

Northlawn United
Methodist Church
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**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST**

- Kids Food Basket

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The Lamplighter

VOLUME 68, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY, 2019



Pastor's Pondering

Walking in the Light

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." — 1 John 1:7 NIV.

Christian Fellowship Means Living in the Light of God. Where do we find such light? We find it primarily in the life and teaching of Christ. In Christ we see the light of God.

Because of Christ we know of a God who embodies both perfect justice and perfect love. As John says: "This is the message we have heard from [Christ] and declare to you: God is light; in [God] there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5 NIV).

It is precisely because we believe in God — the God revealed to us through Jesus Christ — that we can believe that such things as justice and love will prevail. We see very little of justice in this life. We see far too little of genuine love. But, we trust in the promise of God. We read in the Old Testament these words: "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them." (Isaiah 61:8 NIV) And, in the life and teaching of Christ we have an even fuller revelation of the justice and mercy of God.

God's Light is a Transforming Light. It is as we walk in God's light that our lives are transformed — and we are renewed in love and hope and faith. C. S. Lewis wrote in the book *Mere Christianity*: "[The Christian] does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us just as the roof of a greenhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it." By letting God's light shine into our lives, we are renewed in character and hope.

God's light shines into our lives through study and reflection on Scripture — especially as we study together. God's light shines into our lives through worship, through the practice of prayer, through Holy Communion, through humble service to others.

God's Light is the Light of Freedom. It purifies us from all sin. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Sin has power over us through our own selfishness. By nature we are turned inward toward ourselves. But, when God's light shines into our lives we learn how to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength — and to love our neighbors as we would love ourselves. It is love that conquers sin — God's love made real to us through Jesus Christ.

Keep walking in the light of God!

February 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 <i>10:00 am Bible Study</i>	6 <i>6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study</i>	7 <i>6:30 pm Yarn w/ purpose</i>	8	9
10	11	12 <i>10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Trustees</i>	13 <i>6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study</i>	14 <i>6:00 pm SPRC 6:30 Yarn w/ purpose</i>	15	16 <i>9-4:00 pm Featherweight Sewing Group</i>
17	18 <i>7:00 pm Admin Team</i>	19 <i>10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Trustees</i>	20 <i>6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study</i>	21 <i>6:00 pm Finance 6:30 Yarn w/ purpose</i>	22	23 <i>10-3:00 pm Wedding Shower - Fellowship Hall</i>
24	25	26 <i>10:00 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Trustees</i>	27 <i>6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study</i>	28 <i>6:00 pm Finance 6:30 Yarn w/ purpose</i>		

Northlawn United Methodist Church 2019 Leadership Team

Administrative Team

Chairperson.....	Phil VanHammen
Finance Chair	Diane Ludwig
SPRC Co-Chairs.....	Judy VanLente/Sally Wesorick
Hospitality & Outreach Chair	Marti VanHorn
Trustee Chair	Sharron Myler
Lay Member to Annual Conference.....	
Women of Northlawn President.....	Ruth VanValkenburg
Worship Team	Jan Jager
Faith Development Chair	TBD
Congregational Care	John Secord
Member @ Large.....	Alan Claybaugh

CHURCH CALENDAR

ALL MINISTRY LEADERS...In order to ensure clear and concise communication, please make sure all meetings/ events are on the calendar in the office.

Northlawn is still collecting pop tabs, school box-tops labels and Campbell soup labels (we need the UPC code). A box is provided next to the Connection Corner.

Deadline for The Lamplighter Newsletter is the 17th of the previous month. All articles must be received by this date or they may not be included. You may email your articles to Sharon@northlawnnumc.org or leave them in her mail slot. Thank you.

Help Earn Money for the Church!

If you use the internet for any type of search, you can use GoodSearch and a donation will be made to the church for every search and purchase you make over the internet. All proceeds go toward the mortgage principle. Here's all you need to do: Go to

goodserarch.com/nonprofit/Northlawn-united-Methodist.aspx. Click REGISTER NOW and begin raising money for Northlawn every time you search, or shop on line!



Food Needs at NECM

- Canned Meats
- Canned Soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Boxed Potatoes
- Bagged/canned lentils
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruits
- Instant Jello or Pudding
- Salad Dressings
- Ramen Noodles
- Instant Powdered Milk
- Peanut Butter
- Snack Items: Granola Bars, Crackers, Chips, etc.
- Desserts-Baking Mixes: Cake, Brownies, Cookies
- Boxed Mac & Cheese
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Tomato Sauce
- Fruit Juice
- Cereal
- Condiments
- Personal Care Items
- Whole grains (rice, quinoa, rolled oats, snack bars, etc.)
- Beans
- Raw nuts, dried fruits

Personal Care Pantry

Clients can receive personal care products once a month from NECM when they shop for food.

Items that they can possibly receive:

toothpaste
 toothbrushes
 bar soap
 shaving cream & shavers
 deodorant
 laundry soap (when available)
 shampoo/conditioner
 lotion
 feminine products (when available)

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER LIST

Liturgists

- 3 Robin Crampton
- 10 Emmanuel Joshua
- 17 David Lightfoot
- 24 _____

Greeters

- 3 Judy VanLente
- 10 Bertha Parker
- 17 _____
- 24 _____

Connection Corner

If you would like to serve at Connection Corner, please sign up at Connection Corner.

Coffee Fellowship

- 3 Jenna McDonald
- 10 Thompsons
- 17 Doris Black
- 24 Jean Wilson/Bert Parker

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Carmen Bazan
- 13 Michael Roth
- 18 Doris Black
- 21 Sarah Diebold
- 21 Jody Hamilton
- 22 Clare Loveless
- 23 Don Hamilton

ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries in February

“Each day is a gift from God.”

Keep These People in Your Prayers

- Bishop David A. Bard
- G.R. District Superintendent,
- Rev. Craig L. Adams
- Pastor Tim & Paula
- Pastor Jan
- Marcia Loveless
- RuthAnn Buschert
- Sharon Longstreth & Family
- Dee Roberts

- Theresa Gorter-Hoff
- Wanda Tahaney
- Ed Cavanaugh
- Dorothy Spaulding
- Linda Meinke

“Nothing is too great, and nothing is too small to commit into the hands of the Lord.”

--A.W. Pink

SILVER SENIORS

There will not be a Silver Seniors lunch in February. Watch for news of when we will meet again.

VOLUNTEER AT KIDS FOOD BASKET

2055 Oak Industrial Drive NE (from Maryland or Plymouth)

Sunday, February 10 and/or Sunday, February 24

For one hour - 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Kids Food Basket (KFB) is committed to providing healthy, tasty, and cost effective evening meals, or “sack suppers” to greater Grand Rapids children who are food insecure. KFB uses 165 volunteers every day to make almost 6,000 sack suppers given to kids at 34 different schools so that no kid goes to bed hungry.

Sign up at the Connection Corner and join us to help make sandwiches or prep food for packed meals. You’ll help ensure that children in our community do not go to bed hungry...you will have fun, you will be blessed, and get to know some of your Northlawn friends or acquaintances a little better.

If you have any questions, or want to carpool, contact Lee Grey, 361-9459 or 616-633-5779, or Sally Wesorick, 616-443-2528.



Puzzler's

Corner

“Winter is coming.” These three words have a new interpretation since George R. R. Martin’s Game of Thrones series became popular as an HBO series. For those of us in the Midwest District, winter is here. We are definitely in the midst of an historic storm, with Michigan State closing for the 6th time in its history. By Saturday, according to those most familiar with our weather patterns, there will be a significant warm up.

This brings me to one of my favorite events. Saturday is Groundhog’s Day. Punxsutawney Phil will once again make an appearance, informing us how much longer this particular winter will last. If you have never visited the website, in these days when we are huddled in our homes, please take a moment to check it out [HERE](#). The tradition, history and humor around the care and comfort of Phil (who according to the information there will be celebrating his 133rd birthday) may bring some warmth and sunshine to your day.

I can probably guess that Phil will give us 6 more weeks of winter. The good news is that spring is coming. The promise of new life, new growth and new possibilities follow a time of dormancy, even if it comes from seasons of the year. As we do every spring, we will celebrate the hope and promise of the risen Savior just as flowers begin to bloom, transforming the land around us into a kaleidoscope of colors. Our faith is renewed. Our dedication to the One we serve is re-invigorated. Our relationship with our Creator God is deepened. And the love we share shapes us in amazing and wonderful ways.

As we look toward clearer skies and warmer weather, I invite you to hold the promise of spring in your hearts. Please take time each day to celebrate the risen Savior is in our lives. Seek ways to help those who are suffering through this Arctic blast. Lift one another up in prayer as we prepare for one of the holiest seasons of our Christian year. Be assured that our Lord is ever present in all that we say and do in His name. And Amen.

Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford

Midwest DS

(Published in the Midwest District Connection E-Newsletter 1-30-19)

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

At the church

Led by Pastor Craig

The study is the Gospel of Mark

Did you Know?

Barring technical difficulties, a video of each worship service is now available on Northlawn's Facebook page, and a link to the sermon video is included on the weekly Nugget. Thank you, Patrick Black, for making this happen!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study will start a new study on Tuesday, March 5 entitled "Questions God Asks." We meet from 10:00-11:00 am on Tuesdays. Call or see Betty Beck to get a study booklet. Her phone number is 616-446-1973.

Fresh Thyme Giving Bag Program

We are happy to announce that **North End Community Ministry** has been selected to be a part of the exciting and innovative Fresh Thyme Giving Bag Program, which is specially designed to support local non-profits like us through the sale of a reusable shopping bag.

The Fresh Thyme Giving Bag Program offers a special Giving Bag featuring a Giving Tag. This tag allows shoppers to direct a \$1 donation to qualifying non-profits. During the month of February at **2470 Burton St. SE**, any donation NOT directed by a shopper will automatically go directly to **North End Community Ministry!**

All you have to do is go to the Fresh Thyme store at **2470 Burton St. SE** and buy the Giving Bag during the month of February. That's it!

This is a great opportunity for us to raise money simply through the sale of a reusable shopping bag!

We continually appreciate all the support you give, which has allowed **North End Community Ministry** to maintain the work we do in our community. The Fresh Thyme Giving Bag Program is a simple and fun way to continue this support!

Imagine if every one of our supporters purchases just ONE bag! What if everyone bought TWO! AND, purchasing these beautiful Fresh Thyme Giving Bags will support us while also helping to eliminate paper/plastic bag use!

Please pass this exciting news on to your friends and family. Let them know that the Fresh Thyme Giving Bags are located on various displays around the store at the checkout.

Thank you so much for your continued support of **North End Community Ministry!**

Best,

Laura L. Castle/Executive Director

Pastor Craig will be available on Mondays at Lucy's Café, 1747 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI - 49505. He will be doing sermon planning and preparation but invites anyone who wants to stop by and get acquainted, to do so. He will be there from 7:30 am 'til around 11:00 am.

DONATION FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL

Dear Northlawn UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to assist with the response to those affected by Hurricane Michael. It is gifts like yours that make it possible for this ministry to reach so many who have lost so much.

We are currently walking hand-in-hand with our brothers and sisters in the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference and all gifts toward the \$500,000 match will be given to help local churches with the greatest needs.

Thank you for being a part of the provision for our connectional ministry. Our prayers are with these gifts as they are used in the communities that need it most.

Sincerely,

Pam Garrison

Disaster Response Coordinator

HOME PLATE 2019

A Pre-Game Program with the Detroit Tigers of Comerica Park

DATE: Saturday, June 8

TIME: 12:30 PM Program and 4:10 PM Game

Players from the Tigers and Twins like **Matt Boyd, Daniel Norris, Michael Fulmer, Jeimer Candelario, Christen Stewart, Buck Farmer, Spencer Turnbull, Niko Goodrum, and Frank Tanana** will share about their careers in sports and faith in Jesus Christ.

A \$34.00 ticket includes: game ticket, program, food coupon, and souvenirs. Includes an **On-The-Field Baseball Clinic** sponsored by the Detroit Tigers.

Please visit our **updated website** for event information, promo materials, ordering details, referrals, photos, etc. **ACCEPTING ORDERS NOW.**

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS....

The next Friday night dinner will be on Friday, February 22nd. Come and enjoy good fellowship and good food. More details to come.

Catherine's Health Center is accepting new patients! We offer primary medical care as well as behavioral health and counseling, diabetic eye exams, women's health services, health promotion and disease prevention education, and assistance with obtaining health insurance. We accept Medicaid, Medicare, and some commercial health plans. If you or someone you know is looking for medical care, please call our office today for more information at (616) 336-8800.

Check out Northlawn's Facebook page. This is the link: [NorthlawnUMC](#). Facebook is an easy and effective way to get the word out to a lot of people. Please "like" and "share" it with your friends.

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MISSION - Why We Are Here:
Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.

