



#### 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: Jim Garn

#### OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

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



December 2019

Rev. Carol McCleary  
 (717) 825-4845  
[carol.mccleary@gmail.com](mailto:carol.mccleary@gmail.com)  
**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday & Wednesday  
 9:30-3:00

#### 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: Cheryl Zinz  
 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](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,

I opened the year with Howard Thurman's poem *The Work of Christmas*. I'll end the year by sharing another of his Christmas poems: *I Will Light Candles This Christmas*.

*I will light candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.*

~ Howard Thurman

Each year during Advent (the four Sundays leading up to Christmas), it is customary for us to light another candle in our advent wreaths. The candles are often associated with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Thurman suggests some additional candles that we can light – specifically candles of Courage and Grace. These candles are needed all year long....especially during times when fear threatens to overwhelm us, sadness surrounds, despair dogs us, and peace seems elusive.

The light of the advent candles reminds us of Jesus, the Light of the World. Jesus said: "*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*" *John 12:46*

May you be filled with the light of Christ this advent season, and may Christ's light shine brightly though you all year long.

Faithfully,  
Pastor Carol

## 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 15, 2019. 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

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TOTAL

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### 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*

## Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering



Dear Congregation,

As we prepare for the 2019 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 2019 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 8, 2019.**

*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 1, 2019. 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, 2019*





From the staff of MABC

Rev. Carol McCleary

Holly Sanchez

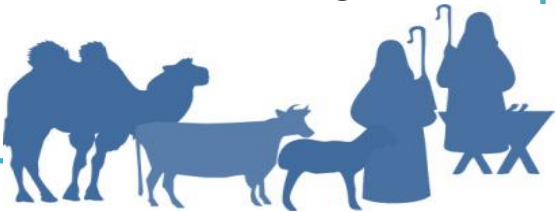
Al Ferrell

John Rickert

Jeremy Reis

Sarah Egerer

Thursday, December  
19, 2019  
Church Council  
Meeting



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

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.



We will be baking and decorating Christmas cookies on Wednesday, December 11 and Thursday, December 12. 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.



### 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*



Presented By: MABC Youth  
December 15, 2019  
Immediately following the  
Christmas Potluck

### 2020 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your NEW 2020 contribution envelopes are ready for you to pick up from the usher's table located at the back of the sanctuary. 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 2019 contributions to be included on your 2019 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 11.
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Please submit any information for the Beacon Newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.








December 2019

MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
The Reverend Carol McCleary

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Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 HOPE 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday	2	3	4  Choir Rehearsals	5  2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	6 Pearl Harbor Day	7
8 PEACE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	9	10  Cookie Baking/Decorating	11  Choir Rehearsals	12  2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	13	14  9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
15 JOY 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Children's Program Potluck	16	17	18  Choir Rehearsals	19 2:00-4:00 Prayer Time 7:00 Church Council	20  Winter begins	21
22 LOVE 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of ADVENT	23	24  7:00p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 Merry Christmas 	26  2:00-4:00 Prayer Time	27	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



# December

## BIRTHDAYS



*09 Carol Ellsworth*

*09 Janet Leaman*

*15 Aileen Kushon*

*16 Rose Johnson*

*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.