



OUR STAFF

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



**In Person worship
Sunday
10:45 A.M.**
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**The Church office
is open by
appointment.**



CHURCH TEAM LEADERS

Christian Ed & Youth Ministry: Cheryl Ellsworth
Facilities/Maintenance: Jim Garn
Historian: Opportunity to Serve
Historian Assistant: Cheryl Ellsworth
Finance: Jim Garn
Missions, Outreach: Nikki Anjakos-Seno
Hospitality: Hilary Lemmer
Music & Worship: Brenda Ferrell & Arlene Leary
Pastoral Relations: Sally Egerer
Congregational Care: Gloria Hernandez

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

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS
Moderator: Cheryl Zinz
Vice-Moderator: Brenda Ferrell
Clerk: Opportunity to Serve
Treasurer: Cyndi James
Missions Treasurer: Sherrell McCafferty
Financial Secretary: Opportunity to Serve



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



A Message from Pastor Carol

The book of Judges contains a wonderful story about a man named Gideon. We first meet Gideon threshing his wheat in a winepress to try to hide it from the Midianite invaders who were plaguing Israel at that time. An angel of the Lord came to Gideon as he was hiding out from the Midianites and said: “The Lord is with you mighty Warrior.” Gideon must have wondered, “Who, me?” There seems to be more than a little bit of divine humor, divine irony, in the angel’s greeting. The angel calls Gideon a mighty warrior....when at the moment, he seems to be anything but mighty.

The important thing to notice here is that God sees Gideon, not just for who he is, but for who he can become. When God looks at Gideon, God doesn’t just see a timid man hiding in a winepress, God sees a mighty warrior who can lead his people to victory against the Midianites. God sees the kind of leader Gideon will become. That’s an important lesson for us to remember too. When God calls us to serve him, he doesn’t just see who we are now, he sees the person we will become, with his help and in his power.

In response, Gideon says what must have been on the minds of many Israelites at that time. “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?” Gideon wanted to know why this calamity (the Midianite invasion) had befallen Israel. He felt abandoned by God. He wanted to know where God was and what God was doing about this situation.

And God responds to Gideon, though probably not in the way that Gideon expected. God tells Gideon, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending YOU!”

God basically says, “Gideon: I am calling you to be a big part of the solution to this problem.”

God often calls us to be a big part of the solution to the troubles we see around us.

Gideon cried out to God: “Why aren’t you doing anything about the Midianites oppressing us?” God said: “I am doing something about it. I am sending YOU!”

I think it is safe to say that this was not what Gideon wanted to hear. Gideon wanted God to do something miraculous to get them out of the mess that Israel was in.

(Continued next page)

And God was indeed going to deliver Israel in a marvelous way. But God was going to accomplish that deliverance by using a very ordinary man named Gideon.

Because isn't that how God often works? God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God has just called this frightened farmer named Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites.

But Gideon isn't sure that he is up to the task. So he replies to God: *But Lord, How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.*

When faced with God's call to lead the Israelites, Gideon starts listing all the reasons why he can't. *My clan is the weakest, I am the least...* But as one commentator put it, "What Gideon does not seem to realize, but will have further opportunity to learn, is that being "weakest" and "least" is no problem with God."

Think about the apostle Paul's words in I Corinthians 1:26 where he says, *Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.*

God specializes in taking ordinary, everyday people and using them in mighty ways for his glory. God's promise to us today is the same as it was to Gideon. When Gideon got done listing all the reasons he wasn't the best person for the job...God said, *I will be with you.* That's the promise God made to Gideon and to Moses and to all the saints of old. That's the promise Jesus made to his disciples when he gave them the great commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations....and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.* And that's the promise that God gives to us in the work God sets before us. No matter how uncertain the future before, no matter how inadequate we may feel for the tasks, God promises to be with us always. And that promise is always enough.

Faithfully,
Pastor Carol





Baby Dedication

We celebrate with Marc and Ashley Leaman on the dedication of their son, Lincoln Leaman on April 14, 2024. Also pictured are Pastor Carol and their daughter, Rebecca Rose. Lincoln is the grandson of Dan and Pam Leaman.



Happy Mother's Day!

Come help us clean up the church yard on Saturday May 4th at 9:00 a.m. Bring a rake and wear gloves. Be prepared to pull weeds and mulch. For more information, contact Cyndi James or Jeremy Reis. Thank you for your help.



Churchyard Cleanup Day



Join us at church for a **Bible Study** based on the weekly readings on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. 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



It's almost time for camp. Did you know camp isn't just for kids? Higher Ground at Lake Louise sponsors camps for all ages, children through adults. MABC offers scholarships to help offset the cost. See Cheryl Ellsworth for more information.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

On April 20, Sharon Mason, Jim Pogoreski, and Pastor Carol joined 60 other volunteers from the tri-city area to build beds for kids who would otherwise be sleeping on the floor. The group was able to build 50 beds in a little over 3 hours. The next Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed builds are May 10 and June 22. The organization wants to expand into Saginaw. Please pray that God would raise up leaders for this ministry.



HIGHER GROUND *at Lake Louise*

JOIN US FOR SUMMER CAMP!



Summer 2024

Come to one of the most beautiful places in Northern Michigan! Enjoy a week of fun, make tons of new friends and amazing memories, and find out more about the true love of a Father. Find the date that works for you at <https://highergroundatlakelouise.com/programs/2024-summer-schedule/>



Who We Are

Higher Ground is a Christian camp whose mission is to help campers experience and encounter the Father heart of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Not all children have a relationship with an earthly father, but we all have an opportunity to seek and know our heavenly Father, finding our identity in Him. This message is interwoven into all that we do at Higher Ground at Lake Louise.



Full-Ride Scholarships

Several full-ride scholarships are available. Find out more about our scholarship opportunities on our website at HGatLL.com



registrar@hgatll.com



616.772.3040



HGatLL.com





Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity®

About Habitat for Humanity:

Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization founded on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating, repairing and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that everyone should have a simple, decent place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Our Mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our Vision:

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.



We believe:

- Every family has the right to a simple decent affordable home.
- A simple decent home is a necessary ingredient for building a strong family.
- Strong families are the backbone of good neighborhoods.
- Good neighborhoods are the cornerstone of strong, caring communities.

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

Save the date for the Neighborhood Revitalization Project June 12-15 and June 19-22.



Open to ALL ABC-MI Churches

HERE AM I.

Send Me!

2024 PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP



August 10-17, 2024

Do you have a servants heart...? This trip could be for you! General construction, clean up, and rebuild from the hurricanes and flooding that occurred the last few years. Community Outreach. Do you have a servants heart and want to spread the love of Christ to those around the world? This could be the trip for you!

*Everyone is welcome no matter your experience.



Cost- \$950 per person

Cost includes airfare, lodging, meals and transportation in Puerto Rico.

\$100 non-refundable deposit due by MAY 1, 2024.

Balance due by July 1, 2024.



*Host Church-
FBC of Rio Piedras*

How do you see yourself serving? Through music? Children and/or elderly ministry? What about building things or teaching others? Bring your skills and passions to help those in Puerto Rico. The team's projects and activities will depend on the experience and talents of those who sign up for the mission trip.



Anyone interested in joining the 2024 Puerto Rico Mission Team should contact ABC-MI Region Mission Consultant Lynne Punnett.

CONTACT :

LYNNEPUNNETT@YAHOO.COM

734-834-3886





May 14
June 11
July 9

Food Distribution Volunteers Needed

We invite you to help with upcoming food distributions in partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church (123 N. Michigan Avenue).

Gather at St. John's at 3 p.m. to pack boxes.

Distribution begins at 4:00 and continues until 6:00 or all boxes are gone.



May 16, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Social Hall

Pentecost
May 19, 2024



We welcome guest preacher
Rev. Brian Johnson
Executive Minister of
ABC-MI

Pentecost

Don't forget to wear **red**
for Pentecost.



Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATONS

If you are going to school in the fall and are a member of MABC, you may be eligible for a scholarship from the church. You may pick up your application and information about the scholarship program at the back of the sanctuary or from the church office.

Scholarship applications are due in the church office no later than Sunday May 12, 2024.



On Tuesday, April 9, Sandy Aaron, Brennan Hall, Brennan Hall, Jim Pogoreski, Jeremy Reis and Pastor Carol joined with St. John's Episcopal Church to pack and distribute boxes of food for our neighbors. We received the following thank you note:

We would like to thank you SO much for all of the help your crew provided us last night. It was amazing and SO nice to work with our neighbors. With your assistance we provided 93 families with a box of food. We could not have done it and have had nearly as much fun without you.

*Thanks so much,
Nanette Fein, Food Ministry Co-Chair
Paul Schaub, Food Ministry Co-Chair*



Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to

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

Thank you for your continued support

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- 06 *Jim Garn*
- 11 *Dakota Casey*
- 14 *Sandy Ellsworth*
- 26 *Jackie Anjakos*
- 30 *Jan Wheeler*

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.



MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	4 Church Work Day 9:30 a.m.
5 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45	6	7	8	9	10 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	11
12 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	13	14 Food Drive at St. John's 3:00 p.m.	15	16 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	18
19 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45	20	21	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	25
26 Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45	27	28	29	30	31 Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	

