

SEPTEMBER



/OCTOBER



2021

From The Pastor's Desk

Pastor Rob

Hello Church Family.

It is newsletter time! Let's review July and August 2021. These two months have flown by for me, and I expect that it has for many of you. In July we welcomed Pastor Brian into our church family. Brian, as most of you know, is finishing his final semesters at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and is doing his Field Education work with us. He is appointed as an LSP with us and that is a blessing. I have tossed Brian into a few projects including missions, online production, and worship leader, here at New Journey. He will also be preaching most weeks at Morris Chapel. This will free me up to start offering a new Sunday school class in September. This new class will be based on David W. Scott, **Crossing Boundaries: Sharing God's Good News through Mission** (Nashville, TN: Wesley's Foundery Books, 2019). I encourage you to read this book. If you are interested in reading the book and need assistance ordering it, Brenda can help you do so.

Speaking of Missions. We have been looking at several missions' projects here at New Journey. We are doing great mission work around the world too. After my One-on-One meeting with District Superintendent, Dwayne Bagley, he suggested that we look at the 4-H fair auction program. This would allow us to support a few local children who are saving for their college education. Also, we can help possibly left behind groups, and a new child just getting started. The Mission Committee met and voted to support this new mission. Additionally, to try and see how God would lead us in the future. We are also partnering with The Table and will be using meat from the auction to bless those that are hungry right here in Niles. I am asking for continued prayers as we enter a new mission field right here in Niles. In closing I am going to share a message from Dr. Scott about what he called a new definition of mission. "Mission is cultivating relationships across boundaries for the sake of fostering conversations in word and deed about Gods good news." (Scott, 2019, p. 12).

I am looking forward to this next phase of our journey together in ministry. May God bless each of you in your mission to share the good news of Jesus.

As always, Go with God!
Pastor Rob Snodgrass

H.E.R.B.I.E Clinic

For anyone without health insurance

2nd Saturdays, Sep 11, Oct 9 & Nov 13

8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. More dates will be published in subsequent newsletters.

Eye examination equipment has been installed!

Volunteers are always needed.

Please call Dr. Sherry O'Donnell's office at (269) 408-1777.

Cross-Cultural Ministries

Nancy Watts would like to thank the New Journey UMC family for their generous donations during the month of July. We contributed \$710 toward their mission activities! Don't forget the upcoming Cookie Walk in November and December also supports Cross-Cultural Ministries.

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THE TABLE Meal Ministry

Meets at Riverfront Park during the summer (here at New Journey United Methodist Church during bad weather) every Thursday at 4 p.m. to build community and to benefit the lonely, the homeless, and the low-income. The mission we have is not just to fill the belly, but to also enrich the mind and feed the soul through the building of relationships and meaningful conversations. We welcome all people who wish to participate, because we have found that the community is richer when people of different ages, races, backgrounds, educational and socio-economic levels and even religious beliefs can gather around one table. Our ultimate goal is to glorify God through the relationships and the care. Donations of whole food staples are welcome, like beans, brown rice, pasta, fresh butter or olive oil, canned or frozen vegetables, frozen or canned meat and fruit. Desserts are also a special treat people enjoy. Donations of time to join us, talk with people and help facilitate the hospitality we are thankful to offer, in partnership with New Journey UMC, are also welcome! Please contact Katy Monroe 269-449-5443 for more information.

Back Pack Food Program

Due to the virtual school/in-person school schedule, the Back Pack Food Program is not operating at this time. Greg and Melissa Rough will let us know when this program will resume.

Evy's Closet

Evy's Closet is back to normal shopping hours of 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays. If you would like to volunteer during shopping hours, please contact Brenda Engel at bbengel1@comcast.net or 269-845-6691.

We still need someone to help with publicity. You can make phone calls if you are not able to get out and about to deliver flyers. Please contact Brenda.

We would like to thank the donors of materials to make toiletry bags for our shoppers. We have enough bags, but could use some toiletry items to fill the bags. Please bring your donations to the church and mark them for Evy's Closet. Special thanks to Rose Aravena for her multiple donations of toiletries over the last couple months!

Thank you all for your generosity!



MUSICAL NOTES Many people have shared their talents with us this summer and we appreciate them so much. The regular choir and hand bell season will start in September! Choir practices will be Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning September 1st. The choir is getting ready to sing some of your favorites that inspire you and add to your worship of our Savior. I have all the music planned through January 2022. We hope you enjoy the upcoming song selections. The Agape Choir and Joyful Ringers appreciate your love and support of our ministry here at New Journey. As always, if you are interested in singing or playing bells, all ages and abilities are welcome! Come talk to me.

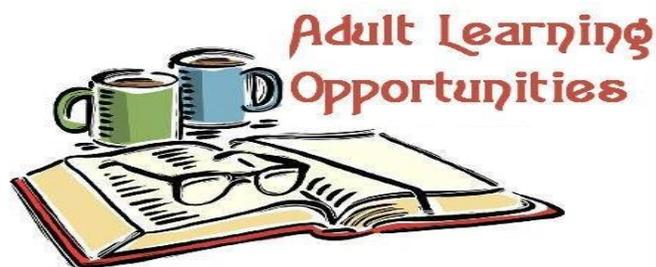


Make a Joyful noise unto the Lord each and every day!

Blessings,

Brenda Engel

Our Allen Organ turns 20 years old this year!



Sunday morning Sunday School in Gather Inn from 9:50 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (start date to be announced)–

This new class will be based on David W. Scott, *Crossing Boundaries: Sharing God's Good News through Mission* (Nashville, TN: Wesley's Foundry Books, 2019). See mission in a new way. With many concerns facing churches, mission is often dismissed as an extraneous add-on or treated as simply another program among many. This book advocates for a new understanding of mission, one that connects it to the very heart of what it means to live the Christian faith in its fulness as we experience and share the Good News. While many books discuss local mission, domestic mission, OR international mission, this book lays out principles that apply to all three. Further, it draws on Wesleyan theology to do so, something lacking from many other resources.



Youth Sunday School/Programming Shannon Pollitt, our Youth Director, has been working on ideas for Youth Programs for Sunday school. She has been busy preparing classrooms in the basement for the groups to meet. Pastor Brian will be focusing on reaching out and getting youth and young adults involved in our church family, as well.

Misc. Notes

Daily Devotions



A limited quantity of **Upper Room** and **Our Daily Bread** devotionals are available at the church on the ushers' table in the Narthex. Please pick up your copy before they run out! But if we run out, we will order more.

Church Picnic!! Sunday, September 19th right after church at Arthur Dodd Memorial Park, 61437 Creek Rd, Niles, MI 49120. Meat, table service, and water will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, lawn chairs and drink if you want something other than water. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office. Directions: M-51 North past Impala Drive turn left on Kinzie Road. Turn right on Creek Road and follow to the entrance to the park on the right.

ATTENTION SINGLE LADIES OF ALL AGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

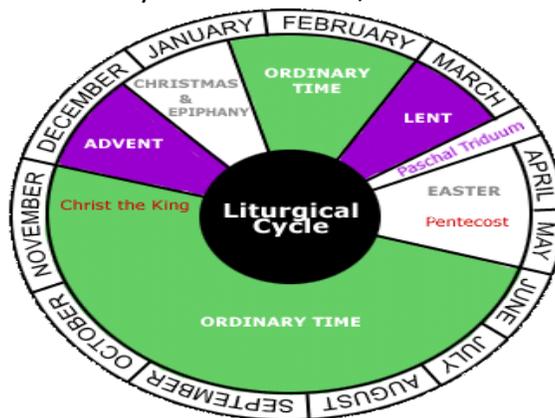
VEP's is an interdenominational fellowship group for single women of any age, circumstance or church in our community. Since none of us are the original members we think the initials stand for **Very Exceptional People**. We meet for lunch one Sunday a month, March to November, at an area restaurant. (Whoever is the hostess picks the restaurant).
If you are interested in joining us, please call Pam Montgomery at 683-2192.

Finance Committee Report of Giving

RECORD OF	<u>2021</u>
Average Worship Attendance: 50 Zoom: 6	
Operating budget total operating income	\$153,166
Our weekly goal	\$2,946
Average Weekly General Fund Income	\$2,971
Year to Date General Fund Income	\$101,005
Year to Date budget goal: \$100,164	
% Of Year to Date budget goal: 101%	
Mission Focus for Jan. through August 22:	\$4,992
UMCOR Year to Date	\$390

Special Sundays

Sept 5	Communion Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sept 12	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Grandparents' Day
Sept 19	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sept 26	United Methodist Women Sunday Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 3	World Communion Sunday Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 10	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 17	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost/Laity Sunday
Oct 24	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 31	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday



LITURGISTS:

Sept 5	Sue Phillips (Communion)
Sept 12	Patricia Ham (Grandparents' Day)
Sept 19	Dee Rough
Sept 26	UMW Sunday
Oct 3	Sue Phillips (World Communion Sunday)
Oct 10	Patricia Ham
Oct 17	Sharon Stephayn
Oct 24	Starla Miller
Oct 31	Tim Rogers

Committee Reports

+++++++MISSIONS /WORSHIP+++++++

*Note: Coins for UMCOR are a separate gift collected every Sunday and placed in the offering plates. Coins put in the baskets go to Missions. Thank you for your generosity!

September Mission – UMCOR Global Refugee

This project of the United Committee on Relief addresses the global refugee and migration crisis. Every day, people are looking for safety and new places to call home. Every day, people are looking for hope and ways to rebuild their lives. Every day, we are called to welcome the stranger. From its origins in 1940, UMCOR has alleviated “suffering without regard to race or creed,” starting with the refugees displaced by World War II in Asia and Europe. Since that time, UMCOR has intentionally helped the most vulnerable of this world find hope. UMCOR partners with churches that assist migrants of all types with the right to stay, the right to safe passage, the right to welcome and the right to return with dignity. More than 25 global missionaries and Global Mission Fellows are engaged in migrant and refugee ministries around the world.

October Mission – Church World Service – Animals, Seeds and Tools

CWS provides seeds, animals and technological assistance to struggling families in communities around the world. As a result, malnourished children at risk for permanent physical and mental developmental defects have regained their health, and nutritionally diverse crops are thriving on farms and in family gardens. CWS leaders attribute the progress toward food security in a region challenged by climate change and weather disasters to the families’ embrace of programs aimed at training, teaching and transfer of technology.

Compassion International Child we support – Estafani

Estafani is exceeding standards in most categories. There is still limited contact due to Covid, so limited information regarding her and her family. As the area opens up more, we will update you as to her well-being and progress. Thank you for your continued support of her and her family.

Worship committee - Looking for ushers to help greet people as they come in the door. Please let me know if you are interested. Thanks to the ones that have been available and jumped in when needed. Video update - we have been having a few issues in the area of the video (Zoom and Facebook). There have been some changes to the computer in the last few weeks. We are hopeful that the issues are behind us now. If you would like to be a liturgist, please contact Brenda and she can get you on the schedule. Missions are on task, thanks to all. We did add the additional mission to help with the 4H kids at the Berrien County Fair this last week. Thanks, Donna Medlin

+++++++TRUSTEES+++++++

We have used some of the Memorial Funds to upgrade and improve the computers in the office. New carpeting has been installed in the Education office. Our elevator is now working! We have ended our connection with Schindler Co. since they were unable to fix the elevator. We are now working with a new company for service and maintenance. Our church organ was serviced and is in good repair. We are considering purchasing a new "Smart Recorder". A new one will play music from a thumb drive instead of a floppy disk. The current "Smart Recorder" is failing. The sale of the former Wesley Parsonage was completed in July. Our Realtor for the Grace Church reports that she is still getting inquiries but no new offers. We had one offer that we rejected because it had many unacceptable contingencies. We made a counter-offer that was not accepted. ~Trustees

+++++++FINANCE+++++++ (please see page 4)

+++++++CONGREGATIONAL CARE+++++++

Our church family has quite a few members who cannot attend church in person any longer. We keep them in our hearts and prayers, and every so often God nudges us to send a card or make a phone call. We can also see if they would welcome a “visit”. No one should feel lonely or not part of our church. Also, although Zoom is available, we need each other and we need to be together on Sunday mornings, if possible. If you haven’t seen someone in a while, please give them a call and let them know they are missed! ~ Jeannine Severeid, Chair

+++++++AD COUNCIL+++++++

There is an Ad Council meeting scheduled for Monday, September 13th at 11:00 a.m.



UMW Corner

Greetings and news from New Journey United Methodist United Methodist Women. 2021 almost feels like last year because we are still experiencing “adjustments”. New words are in our vocabulary (delta and variant, etc...). We planned (and got our hopes up) and then a new word causes us to stop and consider and plans change. We decided we will NOT have our usual September Circle meeting at Brentwood. We are disappointed, but their current rules dictate we would need to wear masks all during the meeting. Therefore, our first Circle meeting of the fall will be Wednesday, October 6th.

The September Executive Board Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, September 15th at Noon at my home, as we finalize plans for UMW Sunday on September 26th.

We are excited to welcome Linda Burton-Collier, President of the Greater Southwest District UMW as the speaker that day. She assumed this leadership role as the new districts were being formed in 2019. Linda lives on a 900-acre family farm between Hopkins and Allegan and has held many different offices and committee leadership positions. It will be a great morning!

We also ask you to participate in our “bakeless bake sale” special offering that day. Your support helps us ordinary women join with some 800,000 other women continue extraordinary mission work for children, youth and women in the U.S. and around the world.

Looking ahead to October then, Mary-Martha Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Gather Inn on Wednesday, October 6th. Jan Pollitt is a wonderful Circle leader and guests are welcome – it will be a celebration of being able to be together! Marion Eldred will provide devotions and Elaine Carter will serve refreshments. Members, please bring your THANK OFFERING BOXES. It has been two years since we’ve been able to share in this “program” and I’m sure they are quite full! This Annual World Thank Offering Program is a spontaneous financial gift that allows UMW members to say Thank you to God for daily mercies, large and small, and share that love with God’s people.

All District events have been on Zoom for the last year and a half, up until now. The “District Annual” is Saturday, October 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Allegan UMC. There will be lots of singing, mission news, the annual memorial service, pledge service, getting reacquainted, lunch and more! The cost is \$15.00 in advance and the registration deadline is September 22nd. Registration forms are in the church office, but please let me know if you will ride with me.

~ Jeannine Severeid
UMW President



Crystal Springs Camp & Retreat Center in Dowagiac, MI, will be decommissioned as a United Methodist camp on Sunday, Sep 12, 2021, at 2-4 pm. The public is invited to attend. The historic camp has been host to over 160 years of revivals, family camps, summer camps, weddings, retreats, and more. It is important to honor those memories and give time and space to returning sacred land to other uses.

Michigan Area United Methodist Camping, as part of its strategic plan for a more sustainable future of camp and retreat ministry in Michigan, sold Crystal Springs along with other properties over the last few years. The Camping Board of Directors and the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church wanted to sell to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, who did in fact purchase the land this summer. They own land adjacent to the camp.

“From a justice standpoint, the MAUMC Board wanted to sell to the Pokagon Band. It was the right thing to do. Before Europeans settled here, all of Michigan was Native American land,” explained Executive Director David Berkey. “We felt it was an important gesture toward restorative justice to return the land in this way.”

The United Methodist Commission on Native American Ministry, Bishop David Bard, and other Michigan Conference leaders will be involved in the decommissioning service.

Crystal Springs Camp, located at 33774 Crystal Springs St, Dowagiac, MI 49047, was founded in 1860. At the time of its closing in 2019, it was the oldest camp in the state and the second oldest Methodist camp in the United States.

https://michiganumc.org/decommissioning-set-for-crystal-springs/?mkt_tok=MDc4LUYUS0



Our old children's choir robes have found a good home with the Children's Music Workshop! CMW is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides theatrical productions for youth of any ethnic, cultural and economic background, grades 1-12 and beyond, in a nurturing, safe atmosphere of wholesome activity. They help youth build confidence and self-esteem, while learning teamwork and the joy of expressing themselves through dance, music and drama and community service. (After advertising with the Greater Southwest District newsletter and checking with Niles Community Schools we are happy this organization wanted them. It seems today's children don't like to wear robes!). CMW is located in Stevensville, MI.-----

After 40 Years with Center[ed] on Wellness, Dr. Glenn Chapman has decided to retire at the end of September. We wish him well and know he will enjoy retirement! We look forward to maintaining our relationship with the group and being a satellite location as they search for his replacement. Thank you, Dr. Chapman for your service to our area!

Prayers for our Church Family

Please review the Prayer List, and notify the church office of any updates!

Cancer Patients

Julie McCready
 Sharon Dircks
 Patti Seidner (*Friend of Jim Gillispie*)
 Julie Rice (*cousin of the Hams*)
 Nancy Comfort
 Earl Corak
 John (*Cheryl McAtee's son-in-law*)
 Elton Orpurt

Pam (Ross) Todd
 Chris Hay (*Niece to Jane Heflin*)
 Gail Peterson
 Nancy White (*Pastor Rob's Aunt*)
 Marion Eldred
 Rose Aravena
 Rex Dillman
 Jack Scott

Health Concerns

Sherry Hans (*Friend of Amy Wade*)
 Nancy Rheinholt
 Patrick Apple
 Debbie Pingel
 Kathy & Rob Di Addezio
 Earl Nimtze
 Dixie Pingel
 Timmy (*Jennifer's son*)
 Mooneyean Quick
 John Wade
 Starla Miller
 Patricia Ham
 Janet & husband John (*friends of Pastor Rob and Kathe*)
 Scott Schofield
 Michael Lee (*Brenda Severeid's husband*)
 Madelin Merkle
 Jennifer Watts
 Carol Noid
 Valerie Wurn
 Vivian Newgent
 Anslie Rink-Scott (*Ernst's granddaughter*)
 Marilyn Sheets
 Marsha (*friend of Pam Montgomery*)
 Mason Mitchell, Jr.
 Kenny Earl (*Vicki's husband*)
 Camille Hayden (*Nancy Comfort's Step-Mom*)
 Tamra Binkley (*Laura Garner's friend*)
 Don Hand

Sarah Merrill (*Vicki Earl's daughter*)
 Imogene Orpurt
 Judy Mark
 Jason Pingel
 Dennis Comfort
 Avery & family (*friend of Bob Burton*)
 Bob Burton
 Janice Querry (*John Wade's sister*)
 Mary Varner
 Lucile Markel
 Faith Ernst
 Dave (*Ham's Nephew*)
 Jaime Aravena (*Rose's husband*)
 Ron Hartline
 Nancy Watts
 Mindy Corak
 Bill Carter
 Carole Fowler
 Shannon Pollitt
 Bonnie (*From Morris Chapel*)
 Bonnie Garwood's father (*Ernst's
 daughter-in-law*)
 Doug Nie
 Pat (*Jane's friend*)
 Ron Lakes (*Sue's friend*)
 Melanie & CJ (newly diabetic)
 (*Kathy Scott's niece & son*)
 Richard Ham

Prayers for Our Shut-ins: Marilyn Sheets, Evelyn Andrews, Lucile Markel, Dick Noble, Lynn Schweinzger, and Megan Vite.

New Journey United Methodist Church
302 Cedar Street
Niles, Michigan 49120

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Fall through Spring)

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Phone: 269-683-7250

Pastor Rob Snodgrass: rsnodgrass72@gmail.com

Pastor Brian Lightner: pastorbrianlightner@gmail.com

Brenda Engel, Financial Secretary: newjourneyumc2561@gmail.com

New Journey UMC is a downtown church with a Vision to Breathe In & Breathe Out:

Breathe In – To nurture the spiritual development of persons of all ages through worship, education, and fellowship; and to live the Core Values of Prayer, Faith, Love and Compassion.

Breathe Out – To be in ministry for and with persons who are 50–75 years of age in our community.