



The Messenger

March 2020

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am also preparing for our Ash Wednesday Service tomorrow. I know that by the time many of you read this Ash Wednesday will be over and done with, but the lessons of Ash Wednesday are lessons that we can and should keep close to our hearts all year long.

We often associate Ash Wednesday with the beginning of lent when we are asked to give up things and sacrifice. Most of us know the words that are said as the ashes are placed upon our foreheads, “from dust you have come and to dust you shall return.” But do we know what that means? Do we know why we say that? Do we know why it matters for us to hear those words once a year? I suppose that the words mean something a little different to each one of us. But the heart of the message of Ash Wednesday is that, we are mortal. This isn’t meant to be something sad, or scary but a reminder that our lives are precious and we should be careful to live them to the fullest.

The days and weeks seem to fly by most of the time, we can’t seem to get over how quickly time goes by. And we can get stuck in motions of the day to day; wake up, breakfast, work or school, dinner, clean up, go to bed. And repeat. But life is more than the day to day routines. Through Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are mortal, we are reminded that the days we will be on this earth are in fact limited, that is actually not bad news. God invites us to live this life fully, to seek out joy, spread happiness, and look for miracles.

This Lent we will be exploring where we fit into the stories of the Passion of Christ, and you will be invited each week to look for (and capture on camera) “artful moments” to look for those moments that cause us to recognize the beauty of our every day lives. We might be mortal, but that doesn’t mean we can’t live our lives to the absolute fullest in the mean time.

Blessings, Pastor Liz

Fellowship...

The fellowship team has been pleased with the number of people signing up for coffee hour, thank you.

Once a month some of us girls go to the Wednesday morning classic movie at the Vogue Theater, then to T J's for lunch. If you are free, we would love to have you join us.

Mary and Stu



Women's Fellowship

Another Women's Fellowship opportunity is in the works! We had 16 women in attendance for our first meeting on February 10. We will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 5:30pm. At the monthly meetings we hope to find ways to serve, learn and grow together in faith. All are welcome!

Also,

Continue to save Family Fare receipts. Currently we are at around 37,000 points and we need 100,000 in order to "cash in". Place them in the labeled can on the table at the entrance of the Fellowship Hall.

THANKS,
Sandy



March

- 4 Barb Ilgen
John Gumper
- 7 Kevin Postma
- 8 David Ohman
- 10 Leah Wachlin
- 12 Nancy Goodwin
- 13 David Holmer
- 16 Dan Ilgen
Phyllis Cowden
- 18 Evan Germanese
- 19 Adriana Perenaire
- 20 John Simoneau
- 24 Kristen Kimm
- 25 Sally Schreiner
Ann Bifoss
- 28 Sally Mason
- 31 Meredith Rose

March Anniversary's

- 31 David & Chere Ohman

Time Change

March 8th

2:00 a.m.



Men's Fellowship...

here are a few dates to keep in mind...

We will be having three waffle breakfasts this year:

Saturday, April 18 @ 9:30am

Saturday, July 18 @ 9:30am

Saturday, October 17 @ 9:30am

We will also continue to host coffee hour every second Sunday of the month.

This month will be on Sunday, March 8th.

davidholmer@yahoo.com

Worship Ministry Team....

The worship team is putting together a unique worship series for lent this season. Our worship series will be based on the book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. We will use this book to guide us through an up close look at the passion story and try to find where we fit into this story. While the events of Holy Week happened almost 2000 years ago, when we picture ourselves in those events they can become more fresh and more real.

What this means is that, this season lent will look a little different than usual. Normally churches try to cram all of Holy week into one Sunday, (Palm Sunday). Instead this year we will be taking a deeper and more intentional look at each of the major events of Holy Week; The Parade, The Temple, The Teaching, The First Dinner, The Last Supper, and The Garden.

Since we are picturing ourselves in this ancient stories our own pictures will be an important part of this series. Each week we invite you to take photos to capture artful life moments through the lens of your camera. You can share these photos with me or post them to our churches social media with the hashtag #lifeframe and #manisteeucc. If you would like help taking photos each week the worship team has set up a photo booth in our worship space that you can use to put yourself in the story. The photos you take and send each week will be used as visuals in our worships each week. Have fun with these photos, if you are taking pictures on your phone try out a filter or two. Create moments of *Artful Life*.

If you have questions please talk to Pastor Liz or Nanci!

See you in church

~Nanci Swenson and Joanne Cotugno



LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY

ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS: PICTURING OURSELVES IN THE STORY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30PM
STARTING MARCH 4TH

Lenten Book Club



Entering The Passion of Jesus
By Amy-Jill Levine

STARTING
TUESDAY MARCH 3RD
11:00AM

Part of our Lenten Worship Series



ENTERING THE PASSION of JESUS
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK

Easter Flower Order

Color	Cost	Quantity
Easter Lily (White)	\$8.00	_____
Hyacinth (Pink, Lavendar)	\$8.00	_____
Color _____		_____
Color _____		_____

ORDER DEADLINE IS
Monday March 23rd

Your Flowers May Be Taken
home or donated to our
Homebound friends after
Easter Sunday Worship
Service April 12th

Tulips (Pink, Yellow)	\$8.00	_____
Color _____		_____
Color _____		_____

Mums (Yellow, Lavendar)	\$8.00	_____
Color _____		_____
Color _____		_____

Total Enclosed
(1=\$8, 2=\$16, 3=,\$24, 4=\$32)

I Will take my flower home Y/N _____

\$ _____

**Please deliver my plant
to the homebound Y/N _____**

From: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Other News....

Tom Ott is retiring as a pastor on March 8, 2020.

Our faith community - First Congregational Church in Battle Creek - is planning a celebration of his 39 years as a pastor on that date.

You may know he started his career as pastor at your church, back in 1981.

Part of how we would like to honor him, is creating a "memory book" with letters from people whose lives he has influenced as a pastor. While it has been a long time since he was there, I wondered if you might include information about this in your bulletin/newsletter or whatever communication you use, if there is anyone who would like to contribute to this "memory book." If so, they would send it in one of the following ways:

Email to Jaimie Fales, our church administrator at jaimie@fccbc.org

USPS

First Congregational Church

Jaimie Fales

145 Capital Ave, NE

Battle Creek, MI 49017

A Gentle Reminder:

It is the season of winter and small animals often come inside looking for warmth and snacks. Please remember that while we want to be hospitable and welcoming we probably don't want to welcome mice and more bats. Please be careful with foods. The sink closest to the basement door has a garbage disposal, and while it would be best to put all food stuffs in the garbage that is the best sink to rinse the dishes in so we can be sure to clean it out. Please try to remember to clean out all the sinks when you are done cleaning up in the kitchen.

The church staff and the youth group are always grateful when there is a cookie or two left for them to snack on, but we don't like to assume. Please if you are leaving food that is for the taking please leave a note so we know. We would hate to eat something you had a plan for. Also please try not to leave food on the counter it is too tempting for creatures to snack on. When in doubt please put all food into the fridge or the freezer.

Thank you for helping us keep the church kitchen clean.

Youth Group...

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER!



On March 15th the youth group will be providing delicious treats for coffee hour. There will be a basket for free will donations to help them reach their goals of attending all their summer youth event opportunities, including Michigan SummerFest and National Youth Event!

Donations are not required to enjoy their yummy treats, but your support is always appreciated.

YOUTH GROUP!

SUMMER TRIPS 2020

SUMMER FEST @ CAMP TALAHI HOWELL MI
JUNE 26-28 2020

UCC NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT PURDUE
UNIVERSITY, WEST LAFAYETTE IN
JULY 22-25 2020

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND:
PLEASE SEE PASTOR LIZ.

 A close-up photograph of several aluminum cans and bottles, some with their pull tabs visible. The cans are of various colors (green, blue, yellow) and are arranged in a cluster.

Youth Group Fund Raiser

CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE

Please bring in any clean and empty returnables to help the youth group raise funds for their summer activities. There will be a bin in the Entrance by the parking lot

In our prayers. . .

Please keep the following persons and concerns in your prayers. Phone numbers and addresses are provided so you may contact them with a call or card. If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please contact the church office.

- **The Family of Nancy Ault.**
- **Donna Holmer**, David's mother, battling cancer.
- **Graeleigh Jenson**, 11 yr old, fighting a rare cancer.
- **Don Jones**, Green Acres.
- **Jenny**, Renee Myers Sister-In-Law, battling cancer.
- **Mary Dixon**, Mike Zimmerman's sister.
- **Steve Lashbrook**, under doctor's care, Akron, OH
- **Barbara Pennell**, Mary Beth Kennedy's sister.
- **Jeanette Smock**, Deb's mom, at home on hospice care.
- **Kathy Swiger**, under doctor's care.
- **Jill Wallace**, recovering from knee surgery.
- **Mike Zimmerman**, under doctor's care.
- **Velva Householder, Mike's Friend**, under doctor's care.

United Northern Association Executive Committee approved the concept of a prayer circle for all our churches to help us stay connected even if only just through prayer.

For the month of March 2020 we have been asked to remember in prayer the congregation of the UCC Church in:

- **Lewiston, MI Congregational Church UCC**
- **Our homebound and care center members:**
 - Dr. Donald Schwing, Greg Gamache,**
 - Margaret Johnson & Edie Minster**
- **Family members** serving in the military: **Ben Bultema**, nephew of Bill and Mary Beth Kennedy, **Evan Weston**, son of Dee and Lars Berentsen and nephew of Duane and Darla; **Richie Ghinelli**, nephew of Jane Cole; **Tyler Harris**, grandson of Al Mahler; **Alex Campbell**, grandson of Annabelle Rappole; **Luke Himebaugh**, brother-in law of Catrina Brown; **Jordan LaPoint**, grandson of Mary Hoffrichter; **Jacob Morgan**, grandson of Stuart and Kathy Swiger; **Jonathan Jacobs**, nephew of Darla & Duane Jones, **Zach Scarcliff**, step son & son of Eric and Meredith Rose

**First Congregational
Church of Manistee
United Church of Christ**
**412 Fourth Street
Manistee, MI 49660**
231.723.5361
mfcucc@gmail.com
officemfcucc@gmail.com
www.uccmanistee.org
Sunday Worship

Pastor	<i>Elizabeth Hoy</i>
Admin. Secretary	<i>Deb Sorenson</i>
Custodian	<i>Doug Savela</i>
Music Director	<i>Jerry Stege</i>
Moderator	<i>Duane Jones</i>
Asst. Moderator	<i>Ron Sluis</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jan Williams</i>
Recorder	<i>Susan Flarity</i>
Worship	<i>Nanci Swenson and Joanne Cotugno</i>
Property	<i>Bill Kennedy/David Holmer</i>
Education	<i>Linda Chick</i>
Outreach	<i>Mary Beth Kennedy & Sandy Turk</i>
Stewardship	<i>Bill Weiner, Jim Uhl and John Helge</i>
Fellowship	<i>Mary Hoffrichter and Stuart Swiger</i>
Youth Representative	<i>Jane Amstutz</i>
Personnel	<i>Jan Williams</i>
Memorial	<i>NEEDED</i>
Endowment	<i>Duane Jones & John Helge</i>
Craft Group	<i>Chere Ohman</i>
Historian	<i>NEEDED</i>

Church Office Hours
Mon. – Thurs. 9 to Noon
Pastor's Office Hours
Variable-Please Call the Office

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

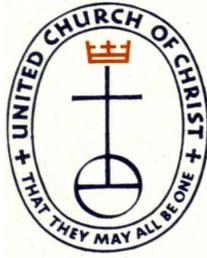
412 4th Street
Manistee, MI 49660

Phone: 231.723.5361

E-mail: mfcucc@gmail.com

officemfcucc@gmail.com

Website: uccmanistee.org



No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here!



*ECHO His Love
March
Donation Items:

Laundry Soap
And
Spaghetti Sauce
With/Without Meat*