



From Your Pastor...

A number of years ago I visited the Midland County Jail each week to visit an individual who was incarcerated there. At that time the jail had a policy that clergy could visit on Thursday afternoons. However, only a certain number of clergy persons were allowed into the jail at any given time. That meant that I would sometimes wait for an hour or more in the lobby.

One day as I was reading a magazine in the lobby a woman approached and introduced herself. She told me that she was involved in a long-term ministry with women who were incarcerated. In the coming weeks we continued to getting to know one another.

This woman, whose name is Indira Oskvarek, is also the founder of a non-profit charity called Global Compassion Inc. Although Indira is small in stature, she has a wonderfully bold personality. If she believes that someone can help carry out her ministry to the world's poor, she is not afraid to say so. I learned this from personal experience the first time she convinced me to host a fund-raising dinner in our church.

Earlier this year Indira contacted me and strongly suggested that we open our church doors for another dinner. After receiving approval from the Board of Trustees to hold this fund-raiser, we scheduled it for October 1, 2017.

That night approximately 60 people were treated to a delicious Indian dinner prepared by Indira, her husband Ed, and a host of friends. When we were finished eating, Indira shared how Global Compassion has been drilling wells in a remote region of India called Rajasthan. These wells provide safe drinking water for hundreds of people in each village.

Those who attended this dinner contributed \$1,300 towards the purchase of a well. When we learned that each well costs \$2,500, many people expressed an interest in our church contributing additional funds. I am pleased to report that the Board of Christian Community contributed \$600 from their discretionary fund and that the Church Council contributed \$600 from their discretionary fund. These funds are made possible from the proceeds of the annual Rummage Sale. As you can see from the pictures, our church has helped to provide life-giving water to a village in India. Thanks be to God!



Peace,
Roger



First Decade Honor Sunday

During the November 12 worship service, we will celebrate **First Decade Honor Sunday**. At that time, all current members of UCC Midland who joined the church from its founding through the year 1970 will be honored. We hope that many current members can be present to add thanks and good wishes to those who fostered the church and helped it to grow and flourish during the crucial early years of existence.

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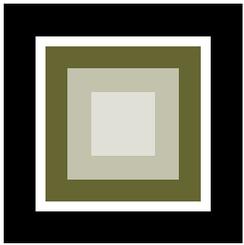
Saturday, November 4
set your clocks back
before you sleep as
**Daylight Savings
Time Ends**



November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	2 6:15 pm Music Committee 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 8 pm AA	4 9am Fall Clean-up (weather permitting) Daylight Savings Time Ends Fall Back One
5 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Family Choir 11:30 am Handbells 4 pm Interfaith Friends present <i>And Then They Came for Us</i>	6 10 am Paint & Palette 7 pm Book Club 8 pm AA	7 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 12 n Adult Study 7 pm Fine Arts	8 7 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	9 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 8 pm AA	11 9am Raindate for Fall Clean-up 2 pm Service Saturday 4 pm Service Saturday
12 10 am Worship Annual Meeting 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Family Choir 11:30 am Handbells 4 pm Five Pillars of Faith	13 10 am Paint & Palette 8 pm AA	14 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 12 n Adult Study 1 pm Juliets 7:15 pm Christian Community 7:30 pm Trustees	15 7 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	16 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 8 pm AA	18
19 Thanksgiving Food Basket Deadline 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Family Choir 11:30 am Handbells 4:00 pm Youth Group	20 Newsletter Deadline 10 am Paint & Palette 8 pm AA	21 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 12 n Adult Study 1 pm Romeos 7:15 pm Church Council	22 7 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day 2 pm Gathering 3 pm Dinner	24 Offices closed 8 pm AA	25 1—4 pm Midland Area Homes
26 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Family Choir 11:30 am Handbells Dine with Nine sign up Deadline	27 10 am Paint & Palette 4 pm Hanging of the Greens 8 pm AA	28 9:30 am Staff Mtg. 12 n Adult Study	29 11 am Caregiving Ministry Team	30 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		

And Then They Came for Us



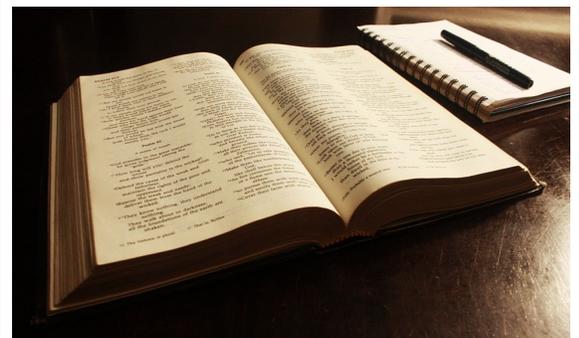
On Sunday, November 5, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Midland Area Interfaith Friends will be showing the film, "*And Then They Came for Us*," about the incarceration of Japanese-American citizens during WWII. This will be followed by a panel discussion between a survivor of that incarceration and a member of the Islamic community. Everyone is welcome, so please join us, and bring friends and neighbors as well.

There will be a potluck following the presentation. If you plan to stay for the meal and fellowship, please bring a dish to share. Many members have various dietary restrictions, so it is helpful if you list the ingredients of your dish. Have questions? Call Barb McGregor at 989-708-0736. Hope to see you there!

Joy & Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers are with . . .

- Scotty Locker is now at Bickford Cottage.
- Proud Gram & Grampa, Ellie and Larry Schroeder welcomed the newest member of their family: Nora Juliet!
- Rick and Karen Harner welcomed grandson, Victor Harner on October 4.
- Marcia Streeter welcomed grandson, Oliver Ren Bejcek on October 6.



November Lectionary Texts

November 5

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Keeping Up with the Congregation..

Trish Castle has moved. Her new address is 4931 Grandview Circle in Midland.

Marion Bickel's telephone number has been restored to (989)835-3240.

Pamela Buchholz, 256 E. Youngs Ct.,
Midland, MI 48640, (989)835-3203.
Email: pam06@charter.net

Jan Baumgras, 3903 Nottingham Terrace,
Midland, MI 48642, (989) 832-5817. Email:
dbgoddess@hotmail.com

Islamic Five Pillars of Faith Presentation

At last! The Social Concerns Committee is sponsoring a presentation by members of the Midland Islamic Fellowship on Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Several members of the Islamic Fellowship will be presenting the Five Pillars of their faith. This presentation will entail having one or two members from the fellowship at each of five tables, each table representing one pillar. Participants will move from table to table, eventually having had the opportunity to listen to each presentation and to ask questions. Participants will start at different points which will ensure a small group for each pillar discussion.

The Social Concerns Committee will also be providing food for the fellowship time afterward. Yes; that's right. **You don't have to bring food in order to participate!** We do ask, however, that you sign up for this on the bulletin board in the hall, or call Barb McGregor at 989-708-0736 to indicate you'll be coming. This will help us with food planning.

We're very excited about this wonderful chance to meet in small groups for this learning opportunity. We hope very much that you will be able to join us!



Dine With Nine 2018

January * February * March

Looking for a great way to get to know people in the UCC a little better? Are you interested in a way to fill a chilly winter evening with warm conversation and a shared meal? Sign up sheets will be available in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall throughout the month of November. You can sign up to participate in any or all of the three Dine With Nine gatherings. Anyone is welcome!

Here's how it works:

*Sign-up will be available through November 26th. Fill in your information for each of the months you would like to participate.

*If you are willing to host and are flexible on timing, sign up for each month you would be available. Hosts are only assigned to one month. (If you are willing to host more than one month in case of host shortages, please make note of this on the sign up sheet).

*Participants will be organized into groups and assigned to hosts (approximately 7-9 people in total). Lists of these assignments will be e-mailed by December 6th.

*Hosts will contact the participants within their group to arrange the date, time, and menu for the given month. While hosts will determine the primary menu, all participants will contribute dishes to the dinner.

*Any questions, please contact Tessa Truitt (tptruitt@gmail.com) or any other member of the Board of Christian Community.

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting of the United Church of Christ, Midland on November 12, 2017 immediately following the service of worship. The purpose of this meeting is to elect board members and officers for 2018. The 2018 proposed budget will be presented as well.

Please put this on your calendars today, a quorum of members is needed to conduct business.



Saturday, November 4 at 9:00 a.m. members and friends of the church, bring your rakes, leaf blowers, tarps, gloves and good spirits to prepare the church grounds for the upcoming season! Everyone is welcome to share in the clean-up and in refreshments!

This event is weather permitting, in the case of inclement weather, our rain date will be November 11! Please join us, the more hands the better! Donuts, coffee and cider will be available.

Children and Youth Advent Program is Coming!!!

Preparations will begin this month for the **Children and Youth Advent Program!** Mark your calendars for this special service of worship to be held **Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

Children and Family Choir will begin their short, 15 minute, rehearsals in the Parlor on Sunday, November 5. Rehearsals will immediately follow Sunday School and the service of worship. The Children and Family Choir will rehearse every Sunday from November 5 through December 3. Any interested children and their family members are welcome to sing! Adult participation is not required, but we would love your presence during the rehearsals.

During Sunday School in the month of November, we will work on Rainbow Bells, additional songs, art work, and liturgy for the program to be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 10, 2017.

Youth will rehearse during Youth Group on Sunday, November 19 from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

There will be a rehearsal for all ages on Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 a.m.





Lofty News

Would you believe December is right around the corner??

Yep. It is - - when you are in the choir! The choirs (singers and hand-bellers) have begun working on their music for the December season of joy and renewal!

The choir will be singing the HOPE! a gospel, rhythmic approach to the story of Christmas written in a fresh and invigorating way. The Handbell choir will be offering an arrangement of the hauntingly beautiful Wexford Carol.

In November the handbell choir will be offering a mash-up of *Now Thank we all our God* and *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* on November 26.

The Family Choir starts on November 5 following the service. We will be singing *Light One Candle* by Audrey Snyder in preparation for the December 10 worship service, where the children of the congregation will lead the worship service.

As always, all are invited to join the choir and sing with us on Thursday eve at 7 p.m. You will have fun!

Jim Hohmeyer,

The Loft Meister

A Thanksgiving Time Gathering of Friends

It is that time of year again when we gather with friends and family. We take time to pause and reflect on what it is that we are thankful for. We are so thankful for the friends and family we have at the United Church of Christ, Midland. We look forward to spending Thanksgiving Day having dinner and connecting with you. Please join us for what has now become a tradition, we



will have a family style dinner at church on Thanksgiving. We gather for a traditional dinner and "church family" time together. Each year this group has grown and we still have room for more.

So if you do not want to cook a large dinner and want to be a part of dinner, conversation and fun please consider joining us. We will have a sign up sheet in the hallway. If you want to make a dish to pass please let us know what you will bring. The turkey will be provided. Do not feel you have to make a dish to attend, we ALWAYS have too much food. And we always have leftovers.

Please see your hosts Amy and Shawn McDonald. A signup sheet will be available very soon. We will meet starting at 2:00 p.m. And dinner will be served at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to come earlier to chat and play games if you would like.

Amy McDonald

November Benevolence Giving

Your Gift Does Make A Difference

The special offering for November is the **Pastor's Emergency Fund**. Through our pastor, your resources can minister to the immediate needs of our Midland neighbors.

UCC Midland averages 1-5 phone calls per week from individuals and families requesting help. Our church responds promptly to those seeking assistance with basic necessities or emergency needs. Gifts generally have been limited to \$50-\$100 to be used for such things as apartment rental fees and utilities.

Requests typically come from individuals or families that are unexpectedly unemployed, under-employed, or dealing with steep medical costs. UCC Midland does not limit support to church members and friends, as is the case with many other churches.

If you would like to give to the Pastor's Emergency Fund, simply put a note on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate or drop off your check in the church office.

Your generosity is appreciated by those in our community.

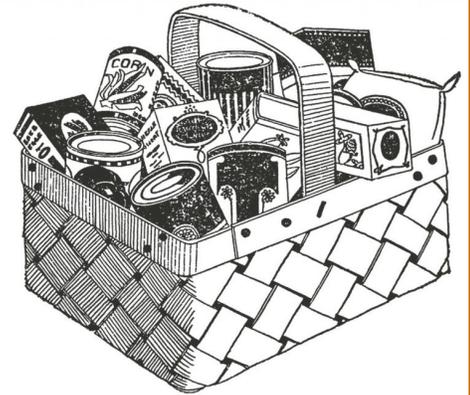
Matthew Christianson

Benevolence Committee

Thanksgiving Food Baskets — Helping our community in need:

The Board of Christian Community invites you to once again help families in need here in Midland County. We are participating in the Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. We will be collecting any packaged or canned food, nonperishable items, personal care items as well as cash and check donations. Checks should be made out to the United Church of Christ, Midland with Thanksgiving Pantry in the memo line. Checks and cash will be used to buy turkeys. These donations will help provide for over 400 families this year.

Items will be collected from October 29 until November 19 when the items are delivered to the Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The Board of Christian Community thanks you all for your concern and support of families in need in our community.



SAVE THE DATE for Hanging of the Greens!!



It's time to plan for Christmas decorating! We will gather at 4:00 p.m. on Monday evening, November 27 to decorate the sanctuary and church building for the Christmas season. There are lots of things to do – standing, sitting, reaching, hanging, designing, and climbing! After the decorating, the Board of Fine Arts will provide pizza, salad and Christmas cookies.

Come join the fun! We've even been known to sing along with some Christmas music while we decorate!



Financial Summary

September 30, 2017
(75.0% of Budget Year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
Pledges Paid through September 30	\$ 220,008	75.2%	\$ 213,337	74.7%
Budgeted Income through September 30	\$ 256,743	74.8%	\$ 253,361	76.2%
Funds Available for Budgeted Expenses	\$ 56,861	60 Days	\$ 62,062	67 Days
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 256,997	74.9%	\$ 240,252	72.3%

Pledges Paid include the total of all cash and securities received to fulfill annual pledges. Budgeted Income includes all pledged, unpledged, loose, and supplemental offerings. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount pledged or budgeted.

Funds Available for Budgeted Expenses shows the amount on hand to pay future expenses and how many days these funds would cover if average budgeted expenses (\$28,598 / month) are incurred.

Donations for the September Special Offering, Neighbors in Need, totaled \$225.00 -- Thank you!

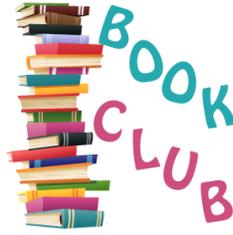
The current balances of the Pastor's Discretionary and Emergency Funds total \$2,746

Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$0
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$2,746

Current overall financial picture is - **Excellent**



Larry Schroeder, Treasurer



November Book Club

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 13th: discussing *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. We will meet at the Traverse Pie Company on Saginaw Road at 7:00 p.m.

We have come to the end of our scheduled books so please come to the November meeting with suggestions for what to read next.

November Birthdays

<i>Daniela Lowrey</i>	<i>November 4</i>
<i>Laurie Roberts</i>	<i>November 5</i>
<i>Julie Ratcliffe</i>	<i>November 7</i>
<i>Barbara McGregor</i>	<i>November 9</i>
<i>Sam Ringgold</i>	<i>November 11</i>
<i>Lynn Weimer</i>	<i>November 11</i>
<i>Jon Truitt</i>	<i>November 12</i>
<i>Lily Taylor</i>	<i>November 18</i>
<i>Fran Hamburg</i>	<i>November 19</i>
<i>Nathan Lowrey</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>Cody Bartow</i>	<i>November 22</i>
<i>Mary Goodwin</i>	<i>November 23</i>
<i>Susan Mercy</i>	<i>November 24</i>

THE BOOKS ARE BACK!



The books that the Social Concerns Committee has for sale are now back on their shelves in the Fellowship Hall. They are arranged and labeled by category, so it should be much easier to find what you are looking for. We are always happy to receive new contributions to our collection. We do ask a couple of things if you have books to contribute. Please don't put them on the selves; instead, please leave them in the office with Janet and she will let us know. Please do not contribute paperbacks that are so old the edges of the pages have turned brown. Just drop those in your recycle bin. Please do not turn in college and graduate school text books. They do not sell here, but the library will be glad to take them off your hands.

Thanks to all who have contributed book, to those of you who will be contributing and to those who have supported us by buying books, and now....time to go shopping!



**Newsletter Deadline
is the 18th day of
each month!**





Report on the Michigan Conference UCC Annual Meeting October 13 & 14, 2017

Representing Midland UCC:

Rev. Roger Pancost, Jenn Ringgold, Rev. Jean Winther and Rev. Laurie O'Reilly

The meeting, held at St. Stephen's Community UCC Church and First Christian Church in Lansing, started with a gathering Friday evening at the Old Town Marquee with a meal, awards and an address by the Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas. New clergy as well as retiring clergy were recognized. Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team grants were awarded, 8 new church starts were highlighted, Innovation Awards were presented and newly committed Open and Affirming churches were saluted. The Murdale Leysath Leadership Award was presented to Rev. Dr. Melanie Morrison, a renowned and experienced social justice educator.

Our Church's Wider Mission which funds the ministries for the National UCC and Michigan Conference has a new approach developed by a national task team over the past few years to bring giving more up to date with the times and less complicated. (Watch for more in coming months.) We are the second top contributor to OCWM in Michigan, by the way!

Resolutions passed: ...Upholding voting rights and opposing attempts at voter suppression and discrimination in Michigan

...the Poor People's Campaign: A call for moral revival

...to establish a Voluntary Fund for Legal Support to non-violent arrestees

The budget passed with a 5% increase from returns.

Gerrymandering petitions were available to be signed.

The new moderator for the Michigan Conference board of directors is Rev. George Bozanich from Detroit Metro Association. He was installed along with new board members. In addition, many challenging workshops were offered.

We were informed by Andy DeGaber, an OCWM national representative, that over 10,000 people downloaded the White Supremacy curriculum bringing us hope. Also, we were challenged to pick up the mantle of hope and bravely and faithfully bring it to the broken troubled world beginning with our own community. Christ is counting on us!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the delegate from Midland UCC.

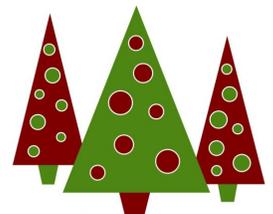
Faithfully submitted,

Rev. Jean Winther



Save the Date!!!

The Women's Christmas Party will be held on
Monday, December 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.



The Lunch Bunch

Attention JULIETs: We will be meeting on the second Tuesday of this month due to the holiday. We will meet at Lil Chef on Tuesday, November 14th at 1:00 p.m. We hope you can make it! If you have any questions, please contact Sue Rhodes or Sondi Geminder.

The ROMEOs will meet at Diamond Jim's at 101 E. Main Street on Tuesday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join us!



ACT UGANDA –

FALL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Do you have three hours that you could spend helping others? ACT Uganda is seeking volunteers to work in our store in Midland, Uniquely Uganda. Help is needed during store hours (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) Monday through Saturday. You are asked to work on one day every other week, or one day each week. Please contact Anne House at [989-835-8525](tel:989-835-8525) or houseshome@aol.com if you would like to help this worthy cause (actuganda.org). Thank you for considering this critical need. And ...

IT'S FALL AND WINTER ART FAIR SEASON! Handcrafts sales are a major source of financial support for ACT Uganda - so spread the word! These sales are vital to the important programs of ACT. Please visit ACT's booth at any of the following upcoming Michigan art fairs:

- November 4: Dickens' Christmas Bazaar, First Congregational Church, Traverse City (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- November 5: St. John's Episcopal Church, Midland (11:00 a.m.)
- November 11, 12: Midland Center for the Arts Holiday Art Fair, Midland (November 11, 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday, November 12, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.)
- November 11: Hope Lutheran Church, Hope
- November 12: Blessed Sacrament Alternative Fair, Midland (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
- November 19: Memorial Presbyterian Church Alternative, Gift Fair, Midland (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
- December 3: Holt Presbyterian, Holt MI (10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)
- December 10: Grand Haven Presbyterian, Grand Haven, (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

4100 Chestnut Hill Drive
Midland, Michigan 48642-6206

Tel: 989-631-1136

Fax: 989-631-3840

E-mail: janet@uccmidland.org



We're on the web!
www.uccmidland.org

Adopt-a-Family



UCC Midland to "Adopt a Family" for Christmas

The Salvation Army elves are hard at work screening families for their annual Adopt-a-Family program, and will have us paired with a needy family by mid-November. Our church was extremely generous last year with providing a nice Christmas meal and gifts for a single mother and her four children. Please watch for further communications during November and December regarding how you can be involved, and contact Mary Haslam if you have questions or input.