



The Beacon Newsletter

April 2024



The Church Office is open by appointment

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

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
Administrator: Devon Charette

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

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

CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry: Cheryl Ellsworth
Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Garn
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
Congregational Care: Gloria Hernandez



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.

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,

Our journey through the Bible has brought us to the book of Joshua, which tells the story of the Israelites entering and possessing the land of Canaan. This month I would like to share with you a condensed version of a blog post written by Tim Mackie and Aeron Sullivan. You can access the entire article by clicking [HERE](#). They write:

There are few stories in the Old Testament as challenging and troubling to modern readers as God's command to do away with the Canaanites and take over their land. Is this the same God who revealed himself in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? Does this qualify as genocide? How does this square with Jesus' teaching about loving your enemies or with his decision to lay down his life for his enemies?

This is an extremely complicated issue. It raises historical questions and challenges of interpretation. It also generates theological questions about the character of God. We won't pretend that a short blog can satisfy everyone's questions, but we want to at least throw out a handful of really important factors that you have to take into consideration when sorting out these questions.

The conquest of Canaan took place in a single generation and was limited in time, locale, and scope. The word "genocide" isn't technically accurate or helpful to describe these battles...

This was not an "Israel vs. Canaan" conflict based on ethnic identity. There were ... Canaanites who recognized the God of Israel as the Lord of all nations and joined the covenant people (Rahab in Joshua 2; the Gibeonites in Joshua 9). This would not have been allowed if it were an ethnically motivated war. Many of the battles start when a Canaanite alliance attacks the Israelites who then defend themselves and win. The conflicts, recounted in Joshua 9-11, all begin with various Canaanite kings forming coalitions and attacking the Israelites. From the Israelites' perspective, these were battles for survival against hostile armies, not against helpless people.

The language used in some of these battle stories is sweeping and intense: "they left no survivor" and "the Israelites utterly destroyed them." But a close reading, along with a comparison with other ancient near eastern battle narratives, shows that the author of Joshua employs these phrases as intentional hyperbole. For example, there are cities that the Israelites conquer that we're told that no Canaanites survived (Hebron and Debir in Joshua 10:36-39). But just a few chapters later, when other Israelites go to these cities, there are still Canaanite people living there (see Joshua 15:13-15). (Continued on next page)

There's an extremely important story that opens up all the battles between Israel and the Canaanites. The angel of the Lord confronts Joshua near the Jordan River (Joshua 5:13-15). Joshua asks if the angel is on the Israelites' side or their enemy's. With these words, Joshua reveals his understanding of the battles ahead: God is pro-Israel and anti-Canaanite. The angel quickly corrects him by saying "No. I am the captain of the LORD's army." The point is clear. God is going to bring his judgment on human evil. The real question is whether Israel is on God's side.

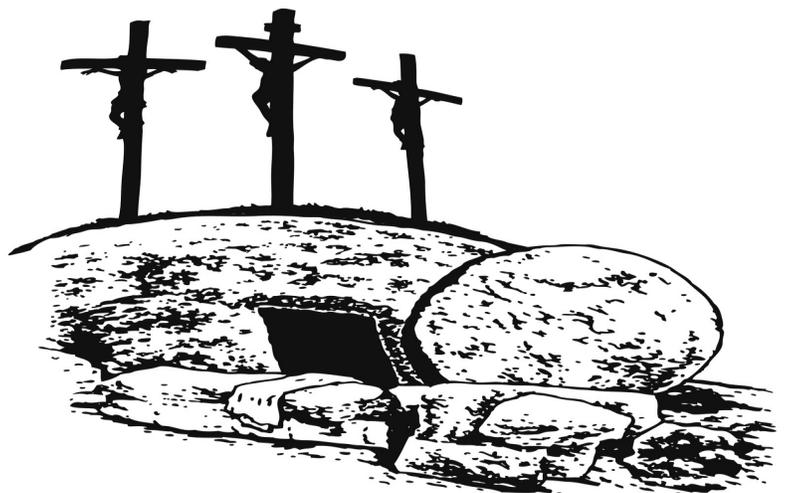
Although the Canaanites as nations were subject to the judgment of God, they had decades of advance warning. Not only did the conquest of Canaan not catch them by surprise, but those who declared faith in Yahweh were spared (see Rahab's confession in Joshua 2:8-11). Although [Rahab] was a prostitute, her life, and the lives of her family were spared because they believed in the God of Israel. In fact, so complete was Rahab's incorporation into the community of faith that in the providence of God she became the ancestor of Jesus! (Matthew 1) God can and is willing to save anyone.

The picture shifts significantly when we place these stories into the larger biblical storyline that leads to Jesus. Jesus explicitly rejected violence as a means to further God's kingdom on earth. He taught that God's rule is expressed through non-violent resistance and by serving one's enemies with love and prayer (Matthew 5:38-48). Ultimately, for Jesus, this was not just a matter of words. He went to Jerusalem for Passover, to be enthroned as the messianic King of Israel. And he did it by giving up his life... on purpose. Jesus confronted the dark powers of evil and, as Paul says, "disarmed the rulers and authorities making a public spectacle of them and triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15). The upside-down victory of Jesus' war on human evil took place when he died on behalf of his enemies.

...In the execution of Jesus on the cross, the New Testament is asking us to see the very love and heartbeat of God for all broken and lost humanity. On the cross, God joins the godforsaken-- including the Canaanites. Jesus' death and resurrection shows that God is not distant from the tragedies of injustice and death. Rather, in Jesus, God has fully participated in these horrific realities and overcome them with his love and life.

Faithfully,

Pastor Carol





I want to send this note of thanks to the congregation, and to all of those people that you have asked to pray for me. I never imagined when I went in for my hip surgery that so many other things would go wrong. It gave me great comfort, knowing that so many people were praying for me during every hurdle that I encountered. Your continued prayers, visitations from people, the cards, the texts, the calls, the love and the support were more than I ever imagined. It is truly a great comfort to know that there are so many warriors in your corner. May God bless each and every one of you for so faithfully keeping me in your heart. Thank you again and I hope to see you soon.

Love you all, Nikki Anjakos-Seno



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



Did you know? You can watch our service LIVE on Sunday Morning at 10:45 a.m. Go to the Website: MABCSaginaw.org and click the link on the homepage. You can also watch previous church services on our church YouTube channel.

Church COUNCIL

Our next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 7:00

Ways you can SERVE

We have two open positions for officers on our Church Council. The **Church Clerk** is elected by the congregation to serve a two year term. The clerk is responsible for attending and taking minutes at the monthly council meetings. The church clerk also keeps a record of births, deaths, baptisms and new members each year. This position involves a time commitment of 4-5 hours per month. The **Financial Secretary** is also elected to a two year term. The Financial Secretary is responsible for counting and depositing the weekly contributions. If you are interested in learning more about either of these positions, please see Pastor Carol or Jim Garn.

APRIL MISSION



The City Rescue Mission of Saginaw has been in existence since 1905, providing [emergency shelter](#) and compassionate Christian care for people in our community that have nowhere else to turn.

The [history](#) of the Rescue Mission demonstrates the longstanding commitment to help the homeless as they provide a level of care that models our Savior's love. They network with other community service providers and organizations in meaningful ways that open doors to their guests and guide them to meaningful and sustainable permanent housing solutions.

The Rescue Missions greatest need will always be financial donations as this is what keeps them in the business of helping the homeless. You can relate to how much it costs to feed and house your own family... and they always have a houseful of hungry people! Their greatest financial needs typically arise mid-summer when life, for many of us, becomes full of travel, family, and vacations. Please remember the homeless during the summer months, too. Real people. Very real needs.

The MABC Mission team invites you to give as you are able.

Happy Birthday!



April
Birthdays!

01 Dennis Lemmer
11 Cyndi James
14 Justin Lemmer
19 Tricia Lewis
19 Logan Lewis
21 Carole Moore
22 Chris Smith

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.



HELLO *april*



2024 APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	6
7 Church School 9:30a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	13
14 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	15	16	17	18	19 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	20
21 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	22	23	24	25 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	26 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	27
28 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	29	30				