

Worship Helpers for January

USHERS:
6: Dorothy & Gloria
13:
20:
27: Dick & Gloria



SOUND SYSTEM

Ken Bell

FELLOWSHIP TIME:
6:
13:
20:
27:



Birthdays in January

- 1 Dorothy Ranger
- 2 Jacob Herbert
- 2 David Twining
- 4 Judy Cook
- 4 Kathy Murphy-Voshel
- 9 Joyce Mead
- 12 Bud Spaulding
- 15 Nancy Carlson
- 15 George Passage
- 23 Debi Walter
- 26 Don Mead
- 27 Klaus Walter

Anniversaries in January

27 Fred & Karen Veenstra

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



The Churchmouse

January, 2019



Addictions

“I don’t do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don’t want to do. But if I do the very thing that I don’t want to do then I’m not the one doing it anymore. Instead it is sin that is living in me that is doing in.” Romans 7: 19-20 CEB

Addiction is an as apt a metaphor for sin as any I have found. It stirs a stew of biological, psychological, and spiritual distress. It stands as a helpless and frustrating mix of responsibility and powerlessness that, in its own peculiarly warped way, reflects both the creativity and the destructiveness of humanity. As a pastor and as a family member, I have watched its power and have felt helpless in its wake. I have also seen people own up its hold on them and rise, sometimes feebly and sometimes determinedly, to confront its swath of chaos. I suspect that much of my ministry has been devoted to dealing with this perplexing problem.

Some scenes keep reoccurring in my memory as I think about the addictions I have witnessed. I visited ‘Bill’ in his hospital room during my time as a chaplain intern. Bill was a multiple amputee-one arm was gone to his elbow and he was lying in his bed recovering from another inch removed from his right leg. He told me sadly that he knew he was going to end up here and how he would probably be back. He just couldn’t stay away from the sweets even in the presence of his brittle diabetic condition. He just missed the taste that much.

Another men spent five years bedridden because of a catastrophic stroke. He had been a heavy drinker. In his younger years, he would joke about how we wake up in other people’s garages to the smell of freshly brewed coffee with no memory of how he got his car in there. He never shared his stories with me. The stroke had left him only able to say a single syllable.

Another couple were only occasional attenders of one of my churches. They had evaded my requests for a get-acquainted visit. One Friday, however, I was watching a local news show and the reporter was sharing the story about a couple who had lost their retirement in the casinos. The photo on the screen beside him was one of my reluctant couple. I called them the next day to see how they were. Their first question to me was “So, you saw the show?” After I had told them ‘yes’, they invited me over for a long talk.

January Worship Schedule

01/06 Epiphany

Communion
Where is the Child?
Matthew 2:1-12

01/13 The Baptism of Christ Sunday

Ask a Question Sunday
Luke 3:15-17; 21-22

01/20- Pick a Topic Sunday

Hymn Sing

01-27 - Health And Human Service Sunday

Hymn Sing
Good News, Good Ways
Luke 4L:14-21

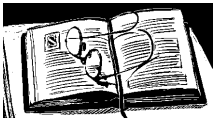
(continued from page 1)

I share these stories not to warn or to judge. I admire the courage shown and mourn the losses suffered. I believe that God calls the church to stand with those who are in the process of confronting the depths of their struggles and to cry for those whose hearts and souls are not ready to fight. But often that is not the case. Most of the churches I have worked with have hosted meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Weight Watchers, and Narcotics Anonymous-organizations that, among others, provide support and care for those who are trying to recover. Over the years, I have talked with many group leaders and participants about their searches for God amid their addictions. Many of done so without the help of any church, synagogue, or mosque. One gentleman described to me how his time with AA was his prayer meeting and had been more helpful than any church had ever been. I asked him why. With some hesitation, he explained that he had once been a leader in the local Methodist Church. When his alcoholism had gotten the better of him, he had turned to his pastor for help. His pastor was no help indeed; instead he mounted a movement to remove his parishioner from public leadership and excised him from church membership. That was the last time he ever attended a Sunday Worship service.

Sometimes we pastors can be a bit dense. We forget that we too have mixed motives, misplaced intentions, and appalling holes in our souls. We also face the same dilemma that Paul described so eloquently in his letter to the Romans. We do know what the best thing to do is but we don't do it. We often know what will do the most harm, but we still do that anyway. We have felt the ancient ghosts of guilt, sorrow, and compulsion pull us into actions that whatever remaining shards of common sense we have warn us to avoid. But we can't help ourselves and we are left begging for mercy and compassion. We as pastors and we as followers of Christ fail when we forget that we are all beggars after divine love.

So when it comes to the demanding struggles that addiction provoke, it is best to remember that we are still just beggars. Our places of worship should be safe havens. We should host 12 step programs and other recovery groups. We should study the issue carefully and comprehensively and we should look deeply into the more hidden and more conflicted parts of our own lives. Most of all, we show demonstrate a fair compassion, urging people to engage their addictions and aiding in their attempt to live on top of them even if we have to walk that same lonely, frustrating walk with them again and again. Life is always a struggle against destruction and compulsion and, through the powerful example of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are renewed daily to face the battles we must face.

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



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

We continue our study of Isaiah. We'll supply the Bibles.

Women's Bible Study

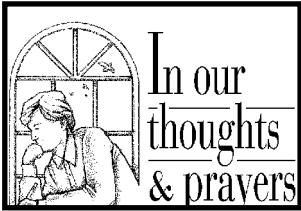
Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays

Tuesday Noon Adult Study Series

"Theologians for the Armchair Theologians"

We will wrap up our year's Adult Study classes with a quick view of the Catholic Epistles. These letters of the Christian Scriptures were written to benefit the whole church and offer practical advice about how to work together and how to seek out God's good in all circumstances. We meet at 12 noon. Our readings for 11/13 are First and Second Peter. Our readings for November 27th are First, Second, and Third John.

Come and join us.



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

Thank You. . .

Dear Newaygo United Church of Christ Members

I send 1,00 thank yous for all your prayers, cards & phone calls while I spent 3 months in the hospital.

I am staying with my son, Max Carlson and wife Kris' home. Your cards & calls are still coming and I appreciate every one of them.

To all of you I say THANKS!

--Nancy Carlson



CIRCLESUSA
Thriving Families, Thriving Communities

January is the last month the Circles Group will be meeting at NCUCC. They are moving to Church of the Living Christ in Fremont.

The Circle leaders want our congregation to know how much they have appreciated being at our church for the past year. We will continue serving our meal on the 4th Thursday of each month.

We will continue to need your support with food donations and/or money donations to help with the meals.

Items needed for our January meal:

- Wide egg noodles (4 packages)
- Salad (2 big bags or 4 small)
- Grapes (3 bags red, 3 bags green)
- Halos or Clementines (3 bags)
- Dinner Rolls (4 packages)
- Corn (1 big and 6 smaller cans)
- Whip Cream (1 large or 2 small)

January, 2019

30	Scoot/SK8 Sunday School 10-11 am	31		1	New Year's Day Office Closed	2	Admin - 10 am	3	Circles	4		5	
6	Sunday School	7		8	Women's Bible Study 10 am	9	Worship & Pastoral Care 9 am	10	Circles	11		12	
13	Sunday School 10-11 am	14		15	Women's Bible Study 10 am Sewing - 10-4 Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	16	Council 10 am	17	Circles	18		19	
20	Sunday School 10-11 am Bring a Snack Sunday	21		22	Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon	23		24	NCUCC Serves Circles	25		26	Men's Breakfast at NUMC at 8 am
27	Sunday School 10-11 am	28	Churchmouse Deadline	29	Women's Bible Study 10 am	30		31	Last Circles at NCUCC	1		2	



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



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.

Deadline for the February Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **February Churchmouse** to the office by **Monday, January 28**.

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



Treasurer's Report

November 16 to
December 15, 2018

Income		Total Exp.
November 18	\$1,017.00	
November 25	2,048.00	
December 2	3,998.00	
December 9	2,002.00	
Total	\$9,063.00	\$4,973.74

Difference **\$4,089.06**

Phillips Fund	\$186,266.49
Family Fund	63,329.60

Thank you for all the generous giving during this Advent Season.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer



Smile

A little boy was overheard praying. “Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it, I’m having a real good time like I am”.

* * * * *

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.
Finally, the boy replied, “That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys”.

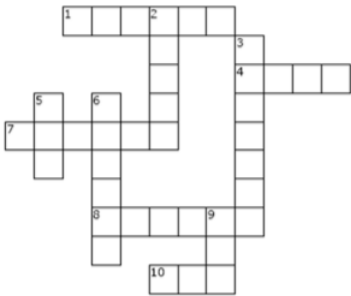
* * * * *

One particular four year old prayed, “And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets”.

* * * * *

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, “Would you like to say the blessing?”
I wouldn’t know what to say,” the girl replied.
Just say what you hear Mommy say,” the wife answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said, ‘Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?’

Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- DOWN
1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings

2. The name that Jesus called Simon

3. A persons who speaks for God

4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea

5. To speak

6. The whole body of believers in Christ

7. A male parent

8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets

9. A male child in relation to his parents

10. An adult male human being

PETER	FATHER	PEOPLE	SON	CHRIST
PROPHET	ROCK	MAN	CHURCH	SAY

Peter's Confession of Christ

Matthew 16:13-20

Word Search Puzzle

I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

Christmas Pageant

