



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.

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January-February 2020 Issue

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

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MCCC Volunteer Program Coordinator

What's New at Cooperating Churches?

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2020

6:00 pm

**Prince of Peace Catholic Church
1110 Dykstra Rd. Muskegon Michigan**

Business Meeting

Program:

Recovery Congregations

We have kicked off this new program in 2019 and would like to update members of Muskegon County Cooperating Churches on the program and on our progress.

Certified participating congregations:

New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church

Unity Church of Muskegon

First Baptist Church

Mt. Hermon Zion Baptist Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(Two other congregations in the process of being certified)



Gleanings by Tom Wagner



January-February 2020

Finding Our Way

A couple of months ago the Midwestern branches of our family met with some of our eastern Pennsylvania relatives in Wheeling, West Virginia for a weekend. The Midwesterners made our way in four different vehicles, and didn't actually caravan together. The Michigan and some of the Indiana contingent left from Elkhart, but in two different cars using different navigational aids. The younger threesome in the SUV used their cell phone the entire trip. Those of us in the van of older folks used both a map for planning, but also a cell phone to monitor traffic conditions occasionally. We left a little later than the younger group and ran into some traffic delays. We arrived an hour after the other group. Later I asked the driver of the SUV what route they had taken, thinking we would use it on the return trip. He couldn't tell me. He had listened to the immediate directions given by GPS, but hadn't remembered the series of highways. After a series of questions about towns and cities they had passed my sister and I got a fairly good idea what routes they had taken. Our broader understanding of geography and longer driving experience helped us recreate their path.

My sixth grade teacher, Mr. Huber, taught our class a number of survival skills, including navigating wilderness areas. This was in the early 1970s, long before cell phones and GPS. We learned how to use a map and compass. He also told us about following power lines, roads and rail lines to populated places, if we got lost. We also learned about locating the Big Dipper as a way to find the North Star. As part of that lesson he mentioned the connection to the Underground Railroad and African Americans escaping slavery by following the "Drinking Gourd" north.

As we shift from Christmastide to Epiphany, light remains a theme. Perhaps the most obvious has to do with the Magi following a star to pay homage to the Christ child (Matt. 2:1-11). Yet some of the Hebrew Bible readings from Isaiah speak of a servant who will not only restore Israel, but be given as "a light to the nations" (49:1-7) and how "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (9:1-4). Another theme has to do with how we live with each other. Micah speaks of those things God requires, not so much in terms of ritual, but by "doing justice, loving steadfastly and to walk humbly with your God" (6:1-8). Or as Isaiah says "Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice" (58:1-12). In the gospel readings, Jesus describes the characteristics of a blessed life (Matt. 5:1-12). In the reading for the following week Jesus calls those listening to his voice salt and even light (vv. 13-16). It is a reminder that others see our lives as examples of faith in the world. By following the true light of the world may we guide others and also find our own way to "the beloved community".





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 February 20 if it is to be included in the next March-April issue.

Ongoing:

New Year Nonfiction Book Discussion

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Monday, January 13 – *Educated* by Tara Westover

Monday, February 24 – *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

Free to the public.

Hackley Family Crafts

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Saturday, January 11

Saturday, February 8

Free to the public, all ages.

January:

Let's Get Physical! Presentation by MSU Extension

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 7

Free to the public.

Books and Bookbinding

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Saturday, January 18

Free, Ages 8+. Please register at hackleylibrary.org or call 231-722-8014.

February:

DIY Stained Glass

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Saturday, February 15

Free, Ages 8+. Please register at hackleylibrary.org or call 231-722-8014.

Ebony Road Players presents: "The Meeting" – A Play (Black History Month)

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Saturday, February 22

Free to the public, all ages.

Jon Covington and the Men from the Documentary *Black Man* (Black History Month)

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Saturday, February 29

Free to the public, all ages.

Leap Into Leap Day!

2:00 – 4:30 PM

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The Volunteer For Dental program offers dental care and oral health education to low-income, uninsured adults in exchange for volunteer service. This is a pay-it-forward program! Those who qualify complete volunteer work in the community and then a local private dentist volunteers to provide the dental care in their office for free. We also offer a dental information center where all community members can get answers to their dental related questions and referrals to help them find a dental home.

For more information and to find out if you qualify, call our office at 231.773.1360. Also visit us at our website at: www.volunteerdental.org and Like Us on Facebook at Volunteer For Dental.

Remembering and Honoring the Legacy and Work of Martin Luther King, Jr. Join Us!

Sunday, January 19, 2019

Rally, March & Service beginning at Central United Methodist Church (1011 Second St.) and ending at Mt. Zion COGIC (188 W. Muskegon)

4:15 Gather

4:30 Rally (singing & praying)

4:45 March (one block)

5:00 Service (Combined choir, MLK speech, keynote, Drum Major Award)

Please make signs to display during march. All musicians and choir member who would like to participate in the combined choir please call Dr. Beverly Cole-Bennett at 269-317-7207.



LOVE N GRACE
Healing Centers

**Do you struggle with
any of these issues
with no relief?**

**FEAR • LOSS • LONELINESS • DEPRESSION • PTSD • ABUSE
TRAUMA • NIGHTMARES • SRA • GUILT • DID
SUICIDAL THOUGHTS • SHAME • ANXIETY • SHUTDOWN**

Are you unable to stop participating in things
you have been told are not good for you?

Do you have insomnia or been in psychotherapy
with no signs of improvement?

Do you have questions about faith, God, or why?

Love N Grace Healing Centers specialize in caring for the **WHOLE** person. We get to the root issues
deep in the soul where bad memories, trapped emotions, and trauma have been lodged. After your
initial assessment, we offered the process that best meets your needs.

At Love N Grace Healing Centers you'll learn:

1. What forgiveness is and is not.
2. How to give the lies, hurt feelings, and self-harming actions to God
and allow Jesus to take the pain.
3. Who God says you are, to build your healthy identity through truth.
4. How scriptures and prayers can be used as tools to advance your
healing by changing your thinking.

**For an appointment
call 231-767-3403**
Fax Referrals to 231-744-5110



Join us for your opportunity to help
us help them change the world!
Donate today to Love N Grace at
www.KingdomHomestead.org

Kingdom Homestead • Main Office • 2735 E Apple Avenue, Muskegon MI 49442 • 231-767-3403



Attention: Seniors

Can't take it anymore?

Regenerative medicine
can help with neuropathy pain.

If you're one of the 20 million Americans suffering from peripheral neuropathy, you are all too familiar with the burning, stabbing pain, and numbness in your feet and hands. It's the pain that wakes you and keeps you up at night, disrupts your balance, and makes it hard to function during the day.



X-Cell Integrative Health has created a multi-faceted, individualized approach to the treatment of peripheral neuropathy beginning with the evaluation and accurate diagnosis of the underlying cause of neuropathy. A customized treatment plan is designed for each patient with state-of-the-art techniques to reduce neuropathy pain and symptoms, including the FDA-cleared Sanexas Therapy System.

Sanexas is a unique treatment for many patients because it helps the body heal damaged nerve pathways, decreasing inflammation and increasing circulation. By addressing the underlying causes of neuropathy symptoms, and depending on the severity of the nerve damage, long-term relief can be achieved without invasive treatments or addictive medications.

The painless, comfortable Sanexas treatment goes beyond traditional TENS therapy because it uses energy waves produced by an ultra-high digital frequency generator. Sanexas works at the cellular level by delivering energy to affected areas of the body at low and middle frequency wavelengths, as well as continually varying amplitude and frequency modulated signaling. These harmonic frequencies are absorbed by cells, promoting repair and healing by improving nerve health and regeneration, and increasing local blood circulation. Many patients find it easier to move without the debilitating pain, allowing them to once again enjoy their favorite activities.

Call today to learn how Sanexas can help your neuropathy symptoms, and to schedule your new patient consultation.



x-cellregenerate.com

**3427 Farr Road, Suite B
Fruitport, MI 49415**

231.865.7625

CHANGING THE FACE OF HEALTHCARE





Greetings!

I wanted to let you know what our final total is for this past October's Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk. -- we raised \$24,590.52, including \$3,650.00 online.

I haven't heard for sure yet, but I believe we can also add \$750.00 for the 3 youth groups who met the \$250.00 match. That would bring our total amount to \$25,340.52.

Thank you all so very much for all your work in making this possible. There are so many competing needs -- I am very grateful to each of you for your efforts in ensuring that our hungry neighbors here and around the world can be fed.

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

Nancy Waters
Covenant Community
William Boelkins
Church of the Brethren

Patricia Groeneveld
Sacred Heart
Alan Alpert
St. Paul's Episcopal

Mary C. Payne
Christ Temple
Bill Page
First Presbyterian

Calendar

- Jan. 9-2 pm to 3 pm-Recovery Congregations Task Force Meeting
- Jan. 12-12 noon to 1:30 pm-Downtown Clergy Meeting
- Jan. 19-4:15 pm Martin Luther King, Jr. Rally, March & Service
- Jan. 20-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Jan. 23-5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
- Jan. 27-6 pm-MCCC Annual Meeting (Prince of Peace)
- Feb. 13-2pm to 3pm-Recovery Congregations Task Force Meeting
- Feb. 20-Deadline for submissions to the March-April Branches' issue.
- Feb. 27 -5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting