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The Good News

October 2024

The Search Committee has made great progress. It has completed the church profile and uploaded it to the appropriate database. The next step is a review and certification by the Michigan Conference. Once that is completed, the profile goes “live” nationally and can be viewed by prospective pastoral candidates, who can then submit their own profiles to us for consideration. We anxiously await these next steps.



Well, our Famous Rummage Sale is now over. It was a success! As of the close on Saturday, Sept 21, our sales were \$4,581.57! There will be additional money that will come in over the next few weeks. A final figure will be announced sometime in October. Everything was donated to us, so it is all profit for Women's Fellowship, several mission works and our church.

Something different and new this year was having items posted on Marketplace and Facebook. Maria did a wonderful job of taking pictures, posting the sale items, responding to the messages and having people come in to buy the items. This was very time consuming. We had very successful Marketplace/Facebook sales. Women's Fellowship decided to sell a lot of the larger quantity kitchen items that could not be used in the future, for luncheons, dinners, etc. due to not having dishwashers to clean the dishes. These items were offered to our church members for a free-will donation, then offered to sell to outsiders. The week of rummage, there was a Jewelry/Sweater/Purse Show at a local senior housing, that was a success too.

A huge thank you to all the people who donated their rummage to us. A huge thank you to the volunteers who worked many days and long hours (well over 600 hours). All the woman & man-hours of moving the rummage to various rooms, unpacking boxes and bags, measuring sheets, folding blankets, washing glassware, sorting the books, sorting Holiday items, sorting in sizes, hanging up clothes, folding clothes, making sure things worked, phone calls, pricing for Prime Room and Marketplace, writing ads for the newspapers and various online sources, up and down the stairs and all the chores that go into having a successful sale. It was a time to gather together, share together, laugh together, work together and to have fellowship-friendship together, for our church.

On September 30, we will need volunteers to come in to start packing whatever is left over. It took 3 months to unpack so we hope we can pack up in a month. Please consider helping during the day, or evening hours can be arranged. These donations will be going to Am-Vets. A lot of organizations have been called, but they will not come into the church or will not do the stairs. But Am-Vets will. They will pick up towards the end of October.

*Blessings Abound!
 Robin and Kim*



- 2 Erich & Dawn Regier
- 18 Reno & Linda Ramsey
- 29 Richard & Rose Schroeder

MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE FOR ALL
Mental health is a universal human right

"God will not falter or lose heart until
justice prevails throughout the earth."
(Isaiah 42:9)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2024
ucc.org/in

Sunday, Oct 6, 2024—Neighbors in Need

This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

We held our monthly Consistory mtg on Sept 10. The Search Committee finished its Church Profile and have submitted it to the UCC Ministry website. A big thank you to Pastor Kim and Pastor Traci who have been filling in on Sundays until the end of the year while we work on finding a replacement. The Lobby has been completed. It looks fantastic. A lot of hard work went into this project. There are still a few items we will purchase over time. Consistory will look at new artwork for the walls, a new trash can was purchased and we are thinking about a water bubbler. The flat roof of the Educational Building in the back has been completed and the chimney has been rebuilt. The Rummage Sale looks like it was a big success. Again, a lot of work went into this fundraiser and a big thank you to all who helped. We have a critter that is living in the front of the Educational Building entrance and has wreaked havoc on our flowers. There is a big hole where it is living. We have contacted the city which will not do anything. So, we have contacted a pest control company to hopefully catch the critter and move it to a nice happy area to live away from the church. The year is passing by quick. Fall is starting and soon 2024 will come to a close finishing up on 160 years.



Consistory

Erich

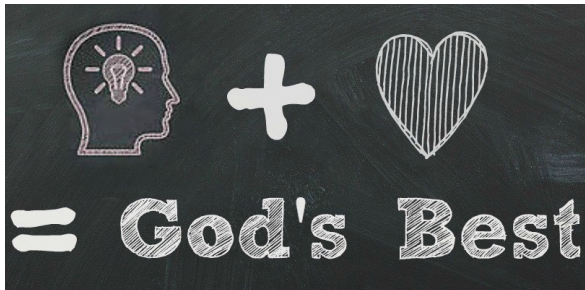


- 6 Betty Jean Wolgast
- 11 Jeremy Grawburg
- 19 Phyllis Grant
- 22 Laurie Gardner



***Thank you for your prayers,
calls, and cards. You are a
great church family!***

Eileen



In a recent devotional, a minister outlined a thought-provoking concept. He had taken his young daughter to a museum exhibit put on by a writers' conference. It included a number of old-fashioned typewriters with paper for people to try. His daughter tried to type something and found it very difficult and time consuming. He also showed her how to correct a mistake, laborious as that process is on a manual typewriter. It made him

stop and think. How long would his sermons be if it took him this much effort to write them? How many e-mails and notes would he send out if they were that challenging to do? And what would he hear in the silence that resulted because he pulled back from these activities? He turned these thoughts on their head, and prayed that Jesus would "become a typewriter." Translation: he wanted Jesus to be slow to judge and deliberate in action toward him, not acting quickly based on immediate impressions. He hoped that Jesus would approach his (the writer's) actions without feeling the need to quickly make decisions about him, realizing "corrections" would be difficult to make.

It's an intriguing notion, that Jesus would find it difficult to "overtyp" our behavior in his mind. Even more interesting is the idea that we should pace our own behavior more slowly, taking the time to consider matters more thoroughly before we make a judgment. The question of decision making and how God fits into it is an interesting one. Each of us has a decision-making style - fast or slow, analytical or impulsive, or any combination of these. Think about it for a minute. Have there been times in your life when acting quickly has worked to your disadvantage? When your first impulse has turned out to be the wrong one? Often, we "shoot from the lip" when we react to people and don't think through our responses to questions or, especially, requests. I know there have been times when I have agreed to do something that afterward I have asked myself: "what was I thinking?" Perhaps equally often, I have turned away from a good opportunity because initially it did not sound attractive. Even so, there been times when acting analytically has lost me opportunities, when going slowly has cost me dearly.

Finding the right decision style for oneself is a large part of the process of becoming an adult, and some of us never master it. We should not leave God out of the equation, however. I think God does come to us more easily in the silence sometimes, and we have to allow for that when we are making decisions, but it is also true that we can get caught up in "analysis paralysis," taking way too much time to consider the matter, praying and waiting for an answer when one doesn't seem to come, before acting. Sometimes our first impulse is the most inspired one, the one solution given by the Holy Spirit. How do we distinguish between the two situations? When should we slow ourselves down to give ourselves the time for prayerful consideration, and when should we jump right in, giving in to inspired impetuosity? And how does God first into all this?

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I don't think it's a complicated or cumbersome process. I think it's simply a matter of asking ourselves *why* we feel the way we do about the decision. If the answer is grounded in a practical reason, then it's easy to evaluate. If it's based on our Christian principles, then it's even more of a slam dunk of how to approach it. If it comes out of nowhere and seems uncharacteristic, then we have to question whether or not God is speaking to us about this matter. I do believe that God leads us by directing our impulses at times. How will you know the difference? It only takes a moment to do a gut check, to ask yourself if you feel that God is leading you in a particular direction. Now, let's be honest. God doesn't speak with perfect clarity to us about every decision in our lives. God isn't some spiritual traffic cop that's going to yell "stop" or "go" every time you have to make a decision. But if you ask yourself the question about what God's will is on key decisions in your life, the others will fall into place as you develop consistency. And you will learn whether "slow and steady," or "jump in feet first" is your most effective decision style. That answer is different for everyone - the chance taken that you would normally have been afraid to try, the person you talked to whom you would normally have avoided, the challenge you accepted that you were sure you weren't up to - all these and more can be ways God could guide you to a "new normal." If your impulse is to do something you wouldn't normally do, ask yourself if you feel led by God to go there. If not, back away. If so, full speed ahead. If the decision is consistent with your goals and Christian values, don't get hung up on analysis, take the "Nike" approach and "just do it." In either case, Jesus won't have to be a typewriter and "overtyping" your errors. You won't be making them. These calculations may sound cumbersome, but they become reflexive and quick over time, and can help you make decisions that are more in keeping with the path you want to take to God.

Gail

It was a 🤔🤔 cruise, rained a lot. But they had a great buffet, I had two of everything.



Credit-If IS What It IS





On October 12th, St. Paul is invited to join Rise for a nature walk at Stony Creek Metropark beginning at 9am. We will meet at the nature center inside of the park and walk one of the trails for just over an hour. Please note that unless you have a “park pass” entry into Stony Creek, it is \$10 per car. If a nature walk doesn’t sound appealing or if it is raining that day, you can skip the walk and meet us at Yates Cider Mill at 11am for donuts, cider, and a time of fellowship! We hope you will join us! Please contact Pastor Kim with any questions at krnewport@hotmail.com or 248-514-8103.

On October 15th, Pastor Kim will be leading a class via Zoom on “The Purple Church.” This will begin at 7:00pm. The concept of the purple church began in 2020 and concerns how to be a welcoming and accepting church to both democrats and republicans. Our churches are becoming like our society: red or blue. How do we become purple? Is it possible? How do we remain unified when we may have different opinions? Join us for what is sure to be a lively discussion.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89622074475wd=tW2dARnqnnN9DQdIC06IS1264OTTIV.1>

Our book group for October is reading “The Perks of being a Wallflower” by Stephen Chbosky. October is National Reading Month and we are highlighting banned or censored books. “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” has been under scrutiny since 2003 and banned from multiple high schools across the country. Currently, it is on the list of books being challenged in Macomb County. In order to better understand other perspectives and gain insight, we will gather on Zoom on October 29th at 7pm to discuss the book, censorship, and who ultimately gets to decide what we read. Pastor Kim has read this book twice and is certain it will be a great discussion.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83816289784?pwd=9wPOpKNVlf3XhIR5lZKrdwTlpaqXBP.1>

On October 30th at 7:00pm via Zoom, Pastor Kim will be leading a class on the afterlife. We will discuss the scriptures related to heaven and hell, along with the doctrines of purgatory and limbo. Beliefs of other faith traditions will also be included. This will be an eye-opening discussion where we examine scripture, faith, and ask the questions we all ponder. Just in time for All Saints Day, this class is sure to be a great addition to our normal rituals.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350160256?pwd=GEcN4YGENmwxZr4ajcMrlrlbmLEmBt.1>

Pastor Kim is available for pastoral care and counseling. Please notify Maria to set up a time for us to meet, if needed.