

# Meadowbrook Messenger



**JANUARY 2020**

**Meadowbrook Congregational Church**

## **SHOWING FORTH**

As I write this message the church is in the midst of frantic preparation for Christmas and Christmas Eve services. We have already celebrated the cookie walk and the Children's Christmas program. Christmas is the season to which most of us in the church look forward, and thanks to the repetition of the beautiful story it is a season that everyone tends to understand very well.

In January, the church enters into the season of Epiphany. It is not celebrated as widely and enthusiastically as Christmas. Sometimes the day of Epiphany is observed with King's Cake and candle lighting. But Epiphany is more than one day. It is a much longer season, beginning on January 6 with the commemoration of the Magi's visit to the Christ Child in Bethlehem. It continues until the Lenten season, concentrating on the themes of baptism, the revelation of Jesus as Christ, light and the showing forth of God's light, and affirmation of ministry. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, epiphany is a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something; an intuitive grasp of reality through something usually simple and striking; an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.

Epiphany is a time in which we focus on what is possible rather than what our limits might be. One commentator labels Epiphany, "the green season," when growth and potential are lifted up. The same commentator calls Epiphany the "most positive of all the church seasons." During the time of Epiphany we engage in stories about Jesus' public ministry; how he taught and healed and preached. We are urged to use his ministry as an example of our own service, to move beyond the story of Bethlehem to practical ways in which God's love is shared with our brothers and our sisters. Eventually we will hear that taking up a cross and following Jesus is an element of our discipleship and that is part of the preparation to enter into Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

Perhaps the main lesson of the Epiphany season is in our serious contemplation of what it means to be a follower of Christ. How does the reality of God with Us show in our words and actions? We intentionally look for the meaning of the Light in our lives and how Jesus' birth can be made manifest for us today. How do we "show forth" the presence of God to others?

In Light and Spirit,

Art



**PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP:** PF, Meadowbrook's youth group, is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. PF meets regularly throughout the school year for discussions, service projects, field trips and retreats. Upcoming meetings:

January 5: Three Kings Party - Join us as we celebrate Epiphany from 4:00 -6:00 pm with Faith, Food, Fun and Fellowship.

January 12: Connections Dinner - We will enjoy dinner with a longtime member of Meadowbrook and hear her faith journey.

January 24-26: Michigan PF Winter Retreat - All 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to First Congregational Church of Eaton Rapid for the Winter Retreat. More information to follow!

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

**NO CONFIRMATION CLASS NEXT YEAR:** Due to the small number of candidates, there will be no confirmation class in 2020. The next class will be offered in December of 2020 for 2021.

**JANUARY TRIVIA NIGHT:** Our next Trivia Night is Friday, January 10, and it promises to be an extra special evening. We will once again 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. There will be a suggested donation that night of \$3 per player. Please join us!



**B3- BEER, BELIEF, AND BANTER:** Our next B3 meeting is Sunday, January 5. B3 is for folks who want to engage in informal conversation about culture and faith while sharing a tasty brew. We meet the first Sunday of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 pm at the Rusty Bucket, 18785 Traditions Dr. in Northville, (Haggerty and Seven Mile roads). To begin, there will be a topic sheet distributed with some statements to "prime the pump." We will then share our thoughts, our stories, and our questions with one another. You are invited to attend, even if you simply want to listen! Each person is responsible for their own beverage tab. If you have questions, please contact Art Ritter. We hope to see you



**MAYFLOWER C.A.F.E.:** During the month of January, 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.

January 21: Taking the Bible Seriously

January 28: Thinking Theologically

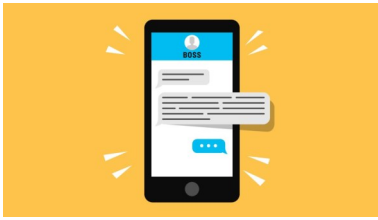
February 4: Stories of Creation

February 11: NO SESSION

February 18: Lives of Jesus



## 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.

## 2020 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

New 2020 Pledge Envelopes are now available in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself.

## 2020 FLOWER CHART

The 2020 Flower Chart is available on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The flower arrangements are \$40 each and two arrangements are available each Sunday. Sign up for your special day. Flower cards are available in the pews to enclose with your payment and denote how you would like your dedication to read in the bulletin.



## SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring Rummage Sale will be April 24 and 25 with donation of items accepted from April 19-22.

## WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

The group is reading *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books can be ordered from Amazon for about \$13. We meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 until 11:15 am. Please join us!

## FOOD BANKS

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

## LUNCH BUNCH

There will be no Lunch Bunch again until April 2020 when the weather is better.

## 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

## BOOK CLUB



Our latest selection is *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue. This novel tells the story of two strangers brought together by a dark secret and the unlikely bond that transforms them both. See Colleen for a copy of the book. We will meet Monday, January 13, at 7:30 pm for a discussion and treats.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS FOR 2020

The new 2020 Fellowship Hour Hosts Sign-Up Chart is now available in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up for a Sunday of hosting. Many hands make light work. Grab a friend or two and share hosting duties. If you need instruction in coffee making, dishwashing or other hosting responsibilities, please see Denise Pearson or Bonnie Hyde.



## TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

We will be taking down the greens on Saturday, January 4, at 9:00 am. We would love your help!

## 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.





### BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUDGET MEETING

On Sunday, January 12, the Board of Trustees will present an overview of Income and Expenses for 2019 and the proposed 2020 budget. Please plan on attending this important meeting after church around 11:30 am in the Meeting House.

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

The Annual Reports for 2019 are due to the office by Sunday, January 5. Please make sure to turn them in on time so they are included in the report package which will be available on Sunday, January 12, and at the Annual Meeting. Thank you.



### CALL FOR THE 34th ANNUAL MEETING



The 34th Annual Meeting of the membership of Meadowbrook Congregational Church is called for Sunday, January 26, 2020. The meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall at approximately 11:30 am with child care available. The annual reports of the church officers, minister, ministry teams, and committees will be available on Sunday, January 12 and at the Annual Meeting. The financial position of the church will be disclosed and an operating budget for 2020 will be presented for the approval of the membership. Election of board members and officers will take place. The congregation will conduct any other business

that may rightfully come before it. All members and friends of Meadowbrook Congregational Church are encouraged to attend this Annual Meeting.

## THE POINSETIAS WERE GIVEN BY. . .

**Bob and Judy Burger** - In celebration of their 57th wedding anniversary.

**Barbara Campbell** - In honor of Stuart Rankin.

**Mike and Marilyn Clayton** - In memory of our parents and other loved ones.

**Richard and Patricia Dunwell** - In memory of Dr. and Mrs. J. Raymond Dunwell and Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Flowers, Sr.

**Steve and Michele Fecht** - In honor of our children Clara and David.

**Don and Sally Gaines** - With appreciation to all our friends at MBCC.

**Helen Galindo** - In appreciation for our Fox Run drivers.

**Roberta and Bill Greene** - In memory of our parents.

**Lee and Lisa Gross** - In celebration of our parents Dave and Ruth Gross.

**Mary Hoffman** - In memory of Richard Hoffman and Elizabeth Thomas.

**John, Bonnie, Riley and Tyler Hyde** - In celebration of Jesus' birthday.

**Jim and Melissa Lewis** - In memory of Marilyn and Don Newa.

**The Milligan Family** - In memory of Lori's father, Thomas Allen.

**Carl and Denise Parr** - in celebration of the holiday season.

**Jim and Joyce Paxton** - In celebration of our four sons and their families.

**Steve and Denise Pearson** - In memory of Denise's aunt, Marilyn Carleton.

**Mark, Miriam and Emma Rogers** - in memory of Henry Rogers and in celebration of the joy of the season.

**Jody and David Scheller** - In memory of our parents, Peter and Elaine Dietrich and Sandy and Rose Scheller.

**John and Marianne Webster** - In memory of John's mother, Dorothy S. Webster.

**Yvonne Wilson** - In memory of her mother, Georgia Jacques.

**Allan and Marilyn Worth** - In celebration of the promise of Christmas.





## COOKIE WALK THANKS

After a year's hiatus, the Cookie Walk & Holiday Boutique came back with a roar. Thanks to the extraordinary support of the congregation, this year's event set a record profit of over \$4,000.00!

The committee extends its heartfelt thanks to all who contributed cookies, fudge, homemade jam, candy, caramel corn, breads, nuts, chocolate pretzels and so many other goodies as well as lovely homemade boutique items. We also are grateful for the monetary gifts, and to those who heeded the call for small loaf pans! **If you purchased a small loaf of bread and would like to "regift" your tin or ceramic pans, please place them in the basket in Fellowship Hall.**

None of this would be possible without a huge volunteer corps who stepped up to help plate cookies the day before the event and volunteer at the Cookie Walk.

As the saying goes, it takes a village. Thank you Village People!

**2019 Cookie Walk & Holiday Boutique Committee**



## What's Going On at Meadowbrook

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| <p>1/1 Office Closed</p> <p>1/4 F45, 8:00 am<br/>Taking Down the Greens, 9:00 am</p> <p>1/5 Worship - Sermon, "Come To The Light," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am<br/>Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am<br/>Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am<br/>Trustees Meeting, 11:30 am<br/>B3 at Rusty Bucket, 7:00 pm<br/>Annual Reports Due to Office</p> <p>1/7 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am<br/>F45, 5:30 pm</p> <p>1/8 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>1/9 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am</p> <p>1/10 Trivia Night, 7:00 pm</p> <p>1/12 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am<br/>Worship - Sermon, "Hidden Identity," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am<br/>Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am<br/>2020 Budget Meeting, 11:30 am<br/>Annual Report Available</p> <p>1/13 Book Club, 7:30 pm</p> <p>1/14 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am</p> <p>1/15 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>1/16 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am<br/>Deacons, 7:00 pm</p> <p>1/19 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am<br/>Outreach, 9:00 am<br/>Worship - Sermon, "That Scary Word," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am<br/>Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am<br/>Advisory, 11:30 am<br/>Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am</p> <p>1/20 Trustees, 7:00 pm<br/>Messenger Deadline</p> <p>1/21 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am<br/>Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm</p> <p>1/22 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> | <p>1/23 Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am</p> <p>1/26 Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am<br/>Worship - Sermon, "Fishing," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am<br/>Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am<br/>Annual Meeting, 11:30 am</p> <p>1/28 Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am<br/>Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm</p> <p>1/29 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm</p> <p>1/30 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

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