



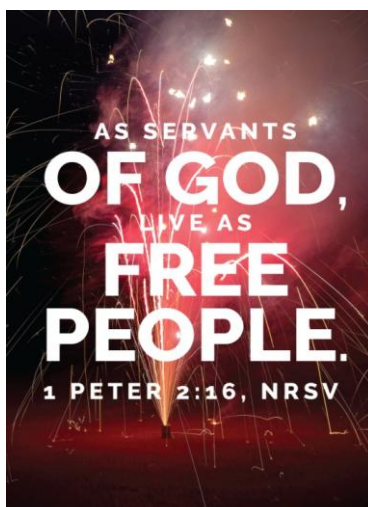
#### OUR STAFF

Pastor:

Reverend Carol McCleary  
 Director of Music: John Rickert  
 Organist: Jeremy Reis  
 Administrative Assistant:  
 Linda Wieferich  
 Caretaker: Al Ferrell  
 Nursery Attendant:  
 Sarah Egerer  
 Sound Technician  
 Opportunity to serve

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Nancy Lewis  
 Vice-Moderator: Cheryl Zinz  
 Clerk: Cyndi James  
 Treasurer: J. David Garn  
 Missions Treasurer:  
 Rose Johnson  
 Financial Secretary: Laure Smith



#### CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry  
 Cheryl Ellsworth  
 Facilities/Maintenance:  
 Jody James  
 Historian: J. David Garn  
 Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth  
 Finance: Jim Garn  
 Missions, Outreach/Evangelism:  
 Co-Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno  
 Co-Leader:  
 Opportunity to serve  
 Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth  
 Music & Worship: Jan Wheeler  
 Pastoral Relations: Vacant  
 Visitation: Lois Smith  
 Nominating: Appointed as needed

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

During his ministry, the apostle Paul was plagued by something he referred to as his “thorn in the flesh.” We have no idea what this may have been, only that it troubled Paul greatly. According to II Corinthians 12, Paul pleaded with the Lord three times to remove it. But God didn’t grant Paul’s request. Instead the Lord replied: *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. (II Corinthians 12:9)* The Lord reminded Paul that God’s power is demonstrated most completely through weak and frail humans, and that God’s grace is always enough.

Just as God’s grace was sufficient for the apostle Paul, God’s grace is sufficient for us each day. God’s grace is sufficient for our salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works so that no one can boast.* We are all sinners, and we cannot save ourselves. No matter how many good deeds we do, we can never earn our salvation. We are saved by grace - God’s unmerited kindness, lavished on us in Christ. We cannot add to what Christ has done, we can only receive Him in faith. The writer to the Hebrews says: *“He [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God by Him...”* (Hebrews 7:25a) There is no sin that Jesus can’t forgive; there is no sinner Jesus cannot save.

God’s grace is sufficient for our salvation, and God’s grace is sufficient to sustain us through all the struggles and stresses of life. Not only that, God’s grace is sufficient to sustain us in our service to God. John Newton put it well in the hymn *Amazing Grace* - “Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.”

When we are tired, worn out, and weary - God’s grace is sufficient.  
When we are confused, perplexed, and uncertain - God’s grace is sufficient.  
When we are disheartened and discouraged - God’s grace is sufficient.  
In any and every circumstance of life - God’s grace is sufficient.

As the Amplified Bible paraphrases God’s words: *“My loving-kindness and My mercy are more than enough - always available - regardless of the situation.”*

May you be strengthened and encouraged by God’s all-sufficient grace today and always.

Pastor Carol



## A PRAYER FOR THE 4<sup>th</sup>



Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

-Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate



### WORSHIP IN THE PARK And CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC 10:45 a.m. Sunday, July 8, 2018

MABC outdoor worship service and picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Olson Park on Center Road, just north of Shattuck. The service will begin at 10:45 a.m., followed by a church potluck picnic. Members should enter the park via the driveway next to the tennis courts. We have a large pavilion reserved.

This year we are providing pulled pork and sloppy joes. Participants are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own beverages. Also, please bring a lawn chair for each person coming, if you have them.



## PRAYER TEAM

Every Thursday the Prayer Team gathers from 2:00-4:00 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!

## LESSONS FROM A FARMER

Summer often reminds Pastor Walter Wangerin Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he writes, remember “that we belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God.” Recalling his father-in-law working the fields, he states, “Surely I don’t suppose that we shall live by the horse again, but I plead that we live on this earth with reverence.”

Because God gave people “dominion” over creation (see Genesis 1:28), we are “God’s emblem within the universe, God’s signature upon the work he had accomplished,” Wangerin writes. “We were placed here to serve God by serving the earth and so to be served by it.”

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nurturing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest? “By his reverential stance,” Wangerin concludes, “the farmer calls again for honor to God and kindness to creation, that we dress and till and keep it rightly.”

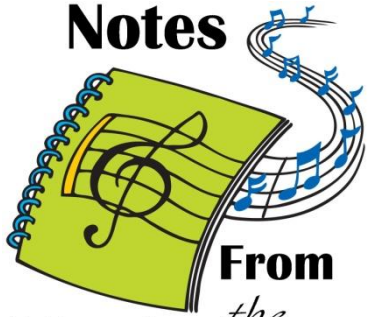
-based on *Measuring the Days*



Invite your friends to worship with you on Sunday and

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO WORSHIP IN THE PARK AND  
THE CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC held July 8**

# Notes From the Music Director



## 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, and going into July and August, 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](mailto:rickertmusic@gmail.com), or give me a call at 989-598-4132. Thank you.

John Rickert  
Music Director



## A REFRESHING GIFT

Oh, how beautiful is the summer night, which is not night, but a sunless, yet unclouded, day, descending upon earth with dew and shadows and refreshing coolness! How beautiful the long mild twilight, which, like a silver clasp, unites today with yesterday!

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

QUARTERLY  
BUSINESS MEETING  
7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, July 26, 2018



## SUMMER FAITH PRACTICES

Be a gardener.

Dig a ditch, toil and sweat,  
And turn the earth upside down  
And seek the deepness  
And water the plants in time.  
Continue this labor  
And make sweet floods to run  
And noble and abundant fruits  
To spring.

Take this food and drink  
And carry it to God as your true  
Worship.



-Julian of Norwich, Christian mystic (ca.1342-1416)

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

- A. Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
- B. Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.
- C. Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
- D. Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.



Answer: A (See John 9:6-7.)

- "He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."

-St. Basil



## A POEM

Is God real, is God dead, these are the questions in our heads. We seek the answers to know He's real, and not just the pictures on the walls or the words we feel.

Where are the answers when tragedy strikes, is He here or far from our sides. How can we know when our pain subsides, grief and sadness by our side. Do we hear His voice and His commands, and the gentle touch of His warm strong hands.

We know by the Love He does bestow and how He guides us wherever we go, His gentle voice in our ear. His spirit guides us and we do not fear. We know in our hearts His love is true, no matter what happens, there is nothing He will not do for those who love Him He sees us through.

Whatever happens, He is always near. By His love and guidance we shall adhere. We depend in faith, we stand steadfast, with God all is possible, He will last. There is no turning, God is not dead, He's alive forever in our hearts and heads. He will not leave us in any situation, He is the best.

-Jody Ray James  
April 15, 2018



## FINDING FREEDOM

The paradox of faith is that when we conform our lives to Christ, then we gain our true freedom. And its fruit is profound and lasting happiness.

-Vincent Nichols

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP

July 1, Communion Sunday

July 8, Mary Larkin

Worship in the Park & Church  
potluck picnic

July 15, Shirley Yancer

July 22, to be determined

July 29, Arlene Leary

## LOOKING AHEAD

August 23 – August 26

Church Camping at Evart, MI

Saturday, August 25

10:00 a.m., Fun Day at Camp

Sunday, August 26

Tentative worship at First Christian  
Church West. Please watch your bulletin for  
further information.

# Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn \_ \_ \_

2. illy fo het elavyl

3. albm fo dgo

4. estmra

5. sseju

6. okrc

7. rdbae fo fiel

8. htgli fo eth dwlro

9. voasir

10. dorl

11. ishcr

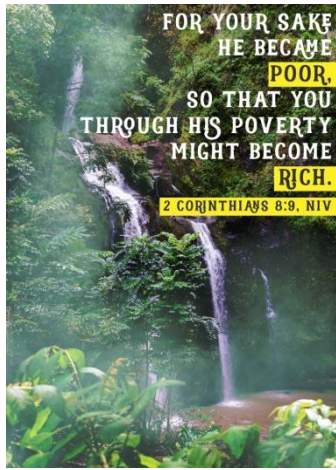
12. ehspdrdeh

13. teh dowr

14. rncpie fo cepae

What do these have in common?

Answer: Names of God's Son



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  Communion Sunday	2	3  Church office closed	4  INDEPENDENCE DAY	5  Church office closed  2-4 prayer time	6	7
8  10:45 a.m. WORSHIP IN THE PARK and CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC (at Olson Park)	9  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	10	11	12  2-4 prayer time	13	14
15	16  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	17	18	19  2-4 prayer time	20	21
22	23  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	24	25	26  2-4 prayer time  7:00 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting	27	28
29	30  6:15 p.m. Bible Study	31				

WORSHIP AT MABC  
 10:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service



### July Birthdays

05 Laurella Smith  
08 Becky Geidans  
08 Adam Ballien  
08 Cameron Ballien  
10 Mary Ann Larkin  
14 Hiram Ellsworth  
14 Alexandra Seno  
15 Zachary Cooper  
21 Blake Casey  
23 Kearstyn Ellsworth

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.