

Looking for a special Christmas Gift?

Four Memorial Garden crosses are available if you are interested. Please contact Georgia Paxton



Help Wanted:

The trustees are looking for an able and responsible person to keep the church's walk free of snow and ice during the winter months. If you or someone you know might be interested in doing this, please contact Roger Tuuk or Al Smalligan.



Audio Bible Available:

We have just received from one of our members an audio Bible recorded on CD's. For a loved one who has difficulty seeing to read this is a great way for them to still be blessed by scripture. If you commute and would like to hear the word as you drive, etc.



SCRIP:

Christmas is getting close, and we hope you are planning to give SCRIP cards to friends and family. December 17 is the last day you can order from us to ensure receiving your SCRIP cards by Christmas. We would be happy to give you some gift ideas, if you need help. For example, Amazon cards are a popular gift choice for many ages. Also, did you know that you can purchase Discover, Visa and American Express cards from SCRIP? This is the season of the year when we count on your SCRIP orders in order to pay our pledge to the church. Everything you buy helps meet the church's budget. Come see us, or call Becky 924-6069!. You can also find gift card holders at the SCRIP table. Some are 25 cents, some 35 cents.



Christmas Giving:

This year we are embracing the Empowerment Network of Fremont. On Sunday, November 19 Gabrielle Blackwell, Director spoke to us about the center and some of their needs. We will be accepting donations of the following items until December 12 as their Christmas Party is on December 13.



Empowerment Network is a drop-in center for the mentally ill and/or developmentally disabled in Newaygo County. We consider ourselves a resource center for individuals living independently. We have a yearly Christmas party that approximately 100 of our members attend. We try to make sure that members attending this gathering receive some type of gift to assist them in their road to independence.

The following items of new or unused would be helpful to our members:

- Frying pans
 - Bedside tables & lamps
 - Blankets, mattress pads or comforters for a twin or full size bed
 - Shower curtains
 - Walmart gift cards or Shop & Save gift cards
 - Personal hygiene items (especially deodorant & toothpaste)
 - Undergarments & Socks
 - Movie passes
 - Dish towels & washcloths
 - Local restaurant gift cards
 - Nice fleece, flannel or pull overs (Sizes Large, XL, and XXL)
 - Cash or Checks made out to Feeding America or Empowerment Newaygo
- We are very thankful for your support to our organization. Please stop by anytime for a cup of coffee and a visit.

Pastor Ray's Ramblings:

Is there anything that you know gets better or improves if left entirely alone? I tried for a while to think if I knew of a single personal characteristic or physical entity that gets better instead of worse by just leaving it alone. We all know that anything made of metal will eventually corrode. We know that food will spoil. Even a great vintage wine will eventually become undrinkable if left alone long enough. I thought about gold and gemstones. They may not degrade over time left neglected, but will they get better? I leave you with a mental test. If you can think of a single thing that does not decline in usefulness, reliability, etc. if left completely to itself, I would love to hear your ideas. Some people say love improves over time, but would it if left alone? Some might say trust can improve over time, but can it if it is not maintained properly and cultivated? Again, anything left alone, not given attention to, not regularly maintained etc., may keep its qualities but is there anything that improves? If my thesis is correct, then it seems to make sense that not giving attention and care to the most important things in life is predictable in the consequences thereof. The Bible narrows down all things that matter most down to three: faith, hope, and love. Are there ways to properly maintain and take care of these qualities that will actually help improve them? This Christmas we celebrate that God knew that the world and humanity left alone as it was would be catastrophic and that He did the one thing necessary to make sure that at least for some, things could improve greatly. Have a wonder celebration of that great life improvement gift with family and friends this month!



December Birthdays

- 2 Robin DeKleva
Bonnie Erber
- 3 Judy Clapp
- 5 Dick Ramm
- 7 Jerry Miller
Justin Zeerip
- 11 Jon Clapp
Marian Schulte
- 14 Wendy St. Peter
Rebecca Tuuk
- 18 Kelly Parks
- 22 Don McKivitz
Suzanne Vandebelt
- 29 Briann Redinger
- 30 Deb Emerick



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY
& ANNIVERSARY**

December Anniversaries

- 15 Harlow & Heidi Redding
- 20 Rev. Ray & Sandy Dekker
- 27 Jim & Jean Morse