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**From Your Pastor...**

I began my August 21<sup>st</sup> sermon by comparing our church to the week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) that had taken place earlier in the month. The success of that Vacation Bible School depended not only on the leadership of Jennifer Ringgold, but also on the many volunteers who shared their time and talents that week. These volunteers were a variety of ages, with the youngest being eleven years-old and the oldest volunteer being almost eighty-six.

Like the volunteers who helped run VBS, the United Church of Christ, Midland is composed of people of various ages who have a variety of talents and abilities. We have been called together by God to do the important work of God's kingdom. Every single person, no matter what age, has something important to contribute to this work. Together, we are partners in Christ's service.

In many churches, including the UCC, Midland, September is the month when a new "program year" begins. Within the next few weeks regular Sunday School Classes, Bible Studies, Choir, Youth Group, and other activities will resume. In addition, our various boards and committees have a variety of projects and programs planned.

September is a perfect time for each one of us "partners" to take some time to reflect on what it is we have to contribute to the work of God's kingdom. Like VBS, the church needs the time and the talents of many people in order to carry out this work. What are you planning to contribute to this partnership? Is there a ministry that you have enjoyed supporting in the past and wish to continue supporting? Do you have a talent that you have not fully expressed and are looking for a way to share it? Perhaps you have a new idea for a way in which this church can minister to others but you have been reticent to share it?

I encourage you to be bold in your dreaming and in your service. If you have ideas about ways in which we as partners can serve God in the world please do not hesitate to share them with me or the lay leaders of the church. The UCC, Midland is a vital church that is composed of talented and committed individuals. Together we will continue to be a faithful witness to the inclusive love of God.

Peace,

*Roger*



## September Lectionary Texts

### September 4

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 130:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### September 11

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### September 18

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### September 25

Jeremiah 32:1=3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

## New Members

The United Church of Christ, Midland loves to receive new members and will be doing so on September 18th. Membership gives individuals the privilege of serving on church boards and committees, and allows them to have full vote in matters of church business. We receive new members during a regular service of worship. Each new member is paired with a sponsor who helps welcome that individual into the full life and ministry of the church. It is expected that those joining the church attend an orientation class led by Reverend Pancost. Please speak with Reverend Pancost, or a member of the Board of Deacons, if you would like to join the church at this time.

## *Joys & Concerns*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pat Field and her family upon the death of her husband, Harry on August 20. A memorial service celebrating Harry's life and spirit was held on August 25.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gwen Snyder, who during a heart catherization was given a stent. Gwen is also waiting for further medical care regarding another health issue.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Willie Diesen, who during a heart catherization was given a stent.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lin and Phae Dorman upon the death of their daughter-in-law, Teresa.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Elaine Lentz upon her death on August 25. A memorial service celebrating Elaine's life and spirit will be held on September 10.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Howard Garrett upon his death on August 29. A funeral service will be held at the church celebrating his life and spirit on September 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Congratulations and best wishes to Jeff Tomalia and Cody Bartow who were married on June 26, 2016 in Portland, Oregon at a UCC Church.

Jeffrey  
Tomalia  
and  
Cody  
Bartow

June 26, 2016





## The Schroeders Volunteer in Uganda during September

Larry and Ellie Schroeder will be working with ACT Uganda in Muko Sub-county, Uganda from September 7 – September 23. Among other jobs, Larry has been designated the official team photographer; Ellie will be doing research for a small book about ACT Uganda and their programs, interviewing basket-makers and other craftspeople, orphans and their guardians, villagers, and whoever else wants to share a story. Other team members will be installing a small solar energy demonstration project for lighting in village houses, working with the agriculture and music projects, teaching sewing skills, and implementing a new health project. It promises to be an extremely busy two weeks! You can learn more about the organization by logging on to [actuganda.org](http://actuganda.org). Bonus: once logged on, you can follow the trip — just click on “Blog” on the top line of the website. Updates, of course, are contingent on technology working there — sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. We'll try!

*Ellie and Larry Schroeder*

## A Thank You Note

I wish to thank everyone who took the time to call, send notes, offer prayers, and visit during and following my recent hospital visit. Anything to help keep me entertained has been most helpful. Now life is good and we just wait for the gall bladder surgery which will occur sometime this fall.

*Gwen Snyder*



## September Lunch Bunch Schedule

Due to the rummage sale schedule, **the Romeo's** will meet at 1:00 p.m. at Decker's Lounge on Tuesday, September 13.

**The Juliet's** have also changed their regular meeting date for September to meet at The Creek on the 4th Tuesday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. If you should have any questions, please call Sue Rhodes or Sondi Geminder.

Anyone interested is welcome to join us!

## Save the Date

### Rummage Sale 2016

The UCC rummage sale week is earlier than usual this year - September 18 through the 24th!

Box or bag up items to be donated to the sale while cleaning out closets, basements, and garages before the new school year or fall season, and watch for the sign-up sheet beginning September 1 to contribute your time and talents to this vital fundraiser. You don't have to handle rummage or work on your feet to help out. Advertising, handling funds, lighting, baking, cooking and many more are needed to make our efforts successful. For details, please contact Connie Lesiewicz, Chair.

Funds from this sale are primarily used to do God's work in our world, caring for the poor and vulnerable, nurturing faith, and helping with necessary, but unbudgeted building upgrades.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Caregiving Ministries Committee will host a GEM (greeting, eating, meeting) luncheon on Thursday, October 27 at noon. More details next month!



**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST** *Midland*  
 an open and affirming church

# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30 am Stewardship Committee  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal begins	2 10:00 am Garrett Visitation 11:00 am Garrett Funeral	3
<b>4 Outdoor Service</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship	<b>5 Labor Day</b> <b>Offices closed</b>  8:00 pm AA	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting  7:00 pm Board of Fine Arts	<b>7</b>  7:00 p.m. Concert Rehearsal	<b>8</b>  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>  8:00 pm AA	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Lentz Visitation 11:00 am Lentz Memorial Service
<b>11 Rally Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 12:00 n Potluck Picnic at Larkin Twp. Park 7:00 p.m. Concert Rehearsal 7:00 pm New Member Orientation	<b>12</b> 10:00 a.m Paint & Palette  8:00 pm AA	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12 n Sacred Writings 4:15 pm PRC 7:15 pm Christian Community 7:30 p.m. Deacons 7:30 p.m. Trustees	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	<b>15</b>  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>  8:00 pm AA	<b>17</b>  <b>Parlor &amp; Fellowship Hall Rummage Sale Furniture Set up</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. Concert Rehearsal	<b>19 Rummage Set-up</b>  8:00 pm AA	<b>20 Rummage Set-up</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12 n Sacred Writings 7:15 p.m. Church Council	<b>21 Rummage Set-up</b> 8:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	<b>22 Rummage Sale</b>  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>23 Rummage Sale</b>  8:00 pm AA	<b>24 Bag Sale Clean-up begins at 12:00 noon</b>
<b>Rummage Sale Donations Accepted Sunday, Sept. 18 p.m. through Wednesday noon</b>						
<b>25 Staff Recognition</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Completing the Circle Concert Across America 2:30– 5pm Youth Group	<b>26</b> 10:00 a.m Paint & Palette  8:00 pm AA	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Staff Meeting 12 n Sacred Writings 7:00 p.m. - Completing the Circle	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Daughters of the Union 12:30 pm Bible Study	<b>29</b>  7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>  8:00 pm AA	



# September Benevolence Giving

## Your Gift Does Make A Difference

**Neighbors In Need (NIN) is the special offering for the month of September.**

**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The NIN offering goes to organizations and congregations throughout the country to address social issues including poverty, economic development, human rights, racial and economic justice, environmental concerns, and public policy.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CAIM supports these local churches and their pastors. In addition, CAIM strives to be a resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations and to strengthen their participation in the life of the church.

Two-thirds of Neighbors in Need supports program initiatives and direct grants offered by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. Small but essential grants are made throughout the year to congregations and organizations engaged in community organizing, public policy advocacy, and direct service. Although money is granted to address a wide range of justice priorities, a significant portion of these grants are made to address issues of hunger and poverty.

Envelopes for NIN offerings can be found on the table located outside the sanctuary doors during the month of September or you can put a note on the information line of your check and drop it in the offering plate. If you would like more information on the NIN special offerings, it can be found at [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

Through our generous gifts to Neighbors In Need, the United Church of Christ is offering hope to millions of people; we are transforming lives, the nation, and our world.

*Matthew Christianson*

Benevolence Committee



## STEWARDSHIP

As Christians, we demonstrate stewardship in a variety of ways: it's caring for God's creation, attending to our families and relationships, making the most of talents and skills, and being responsible and generous with our finances...it's all stewardship.

## Keeping Up with the Congregation...

Ernest and Debbie Sutton's new contact information:  
4003 Meadow Valley Drive  
High Point, NC 27265  
(336) 905-8278  
Email: [deaes@aol.com](mailto:deaes@aol.com)

Sue and Steve Clark's new contact information:  
2315 Lorraine Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Steve's cell: (989) 430-7700  
Sue's cell (989) 430-7124  
Email: [ssclark573@gmail.com](mailto:ssclark573@gmail.com)

John Ditzler's new email address: [jmjditzler@gmail.com](mailto:jmjditzler@gmail.com)  
Mary Jane's has not changed

## **Deacons Announce “Completing the Circle” (CTC) Feedback/Reflection sessions**

On several occasions in the past few years, the United Church of Christ Midland has used a communication tool, called “Completing the Circle”. This process uses feedback/reflection groups to help improve communication about particular aspects of our church. Last year, this tool was successfully used by the Board of Educational Ministries and prior to that by the Pastoral Relations Committee. Feedback/reflection groups focused on all aspects of the Deacons role, including worship, growth and nurture and benevolences, are now being organized and we would like to invite you to participate in one of the following sessions.

September 25, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in the Blue Door Room

September 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

October 2, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in the Blue Door Room

Based on our past experiences, each session should last about 1 hour. The number of participants in each session will be limited to about 12. Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you in advance for your participation, which will provide valuable information to the Board of Deacons.

The Board of Deacons and our CTC Facilitators

## **Church World Service – Love Shower**

This year we could drop off our finished Church World Service kits to the Central United Methodist Church in Lansing from August 1 to September 15 and avoid the postage of mailing them to Maryland. In August, Doug Webster and Al Harrow drove me to Lansing to deliver ninety-nine kits. We completed thirty-eight Baby Kits, fifty School Kits and eleven Hygiene Kits. This is the last year Church World Service is collecting the Baby Kits as their requests are down.

Thirty-eight Baby Kits	Value	\$39.00	equals	\$1,482.00
Fifty School Kits	Value	\$13.00	equals	\$650.00
Eleven Hygiene Kits	Value	\$11.00	equals	\$121.00
	Total Value			\$2,253.00

We used all of our sewn tote bags for the school kits. If you would like to stitch some up for next year, please let me know. Ninety-nine kits is a tremendous accomplishment and it is through our very generous congregation that we are able to help Church World Service respond to emergencies worldwide.

Thank you,

*Lucille Bicknell*

631-4627

## **A NOTE FROM THE SUTTONS**

Thank you so much for being such a wonderful church family. Not sure if we will find a church so loving, caring, and supportive, but we will definitely check out the UCCs here in Greensboro/High Point. We miss you guys already. We will be back in Midland in September. We miss you!



## Lofty News

Our first choir rehearsal of the season is starting soon! I am excited to see all of our wonderful singers in the loft on Thursday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m.! We have some wonderful music to sing through and prepare for the fall season! Feel free to invite a friend to the rehearsal and we will make them welcome.

A musical treat is in store for all who come to the September 4th outside worship service! Dr. Sheree Clark Lovell and I will be playing the Bach double concerto for 2 pianos, third movement, accompanied by a string trio and bassoon continuo. In addition, the strings will play the joyful Vivaldi Concerto for two violins.

Let's hope for good weather!

The ***Concert Across America*** choir began rehearsals in August and is working toward presenting some relevant music for the Sunday, September 25 Concert in Lansing. The concert will raise awareness of gun violence and will feature a variety of performers as well as the 40-voice choir from the Midland area. I am pleased that the UCC is supporting this event! Our very own Susan Mercy, musician extraordinaire, will be leading the group and her son, Kris Mercy will be playing snare drum. It promises be a moving event. Contact Marilyn Gillett or Sheree Clark Lovell for more information about how you can support this meaningful event.

*Jim Hohmeyer*

**Director of Music**



### Rally Day 2016

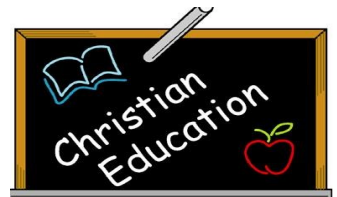
Rally Day is September 11!!!! Rally Day is an exciting time where Bibles are given to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, new Sunday School classes begin, and we celebrate the start of a new school and programming year.

It has been exactly one year since we introduced the 2016 UCC National Youth Event held in Orlando Florida. The youth who attended the event in July are excited to share their experiences and participate in the 10:00 a.m. worship service to complete their year-long journey.

EVERYONE is invited to attend our Rally Day Round-Up Potluck Picnic Luncheon to be held off-site at Larkin Township Park {Located at 2952 N. Jefferson Road, Midland MI 48642} starting at 12:00 noon! Fellowship Hour will be minimal on September 11, because the Board of Educational Ministries will provide sandwiches, drinks, paper products, activities and a PINATA at the luncheon. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on all the fun and energy of Rally Day!!!



# From the Director of Educational Ministries



I want to express my gratitude for all of the support this church gives for Vacation Bible School, and also to the team of people who volunteered during the week to make it all possible. I am ridiculously grateful for their energy and enthusiasm, their time, and the care that they poured out onto our amazing group of kids. VBS is exhilarating and exhausting all at the same time. These helpers listed below deserve a huge {THANK YOU!!!!!!}



This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual, week long VBS and we were able to provide safe, fun, educational programming for 36 kids age 3 – 10. As you may notice from the pictures, about 75% of the kids were visitors to UCC. Vacation Bible School is like no other time of worship and learning throughout the entire year. Nowhere else is there another opportunity for this type of educational ministry that brings together children and adults, and fuses relationships and lessons that last a life-time. Thank you ALL for your support!!!!

*Jenn Ringgold*

Director of Educational Ministries

- |                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Jan Conner</b>          | - | <b>Farmer's Market Snacks</b>                 |
| <b>Beverly Curnutt</b>     | - | <b>Flock Helper and Craft Helper</b>          |
| <b>Phyllis Ferris</b>      | - | <b>Farmer's Market Snacks</b>                 |
| <b>Fran Hamburg</b>        | - | <b>Farmer's Market Snacks</b>                 |
| <b>Al Harrow</b>           | - | <b>Green Flock Leader, (12) 6-7 year olds</b> |
| <b>Kara Hotchkiss</b>      | - | <b>Udderly Cool Crafts</b>                    |
| <b>Heidi Knizacky</b>      | - | <b>Red Flock Leader and Helper</b>            |
| <b>Joe Knizacky</b>        | - | <b>Science in the Sheep Pen Leader</b>        |
| <b>Jillian Larson</b>      | - | <b>Red Flock Helper</b>                       |
| <b>Daniela Lowrey</b>      | - | <b>Green Flock Helper</b>                     |
| <b>Yessica Lowrey</b>      | - | <b>Red Flock Helper</b>                       |
| <b>Linda Mellen</b>        | - | <b>Red Flock Leader (14) 3-5 year olds</b>    |
| <b>Kaitlyn Mercy</b>       | - | <b>Photography</b>                            |
| <b>Roger Pancost</b>       | - | <b>Bales of Fun Games Leader</b>              |
| <b>Jenn Ringgold</b>       | - | <b>Green Pastures Bible Challenge</b>         |
|                            |   | <b>Gather Round Opening and Closing</b>       |
| <b>Sam Ringgold</b>        | - | <b>Red Flock Helper</b>                       |
| <b>Christy Rose</b>        | - | <b>Udderly Cool Crafts</b>                    |
| <b>Hannah Rose</b>         | - | <b>Udderly Cool Crafts</b>                    |
| <b>Kim Steinke</b>         | - | <b>Blue Flock Leader (10) 8-10 year olds</b>  |
| <b>Kostandi Stephenson</b> | - | <b>Green Flock Helper</b>                     |
| <b>Marcia Streeter</b>     | - | <b>Registration and Photography</b>           |
| <b>Sue Tipler</b>          | - | <b>Snack and Craft Helper</b>                 |
| <b>Lindsey Tipler</b>      | - | <b>Childcare</b>                              |
| <b>Matt Vannette</b>       | - | <b>Barn Raising Storytelling Leader</b>       |
| <b>Gabe Vannette</b>       | - | <b>Bales of Fun Games Helper</b>              |
| <b>Doug Webster</b>        | - | <b>Farmer's Market Snacks</b>                 |





## Upcoming Educational Ministry Events

September 4	10:00 a.m.	Outdoor Service of Worship and last one-room Sunday School
September 11	10:00 a.m.	Rally Day worship service, Bibles for third graders, regular Sunday School programming resumes, NYE presentation
September 11	12:00 noon	Rally Day Potluck Luncheon at Larkin Township Park
September 13	12:00 noon	Weekly Sacred Writing Study resumes
September 14	7:00 a.m.	Weekly Bible Study resumes
September 14	12:30 p.m.	Weekly Bible Study resumes
September 18		Books for Adult Book Discussion are available
September 24	11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Rummage Clean-up, Ice Cream, CROP Information)
September 28	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Youth Group (Peace Day at Creative 360, dinner provided)
October 2	1:45 p.m.	Youth Group CROP Walk for Hunger at MCFTA
October 9	11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Board of Educational Ministries Quarterly Planning Meeting
October 16	8:15 a.m.	Adult Opportunity, One time Book Discussion (see article)
October 23	4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Youth Group
October 29	to be determined	Pumpkin Painting
October 30	10:00 a.m.	Trick or Treat for UNICEF Fundraiser (costumes encouraged)



### Outdoor Worship Service

The outdoor worship service this year will take place at 10:00 a.m. on September 4th, with the theme of appreciation of our national parks. Although we often focus on nature in our outdoor worship services, this year we will highlight specifics of time and place as spiritual aspects of visiting our national parks are uplifted. The tradition of our outdoor worship service has become meaningful to many in our congregation, and we have planned the service with you in mind! --

The Worship Committee



## **Youth Group Programming begins with a Full Weekend of Activities Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25**

**Youth Programming at UCC is for those in 6th through 12th grade.**

**All youth are welcome to attend and are encouraged to bring friends any time  
throughout the year!**

Youth will meet Saturday, September 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Youth will help bag up the remaining items from the rummage sale until 12:00 noon, then share an ice cream treat in the Blue Door Room while distributing information about this year's CROP Walk for Hunger until 12:30 p.m. It is always a pleasure to serve the Rummage Sale Committee with youthful enthusiasm after their busy week as a way to thank them for the many ways they support youth at UCC. We encourage youth families to come and help during this time too!

On Sunday, September 25 the youth will meet at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We plan to start our programming year with a Field Trip! Rev. Roger and Jenn R. will provide transportation to Creative 360 where we will participate in activities for the International Day of Peace Celebration from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. We will then return to the UCC, Midland and celebrate the start of the new school year together with dinner and games until 5:00 p.m.



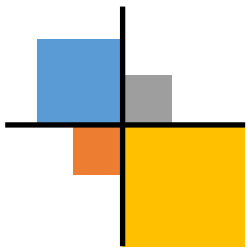
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### **UPCOMING ADULT OPPORTUNITY: One-time Book Discussion on Sunday, October 16 at 8:15 a.m.**

In the fall of 2015, Jen Vannette led a highly attended, six week discussion on Racism. The class included several pieces of reading material, including current articles and the book [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book for this new, upcoming discussion was highly recommended to Jen V. by a fellow historian, and written by another highly respected historian, Carol Anderson. Carol Anderson is professor of African American studies at Emory University. She is the author of many books and articles. Her latest book [WhiteRage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide](#) will be the topic for this one-time discussion on October 16.

Please sign up at the table in the Education Hallway no later than September 11 so that an order for books can be placed. Books will be available for pick-up starting Sunday, September 18, giving participants a month to read the book for discussion on Sunday, October 16.





## **NEW YOUNG ADULT “CAFFEINE” Opportunity**

### **Young Adult Programming is for those age 18 to 22**

Based on feedback from Completing the Circle and dialogue with young adults at UCC, Jenn Ringgold will be leading a monthly Young Adult Discussion to be held on the third Sunday of the month. We will meet in October, November, and December – and as long as the group maintains 5-6 participants, we will continue into 2017! The plan is to meet at a local coffee shop on Sunday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Come at 2:00 p.m. for time to visit first!! We will be utilizing a UCC resource called “Caffeine” during our time together. If you, or someone you know is interested in this new, monthly ministry, please email Jenn at [jenn@uccmidland.org](mailto:jenn@uccmidland.org) so materials can be ordered. Watch bulletins and the October Newsletter for more details.

### **Adult Weekly Studies Scheduled**

Adult weekly studies will begin again the week of September 12. These meetings are open to anyone, and you can come at any time! No need to worry about missing a class or being “behind” – ALL are WELCOME!!! These groups are a combination of study for faith growth, and also time to be among friends in community! The Sacred Writing Study will resume Tuesday, September 13 at 12:00 noon, and will be finishing a section on Islam in the book The World’s Wisdom – Sacred Texts of the World’s Religions, then moving on to Primal Religions and a segment on Christianity. Adult weekly Bible Studies will resume Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. These studies look at the lectionary Bible text each week that will be read during worship on Sunday. Each of these three weekly classes is led by Rev. Roger Pancost. Come when you can to expand your faith and worship experience!

### **Church Photo Directory**

We have selected Universal Directories to produce our new photo directory. Universal is widely known for top quality directories and photographs. They will correct any glass glare (if you wear glasses). Their photographer will take pictures and you will be able to view your proofs electronically.

Photos will be taken on Thursday, October 20 and Friday, October 21 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 22 from 10:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jan Northup at 989-835-7857 at home or by cell phone at 989-859-0667.

We plan to have a new church photo directory in your hands by Christmas 2016! Yeah!

# Financial Summary

July 31, 2016  
(58.3% of Budget Year)

		<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>
Pledges Paid Through July 31	\$ 167,165	58.6%	\$ 165,167	59.6%
Budgeted Income Through July 31	\$ 201,358	60.6%	\$ 192,503	60.6%
Funds Available for Budgeted Expenses	\$ 62,169	63 Days	\$ 32,732	37 Days
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 191,304	57.6%	\$ 184,842	58.2%

Pledges Paid include the total of all cash and securities received to fulfill annual pledges. Budgeted Income includes all pledged, unpledged, loose, and supplemental offerings. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount pledged or budgeted.

Funds Available for Budgeted Expense show the amount on hand to cover further expenses and how many days these funds would cover if average budgeted expenses (\$27,696/month) are incurred.

The current balances of the Pastor's Discretionary and Emergency Funds total \$743

Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	-
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$	743

Current overall financial picture is - **Excellent**



Larry Schroeder, Treasurer

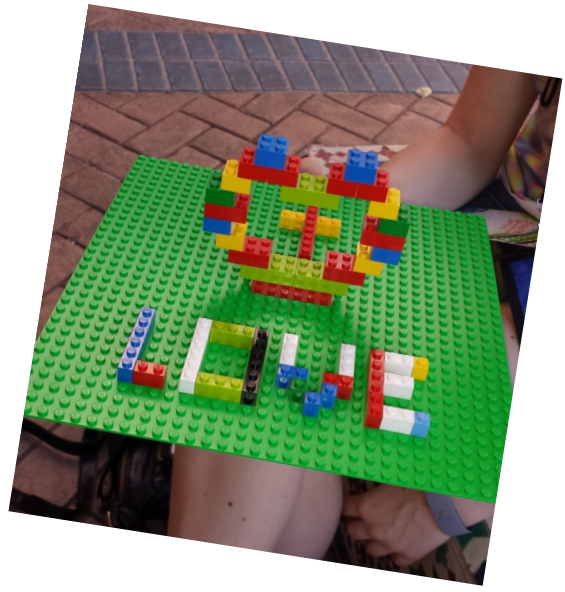




Dear UCC Midland,

We are so very grateful for all of the support you provided that allowed for us to travel to Orlando, FL for the UCC National Youth Event. We could not have done it without the help of this generous congregation. The trip was a combination of inspiring worship, workshops that engaged each of us in different ways, opportunities for independence, and also personal faith growth. We had a fantastic time bonding together as a group! We were proud to represent UCC, Midland at this event, and appreciate your generous giving to make it possible! THANK YOU!!!!

*Brandon, Owen, Suzannah,  
Hannah, Lindsey, Marc, Gabe,  
Roger, Jenn, & Steven*







## September Birthdays

Kara Hotchkiss	September 1
Sera DiMuro	September 1
Hannah Rose	September 1
Quinton Bell	September 2
Renée Turner	September 2
Ellen White	September 3
Karen Slater	September 4
Ken Bickel	September 8
Zack Schwalm	September 9
Ryan Stacy	September 9
Laura Gornicki	September 10
Jacob Eichhorn	September 14
Emily Korn	September 15
Laurie Jacob	September 15
Izaac Ringgold	September 18
John Ditzler	September 20
Leslie Armentrout	September 21
Shawn McDonald	September 21
Gwen Snyder	September 21
Heidi Knizacky	September 22
Les Lesiewicz	September 23
Nancy McElroy	September 25
Ron Klump	September 26
Gigi McIntyre	September 26
Grant VonWald	September 27
Yessica Lowrey	September 29
Michael Gaumont	September 30



Since 2004 this church has held an outdoor service of worship on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. This year the service will be held on Sunday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the courtyard between the sanctuary and the educational wing. The theme of the service is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service and will include personal reflections as well as quotes from John Muir.



The Social Concerns Committee book, cd and dvd sale continues in Fellowship Hall with a great selection. Please take a few moments to check these items for a hidden gem you've been looking for! Funds raised support various projects of Social Concern.

## UCC Webpage Updated

Our webpage has been refreshed with a new design and new features. Newsletters are now viewable within a browser window, but still allows a PDF to be downloaded, and re-formats for mobile viewing. In addition quite a few historical photos have been added to the History page. ~ Shawn McDonald, Webmaster

## Romeos and Juliets to Enjoy an Amish Dinner during October



The joint outing of the Romeos and Juliets was such a success last year that we're going to do it again. Even if you're not a lunch regular, please feel free to join us. Mark the time and the date, Tuesday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m. We plan to meet in the JoAnn parking lot at 12:15 p.m. for those wanting to carpool. We will be going to Countryside Dinners in Clare, a family style dinner in the Amish/Mennonite tradition. The address is 8400 East Colonville Road, Clare, Michigan.

All dinners come with mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade noodles, homemade bread, butter, apple butter or jams, coffee and water plus the meat, vegetable and dessert selections from below. The nature of these outings demand that we get a little more organized than usual. We need reservations and money up front. The total cost, dinner and a tip is \$17.50 per person. We get to make some food selections as a group. Please indicate your choices below. We will tally them and let Countryside know the group's wishes. You can print this, tear off the bottom and return it with your check or cash to either Sondi Geminder or Allan Thiele.

-----

**Please return this form with your payment to Sondi or Allan no later than October 1.**

**Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ times \$17.50 = amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_**

**Meat (pick 2)**

**Meatloaf**  **Chicken**  **Ham**

**Vegetable (pick 1)**

**Corn**  **Peas**  **Green Beans**

**Salad (pick 1)**

**Chow Mein Salad**  **Tossed Salad**  **Coleslaw**

**Dessert (Pick 1)**

**Coconut Cream Pie**  **Banana Cream Pie**  **Apple Pie**  **Blueberry Pie**

**Raspberry Pie**  **Cherry Pie**  **Angel Food Cake served with Berries**



Dear Roger and Congregation,

This letter is being sent to enlist your support in helping us obtain nominations for our 4th Annual Fresh Aire Samaritan Recognition and Awards Banquet to be held on November 7, 2016 at the Forest Edge Banquet Center in Freeland, Michigan from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

As in the past three years, this banquet has a three-fold purpose. First, we want to recognize and honor individuals and groups who are initiating and promoting health and wellness in the workplace school and/or community through various outreach programs/ministries. While churches may be involved in the initiatives, we specifically wish to recognize individuals or groups where the initiative did not begin within the local church and its programming. Past honorees have included: the founders of "One Week, One Street," "Diaper Alliance," "Call to the Creek," "SneakerPalooza," New Hope Village, Major Chords for Minors, Pivot Point, A Place for Grace, and "Instruments of Peace," and a free mobile health clinic. Our second purpose is to raise community awareness around issues related to mental health and wellness through the work that Fresh Aire Samaritan Counseling Center is doing in the Great Lakes Bay Region. And our third objective is to raise money for our Samaritan fund. This fund is used to offset the cost of counseling services, classes and workshops so that individuals who cannot afford the services are eligible for quality mental health resources that are intentionally focused on integrating ones spiritual, emotional, relational and physical concerns in order to achieve healthy balance of mind, body and spirit.

Here is how you can help:

- 1) Please share this information amongst the congregation and join us in enlisting nominations. Enclosed is a nomination form. Make as many copies as you like (we encourage you to put them in your bulletin and/or newsletter or church email postings). Help us find and honor the people who are making a difference in our communities/region.
- 2) Mark your calendar and plan to attend our banquet. Promote the banquet in your congregation and get a whole table to attend! More information about the banquet will be forthcoming in late summer/early fall.

Finally, allow me to close by once again expressing my thanks for you and the faithful ministry you are about, as well as your support of Fresh Aire through your prayers, referrals, donations, participation, and promotion of its programs/services. We want you to know that the support you give, however large or small, is deeply appreciated; and I renew with you my deepest passion and desire which is simply to help churches and pastors in the Great Lakes Bay Region and surrounding area to feel resourced and supported in areas of and the integration of emotional, relational and spiritual health. Please call on us in whatever way we can be of service/assistance to you. While counseling is what we do most, we are eager to share our resources in other ways and are eager to consult with you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lisa McIlvenna  
Executive Director



Each year at its Fresh Aire Samaritan Recognition and Award Banquet and Fundraiser, the Fresh Aire Samaritan Counseling Center seeks to recognize individuals or groups whose efforts have substantially contributed to the environmental health or work/life balance within their school or workplace. Specifically, we seek to recognize activities that have positively impacted the school or workplace in any of the following ways:

Fostering growth in terms of resiliency, respect, and conflict resolution (emotional health)

Improving collaboration and/or the quality of relationships (social health)

Stimulating an increased sense of service / stewardship / purpose (spiritual health)

Please type or print all information

Individual or Group (Add additional page, if necessary)

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the environment that best reflects your submission: school business nonprofit civic

**Rules and Criteria: Your submission will be judged on any or all of the following:**

- 1) An individual or team contribution that resulted in a healthier school, work environment or extended community by influencing emotional, social and/or spiritual health (outlined earlier).

Nominee meets the following:

used their service for a non-church based activity

located or provided service in the Great Lakes Bay Region

may or may not be affiliated with a particular congregation

Answers to the following (on one 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper - Font 10 or greater)

In 100 words or less, please describe the need/objective and the target audience.

Describe what the nominee/team's contributions were, who was involved, and their role and direct contributions being as specific as possible.

Describe the impact to the organization/community.

Newspaper or magazine articles and supporting materials may be included

Deadline for Nominations is October 4, 2016.

Enclose this Form, answers to #3 above, and any supporting material, and Mail or Deliver to:

Fresh Aire Samaritan Recognition and Award Program

c/o Mr. Mark Sauter

315 W. Larkin

Midland, MI 48640

The contact person will be notified that the nomination has been received by FASCC. Winners will be notified with specific information about the FASCC Recognition and Awards Program, scheduled for Monday, Nov. 7, 2016.

Additional Questions? Call FASCC Award Co-chairs:

Kim Steinke (860-921-1983/[kimseinke@mac.com](mailto:kimseinke@mac.com)) or Mark Sauter (989-859-7399/[m.d.sauter@gtpassociates.com](mailto:m.d.sauter@gtpassociates.com))

Or visit our website [www.freshairesamaritan.org](http://www.freshairesamaritan.org) up to date information.

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST** *Midland*  
an open and affirming church

4100 Chestnut Hill Drive  
Midland, Michigan 48642-6206

Tel: 989-631-1136

Fax: 989-631-3840

E-mail: [janet@uccmidland.org](mailto:janet@uccmidland.org)



**We're on the web!**  
**[www.uccmidland.org](http://www.uccmidland.org)**