



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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**November-December Issue**

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## What's New at Cooperating Churches?

The initiative called **Recovery Congregations** is in its early stages. Five congregations (with several considering) have jumped on board to participate. They are First Baptist, St. Paul's Episcopal, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist, Mt. Hermon Zion Baptist and Unity of Muskegon. They are in the early stages of developing programming around recovery. Education and developing resources are the goals these congregations will be working on in the near future. Please join us on

November 18 to learn from Dr. Burks about his program in Tennessee.

**SAVE THESE  
FUTURE  
DATES FOR  
FUTURE  
EVENTS**

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr March and Service.

January 27  
MCCC Annual Meeting

More info to come!

**Recovery Congregations**

Monty Burks, CPRS, PhD  
Director of Faith Based Initiatives,  
Tennessee Department of Mental Health  
& Substance Abuse Services

**"Recovery Congregations"**  
Empowering faith-based organizations who wish to serve those struggling with addiction

**Monday, November 18th**  
**5:30pm – 7:30pm**  
At  
St. Paul's Parish Hall  
1006 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Muskegon

Tennessee looked to transform their local communities by galvanizing their faith-based congregations to support people struggling with addiction and those who love people who struggle with addiction. Dr. Monty Burks leads Tennessee's Faith Based Initiatives which includes over 300 Certified Recovery Congregations and the Lifeline Peer Recovery Project aimed at empowering congregations to combat addiction and mental health issues in their own communities.



*Earnings by Tom Wagner*



### November/December 2019 New Arrivals

Our family is anticipating the arrival of a second grandchild. The appearance likely will not come during the celebration of Advent and Christmas. The estimated due date in the middle of January does give the child a chance of sharing a birthday with both Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and my mother. As we prepare for this birth, one of the thoughts that meander through my mind is how our 4 year old grandson will respond to the transition from only child to becoming big brother. As an eldest child myself I know my siblings could tell less than flattering stories about my behavior back in the day. Part of my concern is how he will adjust to sharing the attention of adults in his life as well as simply sharing life with a younger sibling. There is considerable potential for jealousy and a sense of entitlement to cause difficulties. Yet, the longer I ponder the future, the less I focus on a grandchild, and more about how we as an extended family can create an atmosphere in which to nurture changing relationships.

“It takes a village to raise a child” says an African proverb. That bit of folk wisdom helps me expand the scope of the questions I raised in the first paragraph to broader life arenas. The expansion begins with relationships over which we have more choice, like friendship networks, faith communities and to some extent co-workers. However, it also reaches into our connections to the broader civic community. That in turn raises the question—in what kind of community do we want to raise our children and grandchildren. A couple months ago a resolution proclaiming Muskegon County a welcoming community was briefly considered by the County Board of Commissioners. I’m often skeptical about such statements. Frankly that skepticism comes from my own experiences as a newcomer over 30 years ago. This is a hard community in which to build connections from scratch. And it’s a story I’ve heard repeated by numerous clergy over the years. Eventually it was ecumenical and interfaith relationships that opened doors for me. That said declaring the county a welcoming community would be a fitting aspiration. While our faith communities frequently fail to live up to our best values, it remains important to keep those values continually before our eyes. For a civic community to promote hospitality toward newcomers seems like a fairly innocuous quality of life issue that could easily gain wide support from groups as mainstream as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and even the Convention & Visitors Bureau. Many of us learned concepts of basic human decency and common courtesy in Sunday school. Sadly, the proposal was removed from the agenda when a commissioner and a cadre of likeminded citizens loudly suggested the resolution would open the door to undocumented immigration. It hasn’t stopped there. The same official has continued to raise immigration issues in commission business. At one level it appears to be an attempt to inject national wedge issues into local politics. At another level it may simply reflect fears of losing long held privileges and even entitlements to new arrivals who look and perhaps speak differently.

I’ve long been aware of the role played by citizens of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a French Huguenot village, in rescuing Jewish fugitives during World War II. It is estimated that they saved between 2,500 and 5,000 Jews, mostly children, by providing long term shelter for some and serving as a way station for others on the way to Switzerland, all under the noses of Vichy French and later German authorities. I first read about the episode in Philip Hallie’s, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed* (1979). Later Pierre Sauvage, who as an infant benefited from the village’s hospitality, directed a documentary titled “Weapons of the Spirit” (1989) which some critics believe to be more historically accurate than Hallie’s work. Most recently it was anthropologist Maggie Paxson’s *The Plateau* (2019) that has brought the story back into my consciousness. Inspired by Hallie’s book, Paxson set off to Vivarais-Lignon Plateau asking why ordinary people in spite of the dangers risked their lives to rescue strangers. As it turns out the community continues to shelter refugees. Initially she had a difficult time coaxing stories about the 1940s rescues from area residents. Likely working in silence had made this feat of human decency possible. Eventually, as she joined their efforts helping contemporary refugees with her linguistic skills, the villagers began sharing those stories. Perhaps more importantly it was her direct participation in this work that revealed the greatest insights. At the end of what had become more of a spiritual journey than an academic study, Paxson concludes, “Villagers in the Plateau—though they didn’t know who or what lay behind their door at night when they heard banging—loved, when they opened the door.” We must try and fail and experiment with and live love until it becomes a habit.

During the coming weeks we will retell stories of how a new arrival came into the world to incarnate love among us. One of those stories tells of foreign astrologers (magi) who traveled a long way to honor the new born king. Assuming a king would be born in the capital city, they go to Jerusalem asking where to find the child. Their quest especially disturbs a jealous king. Herod had lobbied the Roman Senate long and hard to be granted the title, “king of the Jews”. He wasn’t about to give it up without a fight. The king sends the visitors on to Bethlehem, instructing them to send word when the child is found, so that he too can honor the new arrival. These learned men find the child and honor him with costly gifts. Warned in a dream not to contact Her-



*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](mailto: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 December 20 if it is to be included in the next January-February issue.

MOUNT ZION CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
PRESENTS

## *Shades of Pink*

A BREAST CANCER AWARENESS BRUNCH

NOVEMBER 2, 2019 11AM TO 2PM

Greater Muskegon Woman's Club  
280 W. Webster Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440

Tickets \$25.00

Featuring:

Greenbrook Band, Door Prizes, Survivors' Fashion Show,  
Gift Bags, Vendors & More

Cuisine prepared by Muskegon's own, Chef Jimmy T-Bo Hill

To reserve tickets call  
Mount Zion at (231) 722-6765

SPONSORED BY MOUNT ZION COGIC, 188 WEST MUSKEGON AVE, MUSKEGON MI 49440  
"WE TWELVE" AUXILIARY  
ELDER DUANE E. BENNETT, PASTOR

**susan g. komen**  
MICHIGAN



BIG GAME



BIG POTENTIAL

2019 Annual U of M vs. MSU Tailgate Party



**Hennessy's**  
CLASSY PUB & RESTAURANT

Tailgate Party Saturday, November 16, 2019

Norton Pines Athletic Club  
1350 Judson Rd. Norton Shores

**The Boar's Belly**

**CLICKS for KIDS**  
through my clicks

General Admission Tickets \$35  
includes, food and 2 drink tickets  
purchase at [www.bbbbslakeshore.org/events](http://www.bbbbslakeshore.org/events)  
Age 12 and under FREE

**Hazekamp's**  
FOOD & BEVERAGE

**Office Machines Company, Inc.**

Doors open 1/2 hour before kickoff  
Cash Bar, Silent Auction, 50/50 raffle, food, football and friends.  
Proceeds support local youth mentoring programs at BBBBSL.

**107 MUS**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Jefferson Gardens

For the past two years 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational has allowed Love INC of Muskegon to partner with them in their garden. This has been such a blessing for all the Neighbors in Need that we serve. With the expert assistance of Lora and our Gardening Class leaders the neighbors have been able to reap the rewards with fresh produce to supplement their healthy eating habits. This year we were able to enjoy even more fresh fruits, veggies and herbs because of the addition of two raised beds and expanded row space in the garden. The raised beds allowed us to have participants who are not able to get down on the ground and provided the added space for more herbs and even some flowers this year. To celebrate the successful harvest the class held a pot luck and participants brought dishes they had prepared using the produce and herbs. Some ingredients needed to be added, and a few things no longer in season has to be purchased, but the result was still pretty amazing! Love INC of Muskegon is looking forward to the continued partnership and growth of the garden. What a great teaching tool and fabulous way for us to help our Neighbors help themselves be more healthy. See the next page for pictures of the garden.



## 40<sup>th</sup> Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk Raises \$\$ to Feed Hungry Neighbors!

A great big thank you to everyone who came out to Walk, who supported the Walkers, and who donated to make lives better for people here in Muskegon and around the world by being part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk. This was also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CROP Walks around the country.

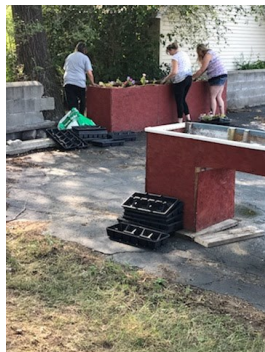
More than 110 Walkers and volunteers came together to help our hungry neighbors here in Muskegon and to respond to disasters around the world.

Three youth groups and their leaders participated in our first ever CROP Hunger Night event at the Lakeshore Fitness Center. The young people walked the track, took part in hunger-awareness activities, and enjoyed the pool with a great deal of enthusiasm! Thanks to Carol Higginson and Kay Fairfield for making this event possible. The kids are looking forward to next year.

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

Want to be part of this great program?? The Muskegon CROP Hunger Walk Steering Committee is looking for enthusiastic folks to get involved. Contact Delphine Hogston at 231-215-9110 or email [delphine.hogston@gmail.com](mailto:delphine.hogston@gmail.com). Thanks again to everyone on the Walk!

### JEFFERSON



### GARDENS







### Annual Bazaar, Rummage & Bake Sale

**NOVEMBER 8 & 9**

Friday: 9 - 5 • Saturday: 9 - 1

Many, many handmade items: blankets, mittens, quilts, baked goods, and so much more!

Lunch (*eat in or take-out*) will also be available beginning at noon on Friday.

**BBQ, Soup, Drink & Dessert for \$6.00. Items also available a la carte.**



Raffle tickets for  
sale: \$1 each or  
6 for \$5

**First Congregational Church**  
3212 Pontaluna Road in Fruitport  
(across from Edgewood Elementary School)

### 4 TOWN HALLS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR OUR COMMUNITY VOTERS:

Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment in 2018 that created a fair, impartial, and transparent redistricting process to draw our next election district maps. To learn more and how you can participate by applying to serve on Michigan's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Town Halls are:

Monday, October 28 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Norton Shores Branch Library, 705 Seminole Rd.

Wednesday, November 13 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Whitehall Public Library, 36351 Main St.

Monday, December 3 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster Ave.

*A great way to start Christmas Season festivities!*

### *Child Evangelism Fellowship's Annual Ladies' Christmas Tea*

December 7, 2019 - 2:00 PM



- Delicious homemade pastries and cookies
- Enjoy a theatrical presentation of the Book of Ruth by Biblical Storytellers, Phil and Sonnet Quinn
- A raffle of exquisite handiwork and other items of excellent value for purchase
- Opportunity to participate in a free-will offering to support this wonderful ministry of sharing the Good News of Christ, with Muskegon County elementary school children.

#### **Where:**

Sheridan Baptist Church  
84 S Sheridan Dr., Muskegon, MI 49442

*For more details or other questions,  
contact (231) 733-2200*

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches has been asked to share this information to any who might be interested.

If so, contact Joel Darling,

GenesisTwo24@hotmail.com

**GenesisTwo24** is a ministry serving Christian couples in Muskegon & surrounding counties. They share resources and opportunities for supporting, nurturing and strengthening the vows committed at the altar. This includes any classes or groups available within area churches.

If your church offers a class or study, has a Sunday school class or ministry for married couples, or provides some other marriage ministry; they would like to know. They would like you to share what you are doing in the community. Please provide them with links to where people may find more information.

If interested, they also invite you to see more at their Facebook page, @GenesisTwo24, and ask you to share this ministry with your members.

## Hackley Public Library

### November:

**Latin Dance Class – Salsa**

**1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Saturday, November 2 (Free to the public, all ages)**

**Once Upon a Princess**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Saturday, November 9 (Party dress recommended, 0-14)**

**Free-Tickets available at Hackley Youth Services Dept.**

**Stories, Songs, and Dances of the Voyageur with Ginot Picor**

**1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Saturday, November 16 (Free to the public, all ages)**

**Hackley Park Christmas Tree Lighting and Reindeer**

**Late Afternoon/Evening**

**Saturday, November 30**

### December:

**Soldering!**

**All Day**

**Saturday, December 7 (Call 722-8014 to register, free)**

**BINGO!**

**6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**Tuesday, December 10 (Free to the public)**

**Yule Book Event**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Saturday, December 14 (Free to the public, all ages)**

**Holiday Crafts**

**2:00 – 4:45 PM**

**Saturday, December 21 (Free to the public, all ages)**

For more information, more events,  
visit: [hackleylibrary.org](http://hackleylibrary.org)

## Calendar

- Nov. 2–Shades of Pink, Pg. 3
- Nov. 8&9-Annual Bazaar, Rummage And Bake Sale, 1st Cong. Pg. 5
- Nov. 16-Big Brothers, Big Sisters Tailgate Party, Pg. 3
- Nov. 18-Dr. Monty Burks, pg. 1
- Nov. 21-5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
- Dec. 7-Christmas Tea, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Pg 5
- Dec. 19-5 pm MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
- Dec 20-Deadline for submissions to the January/February

**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

Sacred Heart

1st Presbyterian

John and Phyllis Wahlberg

Muskegon Church of the Brethern

Thomas Tuori

Bill Page

1st Congregational, UCC

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUPS

(FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS)

**WHEN**

**Every Wednesday**

- Adult Group @ 12p – 1p
- Teen Group @ 6:30p – 7:30p
- Lunch and evening snack served

**WHERE**

**COGIC COMMUNITY  
CENTER**

2140 Valley St.  
Muskegon, MI 49444

**FREE**

**FACILITATED**

By a Licensed Master  
Social Worker

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Weekly attendance  
not required

Welcome to share or  
just listen

**VARIOUS  
TOPICS TO  
INCLUDE**

- Living w/a diagnosis
- Maintaining  
Relationships
- Handling Stress
- Trauma
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Support Services

**BENEFITS**

- Increased Support
- Decreased Loneliness
- Reduced Stress
- Increased Self-  
Understanding
- Helping Others
- Gaining Hope