

WINTER 2017
THE CONNECTOR

SERVICES: Sundays,
10:00 AM
David W. England, Pastor

**LAKEVIEW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
115 Fifth Street, Lakeview, MI 48850

Phone: 989-352-6022

e-mail: lakeviewucc2012@yahoo.com

Website: lakeviewucc-org

"SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS FOR ALL"

Greetings from Pastor Dave -

Greetings church family! It is my hope and prayer that all enjoyed a happy and joyous Christmas season. Speaking of Christmas, the Wednesday Night soup suppers /Advent devotionals were a great success! A warm and enjoyable time of food and fellowship was had by all, as well as very lively discussions concerning our daily devotionals.

Our church family has much to look forward to in the coming months. I am excited to announce that Delanie King and Kyren Kain have completed the requirements for Confirmation and I have completed the requirements for licensure for the Grand West Association of the UCC. We will be announcing dates for these special services in the near future.

Looking ahead, the Season of Lent, the time of preparation for Easter, begins on March 1st with our special Ash Wednesday Service. Once again, we will be having soup suppers and devotional discussions on Wednesday evenings throughout the Lenten Season. A daily devotional written by the UCC Writer's group will be the basis for our discussions. We will conclude the season with a Maundy Thursday service, a community Good Friday service, presented by the Ministerial Association, and of course, a celebratory Easter morning service. Check the bulletin in the weeks ahead for more information, dates and times.

Keep sharing the love. Pastor Dave

"Thank You"

Our new Christmas tree decorations were donated in memory of Don Rankin. Memorials were also received in memory of Vern Beardslee, Gene Snyder & Isabel Rossman. We appreciate the memorials given to our church & continue to use them to benefit our needs. Patricia Bucholtz, chairperson, Memorial Committee.

*2017 Goals for our congregation
as set by the church council*

- To make our facility handicap accessible.
- To meet our adopted budget.
- To raise awareness of existing, community needs.
- To encourage more volunteerism.

THANKS \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ SOOOOOO MUCH!!!!

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT
CONTINUE TO FINANCIALLY
SUPPORT OUR CHURCH.
IN ADDITION TO OUR
WEEKLY GENERAL OFFERING,
MANY ALSO CONTRIBUTE
WEEKLY TO OUR BUILDING
FUND.



ALSO, WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT SECOND
OFFERINGS ON THE THIRD AND FOURTH SUNDAYS OF
EACH MONTH. THE 3RD SUNDAY OFFERING IS USED
TO FUND PRISON MINISTRY AND OUR SPECIAL
MISSION PROJECTS. THE 4TH SUNDAY OFFERING IS
USED TO REDUCE BUILDING RENOVATION LOAN.
REMEMBER, WE BORROWED \$50,000 FROM THE
COMMUNITY FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION IN THE
FALL OF 2015 FOR OUR RENOVATION PROJECTS.

THANKS TO OUR CONGREGATION FOR THEIR
GENEROSITY, OUR LOAN VALUE HAS DROPPED TO
\$23,597.97. THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ALL OF YOUR
GIVING. Mike and Gyl Hondorp, and James Hohler,

**UPCOMING
Events**

Wednesday, March 1 st	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, April 9 th	Palm Sunday
Tuesday, April 11 th	Passover begins
Thursday, April 13 th	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 14 th	Good Friday
Sunday, April 16 th	Easter



I would like to thank all of you who contributed to the Christmas Shoebox ministry this year. The Samaritan's Purse Project Operation Christmas Child collects shoeboxes—filled with school supplies, hygiene items, fun toys and notes of encouragement—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way.

Scope- Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 135 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. In 2016, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 12 million children. 2015 collection totals: more than 11.2 million (global) / more than 8.7 million (U.S).

This year, our little church collected 49 boxes that became part of the 33,000, (yes that is thirty-three thousand) that were collected in West Michigan! Samaritan's Purse worked with local churches to deliver these gifts in Jesus' Name to boys and girls around the world. By paying for the shipping of the boxes online, each box was given a bar code label that allowed for the tracking of the final destination of each box. This year, our boxes went to several countries including Zambia, Madagascar, the Philippines, Cameroon, Grenada, and Tanzania! Wow!

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the special program. What a great way to spread the love of Jesus around the world. Mary England



We had some special services we would like to share.

November 20th, we hosted a Thanksgiving Community Service. The service was attended by several area churches. Opening our service was the Gravel Ridge Band. Their hymns were great with that special bluegrass flavor. After Pastor Dave's welcome and invocation, Bill and Verna Ritesma and their granddaughter, Megan sang. Megan also played her guitar and sang a solo for the first time in public. This was followed by Judy Maxim, Dick Biller and Georgie Perkins singing. Reverend David Waid gave a thanksgiving message. Gravel Ridge Band closed the service with more hymns – bluegrass style.

December 11th, our children's choir performed under the direction of Dr. Cathie Padden. They sang several songs and even did a little dance. The performance was wonderful. A big thanks to Cathie.

On Christmas Eve, the congregation was invited to pick their favorite Christmas songs. Pastor Dave and Dick Biller sang a duet, "IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER". After Pastor Dave's message of the Birth of Jesus, the service was ended by singing several Christmas carols.

The Music Committee is always looking for new talent for special music from our congregation or other community members.

Georgie Perkins, Chairperson, Music Committee

DIACONATE DELIVERS JOY!

Many of our church family members do not or cannot get to church on a regular basis. The Diaconate makes sure they are not forgotten by their church family. During the holiday season, we delivered poinsettias and spent time with 20 of our church family members. We also delivered poinsettias to Lakeview Terrace and Bell Tower. In conversations with the Diaconate members including myself, we find that we get more out of the visits than the members visited. The smile on their faces and the good conversations would warm any heart. Maureen Hohler, Chairperson, Diaconate Committee

Joy abounded in worship the Sunday morning Dr. Cathie Padden directed 13 of our kids in song. It was great to have so many families come to hear and support their children. What a blessing! Tamarack District Library was also delighted to have Dr. Cathie and our kids share their songs for their Christmas open house. The kids were presented with a Christmas ornament from our church family after their program. Thank you again to Dr. Cathie, the kids, the parents and grandparents who helped with practices, rides, and support.

We are excited about our Vacation Bible School - "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose". We will share more about that in early summer. It's not too early to start praying for the kids, their families, and for helpers now. We really appreciate and need the help and support from our church family! A special thank you to Marsha Andersen and Sue Kain for their help on Sunday mornings.

Our Wednesday night study group will be finishing up Max Lucado's "In the Grip of Grace" in February. We hope you will join in reading our next book, Max Lucado's "God's Story, Your Story: When His becomes Yours". Judy Maxim, Chairperson, Christian Education Committee

Website: www.lakeviewucc-org.