **7 P. M.**

LOCATION: **Newaygo Congregational U.C.C.-432 Quarterline**



For more Information: 231.357.1181 or 231.250.0134

FREE WILL OFFERING