

Meadowbrook Messenger



JULY 2019

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

GOODBYES AND THE ROAD AHEAD

As most of you know, our Organist Joe Mutone and our Director of Music Marcus Peterson will be leaving us this summer for professional and educational opportunities that will enhance their futures. Joe will be the new Director of Music at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Detroit. His last Sunday at Meadowbrook will be **June 30**. Marcus has been accepted into both the conducting and vocal music graduate programs at Indiana University. His last Sunday with us will be August 18.

This is a difficult blow for us. We will miss Joe and Marcus dearly! They have provided us with so much wonderful music, energy, and creativity. There is a spirit about both of them that just seems to rub off when you hang around them. You find yourself happy. You find your spirit uplifted. You find yourself renewed. We are so grateful for the gifts that they have given our worship and our fellowship. Joe and Marcus are outstanding young men and I pray that they have also found blessing in their time here at Meadowbrook. I believe that because these excellent musicians and young men flourished among us, there is something good to say about God's spirit as it works through us here.

We are quickly working on finding a replacement organist. Throughout the next month we will have the pleasure of hearing from several substitutes with the hope that a regular organist will be in place before Marcus' departure in August.

A ministry team is coordinating the search process for a new Director of Music. The team consists of Steve Pearson, Karren Yurgalite, Marianne Webster, Stephanie Rose Kanak, and me. An advertisement has been placed and word has been issued through contacts. We have already received a few applications and are hopeful of interviewing some qualified candidates very soon. It is our hope to have a person in place before the first of September. If you should have any thoughts, ideas, or leads about the position, please speak with one of the members of the ministry team.

Please make a point to be present at worship to express your gratitude to Joe and Marcus personally. There will also be a place at the church to leave your notes, cards, or departing gifts for both of our friends.

Peace and grace,

Art



God's Blessings on Your Special Day in July



Happy Birthday

2	Abbie Holden	24	Carrie Skronek
3	Kandace Pouliot	26	Vicki Wonnacott
5	Becky Goodearl	27	Jenna Barbour
6	William Graham	30	Bob Darrow
7	Mary Hoffman		Michael Drapeau
13	Daniel Pouliot		Margot Kincheloe
14	Nancy Barry	31	Judy Burger

Happy Anniversary

15	Laura Ritter	13	Debra and Art Hirshfield
	Shae Russell		
17	Jack Barbour	18	John and Marianne Webster
19	Tina Goodearl		
21	Kathleen Osborne	27	E. Neil and Sharon Hunt
23	Chancellor Brown-Schmittou	29	Scott and Colleen Foster
	Grant Daugherty		



Deacon on Call

Cindy Lyon

Fellowship Hour

- 7
- 14 Hosts are still needed!!
- 21 All dates are open in July!
- 28

Greeters

- 7 Rich and Betsy Mazurkiewicz with Denise Pearson
- 14 Vicki Gaines and Denise Parr with John Buckland
- 21 Mike and Marilyn Sullivan with John Webster
- 28 Russ and Dorean Gasser with Jim and Barb Miller

Liturgists

- 7 Marilyn Sullivan
- 14 Denise Parr
- 21 Jody Scheller
- 28 Frank Maynard

Tellers and Trustees

- 7 Jim Miller and Marilyn Worth with Dave McKillop
- 14 Steve Kellar and Carrie Skronek with Paul Brown
- 21 Denise Parr and Dave Wallen with Dick Dunwell
- 28 John Goodpasture and Carol Riddell with Dave McKillop

FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY . . .

- . . . The Deacons to the Glory of God.
- . . . In celebration of the Confirmation Class and in recognition of the Christian Education Volunteers.
- . . . Russ and Dorean Gasser in celebration of the baptism of their grandchildren, Colton Brian Gasser and Raelynn Ann Hill.
- . . . John Streit, daughter Raechel and her husband John, in celebration of Jill Streit's birthday.
- . . . Tim Barnes in celebration of Lisa's 50th birthday
- . . . Jan and Walt Covert in memory of their parents, Edward and Margaret West and Clarence and Alice Covert.

MEMBER NEWS

- . . . Russ Gasser has a new email address - russ.gasser@gmail.com.
- . . . Art and Deb Hirshfield have new email addresses:
Art - rtflds1@gmail.com; Deb - dhirshfi@gmail.com.
- . . . Marilyn Worth recently visited Emily Shannon who turned 106 in June. Emily wanted to know about Meadowbrook people and sends them her love.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE . . .

May 26 = 103	June 16 = 124
June 2 = 83	June 23 = 83
June 9 = 130	

IN OUR CIRLE OF LOVE IS . . .

- . . . Bob Stawski who welcomed his first grandchild on June 10. Isla Marlene Stawski (pronounced Eye-La) is the daughter of Rob and Tami Stawski. She weighed 6#, 12 oz. and was 19 3/4" long. Congratulations!

The Meadowbrook Messenger is a monthly newsletter of Meadowbrook Congregational Church. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads in Novi, Michigan. The Senior Minister is Rev. Art Ritter. Sunday Worship Service and Church School begin at 10 am. Meadowbrook is a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The church telephone number is (248) 348-7757 and the mailing address is 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375-5245. Web site is www.mbccc.org. Email contact is office@mbccc.org



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: Summer Sunday School started on June 16 and we opened by asking the age old question "Which came first the chicken or the egg." We watched videos about how a chick forms and we hope to have some hatch very soon! What a miracle God has made! Stop in and see our chicks after worship! As Summer School continues, we will study other ways to demonstrate how science can help us understand God.

SUMMER CAMP: Mischief Managed - A Christian Camp For Modern Muggles

The theme for MCSC 2019 is all about Harry Potter! We will be worshipping under the Whomping Willow, having our meals in the Great Hall, swimming in the Black Lake, playing Quidditch and learning lots about the unfailing love of Jesus! Camp runs from July 14th - 19th and will be held this year at YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, MI. The cost is \$315 if your child is registered by June 1. Each child from Meadowbrook will receive a \$100 stipend towards the cost. For registration packets, see Colleen Foster or the website www.michigancongregationalsummercamp.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - IN THE WILD!

July 23-25, Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 am until 1:00 pm
Music, Crafts, Puppets, Storytelling, Games!
Lunch provided!
Suggested donation of \$10 per child. Sign up today!



WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP: We are reading *What Is The Bible*, by Rob Bell. In this thought provoking book, Bell attempts to show how the Bible is more revelatory, revolutionary, and relevant than we ever imagined. If you would like to order a book, see Colleen Foster. The cost is \$13. We meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 until 11:15 am.



SUMMER CANTATE CONCERT

The Cantate Community Chorus will present their concert on July 12, at 7:30 pm, at Meadowbrook Congregational Church. You will hear all types of music from classical to jazz to rap sung by singers throughout the community. They will also present Schubert's Mass in G, which will be the first major work ever performed by Cantate. It is an open donation concert. Following the concert there will be an afterglow. Hope you can join us!

LITTLE LIBRARY DONATIONS NEEDED!



We are requesting book donations for the Little Free Library: children's books; teen books; fiction; and biographies. Hardcover and paperback welcome. Please leave them in the boxes in Fellowship Hall. Please no cookbooks, or How-To books. Thank you , Dave McKillop

SOUTH OAKLAND SHELTER HOMELESS MEAL

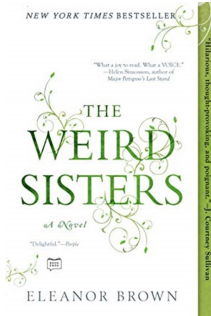
Save the date! Our participation in the South Oakland Shelter Homeless Meal at North Congregational Church will be Tuesday, August 20. Watch for more information and a sign up sheet in July.

OFFICE CLOSED FOR JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

Please note that the church office will be closed for the July 4th holiday on Thursday, July 4. We will be open again during normal business hours on Monday, July 8.

BOOK CLUB

Our latest selection is *Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. This is the story of the eccentric Andreas family; it has been described as delightful and utterly winsome. See Colleen for a copy of the book. We will meet on Monday, July 8, at 7:30 pm for a discussion and treats.



KROGER REBATES

Our second rebate from Kroger this year brought us \$61.79. If you shop at Kroger and have a Rewards card, be sure and match it up with Meadowbrook Church. We get free money from Kroger depending on what our members spend.



LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch invites all women of the church to join them on Thursday, July 18, at 11:30 am at Ardiana's (formerly the Honey Tree at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook Rd.) for lunch and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE

Large print bulletins and hearing aids are available during worship. If you need one, please see an usher.

FOOD BANKS

We are collecting **breakfast cereals** for Northville Civic Concern and the Novi Emergency Food Bank. They appreciate your generosity!

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

This year, the Patrick Kuhl Music Scholarship (formerly the Ray Ferguson Music Scholarship) of \$500 has been awarded to Nate Lewis. Requirements for this scholarship are:

- Be either a member of Meadowbrook, or the son or daughter of Meadowbrook members
- Be active in the church music program either in the choir or by playing an instrument in worship
- Submit a 1-2 paragraph essay regarding what participating in Meadowbrook's music program has meant to them
- Be planning to participate in organized music at the college they will be attending in the fall.

Congratulations Nate! We wish you all the best at Oberlin College!

THANK YOU

To Our Meadowbrook Family,
Thank you for the cards, gifts, and words of appreciation given to us as we "retire" from teaching the high school on Sundays. Your thoughtfulness and gratitude was overwhelming. We were the teachers, yet we learned so much. The youth at Meadowbrook, past and present, will always hold a place in our hearts. So many good memories.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach at Meadowbrook!

Sincerely, Dorean and Russ Gasser

SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN-UP THANKS

Thank you to the following who helped clean up our grounds on Saturday, June 1: Larry Becker, Cathy Blackmer, Kelly Brown, Sharon Brown, Paul Brown, Michael Clayton, Dick Dunwell, Nancy Farkas, Art Hirshfield, Alan Helisek, Bill Jenkins, Steve Keller, Dave McKillop, Noelle Michalski, Susan Michalski, Denise Pearson, Steve Pearson, Art Ritter, Carrie Skronek, and Nancy Straub. We appreciate your hard work!



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SCHOLARSHIP 2019

This year, Meadowbrook's Outreach Ministry Team will be offering three kindness scholarships of up to \$500 each. Members will have the summer to reflect, select and develop a charitable project. You are welcome to enlist the support of your fellow church members and/or friends for assistance. In the fall, the projects will be presented to the congregation. Please contact Rev. Ritter or the Outreach Ministry Team if you are interested.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This year Meadowbrook Congregational Church will be partnering with Village Oaks Elementary School in Novi. Village Oaks is the only Title 1 school in the area with approximately 500 families attending the school in grades K-4. Our first event will be hosting a School Supplies "Store" - School Supplies "R" Us! This "store" will be held the evening of August 26, at Village Oaks and will allow the kids to pick up their school merchandise in a store-like setting at no cost to them. We are going to play a game of Bingo throughout the summer for a fun way to collect some of the basics that every kid needs for school. You can support this event by donating school supplies. Bingo cards will be available in the bulletins and in Fellowship Hall. You get a Bingo by getting five in a row. Each time you purchase items on your card, bring in the items and your card and we will mark it off for you. Play as many cards and as often as you would like.

COOKIE WALK RETURNS!

After a break last year, Meadowbrook's Christmas Cookie Walk is back! And this year we will be adding a Holiday Boutique into the mix. The boutique items we included in our last cookie walk were top sellers — so we're hoping to add more for this year's event. While more details will be forthcoming, there are opportunities now to get a jumpstart on holiday gift making. The next few months are Michigan's best season for produce. If you can jam or jelly, consider adding a few extra jars for the cookie walk. The Holiday Boutique will include homemade items such as holiday napkins and other linens, gift tags, ornaments, and more. **We hope you will consider sharing your talents. Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14.** We will need an army of bakers, makers and volunteers! Look for more information on the Ninth Annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Holiday Boutique in the Bulletin and Messenger. See Lee Gross or Laura Ritter for more information.



VENMO IS HERE!

Forgot your checkbook? Don't like to carry cash? Download the Venmo app on your phone and complete the account registration process. Search for Meadowbrook Church, make your donation and leave us a friendly note. Add us to your "Friends" so that you can skip the search next time. Venmo is like an electronic check, convenient and secure, used by millions and free to you. Questions? See Steve Kellar or Colleen Foster.

ATTENTION SHOPPERS!

Need a few gas cards, iTunes, Amazon, Starbucks cards? Order them through the Scrip program. Fill out the order form from the website or Fellowship Hall and give to Patti Hokett or leave in the church office. Include a check made out to the church. Stop in at church after the cards are delivered on Tuesdays and pick up your scrip. Gift cards proceeds (1-20% of card value) go to the church. Contact Patti at plhokett@gmail.com for questions.

Meadowbrook Congregational Church - Year To Date Financial Summary May 2019

Operating

YTD Contributions & Other Income	\$111,930
YTD Expenses	(\$126,835)
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$14,905)

Outreach (Benevolence)

YTD Contributions	\$5,492
YTD Disbursements	(\$4,720)
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$772)

SPRING OUTREACH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Meadowbrook's Outreach Ministry Team is asking for gently used athletic shoes to recycle for the MORE foundation. Free recycling/re-purposing of athletic shoes helps fight poverty, hunger and global warming. It keeps them out of landfills and helps plant tree nurseries in villages in Africa. Website <http://www.morefoundationgroup.org> Here is more information about MORE:



MORE FOUNDATION GROUP

MORE stands for Modular Organic Regenerative Environments. We are the largest nonprofit recyclers of used running and fitness shoes in the United States. We are entering our 12th year and currently partner with over 1,500 running stores, YMCA's, gyms, fitness centers, churches, schools, individuals and private businesses across the country. Instead of decomposing in landfills, the donated shoes are sold to participating vendors in Africa, who in turn create jobs, promote free enterprise and help improve the quality of life for many. Our Foundation is 100% funded through recycling and uses the proceeds from the sale of these shoes to help regenerate forests and farmlands in West Africa and Central America by providing essential equipment, tools and reforestation training to

poor farming families and rural villages. Please donate old running/fitness shoes to the box in the CE Wing.



RECOGNITION OF CONFIRMATION CLASS

Congratulations to the 2019 Confirmation Class: Jenna Barbour, Luke Diefenbaugher and Noelle Michalski. They were confirmed and received into membership on June 9.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISMS

On June 16, Colton Brian Gasser, son of Brian and Sarah Nusselt Gasser, and grandson of Russ and Dorean Gasser, was baptized.

On June 16, Raelynn Ann Hill, daughter of Scott and Lisa Gasser Hill, and granddaughter of Russ and Dorean Gasser, was baptized.



What's Going On at Meadowbrook

- 7/2 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
- 7/4 Office Closed for July 4th Holiday
- 7/7 Worship - Sermon, "Plan B" Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am
- 7/8 Art at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
Book Club, 7:30 pm
- 7/9 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
- 7/11 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
- 7/12 Cantate Community Chorus Concert, 7:30 pm
- 7/14 Worship - Communion - Sermon, "Spirit Level," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
- 7/15 Messenger Deadline
- 7/16 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
- 7/18 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am
- 7/21 Outreach Ministry, 9:00 am
Worship - Sermon, Laura Ritter Preaching, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am
Advisory Council, 11:30 am
- 7/22 Art at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
- 7/23 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
- 7/23 - 7/25 Vacation Bible School
- 7/25 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
- 7/28 Worship - Sermon, "TBA," Guest Preacher, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
- 7/30 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am



As a Congregational church, Meadowbrook traces its roots to the Pilgrims. Those daring people believed they should be free to interpret God's Word for themselves and to do so responsibly.

Like the Mayflower, each Congregational church is its own ship, autonomous and self-governing. We are not bound by any formal statement of faith or creed. We promote study and reflection that strengthen minds and soften hearts. Our sacraments are open to everyone.

Just as the Pilgrims had a compact, our community of faith is brought together by a covenant - a promise to serve God in Jesus Christ and support one another in our journey of faith.

Serving the area since 1982, Meadowbrook invites you to come ashore and experience God's love and grace.



**Great Harvest
Bread Company**

139 E. Main Street
Northville

**Thank you for contributing
the communion bread.**



**The
Flower Alley**



Winner of
People's Choice Award

**248-305-9190
25914 Novi Road - Novi, MI**

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Abbie Holden: office@mbccc.org

Rev. Ritter: Ritter@mbccc.org
Marcus Peterson: marcpete@umich.edu

Address Correction Requested

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