



OUR STAFF

Pastor:
 Reverend Carol McCleary
 Director of Music: John Rickert
 Organist: Jeremy Reis
 Office Manager:
 Holly Sanchez
 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:
 Leader: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
 Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
 Music & Worship: Jan Wheeler
 Pastoral Relations: Vacant
 Visitation: Gloria Hernandez
 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 the Pastor

One of my favorite Christmas carols is the beautiful song *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*. It was written by Emily Elliott in 1864, and first sung by the children and choir of her father's church in Brighton, England. Her aunt, Charlotte Elliott, wrote the famous hymn *Just As I Am*. Both Emily and Charlotte were prolific hymn writers who shared the good news of Christ through song. You can hear a performance of this song [here](#).

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne is a gorgeous reminder of how Jesus left behind the splendor of heaven and came to this earth for us and our salvation. The opening stanzas remind us that when Jesus was born in Bethlehem "there was no room ... in the inn." (Luke 2:7) The King of kings was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. Verses one and two contrast the glory of heaven with the humble setting of Jesus' birth.

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, when Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, and in great humility.

The song then references Christ's ministry and death on the cross with these poignant words:

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word, that should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn, they bore Thee to Calvary.

The final stanza looks forward to the day when the Risen Christ will return in glory.

When the heavens shall ring, and her choirs shall sing, at Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room, there is room at My side for thee."

The refrain is a simple prayer of commitment:

"O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee.

If you've never trusted Christ, here is a prayer that could change your life forever:

*Lord Jesus, for too long I've kept you out of my life. No longer will I close the door when I hear you knocking. I believe you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and be my Savior. There is room in my heart for you. Amen.*¹ May each one of us make room in our hearts for Jesus this Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Carol

I am indebted to Ray Pritchard for this prayer of commitment

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 16, 2017. 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
Holly Sanchez, Office Manager
Al Ferrell, Caretaker
Sarah Egerer, Nursery Attendant

TOTAL

\$ _____

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH Event Cancellation Policy



In the event that the cancellation of the worship service or any other *public* church activity may be warranted, the following procedure will be followed:

The Church Moderator shall consult with the Pastor(s), the Worship Team Leader, and any other persons who might provide pertinent information for making the decision, such as the Facilities Team Leader, church maintenance staff, Christian Education Team Leader, Music Director, etc.

Should the Moderator determine that cancellation is warranted, he/she shall notify WNEM-TV (Channel 5), for public announcement.

Reasons for the cancellation of worship or other church activities include (but are not limited to) power outage, boiler malfunction, inclement weather or other natural disaster, declared emergency by local officials, and medical emergencies.

Note: This policy does not apply to internal meetings, such as Church Council, team and committee meetings, music rehearsals, and youth group meetings. Rev. April 2018



MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Reverend Carol McCleary
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ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2018

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday of Advent "HOPE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service (Communion Sunday)

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent "PEACE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Potluck Sunday and Children's Program

Sunday, December 16, Third Sunday of Advent "JOY"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

CANTATA: Christmas Joy

12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent "LOVE"

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

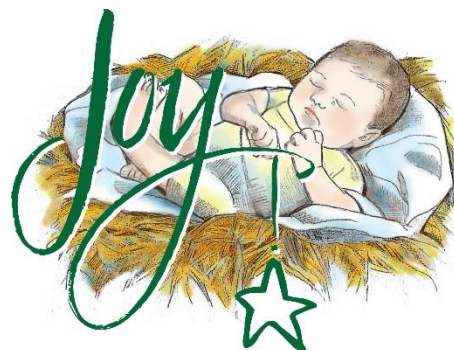
12:00 p.m. Fellowship

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve "CHRIST"

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

*(Please note: there will not be a nursery attendant on duty.
You are invited to use the viewing gallery if necessary.)*

Merry Christmas



Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Dear Congregation,

As we prepare for the 2018 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, please take a moment to reflect on the theme for this year, "Generous Congregations."

Helping those in need is one of the major themes of the Bible and of Jesus' ministry. The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity." (Isaiah 32:8 NLT) Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church.

Since RMMO began in 1977, it has helped provide much needed thank you checks to retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and families - those who have dedicated their lives to God's service. In 2016, RMMO raised \$1,059,444, and more than 3,443 checks were distributed to recipients and their families.

This year your 2018 Mission Team has set a goal of \$500.00 to be reached by the end of December. Contribution envelopes will be available in the church pews and on the usher's table at the back of the sanctuary.

Cordially,

MABC Mission Team

REMEMBER with **LOVE**
GIVE with **GRATITUDE**



HealthSource CHRISTMAS GIFT MISSION OPPORTUNITY

It is time to get ready for the holidays and HealthSource is requesting donations and our help in providing the residents and patients of HealthSource Saginaw an incredible Christmas Season. We, MABC, can help by providing gift suggestions as listed below.

As always, HealthSource will gladly wrap your gifts. If you wish, you can include gift bags and tissue paper. If you choose to wrap your gift/s, please be sure the gift is tagged with the contents of the package including size, color, male or female, etc

Bring your gift/s to the church and place your gift/s under the Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. Deadline for gifts to be brought to MABC is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018.

Thank you for your support of patients and residents of HealthSource.



Gift Suggestions for Men

Socks
After & Pre-Shave/Body Spray
Combs and Hair Picks
Sweatshirts L-3X (pullover/zip up)
Sweatpants L-3X
Slippers
(with rubber soles and backs)
Sugar free gum/candy
Stick deodorant
T-shirts L-3X
Denture cleaner and adhesive
Button up sweaters
Radio/CD players

Large face watches
Flannel shirts L-3X
Polo type shirts
Wallet/change purse
Electric shavers
CD's of music

\$2.00 or \$3.00 in money envelopes
Magazines
Hair gel/hair and scalp conditioner
Playing cards (large print)
Shampoo and body wash



Gift Suggestions for Women

Magazines
Body spray/cologne
Deodorant
Body wash/lotions
Slippers
(with rubber soles and backs)
Sweatpants M-3X
Sweatshirts M-3X (pullover/zip up)
Dusters and nightgowns M-3X
Jewelry/clip-on earrings
Sugar free candy/gum
Button up sweaters
Undershirts M-2X

CD's of music
Simple craft projects
Nail polish and polish remover
Radio/CD players
Large face watches
Lipstick/chap stick
Coin purses

Shampoo
Hair and scalp conditioner
Brushes/large tooth combs/picks
\$2.00 or \$3.00 in money envelopes
Hair spray/hair gel
Mirrors



POINSETTIA ORDERS



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out this form and return it along with \$8.00 per plant to the church office or place it in the offering plate no later than Sunday, December 2, 2018. Please place your order so we can have an accurate count as to how many plants to order. Order must be paid in full by December 9. *(Please note, our poinsettia supplier has asked for this early date. Thank you for your cooperation).*

Please make your check payable to MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Thank You.

Poinsettia given in HONOR OF _____

Poinsettia given in MEMORY OF _____

Poinsettia GIVEN BY _____

*You may take your poinsettia home to enjoy after the Christmas Eve worship service.
May you have a Blessed Christmas.*

Christmas, 2018



From the staff of MABC

Rev. Carol McCleary

Holly Sanchez

Al Ferrell

John Rickert

Jeremy Reis

Sarah Egerer



We will be baking and decorating Christmas cookies on Wednesday, December 5th and Thursday, December 6th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome and your help is appreciated. You are needed!

Please contact Cyndi James, Cheryl Ellsworth and Connie Ellsworth to let them know you will be available.



Women's Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 1, 2018
9:30-11:00 a.m.

The women of the church are invited to bring family and friends to this festive morning in celebration of the Christmas season.

Tickets are \$6.00 each and may be purchased from Cheryl Ellsworth, Cyndi James or Connie Ellsworth.

See you at the Women's Christmas Tea.

MEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 8, 2018

We will meet at Tim's Tony's Restaurant, located in the plaza at the corner of Center and Gratiot.

All men of MABC are encouraged to attend this time of delicious food and Christian Fellowship.



January 2	All Receipts for 2018 Due
January 6	Taking down the Greens
January 12	Men's Breakfast
January 13	Potluck Sunday
January 24	Annual Business meeting
January 26	Church Cleaning

**Thursday, December
20, 2018
Church Council**



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Dear MABC

How can one express the emotion I feel for the opportunity to serve our Lord and His Church and congregation over these many years. I remain and will be ever grateful for MABC!

Thank you so much for the retirement/wedding reception and gift. The food and cakes were amazing and beautiful. Your words of appreciation will always be remembered and remain in my heart. Thank you for your love and friendship. May God continue to bless you.

Blessings, Peace, Love and Joy Always
Linda Weinburger

PRAYER TIME

The MABC Prayer Team meets every Thursday from 2:00-4:00 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. If you have any questions, please see Lois Smith or Becky Geidans.

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

"12 Days with a Twist"



Presented By: MABC Youth
December 9th, 2018
Immediately following the
Christmas Potluck

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your NEW 2018 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 3. 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 2018 contributions to be included on your 2018 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 Wednesday, December 12.



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The Reverend Carol McCleary

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9:30 a.m. Women's Christmas Tea
2 HOPE 1 st Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday	3	4 2:00 Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	5 Cookie Baking/Decorating Choir Rehearsals	6 2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9 PEACE 2 nd Sunday of Advent Potluck & Children's Program	10	11 2:00 Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	12 Choir Rehearsals	13 2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	14	15
16 JOY 3 rd Sunday of Advent Cantata	17	18 2:00 Harmonica Hipsters Rehearsal	19 Choir Rehearsals	20 2:00-4:00 Prayer Time 7:00 Church Council	21 Winter begins	22
23 LOVE 4 th Sunday of ADVENT	24 7:00p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 Merry Christmas 	26 No Choir Rehearsals	27 2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve					

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT MABC

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

WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS

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

Latham Burrows Choir
Presents: Christmas Joy
10:45 a.m.
Sunday, December 16, 2018
Michigan Avenue Baptist Church





December

BIRTHDAYS



06 Rose Johnson
09 Carol Ellsworth
09 Janet Leaman
15 Aileen Kushon
21 Sally Egerer
22 J. David Garn
23 Renee McGregor
28 Sandra Sauvie
28 Audrey Cooper
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.