



OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Reverend Carol McCleary

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

December
2016




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: Jan Wheeler
9. Pastoral Relations: Vacant
10. Visitation: Lois Smith
11. Nominating: Appointed as needed

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
203 S. Michigan Ave - Saginaw, Michigan 48602
Church office: (989) 793-8555
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net
Website: MABCSaginaw.org

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.





Dear members and friends,

At Christmas we remember Jesus birth as a tiny babe in a stable in Bethlehem. I would like to share with you one of my favorite Christmas poems. It was written by Leslie Leyland Fields and is entitled, Let the Stable Still Astonish.

Let the stable still astonish:
Straw-dirt floor, dull eyes,
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;
Crumbling, crooked walls;
No bed to carry that pain,
And then, the child, rag-wrapped laid to cry
In a trough.
Who would have chosen this?
Who would have said:
"Yes, Let the God of Heaven and Earth be born in this place."

Who but the same God
Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our hearts
And says,
"Yes, let the God of Heaven and Earth be born in THIS place."

At Christmas we celebrate the astonishing news that the God who created heaven and earth has come to live with us. In Jesus, God entered fully and completely into our human situation. The King who was born in a filthy stable reminds us that there is no place in this world or in our lives that is too messy for God to come to save us. So whatever you're facing this Christmas season, know that God loves you and God is with you. Jesus truly is Emmanuel: God with us. That's wonderful news for Christmas time and every day of the year.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Pastor Carol

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Dear Congregation

The following letter was written by Rev. Dr. Perry Hooper, Associate Executive Director, MMBB Financial Services in reference to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering MABC will be receiving during the month of December.

Faith through Gratitude - According to the dictionary, faith is a noun. But in practice faith is closer to a verb, an action word. Through our faith in God, and our gratitude for the salvific actions of Jesus Christ we are called to be faithful servants of the gospel and to live out the ministry of Jesus in word and deed. The gratitude that we have for Jesus' gift to us is the seed from which springs the gratitude that manifests toward the people of God. Therefore, we understand that actualizing our faith matters. And faith expressed through gratitude for others matters - to those who are hurting, and to those who are in need.

In scripture from 1 Thessalonians, the apostle Paul commends this community for their service that is grounded in their faith, love and hope in Jesus Christ. As Christians we recognize that thousands of years later we too, must serve just as the Thessalonians before us. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) replicates the important message of the Thessalonians passage. Through RMMO, American Baptist congregations are given the opportunity to express their gratitude to the many servants who stepped forward and said, "Here am I, send me."

In 1948, churches began donating to the November Communion Fellowship Offering, providing financial assistance to the denomination's elderly ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. As a way to continue this practice of gratitude, in 1977 American Baptist Churches USA formally introduced the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

We continue this tradition each year and provide assistance to those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing a "Thank You" check. Through your generous giving, in 2015 RMMO provided checks to more than 3,436 recipients and distributed \$1,105,147. Our goal for RMMO in 2016 is to raise \$1.2 million. Will you help us with this appeal? We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

Your MABC Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of December.

Cordially,

MABC Mission Team

REMEMBER with LOVE
GIVE with GRATITUDE



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Saginaw, Michigan 48602-2079
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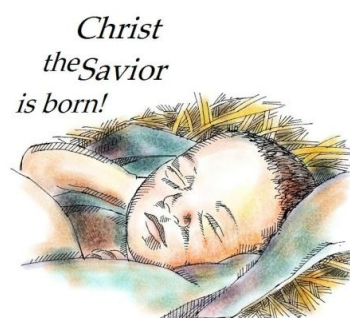


ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2016

- Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent "LOVE"
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: "Love Always Stoops", 1 John 4:7-16
12:00 p.m. Special Business meeting. This meeting is for the purpose of voting on the proposed Bylaw changes and nominations for 2017 officers.
- Sunday, December 4, Second Sunday of Advent "HOPE"
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service (Communion Sunday)
Sermon: "Hope for the Future", Hebrews 6:13-20
Special business meeting for purpose of approving new members
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- Sunday, December 11, Third Sunday of Advent "JOY"
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
"Jon & Kate Music Duo"
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent "PEACE"
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Cantata: "Journey of Promises"
12:00 p.m. Fellowship
- Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve "CHRIST"
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service
"Peace Amid the Pieces", Luke 2:1-20
(Please note: there will not be a nursery attendant on duty.
You are invited to use the viewing gallery if necessary.)

Merry Christmas

- Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
(Please note: there will not be a nursery attendant on duty today)
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: Luke 2:8-20
12:00 p.m. Fellowship



COMING SOON!



ENERGIZE - ENCOURAGE - EVANGELIZE

PLACE:

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
203 S. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

DATE:

Sunday, December 11, 2016

TIME:

10:45 a.m.

A free-will offering will be received



Instrumentals / Southern Gospel / Blues Gospel / Country Gospel / Traditional Gospel / Classical

JohnandKateMusic.com - 810-282-6181 - PO Box 88, Emmett, MI 48022





WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

9:30-11:00 a.m.
Saturday,
December 3, 2016

The women of the church are invited to bring friends and family to this festive morning in celebration of the Christmas season. Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased from Cheryl Ellsworth or Cyndi James. Hope to see you at the Women's Christmas Breakfast.

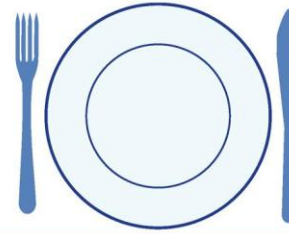


Come let us adore Him!

ADVENT TRADITIONS

"The way you celebrate Christmas can be a gift in itself," said Fred Rogers, "handing on traditions that will give your child a feeling of continuity, comfort and joy in all the Christmases to come." In American homes, common Advent traditions include wreaths, calendars and logs. Did you know about these European traditions?

- In Normandy, children used to set fires in fields during Advent. The flames killed caterpillar eggs and drove away rodents. The tradition reflected good conquering evil, just as God's perfect Son rescues us from sin.
- On December 13, Scandinavian countries honor Saint Lucy (or Lucia), a third-century martyr who, according to legend, brought food to people in the catacombs during winter. For light - and to be able to carry as much food as possible - she wore a wreath of candles on her head. On St. Lucy's Day, the oldest daughter gets up early and brings sweet rolls to family members. The tradition reminds Christians that Jesus is a gift of light and love for our dark world.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 10, 2016

All men of MABC are invited to this time of Christian Fellowship and delicious food. Hope to see you at the breakfast!

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

There will be a special business meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of approving new members.

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PRAYER TEAM

The MABC Prayer Team meets every Thursday at 4:30 p.m. to pray individually and corporately for the needs of our nation, our community, our church, our families, our friends, and any other needs the LORD lays upon our hearts. This time is opened to everyone. You can pray during this time at home or at the church.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 11, 2016

**John & Kate Music Duo,
Children's Christmas Program and Potluck Sunday**

All are invited to this time of joyous celebration. You are invited to bring your favorite holiday dish to pass and share in Potluck Sunday. There will be a special program either for the children or presented by the children....and, there will be a visit from a very "special person of the season".

Come!
Enjoy the festivities of the season.



CHRISTMAS LOVE GIFTS FOR CHURCH STAFF MEMBERS

If you would like to give a Christmas Love Gift to our staff members, please fill out this form and return it with the amount indicated to Nancy Lewis no later than Sunday, December 18, 2016. If giving by check, please make your check out to Nancy Lewis.

Thank you.
Nancy Lewis, Moderator



Merry Christmas

Rev. Carol McCleary
John Rickert, Director of Music
Jeremy Reis, Organist
Steve Meyers, Sound Technician
Linda Wieferich, Administrative Assistant
Al Ferrell, Caretaker
Sarah Egerer, Nursery Attendant

TOTAL

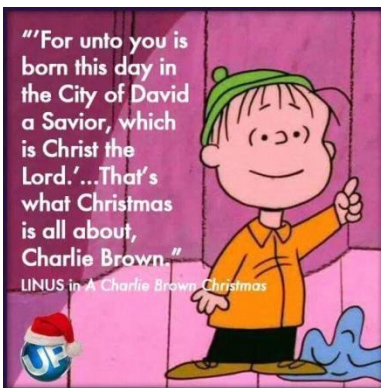
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WHERE'S YOUR SECURITY?

When *A Charlie Brown Christmas* debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "feat not" (Luke 2:10).

Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears," Soroski writes. It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or

unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."



GIFT-GIVING SOLUTIONS

Trying to find gifts for certain people - or letting others know what you want - can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.

Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from author Charles Swindoll:

"Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, and tell someone 'I love you'. Give something away - anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy."



The ABY will be taking orders for Christmas Cookies and candy. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Cookies and candy will be delivered on Sunday, December 18.

COOKIE BAKING & DECORATING

Wednesday and Thursday, December 14 and 15, we will be baking and decorating cutout cookies. If you can and would like to help, you are needed! Please contact Cyndi James or Connie Ellsworth to let them know you will be available. It's a lot of fun!

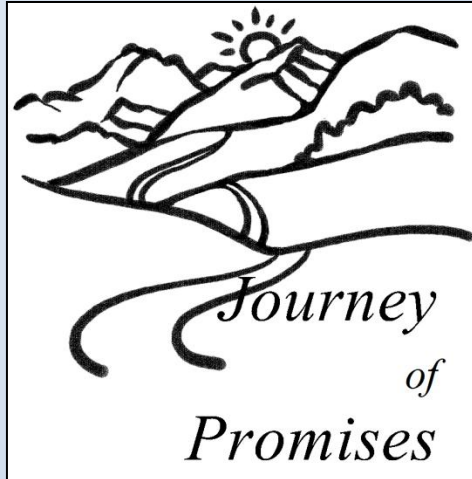
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 15, 2016



IS
HIS
NAME.

LUKE 1:49



A Cantata for Christmas
10:45 a.m.
Sunday, December 18, 2016

During the worship service on Sunday, December 19, the Latham Burrows Choir, John Rickert and Angie Mitchell will present the MABC Christmas Cantata, *Journey of Promises* by Joseph M. Martin and Pamela Martin. We hope you will be able to join us.

*"The Lord will appear in his glory.
Let this be written for a future generation,
That a people not yet created may praise the Lord.*

*The ancients were still living by faith when they died.
They did not receive the things promised;
They only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.*

*He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie.
Does he promise and not fulfill?
No, he who promises is faithful."*



*"The Word must come in human form,
In God's redemptive plan.
A Babe takes every heart by storm,
But who will heed the Man?"*

-Fred Pratt Green, "The Word Became Flesh"

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24, 2016

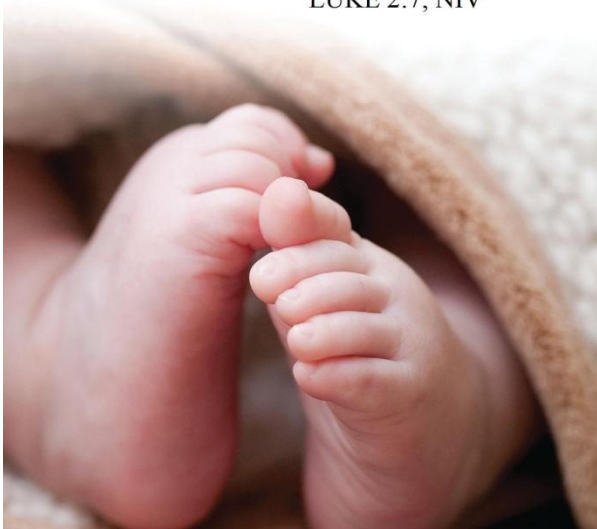
If you have small children, you are invited to use the viewing gallery. Our nursery attendant will not be on duty Christmas Eve as she will be attending the worship service. Thank you.

Please note:

Our nursery attendant will not be on duty Christmas Day.

*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



PRESENT POSSIBILITIES< FRONTIERS OF FAITH

Brazilian theologian Ruben Alves called hope “the suspicion ... that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the limits of the present.” Who among us doesn’t sometimes imagine our future based solely on present-day obstacles? Even biblical heroes did so.

Abraham and Sarah laughed at God’s promise of a child, seeing only their present circumstance of old age. Only in hindsight could Joseph see how God turned slavery in Egypt into great good.

At first another Joseph, learning his fiancée was pregnant, believed his world was limited to two possibilities: shame Mary publicly or divorce her quietly. But his heart was open to God’s message: “What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Her son ... will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-21, NIV). How exceedingly far this future must have seemed from the limits of Joseph’s present.

Christmas is a reminder that God calls us all into frontiers of the future we never could have dreamed!

Merry Christmas




Peace on Earth

*This is God's Christmas greeting.
In the beautiful story of Jesus' birth,
It was sung by a chorus of angelic voices.
Heard at first only by Judean shepherds
outside the town of Bethlehem,
Nevertheless, it is a message that the whole world
should hear.
On each Christmas Day,
God repeats His greeting.
-Anonymous*

Merry Christmas

*From the staff of MABC
Rev. Carol McCleary
Linda Wieferich, Administrative Assistant
Al Ferrell, Caretaker
John Rickert, Director of Music
Jeremy Reis, Organist
Steve Meyers, Sound Tech
Sarah Egerer, Nursery Attendant*



**CHRIST
THE SAVIOR
is BORN!**

BIBLE QUIZ

How many wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. We don't know because the Bible doesn't say.

Please refer to the calendar page for the answer.

Wise Men
Seek Him Still



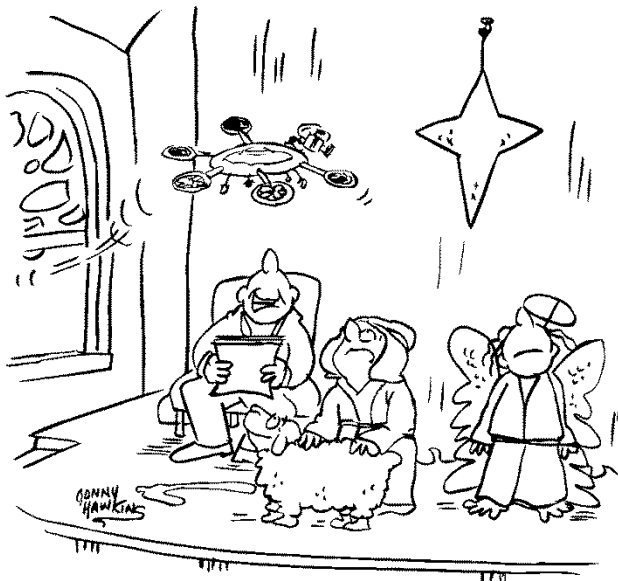
Communion Table Flower Sign-Up

Please watch your bulletin.

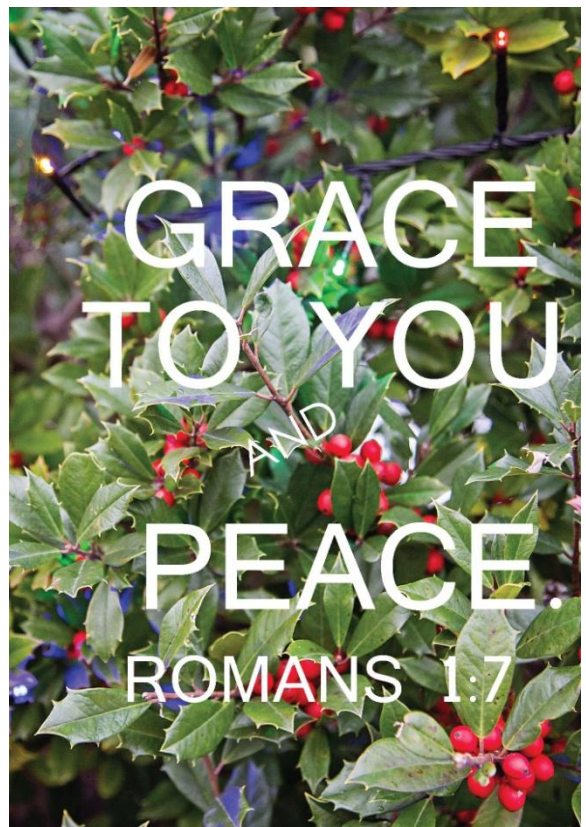
2017 SAVE THE DATES

- January 1, "Taking Down the Greens"
- January 1, Annual Reports Due
- January 8, Potluck Sunday
- January 14, Men's Breakfast

**ANNUAL
BUSINESS MEETING**
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2017



"First Church will do anything to steal our Christmas pageant surprises!"



Annual Report



ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

Annual Reports are due from:

All Team Chairpersons
Sub-Team Chairpersons
Moderator
Church Clerk
Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Mission (Benevolence) Treasurer
Historian
Director of Music
Pastor

Submitting your annual report by the due date is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

2017 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your NEW 2017 contribution envelopes are ready for you to pick up from the usher's table located at the back of the sanctuary. They will be available December 4. Please pick up your contribution envelope box to save the church postage.

If you do not have a contribution envelope box and would like one, please contact the church office. Thank you.

YEAR END NOTES

- A reminder ... if you want your 2016 contributions to be included on your 2016 giving record, it must be received in the church office no later than December 31.
- Please submit any and all bills for payment and/or reimbursement, if possible, no later than Thursday, December 15.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 26, 2017





MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Reverend Carol McCleary

203 S. Michigan Ave

Saginaw, Michigan 48602

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		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	2	3 9:30 a.m. Women's Christmas Breakfast
4 Communion Sunday Special Business Meeting 2 nd Sunday of Advent PEACE	5	6	7 Rehearsals	8 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	9	10 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
11 John & Kate Music Duo Potluck Sunday & Christmas Program 3 rd Sunday of Advent LOVE	12	13	14 <i>Christmas Cookie Baking & Decorating</i>	15 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	16	17
18 Cantata: Journey of Promises 4 th Sunday of Advent JOY	19	20	21 Rehearsals	22 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Worship Service CHRIST
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 No Rehearsals	29 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	30	31 Welcome 2017!

Answer to Bible Quiz:
Answer D (See Matthew 2:1-12)

SUNDAYS AT MABC

9:30 a.m. Church School for All
10:45 a.m., Worship Service

Wednesday Rehearsals at MABC

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

Happy Birthday



06 Rose Johnson
09 Carol Ellsworth
09 Janet Leaman
15 Aileen Kushon
22 J. David Garn
23 Renee
McGregor
27 Thomas Carr
30 Roger Ellsworth
31 Arlene Leary

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the church office at (989) 793-8555 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.