

Meadowbrook Messenger



SEPTEMBER 2019

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

CHANGES

"Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it." Sir Isaac Newton, First Law of Motion.

I am not a physics aficionado, but I find some certain wisdom in this first law of motion. It is natural for me to want to stay at rest, comfortable in the status quo, unchallenged by circumstance. Yet there are times and forces that tend to move me and cause me to leave my rest and begin the process of change. No matter how much I enjoy the relaxed pace of summer, the important time of fall is drawing near. We have experienced a couple of goodbyes recently and new beginnings are close at hand. I view this fall as a time of important change here at Meadowbrook.

In September, we begin our regular schedule of events again. Chancel Choir practice begins on September 4. Rally Day and our annual picnic is September 8. Sunday School classes also begin that morning. Our Pilgrim Fellowship youth schedule commences. Our Trivia Nights resume on September 13. Mayflower Café starts on September 17.

This September is a unique month of change. Some things will be different. On September 1, our new Director of Music, Daniel Reeves, begins his work. Danny is a music teacher, a graduate of Western Michigan University, and a resident of Clinton Township. He has experience leading music at churches in Wayland, MI and Garden City, KS. He is very excited about meeting the singers and musicians of the church and beginning a new season with the Chancel Choir.

Also starting this fall will be a new organist/accompanist, Carla Lukich. Carla is an accomplished keyboard player and has served as a pianist and accompanist at churches in Grosse Pointe, Berkeley, and Hazel Park. She will begin her work here at Meadowbrook in the middle of September.

In October we will start a new Sunday evening program at the Rusty Bucket at Haggerty and 7 Mile Road. It is called B3 (Beer, Belief, and Banter). We will gather to discuss a current issue or topic as it relates to our life of faith in an informal setting of fellowship. The first session of B3 will be October 6.

Please make it a priority to be part of our fall activities. We need your presence and support within the fellowship. We need you to be part of the forces that brings the change that God desires for our ministry.

Peace and grace,

Art



God's Blessings on Your Special Day in September



Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Steve Kellar | 24 Eileen Cheek |
| 4 Richard Hare | Leighton Gaines |
| 6 Drew Kachadourian | Weston Russell |
| 8 Sandy Terry | 26 Susan Brown |
| 9 Ellie Steves | Charlie Hokett |
| 10 Nick Broda | 27 Travis Sparling |
| Lisa Munerance | 28 Art Ritter |
| 12 Russ Gasser | 29 Barbara Perkett |
| 15 Fiona Rief | Miriam Rogers |
| 16 Ethan Daugherty | Karren Yurgalite |
| Mark Rogers | |

Happy Anniversary

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 1 Don and Sally Gaines |
| 5 Dave and Gail McKillop |
| 8 Frank and Lisa Barry |
| Maynard |
| Richard and Carol |
| Munerance |
| 16 John and Lesa Buckland |
| 21 Noel and Nancy Huyck |
| 25 Jeremy and Erica Millikin |
| 27 Mark and Miriam Rogers |
| 29 John and Bonnie Hyde |

Deacon on Call

Peggy Wright

Fellowship Hour

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Hosts are still needed!! |
| 8 | Rally Sunday |
| 15 | Lee and Lisa Gross, Sandy Terry, and Vicki and Dave Wonnacott |
| 22 | Hosts are still needed!! |
| 29 | Hosts are still needed!! |

Greeters

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Susan and Paul Brown with Steve Kellar |
| 8 | Marilyn Worth and Vicki Gaines with Lisa Gross |
| 15 | John Buckland and Michele Fecht with Karren Yurgalite |
| 22 | Linda and Doug Browne with Russ and Dorean Gasser |
| 29 | Don Gaines and Vicki Gaines with Jennie Bayer |

Liturgists

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Margot Kincheloe |
| 8 | Miriam Rogers |
| 15 | John Webster |
| 22 | Mark Dukes |
| 29 | Lee Gross |

Tellers and Trustees

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Jim Miller and Marilyn Worth with Paul Brown |
| 8 | Steve Kellar and Carrie Skronek with Dick Dunwell |
| 15 | Don Gaines and Dave Wallen with Dave McKillop |
| 22 | John Goodpasture and Carol Riddell with David Sparling |
| 29 | Denise Parr and Barbara Vanderhoff with Thelma Kubitskey |

FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY . . .

. . . John Swyt and Jessica Octernaud in memory of Jessica's grandmother, Rowena Hamel, who recently passed away at age 91, and in celebration of the 80th birthday of John's father, John Swyt.
 . . . The Scheller and Skvarce families in memory of Dave's sister, Marlene Baynes.
 . . . Dona Browne in loving memory of her husband James Browne.
 . . . By the members and friends of Meadowbrook Church in honor and celebration of Marcus Peterson.
 . . . The Deacons to the Glory of God.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE . . .

August 4 = 95
 August 11 = 69
 August 18 = 102
 August 25 = 80



IN OUR CIRLE OF LOVE IS . . .

. . . The family of Ellie Jorgensen who passed away on August 14.

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



PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP: All youth, grades 6 through 12, are invited to join PF. Our youth group meets regularly throughout the school year on Sundays for discussions, service projects, field trips and retreats. Upcoming meetings:

* Welcome Back Potluck on Sunday, September 15, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert to share. Parents are encouraged to join us for dessert at 6:45 pm and hear about our upcoming year.

* Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, September 22, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the church!

* CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 6 begins at Meadowbrook. Registration is at 1:30 pm; walk begins at 2:00 pm.

THE 2019-2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR begins September 8 with games and a special service project. On September 15, our three classes will meet: Preschool/Elementary, Middle School and High School. We are in need of teachers and helpers; please see Colleen Foster for more information.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY: If you are planning to work with Meadowbrook's children and youth (Sunday School, PF, Nursery, choir), you need to have a current application on file. Please see Colleen Foster for the form.

ACOLYTES NEEDED: If your child is in the 3rd grade, or older, and would like to light the candles before service, please contact Colleen Foster.

SHOW OF HANDS PUPPET TEAM is looking for new members! Children, youth and adults are invited. We have plenty of opportunities from set and costume creation to technology help to performing. Sign up today in Fellowship Hall.



INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS: What is mindfulness? How can we achieve it? What are the benefits? Join us for an Introduction to Mindfulness Workshop on Saturday, September 21, from 10am until 11:30am. The workshop will be led by Cindy Koppin L.L.P., L.P.C. We will learn and practice different techniques so wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat or towel.

NURSERY CAREGIVERS NEEDED! If you are interested in being a nursery caregiver, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or talk to Colleen Foster. Two caregivers are needed each week; one caregiver must be an adult; the other may be a teen.

PROPERTY TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED: If you are interested in joining the Property Team, please sign-up in Fellowship Hall. The team meets the second Sunday of each month, at 11:30 am, in the PF Room, starting in October.

A BIG THANK YOU TO DON GAINES for teaching Summer Sunday School. We thank him for sharing his love of God and science with our children each week this summer. From hatching chicks to studying frogs and toads (up close!) to conducting simple science experiments, the children had a wonderful time!



APPETIZER & DESSERT TRIVIA



Trivia Night is Friday, September 13, and it promises to be an extra special evening! We will play two games of trivia beginning at 7:00 pm, exploring your important knowledge of unimportant things. As usual, you will be asked to bring a dessert or appetizer to share. We will have two guest trivia

hosts, Antonio and Robyn, who will provide the questions. There is a suggested donation that night of \$3 per player. Please come and see what live trivia is all about! Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

RETURN TO REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

On Tuesday, September 3, the office returns to its regular hours of Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

CROP HUNGER WALK

On Sunday, October 6, Meadowbrook will host the Novi/Northville CROP Hunger Walk. This is an opportunity to gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need walkers and sponsors. If you choose to walk with us, there are both one and four mile options. If you would like to sponsor our team, please go to our team page at www.crophungerwalk.org/novimi/meadowbrook More information can be found at the Crop Walk table in Fellowship Hall at the church.



BOOK CLUB



This month's selection is *Dancing For Degas* by Kathryn Wagner. This is a fictionalized portrait of the ballerina who inspired the famous works of art by Edgar Degas. Copies of the book are available; see Colleen Foster for a copy. We meet on Monday, September 9, at 7:30 pm for a discussion and treats.

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch invites all women of the church to join them on Thursday, September 19, 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.



BLOOD DRIVE



The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held here on **Monday, September 16 from 1:00-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**. Our goal is to collect 25 pints of blood to help the need in our community.

You must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110+ lbs and be in general good health. A mini physical will be taken, including blood pressure, temperature and hemoglobin check. Please bring your picture ID. It takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes of your time.

To schedule an appointment: go online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: Meadowbrook or schedule an appointment in Fellowship Hall. For donor questions, call the Red Cross at 866-236-3276.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Blood drive coordinators: Carol Riddell, Tom Dewey and Sandra Terry.

MORE FOUNDATION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Meadowbrook's Outreach Ministry Team is asking for gently used athletic shoes to recycle for the MORE Foundation (MORE stands for Modular Organic Regenerative Environments). 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. Please donate old running/fitness shoes to the box in the CE Wing. For information, visit <http://www.morefoundationgroup.org>.

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. We meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 until 11:15 am. Please join us!

KROGER

Our rebate from Kroger, earned for the months of May, June and July, was \$76.14. This is free money for the church! We have 25 households who have their Kroger card associated with Meadowbrook Church. This is up from 16 households last spring! Are you one of these 25 people? If not, please contact the office for instructions on how to do this.

FOOD BANKS

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

Rally Sunday is September 8

Join us after worship for luncheon and activities for the whole family!
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

The meats and beverages will again be provided.
(A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.)

**Please bring a Salad, Side Dish or Dessert to share.
Sign up in Fellowship Hall**



5th Annual Pilgrim Putt-Putt

Don't miss out on the fun!

Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.
We need help with Set Up, Kitchen Help,
Break Down and with Children's Games and Activities

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. 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.





FAITH JOURNEYS

We will be revising a meaningful program that we hosted a few years ago. Faith Journeys is an approximately 40 minute sharing of an individual story of faith. There is a presentation of 25 minutes with around 15 minutes of questions and responses of listeners. Faith Journeys will take place once a month, in our Meeting House, following worship.

We are seeking volunteers to share their own faith journey. What or who brought you to faith? What was your religious experience while growing up? What people and events have you found especially important? Who is God for you and how do you see God working in your life and in the world? Who is Jesus and what about his life/teachings/death/resurrection speaks to what you have found in your living? What things do you find to be important about the church? What lesson or teaching do you find important to share with others? Where do you find hope?

If you have interest or further questions, please contact Rev. Ritter. We hope to begin the program this fall.

MAYFLOWER C.A.F.É.

The Mayflower C.A.F.E. (Casual Attire, Faith Explored) begins a new season on Tuesday, September 17. The C.A.F.E., a gathering time for discussion and learning about our faith, meets in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. Coffee and light refreshments are served. We hope you can join us.



September 17: Video and Discussion: "Creating Beauty in Exile" What does it mean to live a faithful life in a culture shaped by fear and violence. Dr. Mark Labberton, Dean of Fuller Theological Seminary.

September 24: Video Bible Lecture: Gospel of Mark. Introduction to Mark, Baptism, and Calling of the Disciples. Rev. Dr. Brett Younger, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY.

October 1: Video Bible Lecture: Gospel of Mark. Healing of the Paralytic, Keeping the Sabbath. Rev. Dr. Brett Younger, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY.

October 8: Video Bible Lecture: Gospel of Mark. Who Do You Say that I Am and Easter according to Mark. Rev. Dr. Brett Younger, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, NY.

October 15: Video and Discussion: "The Gospel of Doubt" Casey Gerald, author of "There Will Be No Miracles Here" urges listeners to embrace doubt and to find the courage to believe in new things.

October 22: DVD Presentation: The Gift of Uncertainty. Brian McLaren.

October 29: Video and Discussion: Peter Enns, Biblical Scholar and author of "The Sin of Certainty" discusses how hard it sometimes is to believe in the God of the Bible and how he comes to find faith in God.

November 5: NO SESSION

November 12: Video and Discussion: "The Hope of God in an Age of Science." Mike McHague, author and host of the "Ask Science Mike" podcast.

November 19: Presentation and Discussion "Are We What We Eat?" How does our diet and our food choices speak about who we are? How does our faith inform what we choose to eat? Rev. Art Ritter will talk about Biblical perspectives and Laura Ritter will present modern thought and science regarding plant based diets.

November 26: NO SESSION

December 3: DVD Presentation and Discussion: Adam Hamilton's "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph," A Carpenter Named Joseph, and Whose Child Is This?

December 10: DVD Presentation and Discussion: Adam Hamilton's "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph" Raising a Child Not Your Own and The Journey to Bethlehem.

What's Going On at Meadowbrook

9/1	Worship - Sermon, "Cheap Seats," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am	9/21	Mindfulness Seminar, 10:00 am
9/2	Office Closed for Labor Day	9/22	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Sermon, "Digging a Hole," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
9/3	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am	9/23	Art at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
9/4	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	9/24	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm
9/5	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am	9/25	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
9/7	Private Wedding, 5:00 pm	9/26	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
9/8	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Rally Day - Communion - Sermon, "Cracked Pots," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour and Rally Sunday Potluck, 11:00 am	9/29	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Sermon, "Challenging Compassion," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
9/9	Art at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Book Club, 7:30 pm		
9/10	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am		
9/11	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm		
9/12	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am		
9/13	Trivia, 7:00 pm		
9/15	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Outreach Ministry, 9:00 am Worship - Sermon, "Lost and Found," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am Advisory Council, 11:30 am		
9/16	Blood Drive, 1-7 pm Trustees, 7:00 pm Messenger Deadline		
9/17	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm		
9/18	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm		
9/19	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am Deacons, 7:00 pm		



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

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