

# Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Jonathan Riedel, Pastor



**“An Open and Affirming Church”**

*No matter who you are,  
no matter where you are on life's journey  
you're welcome here!*



## The Churchmouse



March 2024



## Revival

*“God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.”*

Genesis 1:27 CEBI

I have to admit honestly that I do not understand those who oppose women serving in ministerial roles. The pastor who led my confirmation class at Faith United Methodist church was a woman. The chaplain who had the most impact upon during my college years. Many of my fellow students in seminary. The director of the hospital program which taught me how to be a chaplain in a hospital setting. My first Associate Pastor. My first Senior pastor. Many colleagues in various denominations in youth and outreach work in every place I have ever served, which includes seven states. All were female. And it was not their femaleness that made them notable, but the talents and the determination they brought to their calling. I know the Biblical quotes that discourage women from taking leadership roles in the church. They are mostly drawn from the Pastoral Epistles and were written under Paul's name. As was the case with most advice offered in the letters of the Christian Scriptures, the wisdom offered there was time-bound and situation-specific. The author, concerned about the future of the church amid an increasingly hostile Roman Empire, wanted the church to tone down the most radical elements of the faith. Women in strong leadership roles and speaking out in public was not acceptable in Roman society. It would mark those gathered there as potential dangers to the state. Caught between the tension between being a radical but temporary vision of God's inclusive love and being an incrementally changing but still present movement that could reform the fabric of the society around them, the church ultimately chose the latter. It was not a choice completely in line with Jesus, who allowed women such as the one he met by the Samaritan well to

preach, but one that allowed Jesus' influence to seep longer and effectively into the world around them. Sparks of that radical inclusion remained; Dorcas and Lydia, both women, remained some of Paul's most trusted and revered church leaders. But they were sparks that the church often kept hidden because of their fear of persecution and reprisal. Such habits of reticence often become tradition, traditions that harden into the way it always was and always should be. Fortunately, the Holy Spirit is one that does not stand for such reticence. Church history is speckled with women who broke away from the roles expected of them, who have broken the usual cultural norms, and, in the process, transformed at their little corner of the world. Julian of Norwich. Joan of Arc. Theresa of Avila. Clare of Assisi. Susanna Wesley. Anne Hutchinson. Mother Ann Lee. Mary Baker Eddy. Aimee Semple McPherson. Fannie Crosby. Sojourner Truth. Harriet Tubman. Phyllis Wheatley. Ellen White. Dorothy Day. Antoinette Brown. Rosemary Radford Reuther. Carrie Ten Boom. This is only a partial list. Though many of these were ignored, exiled, and even killed during their times because they stood out against the prevailing norms, they are remembered today because they provide real and promising alternatives. Many of the women I have listed above could not remain in the communities and the churches that they were born into. Often their experiences of God and their words were too volatile for the comfort of those churches. Much as it might have saddened them to leave them behind, they did and we are the better for their leaving. They inspired and actually formed new communities, wrote and preached extensively even when their public speaking came with an exacting price, and left prayers and theologies behind that moved future generations to learn from and build on their wisdom. Their wisdom went far beyond the walls of their churches. For example, Ann Lee's Shakers inspired furniture making, the Arts and Crafts movement, and better treatment of children left to the orphanage system. Ellen White's dedication to a Seventh Day Adventist understanding of the connection between health, food, and prayer inspired an entire segment of the American health care movement. I suspect that Joan of Arc's love for her country and for her vision of equality for all people has inspired politicians and statespeople many generations after her death.

The Rev. Jonathan D. Riedel-Pastor,  
Newaygo Congregational United Church of Christ

Link for **Maundy Thursday service**, March 28th at 3 p.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81212986222>

Link for **Good Friday service** March 29th at 3 p.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89428756673>

## Noon Forum on Tuesdays

*The Full History of the United Church of Christ/The Politics of Jesus*

We will meet this month in the prayer room to finish our exploration of the full history of our denomination. We will focus on the often-neglected Afro-Christian Convention Churches and take a wander through the hymnals of our church.

March 05-The Afro-Christian Convention  
March 12-Where Did All These Hymnals Come From?

For the last two weeks of the month, we will start our series on the politics of Jesus. Yes, Jesus did have a political viewpoint and a rather surprising one to boot. Here is a schedule of the topics:

March 19-Treat the People's Needs as Holy  
March 26-Give a Voice to the Voiceless

Join us for our lively discussions.

## Prayer Room/Chapel

Anyone who wishes to have a small quiet place to pray or meditate is welcome to use the room across from the nursery to do so.

The room is open during the secretary's office hours and on Sunday morning.

## Wednesday Night Prayer

Wednesday Night Prayer Time 7 pm. Call 978-990-5000 then 283560#

## Deadline for the April Churchmouse

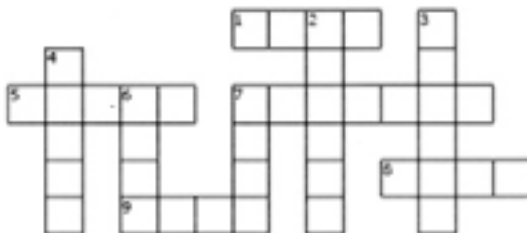
Please send any information or articles you would like included in the April **Churchmouse** to the office by **Wednesday, March 27** You may e-mail information to:

Churchmouse@newaygoucc.org  
or leave a hard copy in the office.

## Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



### ACROSS:

1. The period between birth and death
5. The object upon which Jesus was crucified
7. To care about what you want without thinking of others
8. To refuse to allow yourself something
9. To no longer have something because it has been taken away

### DOWN

2. To be guided by someone else; to go behind
3. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles
4. A large number of people gathered together
6. The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies
7. To keep someone or something safe from harm.

Follow  
Gospel

Crowd  
Lose

Selfish  
Save

Life  
Cross

Soul  
Deny



## Treasurer's Report

January 16, 2024 to  
February 15, 2024

	Income	Total Exp.
January 21	\$1,940.00	
January 28	1,618.00	
February 4	2,669.00	
February 11	1,895.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,122.00</b>	<b>\$12,002.27</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(3,880.27)</b>
<b>Phillips Fund*</b>		<b>\$179,087.80</b>
<b>Family Fund</b>		<b>\$ 78,7745.40</b>
<b>Souper Bowl</b>	<b>462.50</b>	

Thanks to everyone for making this year start off so well.

Dawn Anderson  
Treasurer

## Ways to Worship with Us

Here is a reminder of the different ways that our worship services are available to you. ♦ Everyone is welcome to attend our services in-person every Sunday at 10 am. ♦ You can also access a live audio/visual broadcast using ZOOM on your computer or smart phone by using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/184864699096>

Those without internet access can call the following phone number and Meeting ID:

1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 848 6469 9096.

If you would like to access the services on your own schedule, they are added to our website [www.newaygoucc.org](http://www.newaygoucc.org) and Facebook page following each service.

Links to Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve services are provided as needed.

## March Worship Schedule on ZOOM

Worship is in person and on ZOOM at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/184864699096> or phone 1-312-626-6799 ID: 848 6469 9096

### March 03-Third Sunday in Lent

Communion  
John 2: 13-22  
"Letting Go of Conformity"

### March 10-Fourth Sunday in Lent

Dr. Lillian Damiel  
John 3: 14-21  
"Letting Go of Condemnation"

### March 17-Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 12: 20-33  
"Letting Go of Progress"

### March 24-Palm/Passion Sunday

Mark 11: 1-11 and Mark 14:1-15:47  
"Walking with Mark"

### March 28-Maundy Thursday-3 p.m.

Service of Communion  
John 13: 1-17, 31-35  
"Letting Go of Status"

### March 29-Good Friday-3 p.m.

Service of Chants and Stories





### March 31-Easter Sunday

Communion  
Mark 16: 1-8  
"Letting Go of Death"

*March 10th, the Rev. Dr. Lillian Damiel, the Conference Minister of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be our guest preacher, while Pastor Jon will lead the rest of the service. She will be staying for fellowship time to talk.*



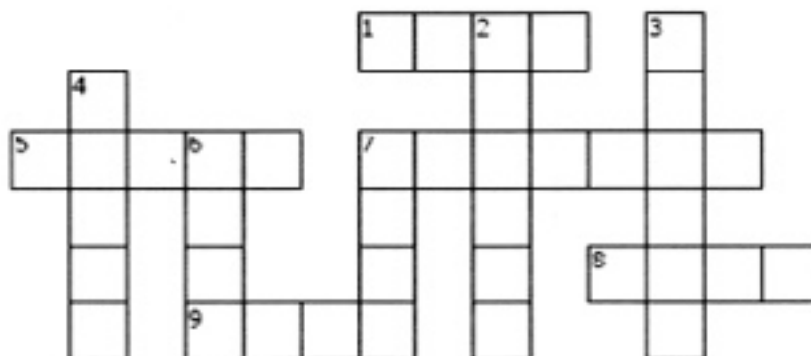
# March, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Worship Svc. 10 am In person, phone & Zoom	4	<b>5</b> <b>Noon Class</b> 	<b>6</b> 7 pm Prayer	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Worship Svc. 10 am In person, phone & Zoom  Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>11</b> 10 am Worship & Pastoral Care in office & on phone	<b>12</b> <b>Noon Class</b> 	<b>13</b> 7:00 Prayer	14	15	16
<b>17</b> Worship Svc. 10 am In person, phone & Zoom	18	<b>19</b> <b>Noon Class</b> 	<b>20</b> 7:00 Prayer	21	22	23
<b>24</b> Worship Svc. 10 am In person, phone & Zoom  <b>Palm  Sunday</b> 31 Easter	25	<b>26</b> <b>Noon Class</b> 	<b>27</b> 7:00 Prayer  <b>Churchmouse  Deadline</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Tuesday  Service  3:00PM</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday  Service at  3:00PM</b>	30

# Take Up Your Cross

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world,  
yet forfeit his soul? Mark 8:36

Based on Mark 8:34-37



## ACROSS

1. The period between birth and death
5. The object upon which Jesus was crucified
7. To care about what you want without thinking of others
8. To refuse to allow yourself something
9. To no longer have something because it has been taken away

## DOWN

2. To be guided by someone else; to go behind
3. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles
4. A large number of people gathered together
6. The part of a person that continues to live after a person dies
7. To keep someone or something safe from harm

FOLLOW	CROWD	SELFISH	LIFE	SOUL
GOSPEL	LOSE	SAVE	CROSS	DENY