



BRANCHES



A Publication of **Muskegon County Cooperating Churches**
Convening the Community of Faith
to serve the needs of the people of Muskegon County for over 70 years.

Vol. 38, No. 5

September-October Issue

BRANCHES is published 6 times a year by **Muskegon County Cooperating Churches (MCCC)**
120 W. Apple Avenue, Muskegon 49440
Phone: 231-727-6000 E-mail: office.mccc@frontier.com

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9 am to 12 noon, Thursday-Friday Closed. Hours may vary, call first before visiting the office

MCCC Board for 2019

Paul Emick - President

Prince of Peace

Rev. Lucinda Barnum-Steggerda – Vice President

First Congregational UCC

Rev. Tim VanderHaar - Treasurer

First Congregational UCC

Thomas Wagner - Clerk

Muskegon Church of the Brethren

Judy Clark-Ochs

First Congregational UCC

Jack Otteren

Mobile Pantry Supervisor

Delores L. Cole

Mt. Zion COGIC

Douglas Hughes

Williams/Hughes Attorneys

Rev. Jane Mountain

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Rev. John Parker

Mt. Herman Zion Baptist Church

Rev. Diane Stark

Unity of Muskegon Church

Toni Garcia

Prince of Peace

Rev. Lily Marx

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church

MCCC Volunteer Program Coordinator

What's New at Cooperating Churches?



RECOVERY CONGREGATIONS

Would your congregation like to assist those in recovery from substance abuse addiction? Would your congregation like to become a Recovery Congregation?

Recovery Congregations can provide spiritual and pastoral support. They can view addiction as a disease not a moral issue. They can embrace and support people in recovery, as well as their families. They can provide visible outreach in the community. They can disseminate recovery information. And, they can host recovery groups within their organizations.

See inside for more information. Please join First Baptist Church and New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church in this endeavor.

If so, email Lily Marx at: office.mccc@frontier.com



Gleanings by Tom Wagner




September/October 2019 Remembering Where We Come From

For a little over 40 years I have been researching my family history. The materials I have collected in that time fill a small file cabinet. A few years ago I decided that the best way to both preserve and pass along that information was to begin compiling a series of booklets about the various ancestral lines, giving them as Christmas gifts to my siblings, nieces, nephews, daughter and even a few cousins. As of last December I had completed work on my mother's forbears and am now in the midst of typing findings on my paternal grandmother's genealogy.

Family lore always seemed more accessible among Mom's relatives. The fact that all of her grandparents and even a great-grandmother survived into my youth was likely a contributing factor to that accessibility. As Midwesterners, there were challenges to keeping track of that history. One was the early emigration of most of our immigrant ancestors. The other was the geography of migration westward. They did a remarkable job keeping many of those memories alive. Most of our English ancestors arrived during the 17th Century in places like Cape Cod and Narragansett Bay in New England and along the Severn River in Maryland. Most of our German speaking ancestors immigrated to Pennsylvania in the early 18th Century. Later generations of New Englanders moved on to northeastern Pennsylvania and western New York. Some of the Pennsylvania Germans simply crossed the Susquehanna River into the south central part of the state. Others wandered south into central Maryland and even southern Virginia. Eventually in the 19th Century all these lines began to merge in Ohio and Indiana. There were even a couple families who briefly homesteaded in Kansas and Nebraska before returning to Indiana.

By contrast, stories in Dad's family rarely went back much further than my grandparents' grandparents. I used to think this reflected a lack of interest about the past among my living relatives. Yet, as I began to research this side of the family, I realized that our immigrant ancestors left various points along the Rhine Valley, mostly landed at Philadelphia and settled for much of the next three centuries within a 20-30 mile radius of where I grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania. Unlike my mother's family, we were surrounded by evidence of our immigrant origins: ancestral homesteads, graveyards and meetinghouses, in addition to the few older folks who still dressed plain or spoke in Pennsylvania German dialect. Perhaps a better interpretation is that history was largely taken for granted during my childhood. Though searching for details of earlier generations took a little digging, between access to Dunker academic institutions during my student days and help from distant cousins I have discovered that much of the family's history has been preserved back at least to immigration, and in some lines deep into Europe.

As many readers know, August 2019 marked the 400th anniversary of the first African slaves in Jamestown, Virginia. Over the next two centuries thousands were taken from their homes against their will, cut off from family and culture and forced to labor without just compensation. Slaveholding spread to all of the British American colonies by the 18th Century. German immigrants were first to petition against the practice in the 1680s. This was at least 60 years before Quaker John Woolman began his testimony against the peculiar institution. Sadly I must admit that a line of my English ancestors with Quaker connections owned slaves in 17th and 18th Century Maryland.

This past summer also marked 300 years since the first migration of Church of the Brethren members to the New World under the leadership of my ninth great-grandfather Peter Becker (1687-1758). The first congregation had formed 11 years earlier by a small group of religious dissidents who had found temporary asylum in the *grafschaft* of Wittgenstein, Germany. Initially they had separated from the state recognized Protestant churches under the influence of Radical Pietism. For that reason many of the future members were exiled from their homelands. As these refugees began to coalesce in areas of tentative tolerance, they were influenced by Mennonite thought, which led them to form a new faith community sealed in baptism—maturely and voluntarily chosen. By 1711 Dunkers were actively recruiting new members among refugees in Ysenburg-Büdingen-Marienborn, Peter Becker's home county. It was the baptism of Beck-

 er and his wife in 1714 that most alarmed local authorities. This resulted in the banishment of the entire Ma-
 14:25-33 to "count the cost" became their common
 made. They found refuge among Mennonites in the Prus-
 a controversy over a marriage outside the community as

Tom Wagner is a former pastor in the Church of the Brethren (Dunker) and serves MCCC as clerk and archivist. He can be contacted at gleanertw@hotmail.com



From Lily

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches would love to hear from you. If you have something you would like to share, please e-mail me at: office.mccc@frontier.com or send it to me in the mail. Please include pictures and/or your organizational logo. Information is due into the office no later than October 25, if it is to be included in the next November-December issue.

“Linking mind, emotion, and body - A Course in Attitudinal Healing”

Celestial Light Centre for Attitudinal Healing

Join with us in a 12 week class starting September 9, 2019 on Monday evening at 6:30 pm. - 7:45 pm. Facilitated by Gale Newton & others. Email: galenewton@hotmail.com for information.

“May you be at peace. May you see the light of your own true nature. May you be healed.”

Our attitudinal healing centre is one of several groups & centres, around the world, individually administrated and funded. Globally founded by Dr Gerald Jampolsky and others since the mid 70's. In 1985, Genevieve Weirich, MA founded the first Attitudinal Healing Center in Michigan.

Upon her death, a new 501 (c) (3) was formed by Gale Newton, MA, MSW, Board President. We are working on a capital campaign for building, programming and site. “Let us join our mind as one mind without limit to send love & healing to the world wherever it is needed”. Genevieve Weirich.

The course fee has been \$120 since early 1990's; can be paid in installments. If financial hardship or questions contact galenewton@hotmail.com.

Location: Unity of Muskegon, Lakeside District; 2052 Bourdon St. Muskegon, Mi. 49441
www.Unitymuskegon.org

CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Training

Are you interested in becoming a Recovery Coach?

Fresh Coast Alliance will be facilitating this training for 5 days in October. The fee is \$100, which includes the training manual, continental breakfast and lunch daily. If you are interested, please contact: Priscilla Shafor BS, CADC, CPRM, CPRC
Cell: 616-795-8332

First Congregational Church

3212 Pontaluna Road in Fruitport

(across from Edgewood Elementary School)

September 20 – Soup, Sandwich and Desert Meal, 11AM – 5 PM (\$6)

October 25 & 26 – Annual Pumpkin Path/Patch Walk from 4-8 PM each day. Light refreshments will be available. Free

RUMMAGE SALE & BAKE SALE



November 8 & 9

Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM

Lunch (*eat in or take-out*) will also be available beginning at noon. BBQ, Soup, Drink & Dessert for \$6.00. Items also available a la carte.

Child Evangelism Fellowship Annual Banquet

CEF of Muskegon's Annual Banquet will be held Tuesday, September 17. Come join us as we celebrate God at work in the lives of children across our county! The evening begins at 6:00 pm at Bethel Baptist Church of Norton Shores, 1066 East Byron Rd. Tickets are \$10. To reserve your tickets, call the CEF Ministry Center at 733-2200.

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART

91st Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition

The Muskegon Museum of Art's 91st Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition (formerly the annual Regional Exhibition) opens at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 5 and runs through November 13, 2019.

The exhibition presents a look at the issues, themes, and materials inspiring today's Michigan artists. The show will include 126 works by 107 artists, chosen by the juror from 734 entries by 406 artists. The artwork is meant to engage, challenge, and inspire conversation.

The MMA will open the Michigan Contemporary with a free public reception and awards program on Thursday, September 5. The reception starts at 5:30 pm and artist awards will be announced at 6:30 pm. After the program, guests will have the opportunity to meet and congratulate the artists until 8:00 pm.

The Juror Amy Chaloupka, a curator and arts consultant, was this year's juror. A practicing artist, she has exhibited widely and created several public works including permanent installations in Santa Fe, Chicago, and Madison, Wisconsin.

The 91st Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition is underwritten by Warner Norcross + Judd, LLP and Shape Corporation. Awards are underwritten by the Swanson Pickle Company. Additional programming support is provided by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts.

MOUNT ZION COGIC PRESENTS

SEPTEMBER 13TH-15TH

OLD FASHION CHRISTIAN FAMILY REUNION 2019 WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

BISHOP MARVIN WINANS
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH
MOUNT ZION COGIC | 7:00PM

UNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH
DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT | 9:00AM

PASTOR JENNIFER BIARD
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH
MOUNT ZION COGIC | 3:30PM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DUANE E. BENNETT
& ELECT LADY BEVERLY COLE - BENNETT

MOUNT ZION COGIC
188 WEST MUSKEGON AVE. | MUSKEGON, MI
PHONE: (231) 722-6765 OR FAX: (231) 722-5181
WWW.MTZCOGIC.ORG



Thank you for helping to launch Food Waste Weekend (Sept 6/7/8) to your faith community

This note provides everything you need to help faith leaders learn about speaking to congregants about food waste – from their own faith perspective. (This information is also available at www.FoodWasteWeekend.org/launch)

This year, the program is available for faith based and spiritual people in two versions:

For the **Clergy**, Food Waste Weekend is on **Sept 6-8, 2019**. (Note: if a faith leader is unable to do it on that weekend – everything they need remains available to do it at a later date.)

For **people of faith/spiritual people**, they can participate at any time they wish (see section 3 below)

Here, you will find everything you need to help more faith leaders learn about Food Waste Weekend.

All of the information on this page is for all faiths – including yours. Please feel free to share it with other faith leaders and people of faith in your community.

To get started:

We suggest that you first visit FoodWasteWeekend.org/me to get some background information on the issue of food waste and hunger.

For Faith Leaders: Identify people and organizations of influence in the faith community – people you know and those you know of. Of particular value will be faith organizations that have a hierarchical structure that allows you to reach one person within that structure who in turn can forward information to all of the clergy in that community.

MOUNT ZION COGIC PRESENTS

Unity Prayer Breakfast
P.U.S.H.
(PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DUANE E. BENNETT
& ELECT LADY BEVERLY COLE - BENNETT
188 WEST MUSKEGON AVENUE
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN
PHONE: (231) 722-6765 | FAX: (231) 722-5181
WWW.MTZCOGIC.ORG

SENIOR PASTOR
JENNIFER BIARD
JACKSON REVIVAL CENTER, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
BEGINS AT 9:00am

\$25 TICKETS

SEPT. 14TH | DELTA HOTELS by MARRIOTT
939 3RD ST, MUSKEGON, MI 49440

Flower Auction and Flower Sale

Saturday September 14 10am – noon

**3815 Henry St, Norton Shores
Forest Park Covenant Church**

Featuring Unique



*Dahlias
&
Daylilies*



*Also: Patricia's Gourmet Chocolates
and Rich Johnson's Abstract Art*

Benefiting:



Step Up offers
Christ Centered
Mentoring & Housing
For Young Adults

Employment Opportunity with Step Up

Step Up Program Coordinator Position

Step Up is seeking a part-time program coordinator. This is a case management position that assists the young adults in the Step Up program establish and attain goals that allow them to progress toward successful independence.

A complete job description and application can be found at:

www.stepupmuskegon.org/apply/program-coordinator

For more information please contact Dick Kamps, Step Up Board President at dickkamps@stepupmuskegon.org or call: 231-557-9411.

Sunday, October 6, 2019 Marks 40 Years of CROP Hunger Walking!

WHO: YOU! **WHAT:** 40th Annual Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk. **WHEN:** 1:00 PM Sunday, October 6, 2019. **WHERE:** Start: Central United Methodist Church, 1011 Second Street in downtown Muskegon. End: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1006 Third St across from Hackley Park. **HOW:** Contact your congregation or service club leader, or contact Delphine Hogston at 231-215-9110 or email at delphine.hogston@gmail.com. **WHAT'S NEW:** A GREAT new route that lets us see 3 of our 4 local recipient agencies. **AND :** a **SPECIAL Youth Night Event** on Saturday, October 5 from 9 – 11:45 PM at the MCC Lakeshore Fitness Center (the former Muskegon YMCA). Walking, food, swimming, and FUN! Contact Carol Higginson at 231-206-47043 text or message, or email her at cemoreeq@aol.com. **WHY:** Think of a time when you were really hungry. Did your stomach rumble? Were you starting to get a headache? Now, what would you do if you went to your 'fridge and didn't find anything? And couldn't go to the store – or maybe even didn't have a 'fridge, or a house, or even know how on earth you were going to feed your kids (not to even mention yourself!) not only right now, but tomorrow, as well?? Muskegon CROP Hunger Walkers step out in faith that WE can help! For 40 years, since 1980, we've been Walking to "feed my sheep" in areas near and far. In that time, we've raised more than \$1.2 MILLION dollars right here in Muskegon to combat hunger both globally and locally.

Continues on page six

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART



Undying Traditions: Memento Mori

At the Muskegon Museum of Art this fall

Muskegon, MI – The Muskegon Museum of Art presents *Undying Traditions: Memento Mori* this fall, bringing together work by artists from across the United States currently exploring themes of death and earthly pleasure. The exhibition includes paintings, photography, and sculpture and runs September 12, 2019 through January 5, 2020.

Opening Event: The exhibition opens with a public reception on Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 pm with a lecture by Art Martin at 7:00 pm. Event admission is free.

Featured Artists: Landis Blair, David Cahill, Robert Steven Connett, David Gluck, Kate MacDowell, Jeanette May, Chris Peters, Daniel Sprick,

Katherine Stone, Paulette Tavormina, Maria Tomasula, and Will Wilson.

Memento mori (which translates to "remember death") is a Medieval Latin Christian philosophy that encourages reflection on mortality, on the inevitability of death, and the transience of mortal pleasures and accomplishments. The memento mori is typically expressed through the still life, incorporating the human skull with various symbols of time and decay. This tradition includes the *danse macabre*, a skeletal Death dancing away with the rich and poor alike, and the *vanitas*, a memento mori that depicts objects associated with physical pleasures such as musical instruments and food. In the Christian tradition, memento mori artworks were intended to remind the viewer that their death was assured and their focus should thus be on the spiritual and not the earthly.

MMA Director of Collections and Exhibitions/Senior Curator Art Martin comments, "Contemporary artists continue to explore this rich tradition in images that strongly reference their precursors. Skulls and flowers continue to fascinate artist and viewer alike. From intricate painting, to photography, to sculpture, these artists offer us insights into our collective fascination with death."

Undying Traditions: Memento Mori is organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art. Program support is provided, in part, through a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the arts.

Continued from page 5

Church World Service, the parent agency of the CROP Walks, is celebrating 50 years this year of working together with our neighbors in need, bringing clean water, healthy food, disaster relief, and small business funds to help people, families, and communities get back on their feet.

Here in Muskegon, our local recipient agencies are **AgeWell Services'** Meals-On-Wheels program, **Community enCompass's** Urban Farm (and Youth Empowerment Program[YEP]), the Healthy Choice Pantry at **Mission for Area People**, and the Saturday Breakfast at **First Congregational Church, UCC**.

Special thanks to our community sponsors: Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Lively Designs, Nichols, Preferred Automotive Dealerships, and Source One Digital.

YOU can be part of the great work. Join us Sunday afternoon, October 6 at 1:00 PM at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Muskegon. We join hundreds of Walks all over the country working to overcome hunger and poverty – around the USA, around the world, and right here in Muskegon.

Think about how you have been blessed, and how YOU can be a blessing to others. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would not exist without your generous support.

Contributions have been received during the last 2 months from the following individuals, churches and

Bill Page
Nancy A. Waters
Port City Church
Sacred Hearth
William & Erika Paulson
All of the Churches who
participated in the Family
Faith Fellowship Fair

MUSKEGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

All Programs at Hackley Public Library are FREE to the public!
316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI, 49440 – hackleylibrary.org –
231.722.8000

Visit hackleylibrary.org for more events!
September/October

Ardan Academy of Irish Dance

Monday, September 9

7:00 – 7:45 PM

Free to the public and recommended for all ages!

Healthy Food, Healthy Families

Tuesday, September 10

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Registration is required for this free program.

Call HPL at 231-722-8011 or visit the online calendar to register.

Victorian Dress and Customs

Saturday, September 14

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Free to the public and recommended for all ages!

Spook-tacular Watercolors

Saturday, October 19

2:00 PM

Adult supervision is required for younger participants. Ages 5+.

Michigan POW Camps in WWII

Monday, September 30

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Calendar

- Sept. 9– Attitudinal Healing Pg. 3
- Sept. 13-15: Mt. Zion Family Reunion, Pg. 4
- Sept. 14-Mt. Zion Unity Prayer Breakfast, Pg. 4
- Sept 14-Step Up House Flower Auction & Sale, Pg. 5
- Sept. 17-Child Evangelism Fellowship of Muskegon Annual Banquet, Pg. 3
- Sept. 20-1st Cong. Fruitport, Soup, Sandwich & Dessert Meal, pg. 3
- Sept. 26-5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
- Oct. 6-Crop Hunger Walk, Pg. 5 & 6
- Oct. 24-5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
- Oct. 25-Deadline for submissions to the Nov/Dec Branches' issue.
- Oct. 25-26: 1st Cong. Fruitport, Pumpkin Patch Walk, Pg. 3
- Nov 8-9: 1st Cong. Fruitport, Rummage Sale, Pg. 3