



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: Cheryl Zinz

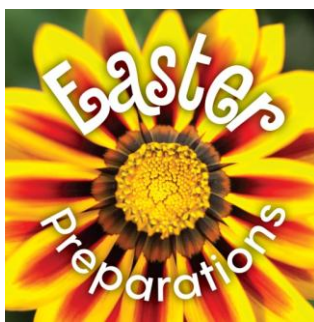
Clerk: Cyndi James

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: 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.





A Message from Pastor Carol

Dear Members and Friends,

March 1 marks the beginning of the season of Lent. During this time of preparation before Easter, many Christians choose to fast or “give up” something of meaning to them in order to better focus on God. Often people will choose to give up things like chocolate or fast food. In recent years, I know many people who have given up Facebook and used the time they normally spend on social media to pray and read their Bibles. A few years ago, I came across a poem that suggests certain attitudes we can give up, and the positive mindset that can replace them.

Fast from discontentment; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; feast on trust.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Of course we don't need to wait for Lent in order to set aside negative thoughts, and replace them with godly, Christ-honoring ones. This is something we can strive do every day of the year with God's help.

I invite you to join us each Sunday for worship. During Lent we will be exploring the Lord's Prayer and looking at ways to deepen our own prayer life based on the model prayer Jesus gave us. I also invite you to stay after worship for our “austerity lunches” that help us to reflect on Jesus.

The church has been gifted with multiple copies of the *Our Daily Bread* devotional. These will be made available at church on Sunday and can be used throughout the Lenten and Easter season as we reflect on our Savior's love and sacrifice.

During this Lenten season, may we draw close to our Savior.

Faithfully,

Pastor Carol



Dear Congregation

The American for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4:18-19:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (NRSV).

Through your generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as we continually address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of our American Baptist family.

Consider making a generous gift!

We are encouraged by this year’s theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering 2017 and helping us to reach our goal in support of home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico. Your 2017 Mission Team has set a goal of \$400.00 to be reached by the end of March.

Together we can make a difference.

Cordially,

Nikki Anjakos-Seno
MABC Mission Team Chairperson

**CULTIVATING
LEADERS**
EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES
HEALING
COMMUNITIES
Luke 4:18-19

THANK YOU

DEAR MABC

Thank you so much for your 2016 contributions to The Salvation Army. May God Bless You.

Dear MABC Members

Thanks to you, Christmas morning was filled with the smile, laughter, and happy tears of families you've never met, but had the heart to love. This year, through your generosity, you became part of their extended family, and helped remind us that we are all connected. Thank you for bringing the magic of the holiday season to Saginaw County families.

-Kari Tanney
Underground Railroad Shelter Manager

SAVE THE DATE

June 2-4, 2017

Annual ABW Conference

St. Francis Retreat Center
Dewitt, Michigan

Additional information about the conference will follow sometime in May 2017!
Please see Jackie Anjakos if you have any questions.

WILLING TO WORSHIP

Lamentation is a powerful, and meaningful, form of worship because it places our love for God above even the worst of circumstances in our life, ... God does not ask us to deny the existence of our suffering. He does want us to collect it, stand in those things and make him an offering.

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, helps us to do this: He aligns himself with our will and says, *"I will help you to will to worship God."* The glory of the majesty of God is that he helps us will and do.

-Graham Cooke

- "Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water."
-Henry Williamson



Men's Breakfast

9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 11, 2017

All men are invited
to this time of Christian fellowship
and delicious food.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT YOUR CHURCH?

1865 The charter for our church was drawn up the same day as President Lincoln gave his "Gettysburg Address."

1904 The parsonage for the church was at 213 N. Fayette Street and our pastor at that time was Howard Chapman.

1905 In December 1905, at a church meeting, James Palmer Jr. presented the church with a set of collection plates. Examples of these are on display in the showcase in the large social hall. In May of that year, the church took steps to buying a site for the new edifice and a committee on church-plans was appointed. The canvassing committee spent 14 months in travel, investigation and inspection of other churches, consulting with architects and members at home.

1906 In August of 1906, they announced a decision on style and design of the church building. This was followed by the appointment of a building committee and a finance committee.

1906 In October 1906, they announced that they were ready to make a contract for the new building.

1908 The cornerstone for the current building was laid on June 28, 1908. A copper box was placed in the corner stone.

1909 The church was officially dedicated in 1909.

Compiled by Teddy Pelkey in 2017
Former Historian of MABC



GIVING UP GUILT

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, "I ... don't do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago." Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin's tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn't lead to hope or healing. Instead, he helps young people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His non-profit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God's beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don't have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.



Turn your clocks **AHEAD** before going to bed on Saturday evening, March 11, 2017.

THE KEY OF THE DAY

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

-George Herbert



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 p.m., Thursday
March 23, 2017

Please note the date change for this month only. Thank you.

ENTERING GLORY

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London's West-minister Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn't speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, "Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory."

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard pressed between the two" (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, "For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord."

FREEZER SPACE

Dear Congregation

Due to limited space, if you use the church freezer, please mark and/or designate the items because we don't know what to do with many items left in the freezer. For example, are they for a specific purpose like potluck or a church event. Unfortunately they will be thrown out on a monthly basis if we don't know who or what the items are for.

Thank you,
Jim Garn

- "Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."
-Martin Luther



ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to place a plant in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, please fill out this form and return it along with the proper amount of money to the church office or place it in the offering plate. You may take your plant home with you after the 10:45 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship Service. Note: The Easter Lilly is white. Tulips, daffodils, azaleas and hydrangeas are pastel colors.

**Please make your check payable to MABC
Deadline is Sunday, MARCH 28, 2017**

Easter Lily	Quantity _____	X	\$ 10.00	=	\$ _____
Tulip	Quantity _____	X	\$ 8.00	=	\$ _____
Daffodil	Quantity _____	X	\$ 8.00	=	\$ _____
Azalea	Quantity _____	X	\$ 15.00	=	\$ _____
Hydrangea	Quantity _____	X	\$ 15.00	=	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Easter Plant given in **HONOR** of _____

Easter Plant given in **MEMORY** of _____

Easter Plant **GIVEN BY** _____



**SUNDAYS
MARCH 5 through, APRIL 9 (Palm Sunday)**

On behalf of the Hospitality Team of MABC, Connie Ellsworth is extending an invitation to all to attend the MABC Lenten "Austerity" Lunches. These "SOUP & BREAD ONLY" lunches are intended to highlight the simple and reflective season of Lent.

The Lenten "Austerity" Lunches will begin on Sunday, March 5 following the worship service and run through Palm Sunday, April 9. Please plan on attending these times of fellowship and preparation for the holy season of Easter.

*NOTE: Potluck Sunday during March and April
will not be held due to the Lenten "Austerity" Luncheons.
Please join us for the Lenten luncheons*



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 7, 2017.

- “No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”

-Hal Borland

2017 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.camlakelouise.com or see Cheryl Ellsworth for further information.



GIRLS OF GRACE

The Girls of Grace will present the 12th Annual Worship Concert, *Overwhelming Love*, on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Temple Theatre. The Girls of Grace have performed at MABC in the past. Tickets are reserved seating, please contact the Temple Theatre for further information.

BIBLE QUIZ

In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

- A. Sychar
- B. Samaria
- C. Galilee
- D. Jacob's well



The answer may be found on the calendar page.

Communion Table Flower Sign-Up

MARCH, 2017

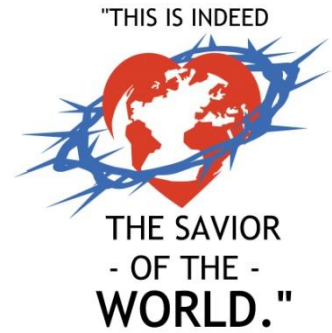
05 Communion Sunday
12 Joyce Murphy
19 Jan Wheeler
26 Jim Garn

Looking Ahead

- April 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent
Lenten Luncheon
- April 9 Palm Sunday (Beginning of Holy Week)
Lenten Luncheon
- April 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Watch your bulletin for details
- April 14 GOOD FRIDAY
Watch your bulletin for information about
Carry the Cross
- April 16 EASTER SUNDAY
Watch your bulletin for final information
- April 27
Quarterly Business Meeting



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 Website: www.MABCSaginaw.org



MARCH 2017

JOHN 4:42, ESV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Rehearsals	2 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	3	4
5 COMMUNION SUNDAY 1 st Sunday in Lent Lenten Luncheon	6 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	7	8 Rehearsals	9 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	10	11 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast TURN CLOCKS AHEAD
12 2 nd Sunday in Lent Lenten Luncheon	13 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	14	15 Rehearsals	16 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	17	18
19 3 rd Sunday in Lent Lenten Luncheon	20 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	21	22 Rehearsals	23 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. Church Council	24	25
26 4 th Sunday in Lent Lenten Luncheon	27 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	28	29 Rehearsals	30 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team		

Answer to Bible Quiz:
 A, B and D (See John 4:4-7 ff)

SUNDAYS AT MABC
 9:30 a.m. Church School for All
 10:45 a.m., Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Lenten Luncheon

Wednesday Rehearsals at MABC
 6:30 p.m. Belle Aire Handbell choir
 7:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir

**AMERICA
 FOR CHRIST
 OFFERING
 2017**

Happy Birthday



02 Angie Garn
02 Roy Hatt
06 Jimmy Larkin
07 Mary Aimesbury-White
15 Kelsie Morris
16 Kurt Ballien
17 Dana Burton
19 Matthew Little
20 Jenna Metivier
22 Honey Wheeler
23 Robert Lemmer
23 John Seno

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.