

Crystal Congregational Church

April 2019 Newsletter

PASTOR'S DESK

In Mark 10:45 we read, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." As we look at the Easter Season I hope we look at Christ as the Servant and how we can be servants of Christ. In order to do that, we have to understand that we are truly God's Children. It reminds me of a story about a little boy who loved boats. He was very handy with his hands and so he built a boat. He spent a lot of time on his little boat, and when he was finished, it was perfect in every way. This little boy would spend hours sailing his little boat in the large lake near his home. It soon became his favorite pastime to sail his boat along the shoreline. One day as he was sailing his boat the wind came up. He ran to get the boat before the wind pushed it too far out, but he was too late. He took off his shoes and waded into the water, but the wind got stronger and pushed the boat out even farther until at last it was gone from sight. The boy was heartbroken and moped around for weeks. One day, on his way home from school, he looked up as he passed the local pawn shop and he spotted his boat in the window. He ran into the pawn shop shouting, "That's my boat, that's my boat!" The owner of the pawn shop said, "No, that's my boat, and if you want it you will have to buy it." Because there was so much detail on the little boat, the price was marked quite high. Much more than the boy could afford. The boy started immediately working odd jobs and anything else he could do to raise

money. Finally after several weeks he had earned enough money to buy the little boat. He ran into the pawn shop and put his money on the counter and told the owner he was there to buy the boat. After the transaction was complete, the boy left the store. The store owner said that as the boy was leaving, he overheard the boy say to his boat, "Little boat, you're twice mine. First I made you and now I bought you." I think God could say the same thing about us. We are twice his. First he made us, and then he bought us through the death of his Son. Jesus came as our servant, but he also asks us to serve him as Disciples of Christ. To share the Gospel with everyone we know, friends, family, and yes, even strangers.

Live for him out of gratitude, I pray.
After all, you are twice His.

Peace in Christ

Pastor Ried

CRYSTAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Prudential Board Meeting March 12, 2019

Present: Pastor Ried, Gail Byers, Libbie Matteson, Scott Matteson, Jeanne McNutt and Dave Steere.

Dave called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. An opening prayer was offered by Pastor Ried.

Correspondence

Thank you notes, for our continued support, were received from IM Kids 3rd Meal as well as Operation Christmas Box. IM Kids feeds over 600 students five days a week throughout the school year.

10,623,776 shoebox gifts were distributed all around the world in 2018.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Diaconate Report

1. If enough volunteers are found, Vacation Bible School is tentatively scheduled for either July 13 or 20.
2. Urgently seeking lay assistance during Sunday service, i.e. prayer, children's stories, etc.
3. Scott and Libbie have volunteered to host the Jews for Jesus speaker.
4. The Easter Service will include Communion and the induction of new church members.

Trustees Report

1. An estimate from G & D Electric for installing lights in the parking was very expensive. Consideration is being given to having church members do the installation.
2. A Certificate of Deposit that is currently held in a bank in California will come due in March, a motion was made to cash it in and deposit it locally to secure a higher interest rate. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.
3. It was recommended that we open a Pastor's Savings account in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for pastoral search expenses. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.
4. On behalf of the Diaconate, a recommendation was made to allocate \$100 to cover travel expenses for the Jews for Jesus speaker. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Women's Fellowship

1. The fellowship is donating \$50 to Meals-on-wheels in memory of Dwight Shaver.

2. Rex Wheeler did a great job of painting in the fellowship hall.

Capitol Campaign

There was no business to report.

Staff/Parish Relations

There was no business to report.

Pastor's Report

1. Rex is also painting the church office. His help is profoundly appreciated.
2. As part of joining the NACCC we need to appoint a permanent representative from our church. This individual could attend the national meeting, vote on various issues, and learn what is happening in other churches that we may want to incorporate.
3. The membership class scheduled for March 16 will include information about the NACCC as well as clarification as to what constitutes the Congregational way.

Old Business

Dave has been unsuccessful in his attempts to contact Steve Worth regarding his architectural design for the handicap ramp,

New Business

Because Chemical Bank is charging various and frivolous charges, Scott is recommending that we close that account and move to another bank or credit union that does not charge such fees.

Beacons of Light were shared followed by a closing prayer by Ried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Libbie Matteson
Clerk

Crystal Congregational Church

Month of February

Following is a look at the church's financial
Health for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2019

February Collections	\$5,966.32
February Budgeted	<u>\$6,916.00</u>
Income Over(Under) Budget	\$(949.68)

February Expenses	\$7,763.54
February Budgeted	<u>\$7,348.00</u>
Expenses Over(Under) Budget	\$415.54

YTD Collections	\$67,392.19
YTD Budgeted	<u>\$67,431.00</u>
Income Over(Under) Budget	\$(38.81)

YTD Expenses	\$66,634.59
YTD Budgeted	<u>\$71,643.00</u>
Expenses Over(Under) Budget	\$(5,008.41)

YTD Collections	\$67,392.19
YTD Expenses	<u>\$66,634.59</u>
Income Over(Under) Expenses	\$757.60



THINKING OF YOU

"Thinking of You" cards are in the pews and we encourage you to use these cards to send someone an uplifting note. If you don't know the person's address, just put their name on it and the secretary will try to complete the address and make sure that person receives your note. You may place the card in the offering plate and postage will be paid by the church. This is a great way to share God's love and to let others know they are being prayed for and thought of.

PRAYER NEEDS

Mary Jane Bills
Sylvia Bogart
Ellie Cecil and her Honduras Mission
Food Bank
IM Kids
Dan Janzen Family and Mission
Gayle Jensen
Ben Merchant
Maria Schnepf
Hank Vondett's Family
Many unspoken prayers



Inviting
All
Women

The next Women's fellowship meeting will be held at Sandy Warmouth's home at 7:00 p.m. There will be a carpool from the church leaving at 6:15.



Birthdays

Following is a list of Birthdays and Anniversaries for the **Month of April** for people of our church.

If yours is missing or wrong, please let the church office know so that our files can be changed.

- 1 Michael Beno
- 5 Landon Duflo
- 7 Kaylie McCracken
- 8 Liisa Watt
- 10 Amy Evans
- 15 Allen Seiter
- 15 Mary Cook
- 18 Fran Snyder
- 19 Laila Dempsey
- 19 Sharon Woodman
- 21 Gail Byers
- 22 Mary Ann Shaver
- 27 Dolores Corbin
- 28 Mark Jolls
- 28 Aiden Weber

READERS

- 7 Brenda Jolls
- 14 Carol Lau
- 21 Anne Steere
- 28 Dave Richards

USHERS & GREETERS

- 7 Mark & Brenda Jolls, Betty Steere
- 14 Eric & Carol Lau, Ben & Cathie Merchant
- 21 Dave, Kristie, & Shannon Steere, Anne Steere
- 28 Becky Flowers, Jeanne McNutt, Dave Richards

COMMUNION

- 21 Kristie Steere, Jeanne McNutt, Becky Flowers, Jan Weber (prepares)

MAIL BOXES

Please be sure to check your mail box every time you visit the church. If you do not have a mail box, please be sure to let Barb know.



FAMILY FUN-N-FOOD
Family Fun-N-Food is April 3rd
at 6:00 p.m. followed by a
Lenten Devotion. Swiss Turkey
and Rolls will be provided.
Bring a dish to pass and your
table service and join us for a
delicious meal.

Funeral Notice

It is with great sorrow that we
announce the passing of Henry
"Hank" Vondett. His service
will be at the church on March
30th at noon followed by a
luncheon.

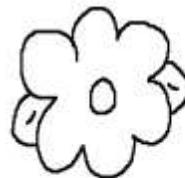


There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to help with the children's story, announcements, joy's/concern's and prayer during our Sunday services.

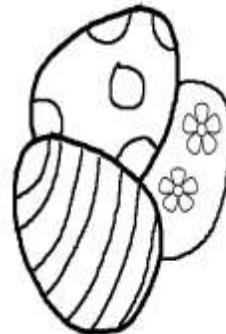


In the fellowship hall, there is a sign-up sheet for anyone wanting to provide treats for coffee hour from May through September.

- Wed. Mar. 27** Lenten Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Choir 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. Apr. 3** Family Fun-N-Food/Lenten Devotions 6:00 p.m.
- Wed. Apr. 10** Lenten Dinner/Devotions 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.
- Fri. Apr. 12** "Christ in the Passover" 6:00 p.m. at our church. Please come!
- Sat. Apr. 13** Clothing Closet 9:00 a.m.-12
- Wed. Apr. 17** Lenten Dinner/Devotions 6:00 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Apr. 18** Maundy Thursday/Seder Service 6:00 p.m. Seder meal recipes on the table in the Narthex.
- Fri. Apr. 19** Good Friday Services 1:00
- Sun. Apr. 21** SONrise Service & Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
Easter Service 11:00 p.m.



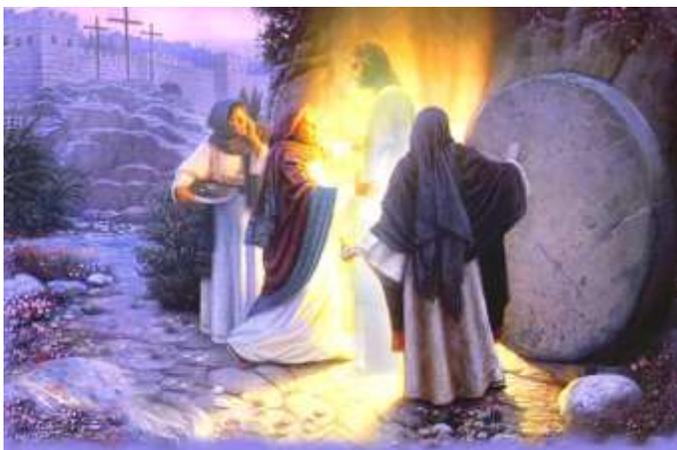
HIP HOP HOORAY FOR EASTER!



SPRING

R C S E E R E P I Q S R D Y B C
 E U I L U S R O B A N L L A D
 T G O L D E N E B S D U L B G
 S E Y L R P G B W Y E B E Y T
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 R W I Y D N A C R B A J K U

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|---------|-----------|--------|
| BASKETS | BABY | BEANS |
| CANDY | BUNNY | CHICKS |
| EASTER | CHOCOLATE | EGG |
| FLOWERS | EGGS | GAMES |
| HUNT | GOLDEN | JELLY |
| SPRING | RABBITS | SUNDAY |





Crystal Congregational Church

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crystalcongregationalchurch.com

Pastor Ried Martin

Church – (989) 235-4208 Cell – (989) 763-2180

rmartin@nomadinter.net



CRYSTAL CLOTHING CLOSET

Distributions for March will be held on

the 9th & 23rd at the

Crystal Community Center

9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Donations are welcome. – HELP needed

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300 S. Main Street
Crystal, MI 48818

