



★ **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** ★

You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths drip with abundance.

PSALM 65:11

**OUR STAFF**

Minister: Carol McCleary  
Director of Music: John Rickert  
Organist: Jeremy Reis  
Office Assistant: Devon Charette  
Caretaker: Jeremy Reis  
Nursery Attendant: Sarah Egerer

**OUR CHURCH OFFICERS**

Moderator: Cheryl Zinz  
Vice Moderator: Brenda Ferrell  
Clerk: Denice Papesh  
Treasurer: Cyndi James  
Missions Treasurer: Sherrell McCafferty  
Financial Secretary: Opportunity to Serve

**CHURCH TEAM LEADERS**

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry:  
Cheryl Ellsworth  
Facilities: Jody James, Interim  
Historian: J. David Garn  
Historian Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth  
Finance: Jim Garn

Missions/Outreach:  
Nikki Anjakos-Seno  
Hospitality: Opportunity to serve  
Music/Worship:  
Brenda Ferrell & Arlene Leary  
Pastoral Relations: Sally Egerer  
Congregation Care: Gloria Hernandez

Join our livestream or  
watch previous  
services at  
MABC Saginaw.org

The  
Church Office  
is open by  
appointment

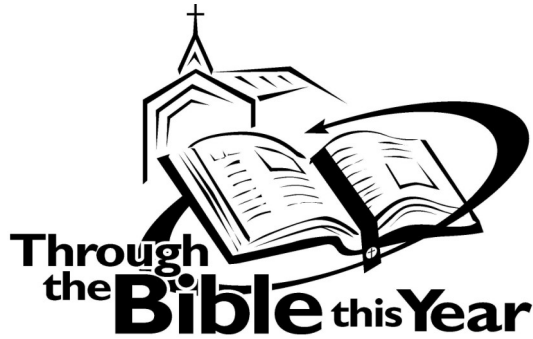
In Person  
worship  
Sunday  
10:45 A.M.

**MICHIGAN AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

203 S. Michigan Avenue—Saginaw, Michigan 48602  
Church office: (989) 793-8555  
Email: MichiganAveBaptist@sbcglobal.net  
Website: MABCSaginaw.org



## [A Message From Pastor Carol](#)



2024 is fast approaching. This year, I am challenging members and friends of MABC to read through the Bible in a year. We will be following the 5-day Bible Reading plan. I chose this plan because it has readings from both the Old and New Testament each day. Also, there are only 5 readings each week, so if you miss a day, it is easy to catch up. Copies of the plan were

distributed at church on Christmas Eve or you may download a copy by clicking [HERE](#). I recommend that you begin reading on January first. If the thought of reading through the entire Bible in a year seems overwhelming, I would encourage you to read through the New Testament. I am praying that at least 30 people will join me in systematically reading the Bible in 2024.

Throughout much of the year, I will be coordinating our Sunday sermons to go along with the Scriptures we are reading each week. We'll be reading many more chapters each week than I can feasibly preach on in 25 minutes, but I will try to hit some of the highlights of the reading, point out some of the major themes that run through the Bible as a whole, and address some of the more perplexing passages to help make the Bible easier to understand. So, if you have questions about what you're reading, feel free to call, text or e-mail me and I'll do my best to answer them. If you have a question about the reading, chances are good a whole lot of other people do too. Even though I have studied the Bible for many years, there is still much I don't understand. This will be a learning experience for all of us as we delve deeper into God's Word.

Reading the Bible is not for the faint of heart. It is an ancient document written in a very different time and place from 21st century America. Many of the customs described in the Bible seem bizarre to contemporary readers. It can be hard to know how those practices apply to our lives today. Additionally, the Bible does not shy away from describing the painful realities of living in a world that is marred by sin. The Bible contains disturbing and graphic stories of violence. It also contains some of the most beautiful words of hope and peace. Best of all, the Bible points us to Jesus and the eternal life we have in his name. (Continued on the next page)

## Pastor's Message, Continued

As Christians, we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. God is faithful to speak to us through his Word. The Bible is like a gold mine; the more we study the more treasures we find. We can trust the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text, and teach us the things of Christ.

I encourage you to set aside some time each day to get into God's Word and pray. Some people like to begin their day by reading their Bible. Others prefer to read right before bed. Still others like to listen to audio versions of the Bible as they go throughout their day. There's no right or wrong time to read (or listen) to God's Word. Some translations are easier to understand than others. Two of my personal favorites are the New International Version (NIV) and the New Living Translation (NLT). Both of these translations are readily available in print form and online. If you do not own a Bible (or only have the King James Version), please see me, and I will be happy to provide one.

May God bless you as you read and study his Word.

Faithfully,

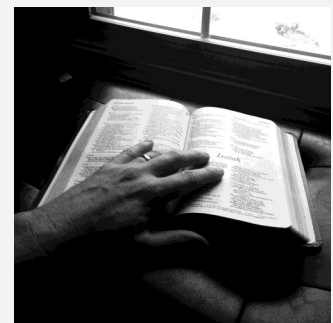
Pastor Carol



## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself as you read a passage. (Don't try to answer every question for every passage. Just pick one or two to focus on.)

- What does this passage tell me about God?
- What does this passage tell me about people?
- Is there a command to obey or a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim or an example to follow?
- How is God speaking to me through this passage?
- How is God speaking to us as a church through this passage?





# Christmas Caroling!



On Sunday, December 10th, a group of MABC Carolers spread Christmas Cheer to members and friends who are home bound or unable to attend service. What a wonderful time sharing music, laughter and fun.

**Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!**



## CHURCH MAINTENANCE

So many great things are happening around the church, we wanted to let you know!

Thanks to the facilities team and volunteers!

- 1st phase of the organ repair nearly complete
- Stained glass windows re-caulked and sills repaired
- Stair lifts inspected and approved
- Small social hall lights changed to LED
- New toilets installed in downstairs rest-room
- Boiler and backflow preventers inspected
- Electrical short repaired in Sanctuary stage
- Kitchen cabinets and dishware cleaned.



The MABC Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Social Hall. *(In person and on our regular Zoom room.)*

## Annual Reports

Church Council Members and Staff:

Annual Reports are due to the office ASAP.

This will give us time to assemble the reports for our meeting on February 29. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a report.

Cheryl Zinz—Moderator



# Children's Christmas Presentation



The children and youth of the church did a phenomenal job presenting The Sounds of Christmas during worship on December 17th. They faithfully retold the Christmas story using a variety of noisemakers—including bird calls, coconuts, bells and more. Many thanks to the students who participated and the grownups who made their involvement possible. Also, many thanks to Cheryl Ellsworth, Becky Geidans. and Jeremy Reis for rehearsing with the children.

## A Message from Chaplain Andy



I wanted to thank you so much for your gift of chips for our Christmas in the jail. Also, thank you for your nice Christmas card. May God bless you and Merry Christmas.

Andy Cox

In addition to providing chips for the Jail ministry, we also provided a large box of gifts

for residents at Health-source, and gloves, coats and socks for children at Herig School. Here's a note I received from a 2nd grade student:



Dear Ms. Carol,

Thank you for the gloves. They make my hands feel warm.

Thank you. Your friend.

Thank you for your faithful giving that makes these ministries possible!

## MISSIONS

Your Mission giving for January will support the United Mission Offering



As American Baptists, we serve as the hands and feet of Christ. We're doing what we can to heal a hurting world. This means feeding the hungry; empowering pastors, lay leaders & youth to spread Christ's love; protecting the environment; promoting Christian unity and more.

United Mission is the vehicle that makes this happen. United Mission is the simple, efficient way American Baptists pool financial resources to maximize the amount of good we can do. These funds are used to connect resources with needs, resulting in meaningful change—and it's all for God's greater glory!

It is through United Mission, our one family offering, that each giver is able to participate in the total ministry of our American Baptist family.

United Mission Basics are undesignated contributions from local churches to the vital mission and ministry of American Baptists. Basics provide support for the extensive foundation of American Baptist missions.

A large portion of our gift goes to fund regional ministries while a smaller percent underwrites national and global ministries.

Thank you for your generous support of our United Mission.

**United in Christ**  
**Together in Mission**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



- 08 *Devin Ballien*
- 10 *Shirley Yancer*
- 15 *Shannon Ferrell Gwinnup*
- 18 *Daytona King*
- 21 *Connor Tuck*
- 22 *Mary Aimesbury*
- 27 *Sharon Mason*
- 29 *Sarah Kocsis*
- 30 *Vivian Settle*
- 30 *David Hamilton*
- 31 *Chloe Tuck*

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 everyone a Happy Birthday during their birthday month.