

Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger

MARCH 2019



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church

Prayer, Worship and Fellowship

You may have watched the live stream or heard of the proceedings of the Special General Conference that met Feb. 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. Over 850 United Methodists from around the world came together to discuss, debate and discern how we can move forward on LGBTQ concerns. The United Methodist Church has over 45,000 churches in over 15 countries all over the planet with people holding many different views on issues of importance. The prayer spoken at the opening worship of the conference said in part, *“O God, we ask for a fresh wind of your Spirit and guidance for each of us as individuals, for the faithful congregations and for this global community of United Methodists.”*

As a connected church, no one person can make policy for everybody else. The General Conference delegates debate and vote on guidelines and policies that rule the entire church body. Issues of LGBTQ concerns are not the same in every country that has United Methodists. Cultural ideas, governmental laws and biblical understandings can be different in different parts of the world. Our founder, John Wesley said, *“In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, in all things charity.”* The essentials of the United Methodist faith that we hold in unity are belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Bible revealing the Word of God and that we are rooted in God’s grace. All other issues are ones that can be debated and disagreed upon liberally and with charity. All issues are of importance, that’s not what non-essential meant to Mr. Wesley. It meant that they were of secondary importance to the essentials and could be debated and discussed freely.

The decision reached at this Special Called Conference is the Traditional Plan.

Not every United Methodist, United Methodist congregation or conference will agree with this decision. We have time to digest the decision and pray about it. We can decide, over time, how we as faithful Christians, believing in God, reading the Bible and covered by God’s grace, within our Michigan UMC Conference and our beloved Sanford UMC congregation, respond to this decision. Some will rejoice, some will be unsure, some won’t care and some will be saddened. We can hold one another in prayer as we walk through this historic time together.

Bishop David Bard is calling all clergy together on Sat, March 9, 2019 for a time of prayer. He knows that everyone will have many questions and few answers so quickly after the conference. He doesn’t expect anyone or any church, or even himself to have all the answers. Prayer, worship and fellowship is his goal for this time together.

This is a good model for all of us. As we move into Lent, a time of introspection, self denial and preparation for Easter we all can pray, worship and fellowship together. There is no greater time for us to strengthen our spiritual life than putting prayer, worship and fellowship at the top of our lists of things to do. Growing our faith life is more important than anything else we will do during these six weeks before Easter. I encourage us all to pray every day for our faith to grow. I encourage us all to worship regularly. I encourage us all to fellowship together.

Let’s have prayer, worship and fellowship be in our hearts this Lent.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Lisa Cook

OUTREACH

Our outreach giving (loose change buckets) for the month of March will go to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict, or natural disaster. Your donation to UMCOR will help provide humanitarian relief to people in 780 countries, including the U.S.

Thank you!
Vicki Sharpe

STOP HUNGER CHALLENGE

March 1 thru April 30, 2019

Sanford Food Pantry -- Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN) will be conducting its annual "Stop Hunger Challenge" during the months of March and April. No one should have to worry about how they will afford to feed themselves or their family. Many people in our community are faced with this concern every day. Hunger does not discriminate. Hunger does not care about gender, age, race or religion. Hunger can affect people who are unemployed or working full-time. Food and money collected during this time will count towards the challenge. The goal for this campaign is \$80,000 in food and money. Donated food and personal care items are valued at \$1.00 per item. Midland County EFPN is once again very fortunate to have an anonymous donor who is offering an incentive for all food and money collected. We also have a 10% incentive from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for all money collected. You can watch our progress to our goal on our website, www.midlandcountyevpn.org.

Thank you for keeping all of the pantry volunteers in your thoughts and prayers as they provide assistance for clients in need. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me --Kathy Nogaski (989-245-2610).

FRIENDS & FELLOWSHIP

Friday, March 15, 6:00 p.m. Euchre, Legos & Nachos. Nachos will be provided, bring a snack or dessert to share and enjoy the fellowship.

ONE WEEK, ONE STREET

Save the date! One Week, One Street starts on June 24 to June 28, 2019.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Attendance & Giving

| | | |
|---------|----|------------|
| Feb. 3 | 64 | \$4,249.00 |
| Feb. 10 | 66 | \$1,851.00 |
| Feb. 17 | 47 | \$2,782.00 |
| Feb. 24 | 44 | \$1,198.00 |

MARVELOUS MONDAYS

Attendance & Giving

| | | |
|---------|----|----------|
| Feb. 4 | 21 | \$120.00 |
| Feb. 11 | 21 | \$210.00 |
| Feb. 18 | 23 | \$40.00 |
| Feb. 25 | 21 | \$50.00 |



PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

Carmen Adams Washington Woods, 821 S. Cambridge, #375, Midland, MI 48642

Luella Glesner Meridian Acres, 2905 N. Meridian Rd. MC01, Sanford, MI 48657

Verna Gould Independence Village, 4775 Village Dr. #39, Grand Ledge, MI, 48837

Sandy Houtman Meridian Acres, 2905 N. Meridian Rd. #17, Sanford, MI 48657

Carol McCallum 2517 Iowa Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601

Mildred Reinhart Kings Daughters Home 2410 Rodd St., #17, Midland, MI 48640

Sanford United Methodist Church
2560 N. West River Road
Sanford, Michigan 48657
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office: (989) 687-5353

E-mail: sanumc@tds.net

Website: Sanfordumc.com

PERMIT NO. 4
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
SANFORD, MI 48657



JANUARY 2019 FOOD PANTRY REPORT

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| People Served | 38 |
| Children under 18 | 11 |
| Households | 12 |
| Gift Certificates given: | 29 |



| | |
|------------|-------|
| Items In: | 1,222 |
| Items Out: | 1,239 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Items Donated: | |
| Sanford UMC | \$+ 19 |
| Our Lady of Grace Catholic | 77 |
| St. Paul Lutheran Church | 62 |
| Community of Christ | \$ |
| Old Oak Trails Booster Club | 37 |
| Family Christmas | 94 |

Current Needs: Hamburger/Tuna Helper & Boxed Potatoes

Thank you for your continued support of the Sanford Food Pantry. Pantry utilization continues steady and we are grateful for your donations. For those who prefer to let us do the shopping, checks can be made out to the Sanford Food Pantry. Our checking account is part of the MCEFPN account, so your donations are tax-deductible. Your donations and support throughout the year are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support and for keeping our volunteers and the clients they serve in your prayers.

Kathy Nogaski
989-245-2610

LENT & EASTER READINGS



We are looking for readers for our Reflections by Candlelight for Easter. Starting the first Sunday of Lent, March 10, going through Easter April 21. There will be the reading and then the extinguishing of a candle. Please call the church office, 989-687-5353 to put your name on the list and pick a week. We have seven readings.

March 6, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday, join us for the beginning of our Lenten Season.

**Worship Christ The Lord
10:30 A.M. Sunday
Marvelous Mondays
7:00 P.M.**

Serving the Lord

| | Liturgist | Ushers | Greeters | Coffee Hour |
|---------|------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mar. 3 | Jeanne Sturm | Rick Foley, Becky Bastuk Frank Morgan | Mary Morgan | Visitation |
| Mar. 10 | Cheryl Johnson | Curt & Beth Moe Bud & Gayle Swanson | Dorothy Francis | Worship |
| Mar. 17 | Marcus Schriener | Mitch & Ronda Bowen Janet Sayranian, Phyllis Seloom | Cheryl Johnson | Choir |
| Mar. 24 | Jeanne Sturm | Mitch & Ronda Bowen Adam Sian | Jeanne Sturm | UMW |
| Mar. 31 | Roger Sharpe | Gary & Brenda Boots, Denny Krenzke, Dorothy Francis | Ed & Pauline Richardson | Finance |

COMMUNION STEWARDS MARCH

Sherry Numbers, Mike & Judy Gorthy

TRUSTEES FOR MARCH

Sharon Raymond (Gary Boots)

CALENDAR DATES

Cub Scouts are on Sunday afternoons, 4 p.m. and Girls Scouts are on Monday evenings, 6 p.m.



MARCH CALENDAR DATES

Tues. Mar. 5, 11:30 a.m. Worship meeting
 Wed. Mar. 6, 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Worship
 Mon. Mar 11, 1:30 p.m. Meridian Acres Worship
 Tues. Mar. 12, 8:15 a.m. Clergy Women
 Tues. Mar. 12, 3:45 p.m. SPRC
 Fri. Mar. 15, 6:00 p.m. Euchre, Legos, & Nachos
 Tues. Mar. 19, 1:00 p.m. UMW
 Tues. Mar. 19, 5:30 p.m. Finance
 Tues. Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m. Ad Council
 Wed. Mar. 20, 10:30 a.m. Clergy DZone meeting



Friends & Fellowship

Fri. Mar. 15 6 p.m. Legos, Euchre, & nachos
 Sun. April 21 9 a.m. Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 Sat. May 18 Cornhole, Music
 Sun. June 23 Outdoor Church
 Fri. July 12 6 p.m. Euchre
 Sun. Aug. 11 Picnic in park, after church camping
 Fri. Sept. 13 6 p.m. Wild Game Dinner
 Fri. Oct. 4 7 p.m. Australia night
 Sun. Nov. 24 Hanging of the Greens, Potluck
 Sun. Dec. 8 4 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Youth Leader

Sanford United Methodist Church is seeking an 8 hours a week part time youth leader to create and grow an elementary aged youth program. Pay based on experience.

Applicants Must:

Love Jesus, have a love for—and for working with—youth to help them grow in faith, live a prayerful Christian life to serve as an example to those they will lead, have a basic understanding of United Methodist theology and church structure, be highly organized, be experienced in the use of social media.

Responsibilities:

Plan and organize youth program activities including but not limited to mission projects and weekly gatherings, work with church leadership to recruit new members to the youth program through use of social media, mailers, face to face contact, etc., assume a leadership role in the Marvelous Monday worship service at SUMC. Leadership role will involve speaking commitments or leading/planning of praise music, recruit adult volunteers as necessary or required for youth activities, informing parents and youth of planned activities, trips, etc. as required.

Please send application to Sanford United Methodist Church, SPRC, 2560 N. West River Rd., Sanford, MI 48657

Meridian Acres

Monday, March 11, 2019, we will be having our 1:30 p.m. Worship at Meridian Acres. Please join us for a wonderful experience in worshipping and fellowship with the group.