



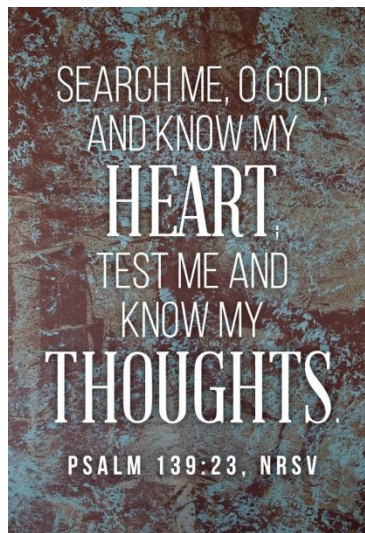
JULY & AUGUST 2017

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,

Like so many of you, I have been troubled by the growing divide within our nation. Everyone seems to have strong opinions and it's becoming harder and harder to have a good conversation with people whose views differ from our own. Sadly, these divisions don't just affect our community; they impact our churches as well.

Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, the new General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches (USA), offers the following Scriptures and suggestions for reflection as we live out our identity as followers of Christ during these challenging times. Here's an excerpt from a recent pastoral letter he wrote to our churches. He begins by quoting two Scripture passages:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for a person's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:19-20, 26-27)

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

Rev. Spitzer goes on to say:

"As I reflect on these Scriptures, I glean the following challenges to help us all hold fast to our Baptist convictions while also contributing to a more harmonious American civic life:

1. Commit to listen more graciously and with an open mind, especially when we are in conversation with people who hold different views than we do.
2. Reject anger, rudeness, hatred, arrogance, and egotism in our dealings with others. Being prophetic is not compatible with being obsessive, abusive or insensitive.
3. Do not forget that people we disagree with are still human beings, and desire respect, grace and acceptance. The Golden Rule still applies to human relationships.
4. Be patient before responding to situations and people; oftentimes, first reports of an event do not convey the whole truth. Knee-jerk reactions are seldom helpful.
5. Do not assume that one's own position on an issue is the only Christian response to which all others must subscribe. We know only "in part", as Paul says.

As American Baptists, may we, through our words and actions, "let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds" (Matthew 5:16) and be drawn to Jesus Christ, our Lord!"

Faithfully,

Pastor Carol

CONNIE S. ELLSWORTH
ABW-MI WOMAN OF THE YEAR AT MABC

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, MABC honored Connie Ellsworth as Woman of the Year at Michigan Avenue Baptist Church. Here's an excerpt from a letter we submitted to ABW-MI.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you our nominee, Connie S. Ellsworth from Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, Saginaw, MI. Connie was born and raised in Saginaw and has been a member of MABC for 70 plus years. She was baptized, married and raised their children at MABC. Her talents include oil painting, cake decorating, flower making, cooking and party planning. She loves to read and camp and is a tax preparer January-April. Connie has toured Israel and considers this her greatest adventure.

Over the years, Connie has been in church leadership positions and members of various teams. Her heart is with the Hospitality Team. She is busy year round with events such as potlucks, coffee hour, graduation, Lenten Soup/Supper, Christmas Women's Tea, Church Anniversary party, Trunk-N-Treat, Christmas sugar cookie sale, Thanksgiving dinner, Hanging of the Greens. She has even taught young people how to properly set a table and make preparations for cooking and baking.

Connie is a member of the Worship Team and the Membership Committee. Connie overseas the church's missions: the Underground Railroad, Saginaw County Jail, and Health Source, and the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and will meet the needs they may wish to be fulfilled. Items are purchased with Benevolence funds. She and her daughters shop and deliver all items. She handles delivers of flowers at Easter and Christmas to beautify the sanctuary. She is a past member of the Latham Burrows Choir.

Connie lives her life as a witness of her faith in how she treats people, how she raised her family, and as a witness through her passions around the church. Over the years she has fostered several older single women and older couples of our church by making them birthday cakes, inviting them to her home for dinner to make the celebration special for them, or taking them food after potlucks if they weren't in church that Sunday. She knows no stranger.

We feel that Connie is worthy of this award because she is a selfless person and never expects anything in return for what she does. Her only reward, according to her, is in Heaven.



THANK YOU

Dear MABC

I just want to thank MABC and the members of this church for my scholarship. The scholarship will be going towards my final year of school and I will have Bachelors in Social Work. I'm looking forward to a promising career where I can be doing more of God's work and helping those in need.

-Destiny Helpap

Dear MABC

I want to thank all that joined in and cleaned up David's flower beds. He sobbed when he saw how many were here. He said, "Look, Ma, they are all doing this out of love." I am so humbled to think that so many came. Also, thank you for all the thoughts and prayers that came our way. The Lord works miracles and David thought this was one that he would cherish.

Love,
Julie Quinnan

INDEPENDENCE DAY LESSONS FOR CHURCH LIFE



- Return to the basics - On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.
- Honor the gift of freedom - "For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God's kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.
- Enjoy community - July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.
- Be light in the darkness - As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel's unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power - as in, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (Acts 1:8) - share a root. Through God's power in us, we share Jesus - dynamically! - with others.

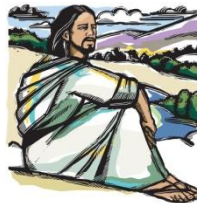
-Heidi Mann

PRAYER TEAM

Every Thursday the Prayer Team gathers at 4:30 p.m. to offer prayer both 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.

PRAYER WORKS!
Pray without ceasing!

THE PERKS OF ALONE TIME



"Only those who learn to live with loneliness can come to know themselves and life," said poet Carl Sandburg. He described walking in nature, listening to the "sounds of loneliness" and wondering, "Who are you, Sandburg? Where have you been, and where are you going?"

Jesus also valued alone time with God in nature. He often withdrew to pray after being with crowds of people and his disciples. Sending one-on-one time with God helps us find and focus on his mission for our lives. He also uses it to strengthen us for carrying out his important work.

POTLUCK SUNDAY

Please note, Potluck Sunday will not be held during the months of June, July, and August. We will resume on Rally Day, September 10.



- "When all other doors in life are closed to us, Jesus will be for us the ever-open door. To call any situation hopeless is to shut the door on God."

-Anthony Coniaris

Notes From the Music Director

CHOIRS ARE TAKING A BREAK

The Latham Burrows Choir and the Belle Aire Handbell Choir are taking a break for the summer months. We will be looking for new voices come the fall. During the summer months why not think about joining the Latham Burrows Choir. We'd love to have you join us.

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you goes to the Latham Burrows Choir, Belle Aire Handbell Choir, and those who offered A Gift of Music throughout the year. You've brought much joy and ministry through your gift of music.

SUMMER MUSIC

Your church needs your help this summer. If you are interested in offering your musical talent, now is the time. Beginning in June, we will have many summer Sundays to fill with special music during the worship service. Whether you sing, play an instrument or both, your talent will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a sign up sheet on the board in the music room. Just put your name in any Sunday that is available and/or see me, John Rickert.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with me after church, send an email to rickertmusic@gmail.com, or give me a call at 989-598-4132. Thank you.

John Rickert
MABC Music Director



WORSHIP IN THE PARK And CHURCH PICNIC 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 9, 2017

This year's outdoor service and picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 9 at Olson Park on Center, just north of Shattuck. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by the picnic. Members should enter the park via the driveway next to the tennis courts. We have a large pavilion reserved.

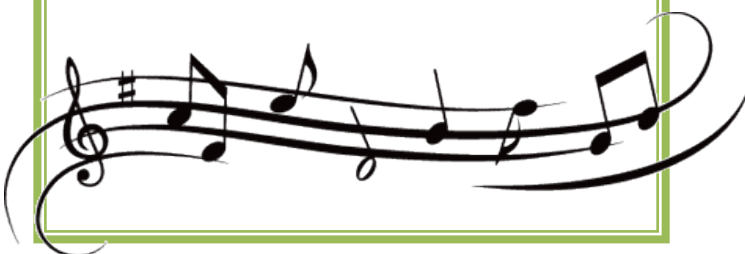
Hamburg, hotdogs, buns, and condiments will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own drinks. Also, please bring a lawn chair for each person coming, if you have them.

THE PASTOR IS IN

Every Tuesday morning on New York City's Upper East Side, Gregory Fryer sits in a Peanuts-style booth offering prayer and a listening ear to passersby. Initially the pastor wanted to draw attention to his church, but instead he ended up noticing all the "hungry hearts" in the neighborhood. Fryer has been pleasantly surprised by all the people who open up to him. "I think they like the idea of a pastor being on the sidewalk," he says.

Although a sign on the booth reads, "Spiritual advice 5 cents," the pastor keeps a plate of nickels handy if people want to put one in his jar. Some people donate much more and some even pray for Fryer.

The pastor says he was inspired by Peanuts character Lucy van Pelt, who has the "Audacity, the courage to brazenly sit there out in public and offer to deal with important matters."



JESUS walked on water, CAN YOU?

Come and find out at
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church

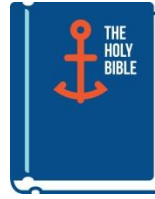
Wednesday, July 12th
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Kids ages 4-12 PLUS parents



Join us for a free night of family fun
featuring stories, games, science
experiments and more.
Be prepared to get wet.

STAY ANCHORED



Hold fast to the Bible as the
main anchor of your liberties; write
its precepts on your hearts and
practice them in your lives. To the
influence of this book we are
indebted for all the progress made
in true civilization, and to this we must look
as our guide in the future.

-Ulysses S. Grant



YOUR TICKET IS STAMPED

On a train trip, a pastor struck up a conversation with a seatmate who thought character and good works led to salvation. The pastor wasn’t making progress but had a realization when the conductor collected tickets, quickly checking the date before stamping each one.

After the conductor passed by, the pastor told his fellow passenger: “All the conductor looked at was your ticket. He did not inquire about your character. He didn’t care who you were - whether you were a good or moral man or a criminal. So it is with salvation. You need only God’s ‘ticket to heaven’ stamped by the blood of Jesus Christ.”

BIBLE QUIZ

What is Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord appears to him with God’s call to lead Israel’s fight against the Midianites?



- A. Threshing wheat
- B. Harvesting grapes
- C. Keeping sheep
- D. Making a sacrifice to the Lord.

Answer: A (See Judges 6:11)



KID'S and PARENTS FUN NIGHT

At MABC
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Please watch your Sunday bulletin for further information.

OUR GOOD GOD

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We should take him at this word;
And our lie would be thanksgiving for the
goodness of the Lord.

-Frederick W. Faber



**WORSHIP AT
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEST
Sunday, August 20
10:00 a.m.**

MABC will be joining First Christian Church West for worship service on Sunday, August 20, 2017.

Please note there will be NO SERVICE at MABC on Sunday, August 20.



**FUN DAY AT THE CAMPGROUND
10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 19, 2017**



Camping: August 17-20, 2017

**Camping and Fun Day is at The River Country Campground
6281 River Road, Evart, MI 489631
(213) 734-3808**

A day of fun activities is planned for Saturday, August 19. We will go tubing, canoeing, and/or kayaking down the river approximately 10:00 a.m. while others will choose to stay on ground. Please contact the campground to reserve your mode of transportation down the river. Later that day we will gather around the campfires for a devotional sing along and delicious food.

You are asked to bring your lawn chair and your beverages for the day. If desired, you may bring a dish to pass. Please check with Cyndi James for what may be needed. Come and join in the fun and fellowship.

Please contact River Country Campground for site availability as campsite reservations must be made in advance.

SEE YOU AT THE CAMPGROUND!



"Actually, sir, the rules *were* chiseled in stone."

CHURCH COUNCIL
7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 24, 2017

THANK YOU

Dear MABC

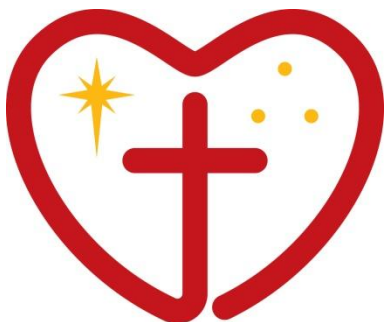
Thank you for all your prayers, concerns and visits. I am very lucky to have such a kind church family. Hope to be back soon.

-Karen Hatch

THE HEART OF JESUS

The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.

-Max Lucado



CHRIST'S HANDS

In World War II, bombs destroyed a church in Strasbourg, France. As parishioners cleared the rubble, they discovered a statue of Jesus that was now missing both hands.

A visiting sculptor later offered to make repairs, but church members declined, saying Christ "has no hands to minister to the needy or feed the hungry or enrich the poor - except our hands. He inspires. We perform."

St. Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body but ours; No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours.

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

July 2 Communion Sunday
 July 9 Dorothy Croucher
 July 16 Arlene Leary
 July 23 Joyce Murphy
 July 30 Carole Moore

August 2 Communion Sunday
 August 13 TBA
 August 20 Pam Leaman
 August 27 Sharon Mason



LOOKING AHEAD

July 9 Worship in the Park and Church Picnic at Olson Park
 July 12 Kids and Parents Fun Night
 July 27 Quarterly Business Meeting
 August 6 Communion Sunday
 August 9 Kids Fun Night
 August 17-20 Church-wide camping at River Country Campground, Evart, MI
 August 19 10:00 a.m. Fun Day at Camp for all
 August 20 Worship service at First Christian Church West.
 August 24 Church Council meeting
 Sept. 9 Men's Breakfast
 Sept. 10 RALLY DAY
 (return to regular worship schedule)
 Sept. 21 Church Council



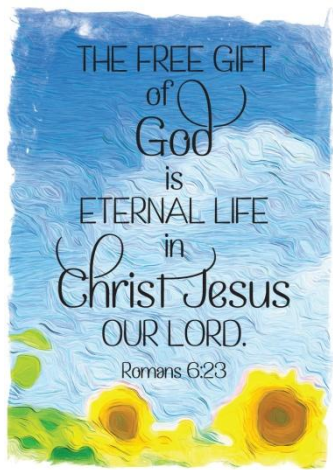
MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 COMMUNION SUNDAY	3 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	7	8
9  WORSHIP IN THE PARK -10:00 a.m. Worship Service at OLSON PARK -11:00 p.m. Church Picnic	10	11	12 7:00-8:30 p.m. KIDS FUN NIGHT	13 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	14	15
16	17 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	18 August newsletter articles due	19	20 4:30 p.m., Prayer Team	21	22
23	24 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	25	26	27 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team 7:00 p.m. QUARTERLY BUSINESS MTG	28	29
30	31 6:15 p.m. Bible Study					

WORSHIP AT MABC
 9:00 a.m., Church School
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service

SUNDAY, JULY 9 – WORSHIP AT OLSON PARK
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service
 11:00 a.m., Church Picnic



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	4	5
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY	7 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	8	9 7:00-8:30 p.m. Kids Fun Night	10 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	11	12
13	14	15	16	Church Camping August 17-20		
	6:15 p.m. Bible Study			4:30 p.m. Prayer Team		10:00 a.m. Fun Day at camp for everyone
20 10:00 a.m. Worship Service at First Christian Church West THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT MABC	21 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	22 September newsletter articles due	23	24 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team	25	26
27	28 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	29	30	31 4:30 p.m. Prayer Team		



SUNDAY WORSHIP AT MABC

9:00 a.m., Church School
 10:00 a.m., Worship Service

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

Worship at FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEST

4884 Gratiot, Suite 17

Saginaw, MI 48638

(Corner of Gratiot and Center in the Beef O'Brady's plaza, within the back buildings)

Happy Birthday

JULY BIRTHDAYS

05 L aurella Smith
08 Becky Geidans
08 Adam Ballien
08 Cameron Ballien
10 Mary Ann Larkin
14 Hiram Ellsworth
14 Alexandra Seno
15 Zachary Cooper
18 Zachary Cooper
18 Candace Larkin
21 Jessica Lemmer
21 Blake Casey
23 Kearstyn Ellsworth

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

03 Sharon Schultz
07 Gabriel Smith
08 Brian Little
09 Tina Dow
09 Brennan Hall
13 Karen Hatch
15 Sage Larkin
16 Thomas Graham
19 Theresa King
21 Christina Lopez
21 Deborah Ellsworth, III
23 Stephanie Ellsworth
24 Diane Garcia
30 Nicole Little



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.

REQUEST FOR SUPPLIES For

“WET AND WACKY WEDNESDAYS” July 12 and August 9

MABC is happy to be hosting two “Wet and Wacky Wednesdays” for kids in our community this summer. These two fun events will feature a Bible story, science experiments, crafts, games and a snack.

We are in need of the following items to make these events a success. Please bring your donations to the church. Items on the list that are marked with an asterisk will be returned; please label them clearly. Thank you for all your help.

Wet and Wacky Wednesday: Jesus walks on Water July 12, 2017 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Empty water bottles (16-20 oz size) with lids
Unscented mineral oil (baby oil)
Two under-the-bed boxes
(shallow plastic containers; may not be returned)
Blue and silver glitter



*Two under-the-bed boxes (shallow plastic containers)
*Kiddie Wading Pool
*Blue Tarp
*Bowling ball that is 13lbs or heavier
*Beach Towels

Wet and Wacky Wednesday: Noah's Ark August 9, 2017 - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Paper towel or wrapping paper tubes
*Large stuffed animals



WE are also in need of volunteers (like YOU) to help make these events a success. If you can help, please sign up at church or call Pastor Carol at 717-825-2845. THANK YOU!