



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: Denice Papesh
Treasurer: J. David Garn
Missions Treasurer
Sherrell McCafferty
Financial Secretary: Laure Smith



Church Office is
currently Closed

In Person
Worship Services
are suspended at
least through
June 7, 2020

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: 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
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 Friends in Christ,

Certainly, we are living through unprecedented times. Who would have ever believed a few short weeks ago we would be separated *physically* and told to “shelter-in-place” away from family, friends, neighbors, co-workers ... our Church.

While in the beginning many of us had mental images of all returning at once to our church and operating just as we were, we are now recognizing that our return may look quite a bit different.

This is not “*business as usual*.” It is business as “*unusual*.”

This can no longer be “*We’ve always done it this way*.” It has become “*We must find new ways*.”

....Our way forward will not be a matter of following a timetable, but of faithfully discerning the signs of the times, and responding accordingly. We will face difficult choices between conflicting wants, needs, and imperatives. We may be shaken, stretched, and taken out of our comfort zones!

But take heart! The good news is that as we call on Jesus, he hears us and gives us strength, hope and grace sufficient to carry us through. He is our ever-present help when we are in need, and he gives us a peace that passes all understanding. That is so encouraging!

The above words were written by our Vice-moderator, Cheryl Zinz, in an e-mail to church council earlier this month.

In response to Cheryl’s words, I say a hearty AMEN! These are unprecedented times where it is “business as *unusual*.” We face challenges ahead as we seek to safely reopen the church building and resume in-person worship. And yet in the midst of all of it, God is with us giving us “strength, hope and grace sufficient to carry us through.”

We are all eager to begin in-person worship services as soon as it is safe to do so. Although we do not yet have a date for when worship gatherings will resume, the leadership of the church is moving forward prayerfully and deliberately. Church Council has established a sub team to research and recommend best practices for reopening the church building. The team is co-chaired by Diana Lemmer and Sally Egerer. Other team members include: Nikki Anjakos-Seno, Cheryl Ellsworth, Brenda Ferrell, Todd Hall, Ted Papesch, and Jeremy Reis. Please keep the church staff, Council and the sub team in your prayers.

In the meantime, instead of going to church, let's be the church....worshipping God and living out Jesus' love....wherever we happen to be.

We continue to offer opportunities for online worship, prayer and Bible study, including a special ZOOM worship service on May 31 for Pentecost. Helping with flood cleanup, sending an encouraging card, praying for someone who is struggling, writing a Bible verse on your driveway with sidewalk chalk....these are all ways of being the church while we are apart.

While nothing can replace the experience of gathering with fellow church members in our sanctuary, my prayer is that God will use this interim time to enable us to worship and witness in powerful ways beyond our imagining. (Ephesians 3:20-21)
Blessings as you worship and witness this week,

Pastor Carol



We were
created
to praise
and worship the
Lord.

A shepherd in a dark robe stands on the left, holding a staff, with a flock of sheep grazing in a field. The background features a winding path and a bright, hazy light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm, golden atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

The Lord is My Shepherd

**The Lord is my Shepherd --
That's RELATIONSHIP!**

I shall not want -- That's SUPPLY!

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures --
That's REST!**

**He leadeth me beside still waters --
That's REFRESHMENT!**

He restoreth my soul -- That's HEALING!

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness --
That's GUIDANCE!**

For His name sake -- That's PURPOSE!

**Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil --
That's PROTECTION!**

For thou art with me -- That's FAITHFULNESS!

**Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me --
That's COMFORT!**

**Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies --
That's HOPE!**

**Thou anointest my head with oil --
That's CONSECRATION!**

My cup runneth over -- That's ABUNDANCE!

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life --
That's BLESSING!**

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord --
That's SECURITY!**

Forever -- That's ETERNITY!



**** The Church Council has voted to suspend in-person services through June 7.**

**** The next Zoom council meeting will be on May 28 at 7:00p.m.**

**** The Quarterly Business meeting has been cancelled. All of the financial reports have been emailed. If you have not received them please contact the Church office.**



Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to

**Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
203 S. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, Mi 48602**

Thank you for your generous giving throughout these challenging times.

Date	General	Diaconate	Missions	Total
May 3	\$1865.00	\$65.00		\$1930.00
May 10	\$450.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$500.00
May 17	(Combined with May 24,2020)			
May 24	\$1278.00	\$52.00	\$40.00	\$1278.00

a godly Father is:



Faithful, to God and family.
Able, to discern God's will in trying times and good times.
Thankful, for all the joys and trials of life.
Happy, no matter what the life brings.
Enthusiastic, about a life lived with purpose.
Righteous, rock-solid in heart and mind, from a growing relationship with Jesus.

For these things and so many more we praise God for our Fathers, this Father's Day and always.



Drive in Church Services have been a huge success.

Drive in Baptisms not so much.



**Congratulations
Gabe Smith**
**on your Graduation
from Midland High School**

Summer Sermon Series

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.

The Fruit of the Spirit

LOVE

Seeks the highest good of others.

JOY

Gladness that is not based on circumstances.

PEACE

Contentment, unity between people.

PATIENCE

Slow to speak and slow to anger.

KINDNESS

Merciful, sweet, and tender.

GOODNESS

Generous and open hearted.

FAITHFULNESS

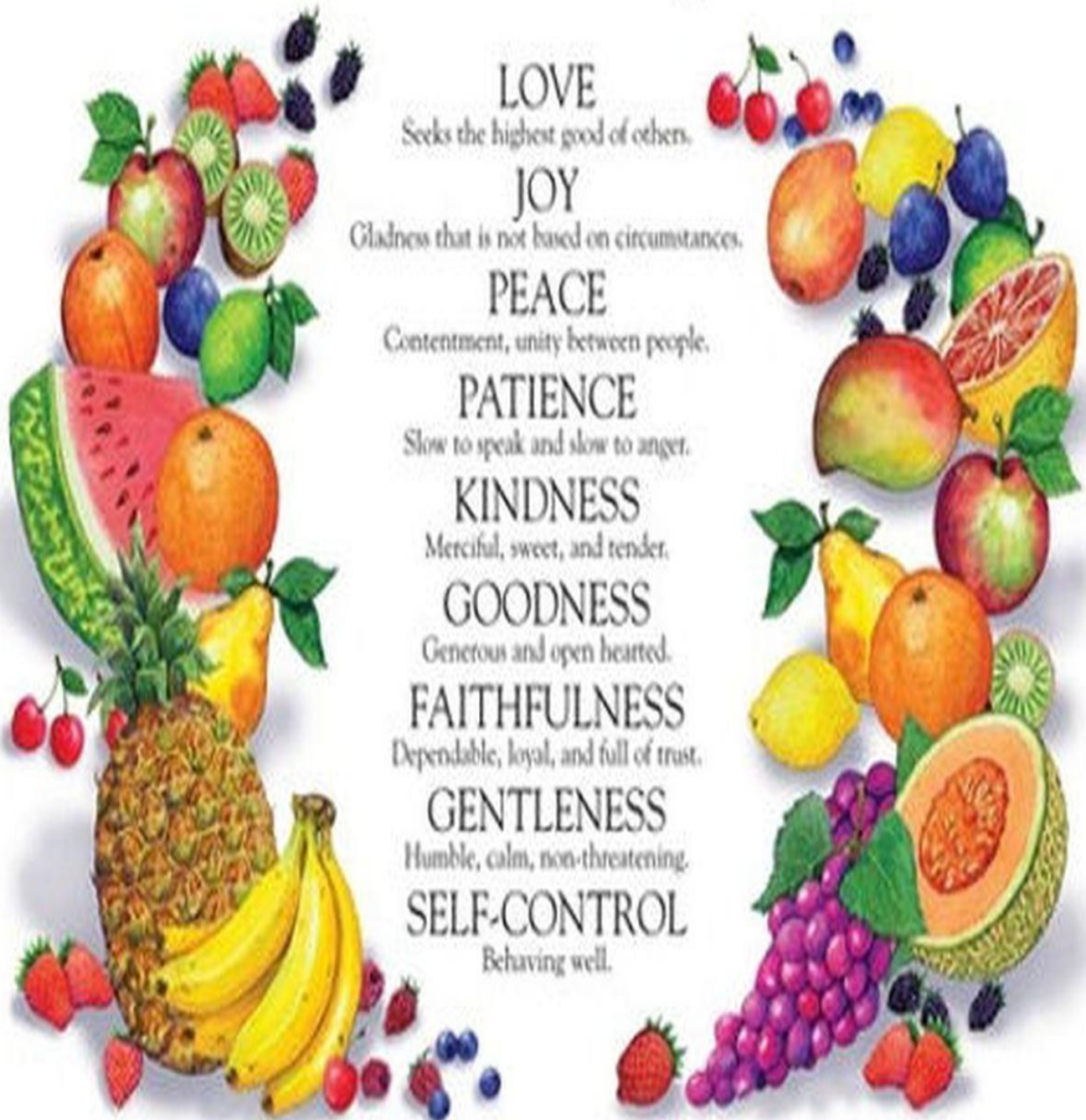
Dependable, loyal, and full of trust.

GENTLENESS

Humble, calm, non-threatening.

SELF-CONTROL

Behaving well.



Core Convictions

At its May 14 meeting, Church Council adopted the following core convictions. While this list is by no means exhaustive, it does contain some of the core values that shape our life together as a congregation.

1. The gospel of Jesus is good news for everyone!

At Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, we believe that the message of the Bible is fundamentally good news. “God loves you unconditionally.” “Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sin.” “Jesus offers hope and new life, now and for eternity.” “God is always with us.” Each time you worship with us, whether online or in person, you can expect to hear good news based on God’s Word.

2. Church is a safe place.

We believe that church should be a physically and emotionally safe place. Taking our cue from Jesus’s words: “Judge not that you be not judged,” Michigan Avenue Baptist Church strives to be a judgment-free zone where people are welcomed and accepted for who they are. We avoid “guilt trips” and emotional manipulation; instead, we trust God’s Spirit to graciously convict us when necessary and draw us ever closer to Christ. As part of our Abuse Prevention policy, we screen our volunteers who work with children, youth and vulnerable adults. As we prepare to resume in-person worship during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will prioritize people’s physical safety.

3. There’s a place for YOU at the table.

Whether it’s around the communion table in the sanctuary or a table in the fellowship hall during one of our frequent (pre-Covid-19) potlucks, there’s a place for YOU at the table. We desire to be a diverse, multigenerational community where each person’s participation and insight is valued. We come from various backgrounds and hold differing opinions, but we are united by God’s Spirit. So come join us as we follow Jesus!

Prayer Ministry



During the Corona virus crisis, we are preparing a weekly prayer sheet to mail to members in lieu of sharing joys and concerns in church. If you have a joy or concern that you would like added to the list, please contact Cyndi James. Cyndi can be reached by e-mail at MichiganAveBaptistChurch@sbcglabal.net or by calling the church 989-793-8555. Please submit your joys and concerns by Friday of each week.

If you have an urgent prayer need, please continue to contact Nancy Lewis or Pastor Carol to alert the prayer chain.



We are making some improvements to our current web page!! Our hope is that it will be a great resource for members along with our community.

Another message from Pastor....

These are stressful times for many of us. For most, our routines have been radically altered, and there's no clear path to getting back to "normal." No matter how strong we are, situations like this can put a strain on our coping skills. So don't be afraid or ashamed to reach out and get help.

If you could use a listening ear and someone to pray with you, I'm happy to do that.

If you would like to speak to a professional counselor, I can make referrals.

If suicide crosses your mind, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text 741741. They can help you develop a plan to keep yourself safe.

Again, if you are struggling right now, you are not alone. Please reach out.

"May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

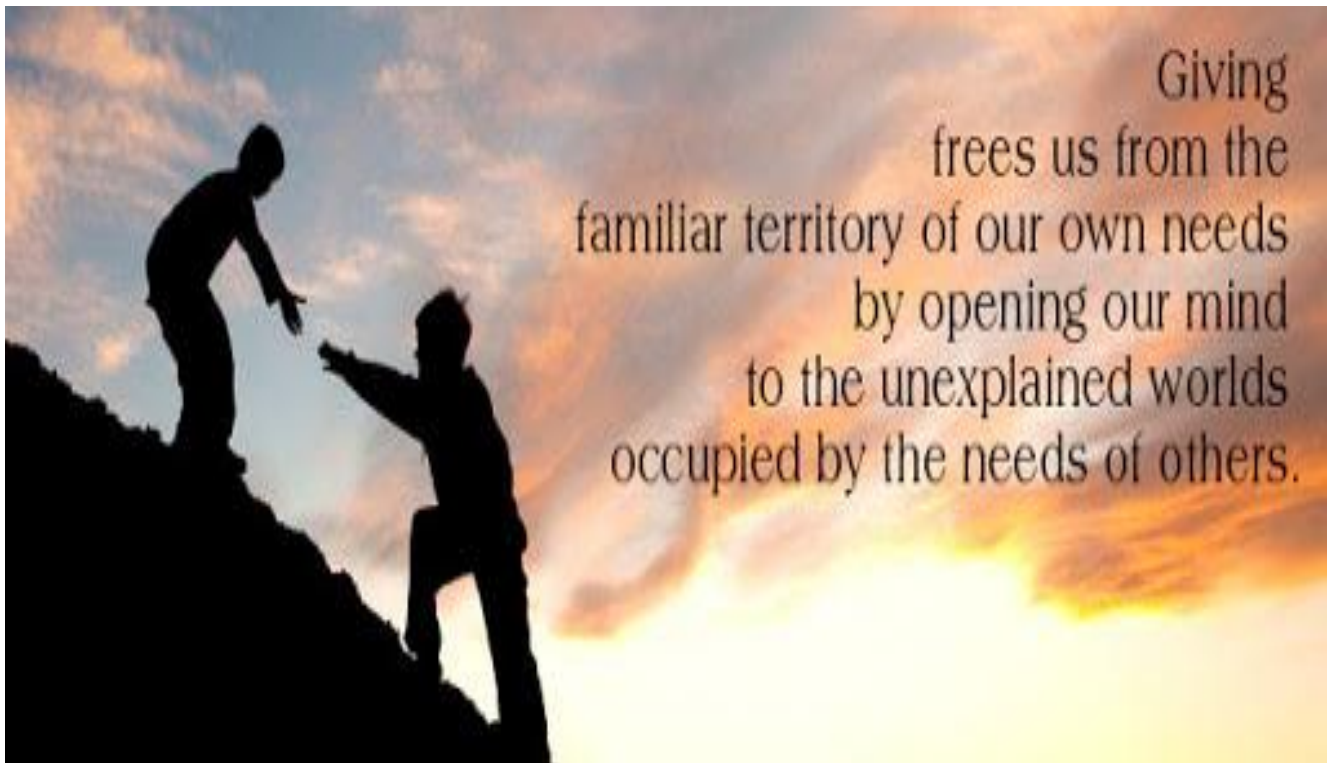


Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

Mission

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (“OGHS”) is one of four annual offerings received by American Baptist churches. OGHS makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, poverty or severe economic hardship, and for those who find themselves refugees or displaced within their home country.



Happy Birthday



Sarah Egerer	9
Mary Jo Leary	16
Cheryl Ellsworth	19
Frank Anjakos	20
Evelyn Hall	21
Carol McCleary	25
Denice Papesh	25

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.