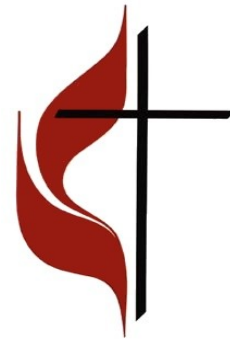


Sanford United Methodist Church

Messenger

JANUARY 2018



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

Doing a New Thing in the New Year

As of January 1, 2018 we are moving into the new reality of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. With this move brings changes. We will be renamed.

You may still think of yourselves as being in the Detroit Annual Conference, as we have been for so many years, but a new reality is here. We are beginning to be the Michigan Annual Conference with more members, more churches, more pastors and more ministry than we were as the Detroit Annual Conference alone. The move will not be complete until Jan 1, 2019 but we are in the midst of change. This bodes well for our future and our churches.

We now reside in District 3 out of 9. With Detroit and West Michigan Conferences we had 12 districts all together. We voted to reduce that to 9 districts as of Jan 1, 2018. This has been done and Bishop David Bard has named the District Superintendents for these districts. District 1 will be Rev. Scott Harmon, District 2 will be Rev. Anita Hahn, in District 3 we will keep our current DS, Rev. David Kim, District 4 will be Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford, District 5 will be Rev. Dr. Jerry DeVine, District 6 will be Rev. John Hice, District 7 will be Rev. Dwayne Bagley, District 8 will be Rev. Elizabeth Hill and District 9 will be Rev. Dr Charles Boayue. Each of these districts will choose an appropriate name for their districts in 2018 and will begin to recreate committees and teams who will work to resource the local church well.

The Bishop has also named the Directors of the Michigan Annual Conference who will be working to help our churches be vibrant in ministry and mission. The Clergy Assistant to the Bishop will be Rev. John Boley, the Director of Clergy Excellence will be Rev. Jennifer Browne, the Director of Administrative

Services and the Conference Treasurer will be David Dobbs, the Director of Communications will be Mark Doyal, the Director of Conference Benefits will be Rev. Don Emmert, the Director of Church Vibrancy will be Rev. Dirk Elliott, and the Director of Connectional Ministry will be Rev. Benton Heisler.

These people named may or may not be familiar to you. They will be working very hard to care for the 800+ churches in our new Michigan Annual Conference. Membership in all our churches is 129,634, with 65,538 on average in worship attendance in 2017. Our Michigan Annual Conference vision is to create and nurture dynamic and fruitful congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This vision is Christ centered as our Conference enhances and develops bold and effective leaders, mission and ministries and vibrant congregations. We are doing a new thing in a new year as we work together to find ways to enhance and develop our congregations and our church leaders, both in the pulpit and in the pew. God will take the church further than we ever thought possible as we work together to share the life giving story of Jesus.

We enhance our mission and ministries as we stay connectional in our outlook. Individually we may be able to give out of our abundance, but think of what we can do together! Together we can give and do more than we ever thought possible. Together our church gives in our regular offering to maintain the church building, the staff and the programs we choose. We also give through the special offerings of the church and each month we have a new project to give to through the buckets in our sanctuary.

We are doing a new thing in this new year as our Michigan Annual Conference comes into being, as our districts change, as our
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church grows and as our faith becomes all that it can be.

We are God's people on a journey of faith that takes us in directions full of changes. Yet, through it all, God can be seen at work in us and with us. As we come out of the season of Christmas, remembering Jesus coming into the world as a tiny baby, Emmanuel, God with us, we know we can live into this new reality together.

God bless you as you grow in faith!

Rev. Lisa Cook



FINANCE

We received 49 pledges totaling \$111,152 during our Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to those who have indicated their desire to support the work of Sanford United Methodist Church. The year 2018 will continue to be challenging but your support is important.

Finance Chair Jim Brozzo

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all who gave so generously to us this Christmas. We loved the smiles, the hugs, the cards, the gifts and the financial gifts that you gave to us. It was a blessed Christmas and we give thanks for you.

Rev. Lisa and Ron Cook

A special "Thank You" to the congregation of the SUMC. You again exceeded my expectations with your generous contribution to me as a member of the staff. You are all loved and appreciated by me more than I can say or feel!
With My Love Lois Mc James

Thank you from all the staff for the generous donations given to us this Christmas. What a blessing. Rev. Lisa Cook and Staff

Dear Church Family, thank you and the UMW for the Faithful Servant Award. You made my day very special and God Bless you.
Mildred Snow

OUTREACH MISSION MONEY

Our Outreach Committee has met and decided on what our mission giving (the outreach buckets) will go to each month in 2018.

January will correlate with a United Methodist special Sunday, Human Relations day, which also occurs that month. We are emphasizing the great need of the people of Puerto Rico after the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria.

The Human Relations special Sunday offering is an opportunity for us to share in helping to heal the wounds of social inequality, by supporting neighborhood ministries, community advocacy and work with at-risk youth. You can help those in need by giving to the mission buckets each month. God blesses us and we bless others by giving what we have.

HABITAT UPDATE

Ron Cook continues to work with Habitat for Humanity in Dade City, FL this winter. Abruptly, the construction manager was dismissed, so Ron reluctantly stepped in to organize the projects. He is low on construction know-how but high on organizational skills. He was able to send the volunteers out on the many projects that were being done while they waited for a specialist to be hired.

There was a large apartment complex that was abandoned and purchased by Habitat. The volunteers turned their energies to deconstructing the apartments while they await a qualified leader. A Habitat home was purchased back from a homeowner and that is being recommissioned for another buyer. A contractor in the community has volunteered to supervise the projects for Habitat. Ron finds satisfaction in working each day to the best of his ability to give a home to someone in need. He is able to motorcycle with his friends, on Sundays, after church. He is using this time of retirement to give back to others with the gifts that he has been given.

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

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

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November 2017 Food Pantry Report

People Served	50
Households	14
Gift Certificates given:	34
Items In:	1102
Items Out:	1576



Items Donated:	
Sanford UMC	\$+ 36
Our Lady of Grace Catholic	189
St. Paul Lutheran Church	31
Community of Christ	\$+
Old Oak Trails	34

Current Needs: jell-o, pudding, toothbrushes & toothpaste.

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.

Kathy Nogaski
 989-245-2610

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



Serving the Lord

	Liturgist	Ushers	Greeters	Coffee Hour
Jan. 7	Carol Hale	Rick Foley, Becky Bastuk, Frank Morgan	Mary Morgan	Choir
Jan. 14	Judy Gorthy	Jim & Sally Brozzo Curt & Beth Moe	Dorothy Francis	Youth Education
Jan. 21	Sue Dexter	Mike & Judy Gorthy Janet Sayranina, Phyllis Seloom	Cheryl Johnson	Finance
Jan. 28	Roger Sharpe	Mitch & Ronda Bowen Adam Sian, Jeanne Sturm	Jeanne Sturm	Friends & Fellowship

CALENDAR DATES

Bible Talk Back every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.
Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts Tuesday 6 to 7 p.m. and Girl Scouts every Wednesday 6-7:30 p.m.
Choir is every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.



JANUARY CALENDAR DATES

Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. Trustees
Thursday, January 11, 10:00 a.m. Memorial
Tuesday, January 16, 1:00 p.m. UMW
Tuesday, January 16, 5:30 p.m. Finance
Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. Ad Council

Thank you to all who have put up with me for 17 years. We have had good times and bad times, but we have made it. I enjoy it all so much and would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped me. I am not going to name them because I know I would leave someone out and I don't want to do that. We have gone down many paths, we have taken many chances and we have survived and all was ok. Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift and I promise to put it to good use. Here's to many more years, I hope. Ruth Ann



DECEMBER Attendance & Giving

Dec. 3	75	\$5,400.00
Dec. 10	61	\$1,226.47
Dec. 17	58	\$1,106.00
Dec. 24	150	\$2,542.00
Dec. 31		

TRUSTEE FOR JANUARY

January 9 meeting

COMMUNION STEWARDS JANUARY

Becky Bastuk, Sue Dexter, Ruth Sutton, Peggy Skinner

LOOSE CHANGE

For the month of January is Human Relations, Puerto Rico. This is one of our Six Special Sundays.

SANFORD MUSEUM

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make and decorate the cookies. We had a lot of cookies and we needed a lot of help and we received it.
Thanks again from the Sanford Museum.

MEMORIAL

The family of Betty J. Hubbard has used her memorial funds to purchase two beautiful Table-top Seven Light Candelabras with adjustable arms, and fourteen Almy Classic Liquid Candles with brass tops.

We appreciate these memorial gifts given to our church in the name of their mother and grandmother.

As the year closed we have memorial committee changes, Flo Merillat will be leaving our group, and we will certainly miss all the work she helped us with. We are blessed to have two new members join us in this memorial work, Lois McJames and Barb Young-Tinlin.

The Memorial Committee 2018: Judy Gorthy, Lois McJames, Barb Young-Tinlin, Brenda Boots and Rev. Lisa Cook