



OUR STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Carol McCleary
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Office Manager: Holly McCarthy
Caretaker: Al Ferrell
Nursery Attendant: Sarah Egerer
Sound Technician: Jim Garn

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Cheryl Zinz
Vice-Moderator: Brenda Ferrell
Clerk: Denice Papesh
Treasurer: J. David Garn
Missions Treasurer:
Sherrell McCafferty
Financial Secretary: Laure Smith



In Person worship
Sunday
10:45 A.M.

You can view
previous church
services at
MABCSaginaw.org
or by searching for
Michigan Avenue
Baptist Church on
YouTube

The Church office
is open by
appointment.

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry:
Cheryl Ellsworth
Facilities/Maintenance:
Opportunity to serve
Historian: J. David Garn
Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
Finance: Cyndi James
Missions, Outreach/Evangelism:
Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Hospitality: Connie Ellsworth
Music & Worship:
Opportunity to serve
Pastoral Relations: Sally Egerer
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

Core Convictions:

- ❖ The gospel of Jesus is good news for everyone!
- ❖ Church is a safe place.
- ❖ There is a place for YOU at the table.





A Message From Pastor Carol

Dear Members and Friends,

I recently came across a thought provoking article by Carey Nieuwhof entitled: *Why Christians Should Stop Saying Prayer Works*¹. It dovetails nicely with my last two sermons from Habakkuk about seemingly unanswered prayers or when prayers are answered unexpectedly. Here's what Nieuwhof has to say:

Most people who say prayer works these days really mean *God did what I wanted him to do*. As if prayer was a button to be pushed to release exactly what they wanted from the vending machine. Prayer is *not* a button to be pushed; it's a relationship to be pursued.

Prayer does 'work,' but it works very differently than we'd like. It still 'works':

- When we can't trace out any direct result from our prayer.
- When the opposite of what we prayed for happens.
- In those moments when we feel very distant from God.
- When we bang down the door of heaven for years and are not sure anything is going on up there at all.

There are scores of people inside and outside the church whose spirits are crushed because they prayed (ferverently) and:

- They didn't get the job.
 - Their mom died of cancer.
 - Their child was born without a heartbeat.
 - They ended up in a car crash that left them permanently disabled.
-

Prayer doesn't 'work' because I got what I wanted and they didn't.

The parade of saints across the centuries would have been shocked to see prayer reduced to God-doing-what-I-asked-him-to-do-when-I-asked-him-to-do-it. God is not a puppy to be trained or a chef in the kitchen who prepares food to suit our every whim. He is sovereign.

As Richard Foster says:

For those explorers in the frontiers of faith, prayer was no little habit tacked on to the periphery of their lives; it was their lives. It was the most serious work of their most productive years. Prayer—nothing draws us closer to the heart of God.

Do things happen supernaturally when we pray? Well, yes they do. But often in ways we cannot understand or even trace out. Christians can take consolation in the fact that when we pray, we often don't know what to pray for or even how to pray, yet the scriptures tell us the Holy Spirit will translate the prayer into something better than we could phrase in the moment.

So pour your heart out to God. Pray about the things the scripture says are close to God's heart. And when something 'goes your way,' be grateful and offer it back to the God who gave it to you.

And when things don't go your way, understand that God is still very much in control and very much loves you. Just because God is silent doesn't mean God is absent.

Faithfully,

Pastor Carol

¹ [Why Christians Should Stop Saying "Prayer Works" \(And 2 Other Things\) - CareyNieuwhof.com](http://CareyNieuwhof.com)

Missions



Why participate in the World Mission Offering?

1. YOU CAN TAKE PART IN GOD'S TRANSFORMATIONAL WORK

“I’ve been on mission trips to Costa Rica, Kenya, Thailand, and Myanmar, and it has opened my eyes to the needs of the world and the work of International Ministries’ global servants,” says Brian Romanowski, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mahomet, Illinois.

In 2019, eleven church members traveled to Costa Rica (see photo, below) for their first international mission trip together as a church, working alongside IM global servants and partners, including [Sue Hegarty](#) and [Ruth Vindas](#)). As First Baptist prepares to participate in this year’s World Mission Offering, Brian says, “Giving generously to missions is a necessity, because the Great Commission is the driving force of our discipleship individually and as a church. It’s a blessing for us individually and as a church to have relationships with our global servants, because when we hear their stories and the ways that God is using them to transform lives where they serve, we can feel as if we had a part in that work, even though it’s God who is doing the transformation. God allows us to participate in what he is doing, which blesses our church and inspires us to get involved in our own mission activities where we live and beyond.”

2. WE CAN CONNECT YOU, YOUR CHURCH, OR ORGANIZATION WITH A GLOBAL SERVANT INVOLVED IN THE PART OF THE WORLD OR [MINISTRY AREA](#) WHERE YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In Minnesota, Sharon Boekhoff is the mission chair at Woodbury Baptist Church. While this suburban church has supported the World Mission Offering for many years, in the last two years they have greatly expanded their support of global servants, and their total giving to International Ministries more than doubled as they added several global servants to their mission budget. Why?

“Growing up in a small town, I remember the church bulletin board had pictures of several missionaries and a map of where they served. In 2014, I met IM Global Servants [Debbie and Kyle Witmer](#) at a missionary conference where they were being commissioned to Thailand. We have stayed connected ever since. As a result of our friendship, I began providing some support for the Witmer family.”

Through the church’s Leadership Board, Sharon suggested the church consider supporting more missionaries, and the church’s pastor Rev. Dr. Greg Cooper connected Sharon with IM Donor

Advisor Marc Kirchoff. “Marc has been an amazing resource. I’m so thankful for his willingness to provide information, and his answers are so quick. He provided a book with all the global servants, their main focus, and where they serve. I met with a friend and we determined what causes were dear to our hearts and then searched the book for missionaries who matched our interests. The board approved our choices and so we have expanded our missionary support to those individuals.”



3. GOD WILL USE YOUR INVESTMENT IN CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE, TOO

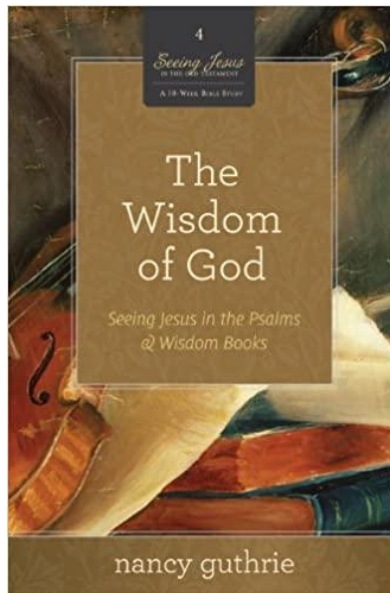
Last October, as Court Street Baptist Church in Maine promoted the World Mission Offering to a congregation that had decreased during the pandemic from one hundred to fifty people it was difficult to see how they might reach their goal of \$4,500. But as the church shared the stories of IM’s global servants, they not only met but exceeded their goal in just a few weeks, giving a total of \$5,733 to world mission through IM. “Our church has a history of mission support,” says Lorna Hansen, the church’s mission advocate (pictured below).

Lorna made sure the church received WMO materials, and the church shared “mission moments” every Sunday in October, encouraging everyone to pray about how they might support the World Mission Offering. God used the church’s investment in mission to change lives both in other countries *and* within the congregation.

“I believe our support of cross-cultural mission over the years prepared us as a church when refugees from Africa began attending our services,” Lorna says. “We were ready to welcome them, listen to their stories, and support their needs as they settled in a different culture. We see our lives blessed as we bless others.”

The MABC 2021 Missions team invites you to join us in supporting the World Missions by giving as God lays it upon your heart.

Sincerely,
MABC 2021 Missions Team



The Women's Bible Study

We invite all women to join us for a Bible study beginning September 13.

When: Monday's from 6:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
Where: Michigan Avenue Baptist Church

* Book is approx. \$13.50 (Please see Becky Geidans)

Wouldn't you love to be wise and know the God who is Wisdom himself? This 10-week study of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon mines the Wisdom Literature not only for wise principles for living, but also for the wise person these books point to through their drama, poetry, proverb, and song—Jesus.

Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie provides clear commentary and contemporary application of biblical truths found in the Wisdom Books regarding:

- how God guides us
- how we can make sense of our suffering and our dissatisfaction in life
- how to deal with our uneven emotions, our need for security, and our longing to be loved

Gain a fresh perspective on the Wisdom Literature, a broader understanding of Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture, and much more, when you join with Guthrie on this incredible journey to see Jesus in the Old Testament!



Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to

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

Thank you for your continued support.



3 - No Flowers

10 - Jody & Cyndi James

17 - Diana Lemmer

24 - Nikki Anjakos-Seno

31- Teddy Pelkey

October Flowers

QUARTERLY Business Meeting

The Quarterly Business meeting will be held on October 28 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. If you would like to add anything to the agenda please contact Cyndi James.



*Sunday school starts on 10/3/21 at 9:30. Please wear mask while in class as they are closer quarters.

Kids

Nursery - up to 1st grade.

Becky Geidans class 2-6 grades.

Cheryl Ellsworth class 7-12 grades

Adults

Dave Garn - Kitchen class

Jody James - Working Class in the Library (formerly Nancy's class)

*No Burrows Room class unless we get a teacher. you would like to teach, please see Cheryl Ellsworth.



If you would like an in-home visit and communion please contact Pastor Carol or the Church office.

The covid situation in Michigan continues to evolve. The CDC now recommends that both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons wear a mask indoors in communities where the risk of transmission is high (that includes Saginaw). We encourage you to use your best judgment when attending church. Please remain home if you are ill. Services can be accessed on YouTube.

Happy Birthday



Mindy Tuck	07
Pamela Graham	08
Hilary Lemmer	10
Pamela Leaman	11
Al Ferrell	22
Jeff LaPan	23
Cheryl Zinz	31

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.