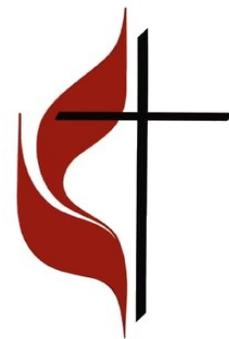


Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger

OCTOBER 2017



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

Helping Those in Need

We have been blessed to have shelter, food and clothing for ourselves and our family. We almost take it for granted that we will be housed and fed and clothed to our heart's desire. We even have enough stuff that we can give it away to the rummage sale to make money to help other people. Shelter, food and clothing are essential to life and health, but not everyone in our community is so blessed.

Through the Sanford Food Pantry we have been able to help those in need of food. Hunger is part of the everyday life of some in our community. Being hungry and not having enough money to purchase food is difficult. Having to choose between purchasing food or purchasing medication is a tough choice.

Living paycheck to paycheck is a reality for people in the Sanford area. Not everyone makes a wage that covers their monthly bills. One interviewer went around a town asking people how much money they had in their bank accounts. Most people said \$500 or less. Only one person said more than \$500. She said she had \$27,000 in her savings. That disparity is true in our nation. There are those who are struggling and some who will admit to being well off. Most of us think of ourselves in the middle. We have enough in our paychecks to make it through the week. Some struggle to make ends meet and some have a bit of a savings. Some have pension and Social Security checks that carry them through their golden years. Few of us have \$27,000 in our bank accounts.

In the early '80s our Adult Sunday School class, which met at the church kitchen table, heard from Sharron Such of someone in our community who was going through rehab and was down on their luck. The class decided to help them get tires for their car, so they could drive safely back and forth to rehab, and helped them with groceries. There was some sort of emergency food pantry in the area, but not to the effectiveness that we now offer.

The class found that this was a worthy Christian witness, so they continued to help people in need get groceries for their families. They joined with the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry, and this outreach has grown into what is now called the Sanford Food Pantry. It is housed in our church, in a room that has continued to expand its usage.

Carolyn Walter took over the coordinator position when Sharron Such took on a new job. Carolyn spent hours stacking the room and helping to organize the food orders. Many people were helped with groceries and many people volunteered to serve.

Vicki Sharpe and her sister Marlene Glinski became the coordinators in 2000. There was no elevator at the time so all orders had to be taken up the stairs or pushed in a wagon around the back sidewalk to the front of the church to be received by needy members of our community. In all types of weather and at all times of year, the wagon was pulled around the church to meet the needs of those who were hungry. A freezer was purchased to find ways to offer foods that were not canned or boxed to those who were in need.

In 2009 Kay and Earl Crawford took over as the next coordinators. They were able to add a refrigerator and expand the variety and amount of food that was given out. They brought in two shopping carts that helped the work immensely. Bags of food were put in the shopping carts and put into the new elevator to bring up to the people who were in need. Earl said to the volunteers that they were to give as much as they thought the family needed. They did not have to stick to one small bag per family or a stated list. Volunteers come from many churches in our area and they are grateful to be able to serve others.

Continued on page 2.

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Reusable bags were created with tags on them to remind people what they could purchase at the store to be given to the Sanford Food Pantry. These bags are very helpful to those who give.

We are blessed by those who saw a need for food in our community. We are blessed by the coordinators who have given time and energy to see that it is run well. We are blessed by volunteers who give time and show compassion to those whose paycheck doesn't bring in enough to feed their family for the whole month. We are blessed to be able to give grocery items, money and love to those who are in need. We are blessed by God with more than enough for ourselves and our family. We are blessed to care, to share and to give to all around us.

Our new coordinator is Kathy Nogalski from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. She has given time and attention to learning from Earl and Kay all the ins and outs of coordinating such an important mission to our community. We look forward to continuing the same great outreach, in our original room, on into the future.

The IGA, now Food Center, has been very generous to our community food pantry.

Working closely with them, our food pantry has been able to give fresh foods along with canned and boxed to those who call on the food pantry. Ten years or so ago, a Pharmacist in Midland saw that the kids in the local elementary schools needed food on the weekend, so he started the Backpack Buddies program. This is a great program that puts enough food in a backpack or grocery bag for kids to take home for the weekend so they will not be hungry.

Thank you for helping those in need.

Rev. Lisa Cook

***Worship Christ
The Lord
Sundays 10:30 A.M.***

CARD CONNECTION CLUB

The church is looking for a few good men... or women to join the Card Connection Club. It is a new group that meets once a month to send out cards and notes to our congregation for birthdays and anniversaries. We have the cards, envelopes and stamps. We need you to write a greeting on the cards on behalf of our church family and send them out at appropriate times. We will put some cards out at Fellowship Time to have you sign. Is this something you would like to do? Call the church office 989-687-5353 and let us know. What a great way to make an impact on special days in the lives of our congregation!



UMW

It's that time of year when our apple pies are made and sold to many of our community and church members. We have 244 orders to date and are working to get 500. There are extra order blanks in the church at each entrance, or you could ask one of the UMW ladies for an order form. We are also looking for volunteers to help make these wonderful pies. In the newsletter is a sheet for you to volunteer where your special gift is and return it back to the church. Thank you

Open Door Volunteers Needed

Join us for an Open House on Tuesday, October 10, 6-8 p.m. at Midland's Open Door, 412 West Buttles. Tour the facilities and learn how Midland's Open Door meets the needs of the homeless, hungry and hurting in our community. Sanford United Methodist Church has had teams of workers that have served lunch at the Open Door for many years. As time has passed some of the original volunteers are no longer able to serve. As a result, we are in need of more volunteers. A new schedule will be prepared. Most volunteers will work one Thursday every three months. This would be a great time to check out this ministry and see if it works for you. Sanford UMC workers work at the Open Door the third Thursday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have questions, Ruth Sutton, Jan Biggs and Sharon Raymond are prepared to answer them. If you would like to volunteer, call the church office or Ruth Sutton (989-687-5646).



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 Website: Sanfordumc.com

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August 2017 Food Pantry Report

People served	47
Households	14
Gift certificates given:	31
Items In:	1093
Items Out:	2006



Items Donated:	
Sanford UMC	\$+ 41
Our Lady of Grace Catholic	175
St. Paul Lutheran Church	\$+ 15
Community of Christ	\$+ 63
Old Oak Trails	13

Current Needs: cereal, boxed potatoes-mashed, scalloped, au gratin

We are delighted to announce that Kathy Nogaski from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church has accepted the job of Sanford Food Pantry Coordinator! We have enjoyed our tenure, but it is time to pass the torch. Pantry utilization continues steady. We are grateful for your food 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 donation is tax-deductible. Thank you for keeping our volunteers and the clients they serve in your prayers.
 Earl and Kay Crawford

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS

Luella Glesner Bickford Assisted Living, 101 Joseph Dr., Midland, MI 48642

Carol McCallum 2517 Iowa Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601

Mildred Reinhart Washington Woods 821 S. Cambridge, #380 Midland, MI 48642

Roy Renwick Colonial Villa, 5007 Universal, Apt. 109, Midland, MI 48640

Fern Vandenberg Marshall Manor, 1119 Holyrood St., Midland, MI 48640

Serving the Lord

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters	Coffee Hour
Oct. 1	Roger Sharpe	Dorothy Francis, Bill Lackie John Coppinger, Jan Biggs	Jan Biggs	Adult Education
Oct. 8	George Farner	Bud & Gayle Swanson, Keith Bauerle, Ron Vandenberg	Sherry Numbers	Finance
Oct. 15	Betty Farner	Becky Bastuk, Jan Biggs Dave & Dustin Sutton	Jay & Bev Morgan	Friends & Fellowship
Oct. 22	Ruth Sutton	Mitch & Ronda Bowen Adam Sian, Jeanne Sturm	Jeanne Sturm	Memorial
Oct. 29	W.C. Paetz	Gary & Brenda Boots Dennis Krenzke, Kelsey Merillat	Ed & Pauline Richardson	Outreach

CALENDAR DATES

Bible Talk Back every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.
Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts are starting now.

LOOSE CHANGE

Loose change mission for the month of October is the Heifer Project International.



OCTOBER CALENDAR DATES

Sun. Oct. 1, 2:00 p.m. CROP Walk
Wed. Oct. 4, 3:45 p.m. SPRC
Thur. Oct. 5, 10:00 a.m. Memorial
Mon. Oct. 9, 6-9 p.m. Food Pantry Coordinators
Oct. 10, 9:00 a.m. UMW Apple pie dry ingredients preparation
Wed. Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m. Apple Pies
Thur. Oct. 12, 8:30 a.m. Apple Pies
Tues. Oct. 17, 1:00 p.m. UMW
Tues. Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m. Finance
Tues. Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. Ad Council
Fri. Oct. 20, 6:00 p.m. Wild Game Dinner
Thur. Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m. Chili Bonanza
Sun. Oct. 29, 2-4 p.m. Church Conference, Gladwin First UMC
Tues. Oct. 31, 9:00 a.m. Rummage sale set-up
Tues. Oct. 31 5:30-7 p.m. Trunk or Treat

FRIENDS & FELLOWSHIP

Sun. Nov. 26, noon potluck, Hanging of the Greens
Sun. Dec. 10, 4:00 p.m. Caroling, soup and cookies.

TRUSTEE FOR OCTOBER

Ruth Ann Wrona (Bob Raymond)

COMMUNION STEWARDS OCTOBER

Dennis Krenzke, Peggy Skinner, Carol Hale & Bev Morgan

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 29
at Gladwin First UMC
Training starts at 2:00 p.m. and we would like to see people from SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Children Education and Certified Lay Servants attend this training.



Our joint ministry celebration starts at 3:00 p.m. and all church members are invited.

Church Conference is combined with Gladwin, Beaverton, Bentley, Coleman, Hope/Edenville/Dale, Pinconning/Garfield, Sanford, Wagarville.



SEPTEMBER Attendance & Giving

Sept. 3	80	\$4,260.00
Sept. 10	53	\$1,780.00
Sept. 17	65	\$1,555.00
Sept. 24	86	\$2,152.00