


Worship Helpers for February

USHERS:
3: Dorothy & Gloria
10: Julie & Rosemary
17: Dick & Gloria
24: Dorothy & Gloria

 **SOUND SYSTEM**
Ken Bell

FELLOWSHIP TIME:
3: TBD
10: TBD
17: Julie & Rosemary
24: Bring a Snack



Thank You. . .



The Circles Group wish to thank our congregation for being the host church for the past year. They have enjoyed our friendly hospitality and working with us. They are also very appreciative of our monthly meal donations. In their words,
“We are awesome”.

February Worship Schedule

02/03 Epiphany
Communion
On the Edge
Luke 4:21-30

02/10 Pick a Topic Sunday
Mission of the Month



Birthdays in February

12 Jo North
22 Ben Voshel

Anniversaries in February

Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



The Churchmouse

February, 2019



Faith and Science - Companions of the Soul

*“I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart.
Your works are wonderful-I know that very well.”*

Psalm 139: 14

I was raised as a child of a scientist. Trained as a physicist and as a geologist, my father used his vacation time to gather the materials necessary for him to teach his earth sciences classes. With him my sister and I clambered up and down slag piles for copper-veined rocks, picked through beaches near Lake Superior for banded agates, and hung from the edges of natural bridges so we could see the outcrops beneath. Our scientific education was not just limited to the contours and colors of stones; we learned how to sort out trees and fruit-bearing plants. We walked on bogs and hiked around swamp edges. He taught us how to observe, how to look for similarities and differences in animals and vegetative life, and how to follow patterns in natural processes. We learned to tease out the interconnections of the natural world much the way we learned how to sort out the patterns of stars in the bare night sky.

My father’s science was tinged with the abiding faith of his Baptist grandmother and mother. For him, the processes of evolution and plate tectonics were not refutations of God, but, rather, proved that the ever creative and ever productive God was still at work. He saw the beauty in every rock and in every species of fish as he sat by creek sides as a sign of the spark of life that God gave all that God had created. Though he was reticent to talk about religious ideas (after all, many a good friendship has ended over religious and political differences), his science was touched by a search for God. Science was the tool he used to convey his wonder and his curiosity about how God’s universe worked. As a teacher it was his task to convey that same questioning enthusiasm to every student he encountered.

In some respects, I followed in my father’s footsteps. My curiosities, however, focused more on the workings of the human mind rather than on the world that surrounds us. I majored in psychology in all its vast varieties. What I learned about the scientific method of experiment and hypothesis-testing I learned teaching rats to master mazes and watching the effects of chemicals and choices on ordinary people’s behavior. I too learned to observe, to discern patterns, and to toss away ideas that no longer work by asking hard questions and seeking even harder answers. My field, even as a pastor, has always focused on the intersection of faith and science, how a religious persuasion helps or harms people. Since I too find my imagination and my wonder piqued by the

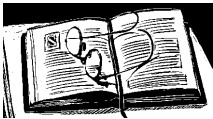
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variety of human ritual and by the touching empathy and compassion that so much of faith seems to cultivate I am not rendered doubting by faith opposing my own or by alternative theories of reality that do not jibe easily with my Christian faith. I stand in awe of God’s creativity and in amazement at the audacity of the human response to it that I can accommodate truths that do not, on their surfaces, coexist easily. After all, both science and religious are ways of exploring the mysteries of life-science looks for the mechanics of our being and religion siphons out the meaning of what see. We need both to be fully human and I deplore the tendency of both scientists and religionists to render the other voice null and void.

Maybe the psalmist gives us a clue about what that is important. We are set apart from other animals by our ability to reflect on that question alone. We have the gift of self-awareness and the corresponding gift of stepping outside of ourselves long enough to see the world has something beyond just a source of food and reproduction. We can create in our heads alternative worlds and have the power to build them as well as to realize the consequences of what we have created. That is why God made us the caretakers of what God has made. Science and faith are tools for that caregiving. We can use them to build up, to nurture, to cultivate, and to heal. We can study how they work and work to ensure their future health. We can believe that all belongs to God and behave accordingly. Or we can use science and faith as a weapon of destruction and dominance, capable of destroying not only our perceived enemies but ourselves as well. We can pits those tools against each to render ourselves sterile in our humanity and stagnant in our civilization. Religion and science are but tools; it is what we do with them that make our lives whole or broken. And we will certainly not do anything to build a better world by encouraging cultural wars between religions, between science and religion, and between technology and the human spirit. We will only succeed in benighted and benumbing our explorations of the worlds around us and in destroying opportunities to help and to heal those in pain and struggle around us. It is not a matter of science vs. faith; it is more a matter of needing both to ensure the wholeness of all of what God has created.

So when the stars appear in a clear night sky I will trace out constellations and think about fiery gases. I will also wonder at how God, the great Underspirit of the universe, can build and care for both. And I will be thankful that I can take the time to appreciate both.

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



Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:00 am

We continue our study of the Propheis of Isaiah. We meet at 9 a.m. You bring the questions. We’ll supply the Bibles.

Women’s Bible Study

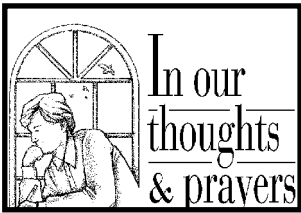
Women’s Bible Study meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays

Tuesday Noon Adult Study Series

“The Other Epistles - Part 2”

Once you get beyond the letter written by Paul, are the other letters important? The other letters in the Christian Scriptures have much to teach us if we take the time to read them. In February we will do an overview of these other letters. We meet at noon on Tuesdays. Here is a schedule of topics.

- February 05 -- James
- February 12 -- Jude
- February 19 -- Hebrews
- February 26 -- The Pastoral Letters (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus)



Al, 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

Recipe. . .

Kentucky Fried Chicken Cole Slaw

Yield: 13 cups

- 4-1/2 tablespoon tarragon vinegar
- 6-1/2 tablespoons oil
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 2-1/2 cups Miracle Whip
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 carrots, peeled
- 2 medium-large heads cabbage

Mix oil and onions, add sugar and Tarragon Vinegar.


Fold in Miracle Whip. DO NOT substitute Tarragon with plain vinegar. The Tarragon is the “secret” seasoning.

Best if made the night before serving so the flavors all blend well.

Will keep a long time in refrigerator.

February, 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--------|------------------------------------|
| 27 Sunday School 10-11 am | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Circles | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Sunday School | 4 | 5 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon | 6 Worship & Pastoral Care 9 am | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Sunday School 10-11 am | 11 Mission & Social Action - 5 pm | 12 Women's Bible Study 10 am Sewing - 10-4 Adult Bible Study 12 Noon | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Sunday School 10-11 am | 18 | 19 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Men's Breakfast at NUMC at 8 am |
| 24 Sunday School 10-11 am Bring a Snack Sunday | 25 Churchmouse Deadline | 26 Women's Bible Study 10 am Adult Bible Study 12 Noon | 27 | 28 NCUCC serves Circles Meal in Fremont | 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 March Churchmouse

Please send any information or articles you would like included in the **February Churchmouse** to the office by **Monday, February 25**

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



Treasurer's Report

December 16 to January 15, 2019

| Income | Total Exp. | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| December 16 | \$525.00 | |
| December 23 | 986.00 | |
| December 30 | 397.00 | |
| January 7 | 3,059.00 | |
| Total | \$7,594.75 | \$6,302.06 |
| Difference | \$1,297.64 | |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Phillips Fund | \$160,003.90 |
| Family Fund | 60,656.66 |
| Christmas Fund | 358.00 |

(Donations on Christmas Eve)

Happy New Year to everyone. Thanks for all you do.

Dawn Anderson, Treasurer

Thank You. . .

Thank you church family for all the prayers and cards. Thank you Pastor Jon for the wonderful memorial service for my mother. Thank you Ken for taking care of the technical side of the service. And thank you to those that donated food and the hard working ladies who put on the luncheon. We are extremely grateful to all of you.

- Thank you, the family of Carolyn LaPreze.



Smile

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!"

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!"

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"

Actual Announcements from Church Bulletins

• Coming Up—Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.

• Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

• Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.

• The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

• This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

• Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

• Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

• A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

• At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" – come early and listen to our choir practice.

• "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

• The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

February 10 Mission Trip



Thank you to all of the congregation and friends who have supported the trip financially. We are in need of *Prayer Warriors*. Will you collectively pray for this group?

We have raised \$830.00 so far and need a bit more. Thank you. If you have questions or want to attend call Sherry Tagle at 652-4735.

In March, watch for more information on a Soup/Bread Luncheon.

Valentine's Day Word Search

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

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Arrow | Date | Hand holding | Roses |
| Be Mine | Diamond | Heart | Stroll |
| Candy | February | Hugs | Suitors |
| Card | Feelings | Kisses | Valentine |
| Chocolate | Flowers | Love | |
| Couples | Friendship | Lovers | |
| Cupid | Gift | Romance | |