

## **Atlanta Congregational United Church of Christ**

### **April 2022 Newsletter**

*Schedule of Services through Easter:*

*April 10th, Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 am*

*April 14th, Maundy Thursday 6 pm*

*zoom and in person followed by a simple meal with finger foods*

*April 15th, Good Friday Service 12 noon*

*April 16th, Easter Sunrise Service at 8:30 am*

*followed by a breakfast served by the men of the church*

*Easter Service at 10:30 am*

### **The Pastor's Page**

Time has moved so quickly since I first walked into the Atlanta, United Congregational Church of Christ on a warm August afternoon. The church was going through another major loss and transition; the pandemic was beginning to crank up again and cold weather with no sense of normalcy was just in sight. Not only that- but you were also considering hiring an inexperienced pastor.

It must have seemed like an early beginning of Lent. But turn around and here we are. We started a memorial Garden; went back to worship in the church; made it through a beautiful Christmas; a deadly covid surge; found the keys to the middle door of the church; are back to having coffee hour; won a 2000-dollar grant from the UNA; and now we are focusing on preparing for Holy week as we come out of our intentional Lenten season of reflection.

I was meditating this morning on one of the Old Testament verses used in lent. It's from Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Read these words from one of my favorite writers, Chris Tiegreen. (*italics...my words*) "The rough places and curves of life serve a purpose. They set the stage for God *to be revealed to us...* But those valleys and hills do not need to continue forever. God's works in the context of our trials will become an

everlasting testimony of God's true nature...But once God is done revealing that nature on the stage of our trials-once the story is told and the trials resolved.

The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. The valleys and mountains of life will be leveled...We forget that the purpose of our mountains and hills even those of our own making, is to set the stage for a revelation of God...Instead of 'Why me God?' we learn to ask, "God, how do you want to reveal yourself in this situation?"

Remember we are all in this together. All of God's blessings and Christ's Peace

Pastor,

### **Just Information**

Bible Study: Monday Morning, in person and on zoom. Also Monday evening from 7-8 on zoom only. If you need the zoom numbers, contact pastor, or Marsha Coon.

We will be having a Soup and Bread lunch during Lent, following worship: please plan on staying.

### **Baby Basket News**

We would like some suggestions about what food to purchase, or if we should purchase food. We are giving people the \$20.00 gift certificates from Freddie's. This seems to be doing a great job. People have expressed to me that this way, they can get milk, bread, sometimes meat, as well as the necessities, like toilet paper, sanitary pads, laundry detergent and so forth. I have been watching the sales and several of us are purchasing toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish detergent. Thank you for all you do for the people in this community.

Donna, Acting Director

### **Deacons**

The Diaconate are pleased to tell you that they received a grant from The Michigan Conference, which will enable us to complete our Memory Garden. Once again this year, Ruth Jackson has agreed to get the Easter flowers for us. We would ask you to help by making a donation to help cover the cost.

Jan Davis; Diaconate Secretary

**Women's Fellowship**

We are planning on our next meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Social Hour at 10, meeting at 11, and bring a lunch for noon.

Barb Esper, President ♀□

**Prayer Needs**

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People need us to keep them in our prayers, because of having varying problems, and we all know what a difference prayers make. There are many prayer needs that we don't even know about, so as we pray, may we ask God to help all those that only He is aware of. Thank You

Dave Anderson was unable to have the three things done, he was only able to get one, and his wife Judy, fell and broke her hip. They are downstate with family. Maybe a card would be a welcomed sight. Their address is 10580 River Rd. Atlanta, Mi. 49709

Joan Beauregard-----Rev. Keith Titus-----Bud Plane

Barb Pyle-----Warren Keith-----Dave & Judy Anderson

We are also asked to keep a different United Northern Association Church in our prayers each month. For the month of April we are asked to keep; *Alpena First Congregational United Church of Christ; 201 Second Avenue, Alpena, Mi. 49707* in our prayers.

**Deacon's Meeting:** Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>, following Morning Service

**Trustee's Meeting:** To Be Announced

**Ushers for March:**

Paul & Louise Godi

**Communion:**

April 3 Served by Hazel & Marsha

**March Birthdays**

06 Hazel Roberts  
18 Bev Edwards  
22 Bob Skaggs  
22 Diane Moll

**Anniversaries**

04 Cary & Ruth Jackson  
23 Warren & Marge Keith

**Liturgists**

03 Marsha Coon  
10 Ruth Jackson  
17 Bob Skaggs  
24 Hazel Roberts

**Greeters**

03 Hal & Judy Jonas  
10 Cary & Ruth Jackson  
17 Lynda Utt ***Breakfast***  
24 John Coon