Worship Helpers for September

USHERS:
2: Debs & Judy
9 Dick & Gloria
16
23
30

SOUND SYSTEM

Ken Bell

FELLOWSHIP TIME:
2:
9
16
23
30

Birthdays in September

1 Betty Lou Vincent
2 Brekken Masser
4 Trisha Winters
9 Gloria Winters
13 Paul Herbert
13 Norma Jean Petz
16 Lori Mayhab
18 Barb Getz
25 Wayne Porter
26 Tim Purcell
28 Greg Myers

Anniversaries in September

7 Tom & Gretchen Mee
14 Ed & Dorothy Ranger

New Address:

Marcia Smalligan's new address is:
Green Acres of Fremont
801 Main St.
Fremont, MI 49412
Room 116

Marcia would enjoy cards and visits from her church family.

September Worship Schedule

The Bible in 13 Chapters

9/02-Communion
"Inside/Outside"
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9/09-Mission of the Month
Bring An Object Sunday
Mark 7:24-37

9/16-Ask A Question Sunday
Hymn Sing
Mark 8: 27-38

9/23-Pick A Topic Sunday
Hymn Sing

9/30-Fifth Sunday Potluck
Musical Guest Sunday
"Whosoever That Is Not Against Us"
Mark 9: 38-50

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor

The Churchmouse

September, 2018

Labor Day

"Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work on it-not you, your sons or daughters, your male or female servants, your animals, or the immigrant who is living with you. Because the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them in six days, but rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." Exodus 20:8-11 CEB

As I was growing up in a suburb south of Detroit, Labor Day was not a day of rest. It stood as a resounding reminder that the school year was just about to begin, that the business of writing essays, solving repetitive math problems, negotiating the tangles of hall traffic and peer relationships, and remembering all the rules was upon me. Now I did not mind school once class got underway, but I did not relish losing days full of riding my bike, assembling Legos, and reading without a highlighter. Summer lured me into a state of inertia and I preferred to be a body at rest. So I would groan at the oncoming onslaught of work when the sun rose on Labor Day morning.

I am long past school-going days and Labor Day is now a mere interruption in my work week. I acknowledge it with barely a picnic. Since I believe that all days are gifts from God, I once decided to look up the origins of the holiday. Labor Day, in its hearts, was a day designed to celebrate the gifts of the working person: the factory worker, the seamstress, the mechanic, the truck driver, and all the other people who make the mechanisms of our country run. It was advocated by the trade unions and labor organizers as a way to offer people who were often over-worked, under-paid, and unprotected by safety and anti-exploitation laws a day off with pay. It was meant to stand as a reminder to the independently wealthy and the owners of industry that their leisure and opportunities to rest were dependent on the hard work of those lower on the ladder and, as such, the bounty of that leisure and rest was something that all people desired and that all people should have a share of. This rest did not only entail a weekly day off, but also included such quality of life issues as retirement when we are too weak to work, sick leave when we need to heal, and family protection when a worker is no longer there to provide for his or her family. It is common nowadays to mock unions as big business or to argue that, compared to the rest of the work, American workers are demanding and lazy, but those sentiments do not recognize the darker reality beneath. Workers often worked in deplorable conditions until they dropped dead, families were dismantled when the

continued on page 2

(continued from page 1)
hack it, and owners could, with impunity, fire people because of their race, their ethnicity, and their gender. Sad to say, some who labor so tirelessly still do. Unions may have failed to do all they could do for the American economy, but they did address the pains and quandaries of the often unheard working class, those who made the American dream possible. Labor Day recognizes the often unheralded workers and those who stood by them, and what better way to recognize their hard endeavors is to give them all a day of rest?

In many ways. Labor Day started as a secular vision of Sabbath. Sabbath is the model of all days of rejuvenation, all days of restoration after all mighty acts of creation. God the great example-setter knew that we the created could not follow in God's ways without a day of rest so God originated the nap. For the sake of simple wholeness, our God of the depths rose to where we live, the land of six steps forward always call for one day asleep. This gift given to our Jewish spiritual ancestors, however, was not for them alone. It was for all who lived in the land of their sojourn-their animals, their fellow workers, and the immigrants who brought their creativity and productivity from their former lands of their sojourns also deserve the same time of respite. Labor taxes us all and all must rest or all will rust and decay. The currently successful will not endure if it always rests of the eternal suffering and loss of those under us and the agony of those to come. God calls us to rest so we can have another six days in which to work. But that is not all-God calls us to rest so that those who will come after us will even have work and creative moments to live for and to accomplish. We rest now so our and our workers' and our immigrants' grandchildren can dream. Labor Day can only offer us a glimmer of this, but if we do not catch a glimmer of this what possibilities do we really have?

We are all creatures of labor. Even the act of breathing is labor. Most of our daily seems to be grunt work and we do often grunt and then complain about that grunting. But if we take God's gift of life to us seriously, we will seek the blessing of Sabbath, the blessing of creativity, of hope, of new possibilities, of dreams seriously. And we take all of this seriously not just for ourselves, but for the workers and immigrants among. That is not just the American dream, but it also God's dream. And that is dream well worth having.

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

Pastor Jon will be on vacation from September 10th - September 14.

If you have a pastoral concern please contact Barb Getz or Dorothy Bos.

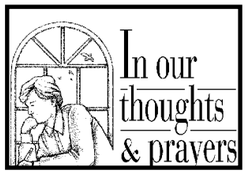
Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

We continue to wind our way through Isaiah. Join us with your questions. Bibles provided..

Women's Bible Study

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



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

Thinkers for Armchair Theologians

Back by popular demand. We are exploring some of the great Christian thinkers and movements. After a short introduction, the time is open to your questions and discussion. We meet at noon on Tuesdays. Here is a partial list of topics.

September 4 - Gospel According to Matthew
September 18 - The Reformation
September 25 - John Knox
October 2 - Jonathan Edwards

Thank You. . .

I would like to thank all those who said prayers for me and sent cards to me during and after my heart surgery.

Our Church is the Best!

--Rosemary Strohpaul

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn . . . . . *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
Weatherman's Hymn . . . . . *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*
Contractor's Hymn . . . . . *The Church's One Foundation*
Tailor's Hymn . . . . . *Holy, Holy, Holy*
Golfer's Hymn . . . . . *There's a Green Hill Far Away*
Politician's Hymn . . . . . *Standing on the Promises!*
Optometrist's Hymn . . . . . *Open My Eyes That I Might See*
IRS Agent's Hymn . . . . . *I Surrender All*
Gossip's Hymn . . . . . *Pass It On*
Electrician's Hymn . . . . . *Send The Light*
Shopper's Hymn . . . . . *Sweet Bye and Bye*
Realtor's Hymn . . . . . *I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop*
Massage Therapist's Hymn . . . . . *He Touched Me*

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	*God Will Take Care of You*
75 mph	*Nearer My God to Thee*
85 mph	*This World Is Not My Home*
95 mph	*Lord, I'm Coming Home*
100 mph	*Precious Memories*

September

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

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 October Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **October Churchmouse** to the office by **Monday, September 30.**

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

Treasurer's Report

July 16 to August 15, 2018

	Income	Total Exp.
July 22	$624.00	
July 29	1,165.00	
August 5	1,732.00	
August 12	3,930.00	
Total	**$7,451.00**	**$4,84286**
Difference		**$2,608.14**

Phillips Fund	$173,344.40

Thank you to everyone for the support for the church and its programs.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer

Thank You. . .

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sent get well cards and Happy Birthday cards to me. They kept my spirits up and reminded me of all the love and caring our church family share.

Thanks a million.

Dawn

You're Invited. . .

I am having Amora's birthday party next month on the 29th of Septmember I would love for anyone who would like to be there to come celebrate with us. It will be at Gordon Park between Sand Lake and Cedar Springs on Northland Dr. We will be doing a meal and cake/dessert.

--Brecken Masser

Thank You. . .

Ella Mae Mercer wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and well wishes. She is doing fine as is Jim

Smile

DID NOAH FISH ?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

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.

ALL MEN / ALL GIRLS

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member,every friend,and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say,"And all girls."

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls ?"

Her response,"Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

Hello! You, out there...

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Chtist is just that – a congregational church. That means the business of the church is overseen by the congregation (the Council) and the functions of the church are undertaken by the congreatoin (the Commissions). Now, it doesn't have to be all that formal. Each of our Commissions have desigated represenatives reporting to and from the Council, but each Commission also relies on other volunteers to help wiith planning and projects. For instance, the Worship and Pastoral Care Commission is chaired and vice chaired by Barb Getz and Dorothy Bos, who represent that Commission on the Council. However, we benefit even more greatly by the planning and participatory input of Julie Jenuwine Otto and Holly Matthews, and the promised support of Marilyn Spaulding and Nancy Carlson. We'd love even more!

A year of more ago, you filled out a survey suggesting areas in which you'd be interested in some involvement. Go check those out and see if you are still interestsed in the same things, or maybe you've developed a new interest. And come and join us as we serve, decorate, teach, or whatever it may be to make NCUCC even better. You may be surprised at the people you get to know and become closer friends with! Too old? Never! Too weak? We've got lots of muscle to go around. No time? We can be very accommodating.

Yes, we always need fellowship, ushering and other ongoing support. But don't forget there's even more fun in the deeper commitment of assisting in other projects. We wait with open arms!

35th Annual Newaygo/Grant CROP Walk

Sunday, October 7, 2018

What are CROP Hunger Walks?

Neighbors walking together to raise funds to end hunger in their community and around the world. Also, to raise awareness and money for international relief and development.

What's the point of walking?

People in developing countries may walk as many as six miles a day for water, food, and fuel, and to take goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle to exist.

Where does the money go?

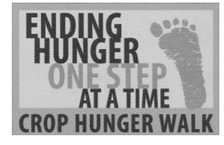
Church World Services uses money raised to help struggling people around the world and around the corner. Locally, one-fourth of the funds raised is split between LOVE INC. and Meals on Wheels.

Registration and a soup lunch begin at 12:30 at Newaygo United Methodist Church, with the walk at 1:00. The route follows the paved walkway in Riverfront Park along the Muskegon River.

In honor of our 35th year of CROP Walks, cake and coffee will be served after the walk.

Please see Ann Passage or Joyce Twining for your walker's donation enveope, It's possible to participate even if you are unable to walk on October 7. simply walk when it's convenient for you. If walking is not possible, you may collect donations and be a *Spirit Walker.*

We will need donations of soup and cake -- see Joyce Twining if you can help. Thank you for your prayers for this walk, started 35 years ago by our own Kathy Eno.



In Christ,
Joyce & Linnea
NCUCC Missions