



OUR STAFF

Transitional Pastor:
Reverend Nikey Keels
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Administrative Assistant:
Linda Wieferich
Caretaker, Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendant:
Sarah Egerer

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis
Vice-Moderator: Tom Carr
Clerk: Cyndi James
Treasurer: Jody James
Missions Treasurer:
Roger Ellsworth
Financial Secretary: Mary Leary



CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

1. Christian Education:
Theresa King
2. Youth: Cheryl Ellsworth
3. Missions, Outreach/Evangelism:
Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Co-Leader: Vacant
Historian: J. David Garn
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
4. Music: David Garn
5. Finance: Jim Garn
6. Facilities/Maintenance:
Vacant
7. Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
8. Worship: Vacant
9. Pastoral Relations: Vacant
10. Visitation: Lois Smith
11. Nominating: Appointed as needed



OUR CHURCH VISION

Drawing upon its rich history of service to God in an urban setting, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church serves as a beacon of Christ-centered ministry to the community through witness, worship, and fellowship in a culturally diverse population.

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602
Church office: (989) 793-8555

Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net Website: MABCSaginaw.org



An Easter Message From Rev. Nikey Keels



17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! II Corinthians 5:17 NRSV.

Years ago, while in undergrad, a friend and colleague of mine shared a life changing encounter with me and a few others. He said that one day while working at the counter of an arcade, a job for which he loathed, there was a man who had approached him with constellation tickets to exchange for a prize. As my friend began to assist him, the man took notice of his sour disposition, and based on what followed, he must've discerned that he was a Christian too. After the man received his prize, he said to my friend, "have you ever seen a butterfly go back into its cocoon?" Obviously annoyed and wanting this mysterious fellow to leave, my friend gave a resounding, "No!" Continuing to prod, the man asked, "then why do Christians try to go back to the way they were?" Like pouring ice water on a burning stove, my friend was thunderstruck, and halted right in the middle of his tracks by this sobering, yet profound question.

The children of Israel can attest to this because they too experienced frustration and angst while holding the title as "God's chosen people." The Old Testament records that after crossing the Red Sea, they arrived at an off-the-grid region known as the wilderness. Despite the fact that they were on a sojourn to the promised land flowing with milk and honey, The children of Israel became consumed with malcontent over the bare bones provision of manna provided by God. In Numbers 11:4-6 NRSV, it reads, *"The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'"* Notice, within the text that the children of Israel are free, and yet they are romanticizing about having been slaves! They allowed the pressure of a present and temporary circumstance to ignite within them a longing to return to their dead slave masters in Egypt. Never mind about the sparse rations of food, the physical exhaustion from being overworked, and the psychological torment that accompanied the threat of punitive reprisal-Egypt was better than this.

But, this is the challenge that we all face. When there is pain in good change, our tendency towards doubt causes us to want to cling to the predictability of security for fear of what lies ahead. We begin to dissociate ourselves from the trauma of the past and resort to the old adages like, "better the demon you know than the one you don't," or "well, at least when I was with so and so, or was doing so and so, or when I had so and so I could_____, " you fill in the blank. But, deep down inside, the abuse of that relationship, the stress and health risks of that job, and the financial strain of having too much was nothing to be lauded.

As we have discussed over the past month or so, the basic fundamentals of salvation and what happens when we receive Christ. It was understood that after believing, and confessing that Christ is the Risen Savior and Lord, a deposit of the Holy Spirit is placed inside of us. This deposit is just the beginning of the process of all things becoming new and it is one that will continue until we die. As a new born baby has to go through and grow through many stages of development before reaching adulthood, we as Christians must undergo the process of being born again into a new life in Christ. If our goal is to thrive and mature into a healthy Christian then, we must continue to feast on the milk and meat of the Word of God. All of this is necessary so that when we encounter the growing pains of the wilderness, we will have the courage and faith to stand without desiring to regress into our own proverbial Egypt land.

So, just as preposterous as it would be for a butterfly to return to its cocoon, or for a baby to return to his or her mother's womb, it is equally absurd for a Christian to revert to their old way of life. Once we are transformed there is no going back. We are either, a. going to move forward or b. remain stagnant. (hint: choose a).

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you." Romans 8:11 NRSV

Many Blessings & Have a Bountiful Resurrection Easter Sunday

Rev. Nikey D. Keels

Transitional Pastor

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016

Dear Congregation,

As I journey through our community, I see countless people in need of Jesus' love and healing touch. You may be pondering, like I do, what difference one can make in addressing so many needs. Together, we can make a difference by supporting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2016.

The theme this year—"Discipleship: A Journey of Grace," based on Titus 2:11-13—is a wonderful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. On each day of his journey, the compassion of Jesus was felt by someone somewhere.

In "Meditations of the Heart," Howard Thurman, African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, civil rights leader and founder of a multicultural church, wrote:

I will lift up mine eyes. Scarcely knowing it, I have become increasingly self-centered, my mind focused upon all the details of my little life and the endless trivialities of a daily routine. I hover over all my little aches and pains, my petty annoyances, my little frustrations... Then out of no place comes sometimes a gentle, sometimes startling reminder and I lift up mine eyes. ...I will lift up mine eyes to life, that I may read the guideposts along my way and not miss the important turning in the road. I will lift up mine eyes to love, that I may not close the door of my heart to the knocking hand, the tender cry, the anxious reach. I will lift up mine eyes to God, that I may meet His spirit not only in the high place, the great moment, the penetrating call, but also in the byways, the little duties, the stinging irritations and the sad and bottomless renunciations. And for me this is enough.

We learned that we should live to love because true freedom in Christ enables us to do so by the power of the Spirit in our life. The outworking of God's grace will be seen most often during difficult times. God's grace is being manifested in our lives as we gladly seek to help others carry their burdens.

The AFC Offering 2016 reminds us that when grace happens we receive not a nice compliment from God but a new heart. We receive a transformed life that becomes the hands, the feet and the prophetic voice of Jesus Christ in our communities and as we connect with people every day.

How do we see the grace of Jesus Christ at work in our community? We are encouraged by this year's theme to come alongside people as they journey through life. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's AFC Offering 2016 and help us to reach our goal in support of home mission that is making a difference. The 2016 MABC Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of March.

Cordially,

Nikki Anjakos-Seno
MABC Mission Team Chairperson



Holy Week Calendar

PALM SUNDAY, March 20, 2016

- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service. Valley Voices Praise Dancers
- 12:00 p.m. Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 24, 2016

- 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal (Love Feast) and service at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
(Please bring finger foods to the Agape Meal)

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25, 2016

- 9:00-11:00 a.m.
CARRY THE CROSS
Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m. to get ready for the 9:00-11:00 "Carry the Cross" as we silently witness for Christ.
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service at MABC. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.
"The Seven Last Words"

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Son-Rise Worship Service
- 8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
- 9:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship Service



THANK YOU

Dear Members of MABC

I would like to thank everyone for the Christmas Love Gift.

I have used the money to purchase a used snow blower. It will come in handy and hopefully save the church a little on snow removal.

I am always grateful to have all of you as friends.

I wish all of you a great "2016" and wish all many blessings.

Truly,
Al Ferrell

Dear MABC

Thank you for the Christmas Love Gift. I truly appreciate it. I hope that everyone has a great 2016.

Sarah Egerer
Nursery Attendant



Dear MABC,

As the Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church along with the entire membership; we would like to "Thank you" for the generous gift. God shows through the warmth and kindness of special people like you.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16.

Thanks again and God bless you and your families.

Yours in Christ
Rev. Dr. Major A. Stewart

Dear Michigan Ave Church Family,

Thank you for choosing to financially support the mission and ministry of Camp Lake Louise last month. I am grateful at the opportunity I had to meet with Pastor Keels last week and hope that we might be an asset to your ministry there as well. Thank you again for your support and prayers.

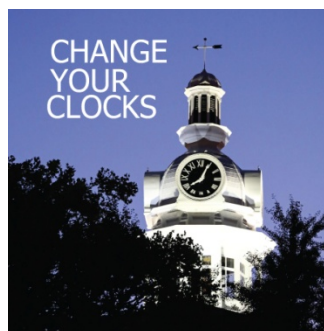
-Jonathan & Chelsy Eaton
Camp Lake Louise



MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 12

All men are invited to this time of delicious food and Christian fellowship. See you there!



Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Daylight-Saving time begins!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 17, 2016

Walking the Faith

As spring buds and temperatures rise, it's fun to get outside and walk. Walking is great for both body and mind. "To solve a problem, walk around," advised St. Jerome. Naturalist Henry David Thoreau agreed, saying, "The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow." Indeed, walking has been linked to improved creativity and reduced anxiety.

Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 "Live as children of light," while others use "walk": "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (NKJV). What a great rendering! Living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is an intentional, active pursuit; we must choose when, where and how we do it.

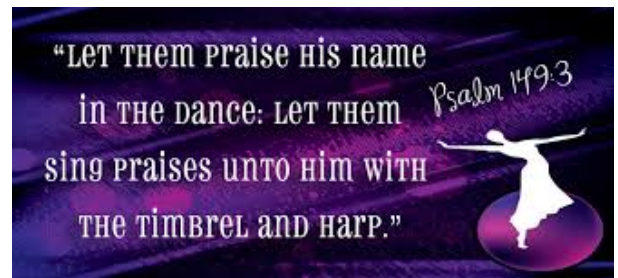
Now that we're children of light - newly alive spring-time people, Easter people! - Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it. When our faith becomes active, new thoughts flow, anxiety decreases and we make strides in our relationship with Jesus.

-Heidi Mann

Women's Society Meeting
10:00-11:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 19, 2016

PALM SUNDAY - March 20, 2016
10:45 a.m.
Worship Service

Bring your whole family and your friends to church with you on Palm Sunday. It is sure to be a beautiful day as the Valley Voices Praise Dancers join us in worship. Worship service begins at 10:45 a.m. Be sure to stay for the last "Austerity" luncheon for this year.



DELIVER US

We sing and say "hosanna" every Palm Sunday but hardly ever in between. So what does that word mean?

The first Palm Sunday, crowds spread their cloaks before Jesus as people had before Jehu to proclaim him king (2 Kings 9:13). They waved palm branches in greeting - a traditional sign of celebration (Leviticus 23:40). And, of course, they shouted, "Hosanna!"

This was an exclamation of "a people in distress [addressing] their king or their god," explains Bible scholar William Barclay. Drawn from Psalm 118:25, *hosanna* is Aramaic for "save now." By the time of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Barclay says, *hosanna* may have "become to some extent only a cry of welcome and of acclamation like 'Hail!'; but essentially it is a people's cry for deliverance and for help in the day of their trouble."

"Hosanna!" is the plea of an oppressed people to the one they recognize as their true king: Jesus, their Savior.

HAPPY TO HELP

The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 (also the first day of spring this year; coincidence?). Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we're meek, merciful, pure and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts people's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to "pay it forward." In fact, University of Texas researchers found that the

"activism cure" is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping - and get happy!





Maundy Thursday

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Agape Meal and Worship Service
6:00 p. at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Thursday, March 24, 2016

A Maundy Thursday meal will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at MABC. There will be a worship service following the meal. Both the meal and the worship service will be held in the fellowship hall.

We will partake in an Agape Meal (Love Feast). You are asked to bring "finger foods" to share. Examples of finger foods are: pita chips and hummus, nacho chips and salsa, fresh veggies and fruit, finger sandwiches (egg, bologna, cucumber, etc.), cocktail wieners wrapped in crescent rolls, meatballs served with tooth picks, veggie or fruit pizza (cut into small squares), cookies, sweet rolls, etc.

Please contact Connie Ellsworth to let he know what you will be bringing

GOOD FRIDAY

April 25, 2016

CARRY THE CROSS

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet at MABC at 8:30 a.m.



On Good Friday, MABC will join with other churches throughout the United States as we "Carry the Cross" to our community, spreading the word of Christ, by our visual presence. Please contact Becky Geidans for details. We hope you will join us. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Good Friday at MABC, to receive instruction. Please pray for this event to touch hearts for Christ. To learn more about the movement and its history, you can visit www.CarryTheCrossNow.com, and on face-book.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
"The Seven Last Words"



GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

March 27, 2016

8:00 a.m.	Son-Rise Worship Service TENTATIVE
8:45 a.m.	Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt
9:30 a.m.	Church School (please check with your teacher)
10:45 a.m.	Easter Worship Service



TAKING UP THE CROSS

“That’s her cross to bear,” it’s said of someone’s hardship or inconvenience. The challenge might be as serious as poverty or as trivial as crabby neighbors. However, when Jesus called people to “take up their cross,” he didn’t mean it that way. Nor was he referring to anyone imposing suffering on another.

When Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24 and parallels), he spoke of a radical new way to engage a society that more often called people to take up swords and fight for self-preservation. He called people to peace, not violence - and from being self-focused to following him.

That is also Jesus’ call today. The cross isn’t a euphemism that lets us dismiss someone’s suffering. We don’t appoint someone else to bear it. When we choose the cross, we do so for ourselves in response to Jesus’ invitation that, one way or another, ultimately leads through death to a new life.

I WANT TO KNOW

Christ

and experience the

mighty power

that raised him from the dead.

Philippians 3:10, NLT



If you are going back to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church.

Information and applications about the scholarship program are available at the back of the sanctuary and in the church office.

Scholarship applications are due in the church office no later than Sunday, May 8, 2016.

NO MORE STING

One spring day, a father and son were driving when a bee flew in the window and buzzed around. Because the boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he panicked. But the calm father reached out and caught the bee in his hand, holding it tight.

After a few moments, the dad reached over, opened his hand and showed his son the stinger, stuck in his palm. "It's okay," the father said. "I took the sting, so the bee can't hurt you."

Likewise, people who know Jesus as their victorious Savior no longer need to fear the sting of death. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55, ESV).

2016 CAMP LAKE LOUISE

It's not too early to begin thinking about attending Camp Lake Louise this summer. Information will soon be ready. They are putting together a wonderful God-filled program for all ages. Church scholarships are available too! Check out their website at www.camplakelouise.com or see Cheryl Ellsworth for further information.



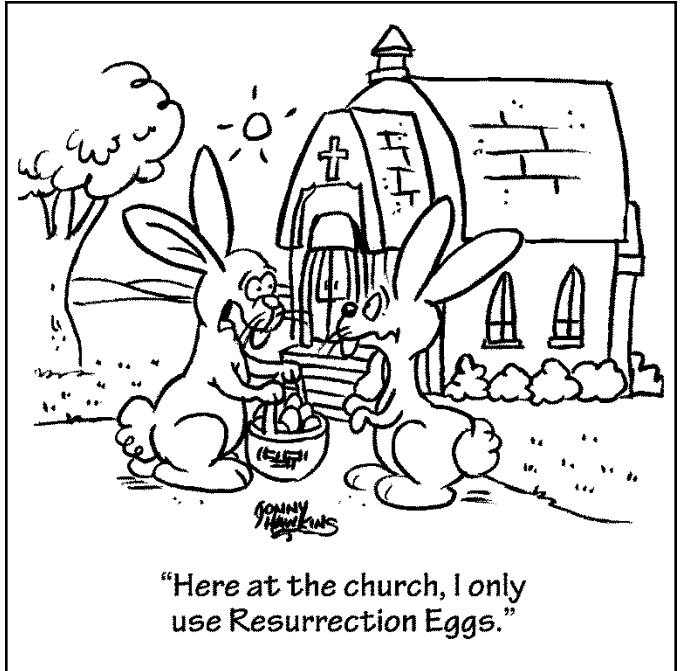
BIBLE QUIZ

While Jesus was dying on the cross, who mocked him, saying, "He saved other; he cannot save himself"?

- A. Priests
- B. Scribes
- C. Elders
- D. All the above.



Answer may be found on the Calendar page.



UPCOMING 2016 EVENTS AT MABC




April 10	Baptism
April 17	Worship Team Meeting 12:00
April 28	Quarterly Business Meeting
May 1	4:00 p.m. at MABC "Jeremy and Friends" Concert
May 20-21	Spiritual Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center DeWitt, MI
Sept. 11	Jim Hendricks Christian Piano Concert 4:00



March 2016

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
 The Reverend Nikey Keels, Transitional Pastor
 203 S. Michigan Ave
 Saginaw, Michigan 48602
 Church Office: (989) 793-8555
 Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
 Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			2 Rehearsals	3 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	4	5
6 4 th Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	7	8	9 Rehearsals	10 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	11	12 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 1:00 p.m. Discipleship Class
13 5 th Sunday in Lent Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	14 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	15	16 Rehearsals	17 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. Church Council	18	19 10:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Society Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
HOLY WEEK						
PALM SUNDAY 10:45 a.m. Worship Service: Valley Voices Praise Dancers Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon	6:15 p.m. Bible Study	April Beacon articles are due	Rehearsals	MAUNDY THURSDAY 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal & Service at MABC	GOOD FRIDAY 9:00-11:00 Carry the Cross 7:00 p.m. Service "The Seven Last Words"	
27 EASTER SUNDAY	28 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	29	30 Rehearsals	31 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	BIBLE QUIZ ANSWER: D (See Matthew 27"41-42)	

EASTER SUNDAY AT MABC

8:00 a.m., Son-Rise Service
 8:45 a.m. Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 9:30 a.m. Church School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service


ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS ALIVE!

Sundays at MABC

9:30 a.m. Church School
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Lenten "Austerity" Luncheon

Wednesday Choir Rehearsals

6:30 p.m. Belle Aire Handbell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir

Happy Birthday to You!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*02 Angie Garn
02 Roy Hatt
06 Jimmy Larkin
06 Mackenzie Bell
07 Mary
 Aimesbury-White
15 Kelsie Morris
16 Kurt Ballien
19 Matthew Little
20 Jenna Metivier
22 Honey Wheeler
23 Robert Lemmer
23 Tina LaFrance
28 Audrey Wilson
31 John Seno*

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 7893-8555 with your birth date. We'd like to wish everybody a Happy Birthday during their birthday month. Please contact the church office should you have a change of address. We want to keep our records current. Thank you.