



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



FUN DAY AT CAMP

Saturday, August 25, 2018
 Fun begins 10:00 a.m.

**Worshipping with
 First Christian Church West**
 At 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday, August 26, 2018

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
 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 Congregation

It's no secret that the Bible contains a fair amount of ethical teaching. What we believe makes a difference in how we live. One of my main responsibilities as a pastor is to study the Scriptures and help us all to apply God's Word to our lives today. Sometimes that application is highly personal, other times the application addresses larger social concerns. The Bible has a lot to say about how we treat others - including the poor and those on the margins of society. Part of my job as a pastor is to reflect on things that are happening in our country and around the world and help us see how our faith connects to those current issues.

One of the dangers of commenting on current events is that I might be perceived as being "too political." That's because a number of important moral issues have become associated with one political party or another. Sometimes addressing those moral issues will have unavoidable political overtones. When that happens I find myself facing a dilemma – do I address the current event and risk offending people, or do I avoid the issue and forfeit one of my responsibilities as a spiritual leader?

This is an issue I've wrestled with a lot in my ministry, and it's caused more than a little anxiety over the years. I've come to the conclusion that there are some moral issues that I have to address as a pastor, even if those issues have political overtones. However, when I bring up current events that have political implications, I do my best to do so in a non-partisan way. Here's what that looks like for me.

- From time to time, I include prayers for the President and other elected officials in worship regardless of which political party is in power. This follows the Biblical injunction to pray "for kings and all those in authority." (1 Timothy 2:1)
- I will encourage you to vote; however, I won't share who I vote for, or tell you who you should vote for. I believe that our decisions in the voting booth should be guided by our Christian principles and that we should vote for the people we believe will do the best job for our country.
- From time to time I will express concern about specific policies that I believe are unjust. I've done this with both Democratic and Republican administrations; I'm more likely to do this through personal channels (like Facebook), rather than from the pulpit.
- As a general rule, I do not advocate publicly for specific pieces of legislation. When I mention an issue during public prayer, I'm likely to pray that as a nation we would enact rules that are "wise and just," or that we would find "effective solutions" to pressing problems.
- If a Facebook post contains the name of a candidate, elected official or a political party, I'm unlikely to "like" or "share" it, even if I agree with the sentiment being expressed.
- When I choose to address an issue on Facebook, I usually proceed in one of two ways: Either I share my own thoughts about what is happening, or I share something written by another pastor or church leader that helps provide a faith perspective on the issue. My goal in posting is never to "pick a fight," but to enhance the public conversation in some way.
- You can be assured that an incredible amount of thought and prayer goes into each public statement I make about current events.

These are some of the guidelines that shape how I address current events in my ministry. I welcome your feedback and discussion. May we all strive to "Live as citizens who reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:27 GOD'S WORD Translation)

Pastor Carol

ABW Ministries Holds Annual Conference

American Baptist Women had a great 2018 Conference at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt MI. Rev. Dr. Robyn Moore was the speaker for this event. Women from all over the state were in attendance with 20 first-timers to the event. It was a wonderful time of spiritual growth and renewal.

The Annual Business Meeting was held and the Special Mission Project for 2018-19 was announced. The goal is to raise \$2500 to help Alaska Kodiak Mission rebuild outdoor tents that housed the Preschool and Children's Ministry, until they were destroyed in a windstorm last winter. They will also work to raise \$2000 for scholarships to help women with continuing education costs.

The women celebrated "Woman of the Year" Connie S. Ellsworth from Michigan Avenue Baptist Church in Saginaw MI. for her dedication to the cause of Christ through service and ministry in her community, local church and to the ABW.

We rejoice for all the American Baptist Women of MI and for what they do - locally, regionally and globally in their mission and service for Jesus Christ.



She is a lifelong member of an American Baptist Church in Michigan. This woman is very active at her church, she a strong and committed AB Woman, she has been serving as a member of the Worship Team and the Membership Committee. She is the Leader of the Hospitality Team as well.

She knows no strangers. She helps to feed and clothe anyone who comes to her door. From January through December, from monthly potlucks to the Hanging of the Greens at Christmas, you will find her serving in the cause of Jesus through her church. She is a mentor to younger women in the church and helps to empower them in ministry life.

The homeless and those incarcerated have been blessed by her energy and desire to help. The Sherriff's Department receives cookies each Christmas because she gets members of the church to help make and bake the cookies.

Recently, a family was travelling from Vancouver in their camper. The truck needed some work done, and they were waiting for repairs. Our Woman of the Year invited the family to park their camper in her backyard. They were invited to use the facilities of her home and share meals with our Woman of the Year and her family. She even took them around her town and took them to various sites, including the local museums.

Her church wrote: "We feel that she is worthy of this award of ABC-MI Woman of the Year because she is a selfless person and never expects anything in return." We the ABW of MI cannot agree more that this oil painter, cake decorator, flower maker, cook and party planner, mentor of women is a great choice for Woman of the Year. She is a dynamic and giving American Baptist Woman! We are grateful for her many years of service to women.

It is my privilege to introduce the 2018 ABW Ministries Woman of the Year - Connie S. Ellsworth, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, Saginaw, MI.

THANK YOU

Dear Members of MABC,

I would like to express my thanks for the generous scholarship in furthering my college career. The scholarship is a big help in paying for books, supplies, and my classes I am going to take.

Sincerely,
Devin Ballien

Dear Scholarship Committee & MABC

My dream of attending Grand Rapids Theological Seminary is moving forward, thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of the MABC Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at GRTS. The award gives me an opportunity to earn skills that will serve the community following graduation. Thank you personally for your generosity. Without scholarship patrons willing to support education, students such as myself would be unable to pursue advanced ministry degrees.

Your scholarship will help me earn credentials in ministry, which requires special training and coursework. My passion for serving people is matched only by my love for counseling. My decision to specialize in chaplaincy comes from the heart.

Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and the educational scholarship. I am committed to my education and to the ministry field. I am one step closer to becoming a chaplain, thanks to your continued generosity and the MABC Scholarship.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ferrell

Dear MABC

Thank you very much for your generous contribution to the Hurricane Relief efforts in 2017. Rebuilding continues.

-ABC-MI
(American Baptist Home Mission Societies)



PEARLS OF WISDOM

“A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew,” said Herb Caen. Though his tongue may have been planted firmly in his cheek, right next to said wisdom teeth, we do indeed learn from our mistakes - including the mistake of thinking we can handle more than we can, or that we know more than we do, or that we don’t need anyone’s help (including God’s).

As far back as Old Testament times, people collected “wisdom sayings” into books from which we can still learn. Foundational to the book of Proverbs, attributed to King Solomon, is this first nugget of wisdom: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7).

May we cut the “wisdom teeth” of our lives not by foolishly overestimating ourselves but by following God.



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!



FUN DAY AT THE CAMPGROUND
10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 25, 2018
Camping: August 23-26, 2018



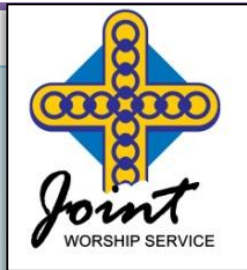
Camping and Fun Day is at The River Country Campground
6281 River Road, Evart, MI 48931
(213) 734-3808

A day of fun activities is planned for Saturday, August 25. 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!



WORSHIP AT
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WEST
Sunday, August 26, 2018
10:00 a.m.

MABC will be joining First Christian Church West for worship service on Sunday, August 26. Their location is 1884 Gratiot, Suite 17 (in the plaza located on Center and Gratiot)

Please note MABC will NOT be holding a WORSHIP SERVICE AT MABC on Sunday, August 26, 2018. See you at First Christian Church West.



A SERMON ON LEGS

I'd rather see a sermon
Than hear one any day:
I'd rather one would walk with me
Than merely tell the way

The eye's a better pupil,
And more willing than the ear.
Fine council is confusing,
But example's always clear.

-Edgar A. Guest

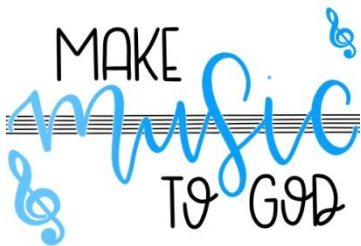
MUSIC UPDATE

SUMMER MUSIC

A signup sheet has been placed in the music room if you would like to offer A Gift of Music during the worship service. For any questions, please contact John Rickert, Music Director.

FALL HAPPENINGS

Watch your bulletins for the first choir rehearsal. If you would like to join either the Belle Aire Handbell Choir or the Latham Burrows Choir, please see John Rickert. New members are all welcomed!



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

The seven-branched candlestick represents the Holy Spirit and its seven gifts in the listing from Isaiah 11:2-3: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord, and delight in the Lord. (By contrast, the Hanukkah menorah is a nine-branched candelabrum lit during the eight-day Jewish holiday.)



COMMUNION TABLE FLOWER SIGN-UP FOR AUGUST

- 05 Communion Sunday
- 12 Becky Geidans
- 19 Jeremy Reis
- 26 Sharon Mason

LOOKING AHEAD

- September 2
 - Communion Sunday
- September 5
 - 6:30 p.m. Latham Burrows Choir Rehearsal
- September 6 (ongoing)
 - 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time
- September 8
 - 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Tim's Tony's on Center
- September 9
 - RALLY DAY and Potluck Sunday
- September 10 (ongoing)
 - 6:15 p.m., Bible Study
- September 12 (ongoing)
 - 6:30 p.m., Belle Aire Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 - 7:30 p.m., Latham Burrows Choir Rehearsal
- September 20
 - 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

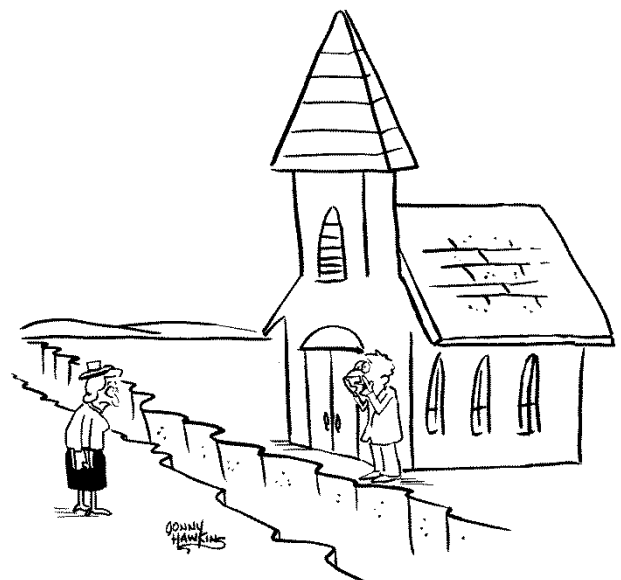
?? Bible Quiz ??

Who had a staff sprout, bud, blossom and produce almonds, indicating that God had chosen him for a special reason?

- A. Moses
- B. Zechariah
- C. Aaron
- D. Nathan



Answer: C (See Numbers 17:1-11, specifically v. 8.)



"Ethel, take a leap of faith!"



*Holy and
awesome
is his name.*

PSALM 111:9

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday	6 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	7	8	9 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	10	11
12	13 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	14	15	16 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	17	18
19	20 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25
				Church Camping @ Ewart, Michigan August 23-26, 2018		
				2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time		FUN DAY AT CAMP FOR ALL
				7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting		
26 10:00 a.m. Worship at First Christian Church West, 884 Gratiot, Suite 17, Saginaw, MI THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT MABC	27 6:15 p.m. Bible Study	28	29	30 2:00-4:00 p.m. Prayer Time	31	

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

August 26, 2018
Worship with First Christian Church West
(There will not be a worship service at MABC)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



August Birthdays

03	Sharon Schultz
09	Brennan Hall
13	Karen Hatch
16	Thomas Graham
19	Theresa King
21	Christina Lopez
21	Deborah Ellsworth
24	Diana Garcia

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.