



MARCH

The Beacon Newsletter

2024



Join our livestream or
watch previous services
at MABCSaginaw.org or
by searching for
Michigan Avenue Baptist
Church on YouTube

The
Church Office
is open by
appointment

**Worship
In Person
Sunday
10:45 A.M.**

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator: Cheryl Zinz
Vice Moderator: Brenda Ferrell
Clerk: Denice Papesh
Treasurer: Cyndi James
Missions Treasurer: Sherrell McCafferty

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry: Cheryl Ellsworth	Missions/Outreach: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Facilities/Maintenance: Jody James	Music/Worship: Brenda Ferrell & Arlene Leary
Historian: J. David Garn	Pastoral Relations: Sally Egerer
Historian Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth	Congregation Care: Gloria Hernandez
Finance: Jim Garn	

OUR STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Carol McCleary
Director of Music: John Rickert
Organist: Jeremy Reis
Caretaker: Jeremy Reis
Nursery Attendant: Sarah Egerer
Sound Technician: Jim Pogoreski
Sunshine Lady: Sharon Mason
Administrator: Devon Charette



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



Dear Members and Friends:

As we read through the Bible this year, we have been reading about the Israelites as they journeyed through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. After they sinned grievously by worshipping a golden calf, the LORD revealed Himself to Moses.

In Exodus 34:6-7, [God] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, *“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness; maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”*

This is one of the most important, and oft-repeated, verses in the Bible. King David prayed: *“But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.”* The prophet Joel said, *“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.”* Jonah said the same thing, when he complained about God’s mercy to Nineveh: *“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love.”* The words that God first spoke to Moses became Israel’s confession of faith. When anyone wanted to know who God is what God is like, they answered: *“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness....”*

Philip Ryken does an outstanding job of unpacking these attributes of God in his commentary on the book of Exodus: Saved for God’s Glory. Here’s an abbreviated version of his insights. First on the list of God’s attributes is compassion. Compassion has to do with God’s ability to empathize with us, his finite creatures. Psalm 103 reminds us that *“As a Father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.”* God’s heart beats with fatherly care for us.

“The Lord is also gracious. This is a word of mercy or undeserved favor. People often say they want God to give them what they deserve. If God were to do that, we would all perish in our sins. But God does something better. Rather than giving us what we deserve, he gives us something we don’t deserve: The free gift of his grace. Salvation is not based on any merit of our own, but only on God’s desire to show mercy.” (Ryken)

Next, God says he is *slow to anger*. The phrase “slow to anger” literally means “long-nosed.” Now you may be wondering, what does having a long nose have to do with patience? When cartoonists want to portray an angry person or animal they show steam coming out of its ears and out of its nostrils. So if someone is said to be long-nosed, it takes a long time for the steam to come out. God does sometimes get angry, but God doesn’t fly off the handle in rage. As Philip Ryken says: “When God acts against evil, he does so righteously and deliberately, not because he loses his temper.” God is willing to wait to give people time to repent and return to him.

In the words of 2 Peter 3:9: *God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*”

The compassionate, gracious, and long-suffering God abounds in “love and faithfulness.” The word translated love is the Hebrew word *chesed*. It’s sometimes translated as loving-kindness or steadfast love. It’s paired with the word faithfulness, referencing God’s commitment to keep God’s promises. “God’s love is loyal and steadfast. Since he never goes back on a promise, once God promises to love, he keeps on loving. And his love is boundless. It is love without measure and love beyond degree.” (Ryken)

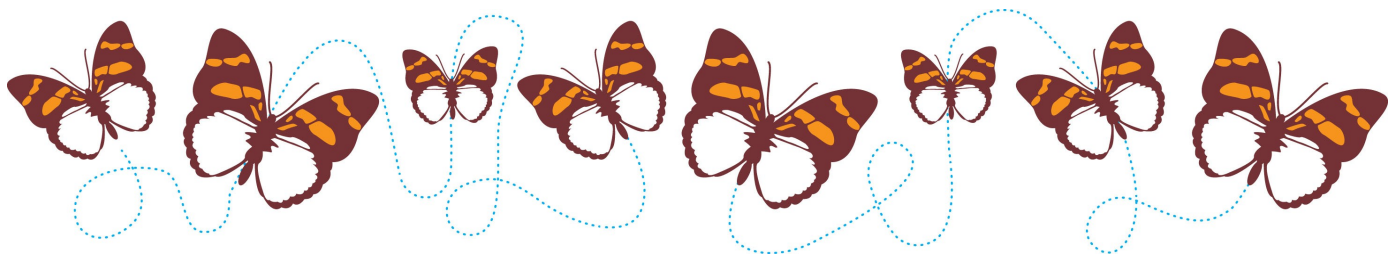
Finally, God is forgiving. The Bible explicitly says that God forgives wickedness, rebellion, and sin. These were the three main categories of sin in the OT. “The point is that God is willing to forgive any and all kinds of sin.” (Ryken)

We might be tempted to stop reading right here - with this long list of attributes of God we like to praise. But God, speaking to Moses, continues his self-revelation: *“Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”* And here we have a tension: God forgives sin, and God punishes sin. These final phrases have to do with God’s justice and God’s holiness. God is a forgiving God, but “God does not neglect just judgement.” (Freitheim) Sin is serious. God is not an overly indulgent grandparent who turns a blind eye to sin. God is not indifferent to sin and its dreadful consequences. This is ultimately good news. Because God is a just judge, sin, death, and evil do not have the final word. God wins. God judges sin, and yet God’s judgment is tempered by his mercy.

The verse says that God punishes the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation. This has to do with the lingering effects of sin...and the way it impacts the entire family. It’s no secret that abusive, dysfunctional patterns of behavior can get passed on from one generation to the next. But here’s the thing. The punishment extends for three or four generations. How far does God’s mercy extend? To a thousand generations. The scales are tipped far, far, far on the side of mercy.

God’s mercy and justice meet at the cross, where God himself, in the person of Jesus, absorbed the pain and death caused by human sin. In this Lenten season may we rejoice in God’s mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

Faithfully,
Pastor Carol



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY



March 24th

Service 10:45 a.m.

Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week.

Jesus entered Jerusalem and was greeted by the people waving palm branches. **Palm Sunday is a reminder of welcoming Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.**



Maundy Thursday

A Maundy Thursday meal and worship service will be held on March 28th at 6:00 p.m. Both the meal and the worship service will be held in the fellowship hall.

Please bring “finger foods” to share. Examples of finger foods are; pita chips and hummus; fresh vegetables and fruits; finger sandwiches; bite-sized appetizers, veggie or fruit pizza cut in small pieces, etc.

March 29th



Good FRIDAY

CARRY THE CROSS

9:00–11:00 A.M.

On Good Friday we will “Carry the Cross” throughout our community. For two hours we will stand along the busy intersections of Saginaw holding large PVC crosses to raise awareness of Jesus Christ. There is a sign up sheet on the door of the sanctuary. Meet at MABC at 8:45 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

MABC will once again participate in a Community Good Friday service hosted by First United Methodist Church at 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw. The service takes place in two parts. The first from noon to 12:30 p.m., the second from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. You may come for one or both sections.

A free sack lunch is available after the service.

If you would like to sing in the choir, a rehearsal will be held at FUMC at 11:15 on Good Friday. Please see John Rickert for more information.

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31st



Come celebrate Jesus Christ's triumph over death!

His resurrection means eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sanctuary



Rehearsals for our special
Easter Service will begin February 28th
and continue every Wednesday
through March 27th!

Bells: 6:30 p.m.

Choir: 7:30 p.m.



02 Roy Hatt

06 Jimmy Larkin

07 Mary Aimsbury

15 Devon Charette

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your donation that assisted us in
providing the residents and patients at Health
Source Saginaw an incredible Christmas.

Sincerely,

Teresa Emerson (Activity Director)



We invite you to join us at church on
Friday mornings at 10:30 for a **Bible Study**
based on the weekly Bible readings. If you are
unable to join us in person, you may join via
Zoom (audio only, no video). Dial 1 253- 215-
8782. Meeting ID: 865 1562 2792
Passcode: 872490

SPRING FORWARD



**Don't forget to
set your clocks
ahead one hour
on MARCH
10TH!**



We will be holding a
simple luncheon of
soup and bread on
Sunday March 10th
after church.

We are looking for 5-6 volunteers to bring a Crock-
pot full of soup for us to enjoy after the service. If
you would like to bring a favorite soup to share,
please use the sign up sheet on the sanctuary door.

March Mission



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE upon GRACE

The 2024 America for Christ Offering (AFC 2024) seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. We have set our goal as \$500.00.

Here are some of the areas that are funded by AFC:

- Grants to churches to fund ministry initiatives such as camps, daycare and youth and young adult initiatives.
- Grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges.
- Grants to American Baptist Partners training opportunities, funding of learning opportunities that involve travel and housing, repairs, and upgrade to preserve our critical American Baptist spaces.
- American Baptist Regional Offices.

One hundred percent of America For Christ dollars support vital ministries.

Offering envelopes are available on the back radiators or you may mark your gift AFC.

Please give generously to this year's AFC offering and help us reach our goal!



MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	2
3 Church School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	4	5	6 Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7	8 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	9
10 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Soup Lunch	11	12	13 Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14	15 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	16
17 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	18	19	20 Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	21	22 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	23
24 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	25	26	27 Bells 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	28 Maundy Thursday Meal and Service 6:00 p.m.	29 Carry the Cross 8:45 a.m. Good Friday Service 12:00	30
31 Church School 9:30 a.m. Easter Service 10:45 a.m.						