

Meadowbrook

Messenger



MARCH 2020

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

FINDING MORE THAN YOU WERE LOOKING FOR

In her book *Calmly Plotting the Resurrection*, author Donna Schaper quotes Edwin Friedman who talks a lot about the famous explorers of the New World, people like Columbus and Magellan, and Verrazano. These men are remembered as some of the great explorers of all time, yet none of them actually discovered the thing or place that they were hoping to discover. The point Friedman makes is that while these men of courage and discovery were quite successful, it took Western civilization several hundreds of years to understand that what the explorers found was a lot more valuable than what they had been looking for originally.

As a student of history I know that the early French traders were not interested in settling Michigan. Their goals were finding furs and making money. They were so single-minded in their search that they failed to see other resources about them - lumber, minerals, valuable farm land, and water. When the furs were gone, these traders thought that the area was worthless and were quick to want to move on. They left what was really valuable for others to discover.

I think that we can take some sort of Lenten lesson from this history. In this season of repentance and contemplation, we search for flashy and well organized ways to return to God. We focus on finding new spiritual disciplines. We seek major changes in our behavior that can make a positive difference in us. We force ourselves into new habits that deny us something we normally enjoy. We look for measurable ways to observe Lent to prepare ourselves for the gift of new life at Easter.

When Lent ends, where do we find ourselves? What have we discovered? Perhaps we get so focused on giving things up or embracing something new that we miss the simple places to seek God's presence that live around us and among us. Our search for answers and solutions brings us to the same old tired places. The energy of a Lenten journey discourages us from taking the first few steps. Perhaps a more proper Lenten discipline is simply to wait and pray and consider God's word that is already around us. Reflect on the small difference a kind word can make or a choice that supports another's interests instead of your own.

Instead of searching for some new Lenten gimmick that will bring you to a new place, stop for a moment right where you are. Seek the presence of God around you at this moment. What is God calling you to do and to be in this very place? Perhaps the discovery you make will be more valuable than the thing that you thought you were looking for.

Peace and grace,

Art



God's Blessings on Your Special Day in March



Happy Birthday

- 1 Mike Sullivan
- Shin Takeshita
- 2 Lee Gross
- 3 John Goodpasture
- Michelle Simino
- 4 Florence Gunsch
- Janet Polidori
- 5 John Hyde
- 6 Alex Raeon
- 9 John Buckland
- 11 Vicki Gaines
- Carol Munerance
- 12 David Gaines
- 13 Lillian Brown

- 16 Patricia Downey
- Gail McKillop
- 18 Jody Scheller
- Maggie Swyt
- 19 Shelby Swyt
- 20 Jennie Bayer
- Kelci Henson-Forslund
- Patti Mallon
- 23 Michael Clayton
- 25 Isabel Hall
- 29 Jackson Wezner

- Happy Anniversary**
- 20 Richard and Kim Hall



FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY...

- . . . The Deacons to the Glory of God
- . . . Carl and Denise Parr in celebration of the church's incorporation and in honor of the Charter Members
- . . . John Hyde and Steve Pearson in celebration of the birthdays of their loving wives, Bonnie and Denise
- . . . Linda and Doug Browne in honor and celebration of Dona Browne's birthday!
- . . . Barb Campbell in loving memory of Dr. Stuart Rankin who died February 7, 2020.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE...

- February 2 = 92
- February 9 = 80
- February 16 = 91
- February 23 = 101



Deacon on Call

Dorean Gasser

Fellowship Hour

- 1 Trustees
- 8 Hosts are still needed!
- 15 Doug and Linda Browne
- 22 Advisory
- 29 Hosts are still needed!

Greeters

- 1 Susan and Paul Brown with Jennie Bayer
- 8 Dorothy Swanson and Barbara Vanderhoff with Jim and Barb Miller
- 15 Beverly Dudley and Patti Downey with Nancy Farkas
- 22 Russ and Dorean Gasser with John Webster
- 29 Michele Fecht and Peggy Wright with Jim Lewis

Liturgists

- 1 Susan Brown
- 8 Steve Broda
- 15 Laura Ritter
- 22 Lisa Munerance
- 29 Marilyn Worth

Tellers and Trustees

- 1 Jim Miller and Marilyn Worth with Steve Broda
- 8 Steve Kellar and Carrie Skronek with Steve Broda
- 15 Don Gaines and Dave Wallen with Tim Barnes
- 22 John Goodpasture and Carol Riddell with Paul Brown
- 29 Denise Parr and Barbara Vanderhoff with Thelma Kubitskey



PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP: All youth, grades 6 through 12, are invited to join Meadowbrook's youth group, PF. Friends are always welcome!

March 1: We meet for Faith, Food, Fun and Fellowship, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

March 15: Connections Dinner with Marilyn Sullivan, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

March 20-22: Michigan PF Spring Retreat at Meadowbrook

March 29: Special Activity, TBD



The Great Crossing
1620-2020
NACC
PORTLAND, MAINE
JUNE 27-30, 2020

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP: All 8th graders and older youth are invited to the NAPF annual conference in Portland, Maine. Michigan PF will leave Wednesday, June 24, and fly to Providence, Rhode Island. From there, they will drive to Plymouth, Massachusetts for two nights. Sightseeing opportunities include Plimoth Plantation, the Mayflower and whale watching. On June 26, they will head to Portland for sightseeing before the conference. The conference begins on Saturday, June 27, and ends on July 2. The youth will fly home from Portland on July 2. The cost for all of this is \$1,600; we do have fundraising opportunities. Please contact Colleen Foster if your child is interested in attending.

SUMMER CAMP: Michigan Congregational Summer Camp will be held July 12-17 at Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, Michigan for children in grades 3 through 8. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and youth to take part in fun outdoor activities including water slides, voyageur canoe, a giant swing, zip line, rope course and much more. The cost is \$315 for early registration (by June 1); as an added bonus, Meadowbrook will pay a \$100 stipend towards each camper's fee. Registration forms are available in Fellowship Hall or on the church website.

HELP NEEDED: Meadowbrook is hosting the Michigan PF Spring Retreat on March 20-22. We will be feeding approximately 50 youth and adults over the weekend. We have meal coordinators for each of the meals. However, we will be asking for food donations. Please check Fellowship Hall and the website if you would like to contribute food.

B3 - (BEER, BELIEF, AND BANTER) is a gathering of folks who want to engage in some informal conversation about culture and faith with the sharing of a tasty brew. It will be a time and place to consider the importance of our belief outside the traditional worship and class settings. Our next meeting is Sunday March 1, at 7:00-8:30 pm, at a new location - Beerhead Bar and Eatery, at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk. 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 there!

MAYFLOWER C.A.F.E.: During the season of Lent, our Mayflower C.A.F.E. sessions will feature a DVD study and conversation of Max Lucado's "Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name." Lucado, a bestselling inspirational author and storyteller, will present the ways in which Jesus' life and actions presented what is important for us to know and consider about God. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we can come to understand more clearly the people we are created to be during our Lenten journey. Mayflower C.A.F.E. will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning February 25 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Here is the complete Lenten schedule:

- March 3 - Friend of Sinners
- March 10 - No Session, Election
- March 17 - Compassionate Physician
- March 24 - Great Teacher
- March 31 - Miracle Worker
- April 7 - Victorious



HELP THE EASTER BUNNY



We will be collecting wrapped candy and other small items (stickers, erasers, coins, etc.) to put in plastic eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please place donations in the large Easter Basket in Fellowship Hall.

U OF M STUDY

The University of Michigan is conducting a Neural Distinctiveness (MiND) study and is looking for participants. The purpose of the Michigan Neural Distinctiveness (MiND) study is to investigate the relationship between cognitive abilities and brain function in younger and older adults. The goal is to shed light on the brain changes that underlie cognitive changes with age. General eligibility includes:

- Age 65 and older
- Good physical and mental health
- Native English speaker (i.e. your first language is English)
- Normal or corrected-to-normal vision, hearing, and motor control (glasses are okay, hearing aids are not)
- Right-handed

In summary, the study consists of:

- 3 Sessions
- 2 MRI Scans (1, 45-60 minute scan; 1, 90 minute scan)
- Total of 3 hours of behavioral/cognitive tasks
- \$100 compensation

More information is available in Fellowship Hall.

RESTORATIVE YOGA

Restorative Yoga will be offered at Meadowbrook every Wednesday, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, beginning March 4, in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per class. Bring a mat or towel and wear comfy clothes. We will focus on breath work, meditation, stretching and light grounded standing postures. The goal is to ease the mind and stretch the body. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch returns next month on Thursday, April 16, at 11:30 am. We can't wait to see everyone after a long winter!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

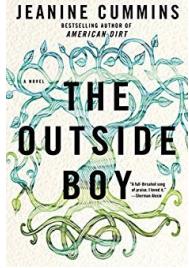
The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 28, at 8:00 am at George's Senate on Haggerty, south of Six Mile. If you would like to attend, please sign up in Fellowship Hall

NEW TEXTING OPTION

Want to receive church news and emergency announcements from church as a text on your cell phone? If so, contact the office with your cell phone number and we will add you to the list.

BOOK CLUB

Our latest selection is *The Outside Boy* by Jeanine Cummins. This is a coming-of-age story set in 1950s Ireland. Copies of the book are available at the church; see Colleen Foster for one. We will meet Monday, March 9, at 7:30 pm for a discussion and treats.



PLEASE TAKE A TURN

We are always in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour. 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 to do? 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.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Your Outreach Ministry Team wishes to thank all the volunteers at the KAH event on February 23. We had a great crowd of church members, scouts from Troop 54 and Northville High School National Honor Society students. Volunteers helped to pack over 10,000 nutritious meals

for those in need locally, internationally and those having experienced disasters. This was the 8th year for this project at Meadowbrook and we are proud to say we have packaged over 100,000 meals. After our work we enjoyed eight different kinds of soup.

KROGER REBATES

This quarter, we received \$77.34 in the form of a check from Kroger. This is free money for the church that comes from members and friends connecting their Kroger Plus Card to Meadowbrook Church. We currently have 23 member households, up from 16! To do this, enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards program, then go online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and connect your enrollment number to Meadowbrook Congregational Church under the View Your Rewards Details tab. That's it! Free money for the church!

FOOD BANKS

We are collecting **full size bath soap bars and liquid soap** for Northville Civic Concern and the Novi Emergency Food Bank. They appreciate your generosity!



TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

Don't Miss the Fun! Trivia Night Fundraiser!

Friday, March 13, 6:30 pm.

Dinner, beer or wine, 50/50 raffle, prize raffle, and door prizes! Bring your family and friends.

Tickets available during fellowship hour or contact Karren Yurgalite:

kyurgalite@gmail.com or call 248-249-1575.

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. 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.

GETTING TO KNOW US

If you are interested in learning more about Meadowbrook Congregational Church, plan to attend an informal meeting with Rev. Ritter on Sunday, March 15, from 6:30-7:30 pm. We will briefly discuss Congregationalism, our church's ministries, history and traditions, and our governing boards and ministry teams. The meeting will be held in the Pilgrim Fellowship room. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

FRUGAL FREDDIE SAYS . . .

Easter is approaching Fast, and what Finer way to Fill those Easter baskets than with Scrip gift cards, Fat chocolate eggs and bunnies From Kroger, and Fun little trinkets Found at Amazon Smile. The kids will Flip and you'll Feel Fantastic, because it's Free money For Meadowbrook. Need to Freshen up those Free money Faculties? See Steve Kellar or Patti Hokett.



RUMMAGE SALE COMING SOON - HELP NEEDED!

Set Up	Sunday	4/19	After church
Drop Off	Sunday Mon – Wed	4/19 4/20-4/23	After church 9 am to 3 pm
Sort	Mon – Thurs	4/20-4/23	9 am to 3 pm
Sale	Friday Saturday	4/24 4/25	9 am to 4 pm 9 am to Noon
Clean Up	Saturday	4/25	Noon to 1:30 pm



The Spring Rummage Sale will soon arrive! If you can help set up, sort, price or clean up, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. It takes a lot of energy to work the rummage sale each year. The sales bring in over \$4,000 a year and we'd like to keep that going. So, please consider giving some of your time in addition to your rummage donations.

The Rummage team has redesigned the pricing and LOTS of brown paper grocery bags are needed. If you have some to donate, put them in Room 2 with a note that they're for Rummage.

We need donations of usable items – kitchen items, small working appliances, linens, books, toys, crafts, tools, clothes, etc. All items must be clean and in working condition. Antiques are also welcomed and sold on Meadowbrook's behalf by Knightsbridge Antiques Mall.

We cannot accept large furniture, text books, old-style TVs, computer monitors, electrical items that do not work or large artificial Christmas trees as we have no way to dispose of them if they do not sell. If you have any questions, please call Bonnie Hyde, Nancy Ryder, Barb Vanderhoff or Diane Chambers. We thank you!

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Palm Sunday, April 5, is always special at Meadowbrook. . . it's the 25th Annual Pancake Breakfast! Let us tempt you. . . all the pancakes you can eat, sausage, fresh fruit, orange juice, coffee and tea. Yum! Tickets are \$10 and children, ages 7 and under, are free. We will be selling tickets after worship on March 22, 29 and April 5. We cannot accomplish this without help in the kitchen and there is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you can lend a hand. IMPORTANT! The Hydes are retiring from this fun ministry after 25 years and need someone, or a group, to take over. If you have an interest, sign up for kitchen help and the Hydes will show you the ropes. We have a binder with everything you would need to know. Call John and Bonnie Hyde for questions (248-974-2024). Please plan on joining us for this wonderful morning of fellowship (not to mention a great breakfast)! It's still the best deal in town!



What's Going On at Meadowbrook

3/1	Worship - Sermon, "Broken," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am B3, 7:00 pm	3/19	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am Deacons, 7:00 pm Preschool in Fellowship Hall, 7:00 pm
3/2	Homeless Meal at Holy Family, 5:00 pm Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm	3/20	Michigan PF Spring Retreat in Church
3/3	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm	3/21	Michigan PF Spring Retreat in Church
3/4	Yoga, 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	3/22	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Puppets - Sermon, "What God Sees In Us," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
3/5	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am	3/24	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm
3/8	Daylight Saving Time Begins Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - "Moving On," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Property, 11:30 am	3/25	Yoga, 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
3/9	Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm Book Club, 7:30 pm	3/26	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am
3/10	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am	3/27	Pinewood Derby Set Up
3/11	Yoga, 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	3/28	Men's Breakfast, 8:00 am, Senate Coney Pinewood Derby in Fellowship Hall
3/12	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am	3/29	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Sermon, "Dancing Skeletons," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am
3/13	Trivia Fund Raiser, 6:30 pm	3/31	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm
3/15	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Outreach, 9:00 am Worship - Sermon, "Is God With Us?," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am Advisory, 11:30 am		
3/16	Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm Trustees, 7:00 pm Messenger Deadline		
3/17	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm		
3/18	Yoga, 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 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



248-305-9190

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