

Meadowbrook Messenger



FEBRUARY 2020

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

TESTING IN AN EVERYDAY WILDERNESS

Soon after I was ordained and had received my first call to serve the First Congregational Church in Toulon, IL, I ordered a bunch of books for my office. In those days, before the internet and helpful websites, books were the major resource for study, for inspiration, and for sermon resources. One of the very first books that I purchased was titled *An Everyday God: Insights from the Ordinary*. It was written by James Taylor, a Canadian minister and author. In my first couple of years of ministry I used that book countless times for personal devotions and for an occasional sermon illustration. Then for whatever reason I forgot about it and it got lost on my bookshelf.

A few years ago, while sitting in my office here at Meadowbrook, I remembered the value I had received in the book and began searching for it with great intensity. Sadly, I could not find it anywhere. Perhaps I had thrown it away in one of my cleaning binges preceding my move to Salt Lake City or here to Novi. Maybe I had given the book to a friend or a church member to use for devotions, and never thought to get it back. Nevertheless, it isn't there. I haven't yet looked to see if I can purchase another copy.

One of the stories from the book that I remember is about a person who was torn in the making of a difficult decision. A friend suggested that she flip a coin to make the tough choice. She did. The friend then asked, "How did you feel the moment you saw the choice the coin had made for you?" The woman responded, "I was disappointed." Her friend then said, "Then you know that the choice is wrong. Disregard it and do what is right."

What is it that tells us what is right and what is wrong? James Taylor writes that we all have a strange feeling of occasionally being aliens in a world that has gotten out of control. Something tells us that we were meant for better things than the selfishness, the lies, and the brokenness we encounter. Taylor adds that we don't understand how we got there. We don't see where we are going when we make the compromises, the simple flirtations, the choices based purely on our bank accounts, and priorities of our time. But when the coin is flipped, we know that our choices are wrong. We feel separated from something. And that sudden alienation from the world is evidence that there is a God and that God is speaking something to us.

We are approaching the season of Lent which begins with the story of Jesus being tested in the wilderness. Jesus knew that the choices that Satan presented to him held desirable options yet ones which would separate him from God. The power of conscience, the power of God's voice speaking clearly to him was especially evident in that wilderness.

As we look forward to the introspective season, may we find ways to hear the voice that speaks to our alienation. May we find discipline that reminds us of call to return home to who we were created to be. In our difficult choices of wilderness, may we begin to know more clearly what it is that God desires and what choices we can make to be part of that desire.

Peace and grace,
Art



God's Blessings on Your Special Day in February



Happy Birthday

- 1 Bud Steves
- 3 Debra Ahrens
Genevieve Brown
- 4 Tyler Gross
- 6 Christopher Vela
- 7 Kerry Hokett Wezner
Julia Rief
- 9 Kelle Vela
- 10 Rachel Bayer
- 11 Linda Browne
- 12 Ralph Downey
Carly Goldberg
- 13 Bryan Rief
- 15 Nathaniel Lewis
- 16 Janice Boggia
- 17 Joyce Paxton
- 19 Bonnie Hyde
Denise Pearson
Grace Straub
Yvonne Wilson

- 21 Haley Goldberg
Karen Lafayette
Lisa Barry
- 22 Dolores Hamilton
Nancy Ryder
- 23 Barbara Smith
- 24 Bruce Gress
- 25 Marney Daugherty
- 26 Alex Graham
- 27 Dona Browne
Sally Gaines
Nicholas Graham
- 28 Delaney Drapeau
Colton Gasser
Susan Michalski

Happy Anniversary

- 16 Chase and Michelle
Simino
- 24 Doug and Linda Browne

FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY . . .

. . . The Deacons to the Glory of God.
 . . . Harold and Molly Beardsley and family, and Debbie and Steve Smith and family, in loving memory of Virginia Beardsley who enriched our lives with love, kindness, understanding, compassion and wisdom. She will forever be in our hearts and thoughts
 . . . Lisa Munerance in celebration of Richard Munerance's 90th birthday!

CHURCH ATTENDANCE . . .

- January 5 = 77
- January 12 = 60
- January 19 = 70
- January 26 = 81



Deacon on Call

Bonnie Hyde

Fellowship Hour

- 2 Sandy Terry
- 9 Nancy Farkas, Barb Miller and Barb Perket
- 16 Hosts are still needed!
- 23 Hosts are still needed!

Greeters

- 2 Mike and Marilyn Sullivan with Steve Kellar
- 9 Russ and Dorean Gasser with Michele Fecht
- 16 Rich and Betsy Mazurkiewicz with Jennie Bayer
- 23 Nancy Farkas and Karren Yurgalite with Marilyn Worth

Liturgists

- 2 Bonnie Hyde
- 9 Lee Gross
- 16 Miriam Rogers
- 23 Mark Dukes

Tellers and Trustees

- 5 Jim Miller and Marilyn Worth with Paul Brown
- 12 Steve Kellar and Carrie Skronek with Thelma Kubitskey
- 19 Don Gaines and Dave Wallen with Dick Dunwell
- 26 John Goodpasture and Carol Riddell with David Sparling

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 Meadowbrook's youth group, PF. Friends are always welcome!

February 2: Laser Tag with Mt. Hope Congregational Church from 12:00-2:00 pm

February 9: Valentine Care Packages 4:00-6:00 pm

February 23: Kids Against Hunger Packing Event (Details to follow)



Youth Retreat

MICHIGAN PF SPRING RETREAT is at MEADOWBROOK! We will be hosting the Spring Retreat on March 20-22. All Middle and High School youth are invited to attend. This is a wonderful way to try out a sleepover retreat close to home! The cost is \$40 if registered by March 9. The forms will be available on the church website in mid February.

HELP NEEDED: Meadowbrook is hosting the Michigan PF Spring Retreat on March 20-22. We need help with planning the meals for approximately 50 youth and adults. Funding is available; we are in need of someone to coordinate the various meals. More information is on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Coordinators would decide what to serve for the meal.:

- Saturday breakfast ideas are breakfast casseroles, fruit and juice.
- Saturday lunch could include sandwich, chips, fruit and water.
- Saturday dinner ideas are pasta or tacos.
- Sunday breakfast should be continental (bagels, cereal or yogurt).

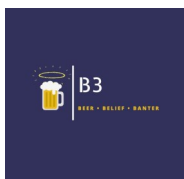
NAPF: The National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship annual conference is in Portland, Maine from June 27 to July 2, 2020. All youth, 8th grade through college age, are invited to attend. More information is coming soon.



ASH WEDNESDAY POTLUCK AND SERVICE: On Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 6:15 pm, the Deacons will be hosting a Potluck Dinner prior to the Ash Wednesday service which should begin around 7:00 pm. All members and friends are invited to attend the Potluck and Worship which is the beginning of the Lenten season. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or follow this link <https://mealtrain.com/e9zone> to sign up on line. We ask that you bring either an entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert and indicate how many will be in your group. If you have any questions, ask a Deacon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. . . Michigan Congregational Summer Camp is July 12-17 at Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, Michigan. All children and youth, grades 3 through 8, are invited to attend. Our theme this year is Shipwrecked! Expect lots of water games and storm stories! Registration forms should be on the church website by mid February.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABNER AWEYO ONYANGO! On April 15, Abner, our sponsored child from Kenya, turns 18 years old. Let's send him a lot of cards for his birthday. Since it can take up to 8 weeks for mail to reach him, please make sure to put cards in the basket by February 16.



B3- BEER, BELIEF, AND BANTER: There will be no B3 this month because of the Super Bowl. We will meet again on Sunday, March 1.

MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP



Last fall, Meadowbrook hosted a Mindfulness Workshop. By popular demand, we are doing it again on Saturday, February 15, from 10:00 until 11:30 am. If you have never been but are interested in learning about Mindfulness, come! If you came last time but would like a refresher, come! 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. Sign up today in Fellowship Hall.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Mark your calendars for February 23 at 11:30 am! Join your church family and bring your friends as we once again package over 10,000 meals. Packaging stations will be set up in Fellowship Hall and each station will have several jobs to rotate through. Each small bag of food provides one meal with a day's nutrients for 6 adults or 12 children. The KAH organization distributes the dry food packages evenly between local communities, foreign countries and for use after natural disasters. Volunteers will be needed to help set up, package food as well as provide soup and bread for the volunteers. Monetary donations will be accepted at the door to offset our costs. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Katie Raeon at nea5r@sbcglobal.net.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring Rummage Sale will be April 24 and 25 with donation of items accepted from April 19-22. Start cleaning out your closets!

NEW TEXTING COMMUNICATIONS OPTION

If you would like to receive church messages via text message on your phone in addition to the normal email, we now have a way to do that. If you are interested in this option, please let the office know of your interest. WE ALSO NEED YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER. If you agree to this, we will send an Opt-In text message so you can confirm that you wish to be included in the texting. You can always opt out of this at a future date.

ICE MELT NEEDED

We are in need of salt and Ice Melt to keep the walkways clear of ice this winter. If you can donate some, please leave it inside the north doors.

FOOD BANKS

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

MAYFLOWER C.A.F.E.



Mayflower C.A.F.E. will be returning to some tried and true lessons of the past. We will be watching and discussing lessons from "Living the Questions." In these presentations, authors and theologians will discuss various topics and raise questions that speak to our own growing faith and spiritual practices. Mayflower C.A.F.E. meets Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. Refreshments are served.

February 4: The Prophetic Jesus

February 11: NO SESSION

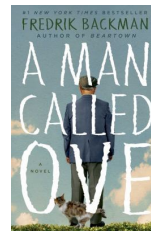
February 18: Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love

WE NEED YOU FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS

We are always in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour and would certainly like people to sign up. If everyone would do it one time, the schedule would be filled! Have you ever thought of hosting but have been reluctant to do so because you don't know what it takes? Here is a deal for you. John and Bonnie Hyde would be glad to assist in hosting and show you how it's done. Just contact them at jbhyde@mich.com or by calling 248-974-2024 to set up a mutual date. It's really easy and we need new people! Please consider learning this important ministry.



BOOK CLUB



This month's selection is *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Ove's story reminds us of the unreliability of first impressions and that life is sweeter when it is shared with others. Copies of the book are available; see Colleen Foster for one. We will meet Monday, February 10, at 7:30 pm for a discussion and treats.

I GAVE CARDS

Since more people are giving online via PayPal, Venmo, etc., the number of collections in the plate are being reduced. If you wish to put something in the plate, but have given electronically or monthly, there are new *I Gave* cards in the pews. Put an *I Gave* card in the collection plate to indicate you have given via other methods and today you are giving your presence and prayers.





SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT TRIVIA FUNDRAISER!

We all had so much fun last time, we are doing it again! Friday, March 13, 6:30 pm is the next Fundraiser Trivia Event! Tickets are \$35 for dinner and 2 beer or wine tickets, plus 50/50 raffle, silent auction, door prizes and more! Bring your friends, family and neighbors. Tickets will be on sale after church in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday February 2. Don't miss this!

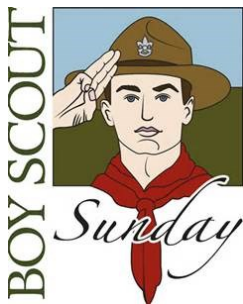


LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Lenten Devotionals are available from the National Association. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall by February 9 if you wish to order one. Cost is \$3 which can be paid upon receipt of the Devotional.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The youth of Meadowbrook will collect cash and coin donations in soup pots at the Meeting House doors after worship on Sunday, February 2. All monies collected will go to our local food banks: Northville Civic Concern and Novi Emergency Food Bank. This is our 12th year of participating in this nationwide movement to feed the hungry and in those years we have raised over \$3,000 total!



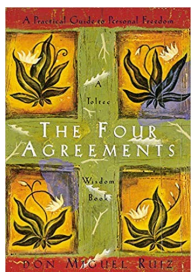
SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is February 9th. Scouting in the United States celebrates its anniversary in February, and all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts (Scouts BSA), Venturers, Sea Scouts, Girl Scouts and adult Scouting volunteers, past and present, are invited to come to worship in uniform. Scouts who attend church during February may be eligible to receive a special patch from their Scouting unit.



HOMELESS MEAL

Meadowbrook will be helping Holy Family Catholic Church serve a meal to the homeless on Monday, March 2, from 5:00-8:00 pm. If you are able to help please sign up in Fellowship Hall. All volunteers will need to complete a Michigan Health form before working or being in the kitchen area. Please leave purses and valuables hidden in your vehicle. No volunteers under the age of 14 are allowed for safety reasons. Kitchen workers are required to wear a hair net or hat. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated! If you have questions, please see Bill Jenkins.



WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

We are reading *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz beginning February 6. The group meets in the nursery on Thursday mornings from 10-11:15 am. If you would like Colleen to order a book for you, contact her. The cost is \$7.

2020 – Officers, Advisory Council and Board Members

Moderator	Karren Yurgalite
Vice Moderator	Steve Pearson
Treasurer:	Stephen Kellar
Secretary:	Dorean Gasser
Historian:	Diane Wallen
Parliamentarian:	



Other Advisory Council Members

Position	NAME	Term Ends
At-Large Council Member	Patricia Dunwell	January 2021
At-Large Council Member	Barbara Miller	January 2021
At-Large Council Member	John Webster	January 2021
At-Large Council Member	John Buckland	January 2022
At-Large Council Member	Michele Fecht	January 2022
At-Large Council Member	Diane Wallen	January 2022
At-Large Council Member		January 2022

Board of Trustees

Term Ends January 2021	Term Ends January 2022
Paul Brown	Steve Broda
Richard Dunwell	Tim Barnes
Thelma Kubitskey	Carrie Skronek
David Sparling	

Board of Deacons

Term Ends January 2021	Term Ends January 2022
Linda Browne	Michael Clayton
Dorean Gasser	Lisa Gross
Bonnie Hyde	Margot Kincheloe
Cynthia Lyon	Marianne Webster
Denise Parr	Yvonne Wilson

What's Going On at Meadowbrook

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2/2 Worship - Sermon, "Blessedness," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am</p> <p>2/3 Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm</p> <p>2/4 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm</p> <p>2/5 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>2/6 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am</p> <p>2/9 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am
Worship - Scout Sunday - "The Twelfth Point," Frank Maynard Preaching, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Property, 11:30 am
Scout Blue and Gold Banquet, Noon</p> <p>2/10 Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm
Book Club, 7:30 pm</p> <p>2/11 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am</p> <p>2/12 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>2/13 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am</p> <p>2/15 Mindfulness Meditation Workshop, 10:00 am</p> <p>2/16 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am
Outreach, 9:00 am
Worship - Sermon, "Being Holy," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am
Advisory, 11:30 am</p> <p>2/17 Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm
Trustees, 7:00 pm
Messenger Deadline</p> <p>2/18 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm</p> <p>2/19 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>2/20 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
Deacons, 7:00 pm</p> | <p>2/23 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am
Worship - Sermon, "Sacred Mountains," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
Kids Against Hunger, 11:30 am</p> <p>2/25 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm</p> <p>2/26 Ash Wednesday Potluck and Service, 6:15 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>2/27 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am</p> |
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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
Danny Reeves: dannymusicreeves@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested

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