

Thanksgiving Sunday: November 19, 2017

Ecumenical Dialogue: Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg & Reverend John Doud



Our worship service on Sunday, November 19th (10:30 am), will truly be one of Thanksgiving. We will be welcoming the congregation of Temple Beth Shalom, who meet in the oldest synagogue in the state of Michigan: Temple Beth El of Traverse City. Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg will be joining with John Doud in a dynamic, exciting, captivating interfaith dialogue focusing on “Bounty and Fragility.”



Rabbi Arnie was born and raised in Hudson, Michigan. Arnie, his sister Ester, and his parents, Simon and Edith – who were holocaust survivors – were active members of Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, Michigan. This is where Arnie and John first became acquainted with each other in 1981 (the church John served in Jackson, Arbor Grove Congregational Church, and Temple Beth Israel, celebrated an annual pulpit exchange and dialogue). Arnie and John have something else in common: they are both graduates of Albion College (Arnie was graduated in 1980 and John was graduated in 1975). After Albion, Arnie received his Master’s degree and rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College in New York. He sought a position that would combine a love for Judaism with teaching, counseling and community development. Along came an offer as senior rabbi and spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy, Michigan, and, after 28 years of service, he retired from his position and was named as their Rabbi Emeritus.

Rabbi Paul Yedwab of Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, has this to say about Arnie: “It is rare to find such a seamless combination of both courage and compassion. People who are courageous, take strong positions, seek to change the world, to live their lives by their ideals no matter what, are often ‘hard’; they have to be. People who are empathic, by virtue of their compassion, are often seen to be ‘soft.’ But Rabbi Arnie somehow, magically, mystically, amazingly, is courageous and compassionate, soft and hard at the same time. He gives the best hugs, sings from his very kishkas, preaches from his conscience, and teaches by his example.”

As the former spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Tikvah, Rabbi Arnie led the synagogue to affiliate with both the Reform and Renewal movements in Judaism. The foundation of the Renewal movement is that it takes a look at Jewish traditional practices and renews them in a way to make them relevant and meaningful for the modern-day Jew. Speaking about his former congregation, as well as his present congregation in Traverse City, Rabbi Arnie talks about how they welcome all who seek to find a spiritual place to call home, including intermarried couples, gays and lesbians, Jews-by-choice, Jews-by-birth, families, and singles. As Arnie expresses it, “New people who come in to worship with us will feel immediately embraced, without any judgment, with no expectation that they need to be anybody other than who they are....valuing diversity is what makes for a rich life. Having exposure to a wide variety of thoughts, people, traditions, and views is part of what makes life worth living. A world that really treasures diversity would very likely not have the plagues we face today.”

One of his passions has been connecting with lost Jewish tribes around the world as well as sharing spiritual traditions with indigenous tribes. He has traveled throughout Africa and Asia, teaching and gleaning. He brought suitcases of ritual items for the Jewish Lemba tribe in South Africa and created a Shabbaton for them. He has taught in New Zealand, Costa Rica, Nepal, Thailand, India and Senegal as well. Bridge-building

between the Jewish community and other religions, ethnicities and races also has been among his passions. Helping foster understanding with Muslims, African Americans and Christians is a focus of his rabbinate.

In 2012, Rabbi Sleutelberg wed his partner, Robert Crowe, in Windsor. After a ceremony in Robert's native England with family and friends, they had a ceremony at their home in Lake Orion, where nearly 400 congregants joined them in celebrating their union.

Finally, since this is an Ecumenical Weekend, our congregation has been invited to worship with Rabbi Arnie and his congregation on Friday, November 17th at 6:30 pm. Arnie and John will share in worship together, and talk about Thanksgiving from a Jewish perspective. Plans are to carpool from our church to Temple Beth El in Traverse City (311 Park Street, Traverse City 49684.....Phone: 231-946-1913). There will be more information sent to you by e-mail. Call our church office (231-775-7632) with any questions. We encourage you to attend one or both of the worship services over the weekend of November 17th and 19th – this will be a highlight for us as we continue our bridge-building through hospitality, inclusion, and interfaith education.

–John Doud

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Transgender Day of Remembrance

Monday, November 20, 2017

Today we remember and honor transgender people around the world whose lives have been lost to anti-transgender violence.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 which began in 1999. This is the day that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Additionally, during the week of November 14-20, individuals and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people and address the issues these communities face.

TDOR was started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed on November 28, 1998. The vigil often involves reading a list of the names of those who died that year.

Even now, the deaths of those based on anti-transgender hatred or prejudice are largely ignored.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Celebration of World Communion Sunday brings the world of Christians together. It was a beautiful service. It was also New Member Sunday.



Tim Florinki and Ed Goldman



George and Amy (not pictured) Fry



Tim is a sales rep and loves food, cooking, family. His interests are painting and cooking. His special talent is in cooking and entertaining.

Ed is retired and was involved in property investment. His interests include biking, health, friendships. His special talent is financial analysis.

George is a retired educator and minister. He completed his PhD at Ohio State in History, Philosophy, Doctor of Ministry (United, Winebrenner, Theology and Literature). He has taught in a number of public and private universities and was last a member of Arbor Grove Congregational Church in Jackson. His hobbies include painting, travel, and reading.

Amy is a native of Singapore and has a Methodist background and was a secretary to the Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore. She enjoys travel, reading and cross-stitch. They have three sons, six grandchildren in Singapore.

EMERGENCY HELP

A portable Automated External Defibrillator machine (AED) is being purchased by the Board for the church. This machine will be easy to use in the event of an emergency and until the ambulance can arrive. More information will be coming regarding training and any questions members may have about using this machine.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Retreat was held October 18, 2017

Board members reviewed year-to-date donation totals for various programs and projects in our church. We have a very giving congregation: Hurricane Fund \$665; Missions to date \$6100; \$340 collected from the Gary Knapp Travelogue series (this money goes into the General Fund).

Ideas for future fundraisers were discussed. More research will be done before presenting the ideas to the congregation.

Dates of upcoming events were shared (see upcoming events in this newsletter). Maintenance needs and costs for the church building were discussed. Plans for activities and celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of our church coming in 2020 will be discussed with the congregation. All ideas are welcome, so please share.

Goals and accomplishments for the year were shared and discussed.

Thank you for Angie Brugger to hosting the Board of Trustees event at her home.

UPCOMING EVENTS



HARVEST FEAST - NOVEMBER 12, after church (11:30). Donations for Ham and Turkey are being accepted; side dishes of potatoes through desserts will be potluck style. Please indicate on the sheet at the back of the church what side dish you are bringing.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES



We have been invited to attend the Jewish service at Temple Beth El in Traverse City on Friday, November 17, 6:30 p.m. Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg and Rev. John Doud will share an interfaith dialogue on Sunday, November 19 during our 10:30 a.m. worship service. This will be a wonderful chance to participate and learn about the Jewish faith. Hope to see you at one or both of these services. Contact John Doud for details about possibly carpooling to Traverse City (311 Park St.) on November 17.



SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 12, 2017
2:00 pm**

*Marie Therese Cadillac
Chapter, NSDAR*

**First Congregational Church
200 Harris St.**

VETERANS CELEBRATION "Freedom Has a Price"

Special recognition of
100th Anniversary of WWI , 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War
Korean and Gulf Wars

Family and friends of all veterans are invited.

TO START THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year. In addition to the morning service, there will be the traditional Christmas Eve service of music, carols and candles at 7:00 p.m. If you'd like to provide refreshments after the evening service, please let the office know.

CHRISTMAS DONATION BOX

Each year our congregation helps others in the community by donating toys and food. There will be boxes available in the sanctuary on either side of the back table to place donated items starting **November 6 – December 3**.



> Donate

CHRISTMAS BOX FOR VETERANS

The DAR is also collecting items for the local Veterans who are homebound. These items will be packaged as Christmas gifts by the DAR members and distributed. A box will be available on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Items to consider donating are:

Men's Tube Socks Aftershave Deodorant Men's handkerchiefs
Large Print Puzzle Books Playing Cards Blank Note Cards Lap robes



Collection for the Vets will **go through November 16.**

CRAFT FAIR at the church is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 10:30-3:30 this year. There will be many Crafters and a soup lunch (by donation) will be available.. Watch for details in the church bulletin and announcements during church.



HANGING OF THE ORNAMENTS

Mark your calendars – Hanging of the Ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary will be held during the 10:30 morning service on December 10. This is a fun family event during the service.

POINSETTIAS

There will be order forms to purchase Christmas Poinsettias in the church bulletin from Nov. 19 – deadline for ordering is December 10. Cost \$8 per plant.



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Nov 5	Charlotte Barfield & Sue W.	Robin Corbin	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Linda Baynes	John Doud
12	Sperry & Gert Claypool	Karen Smeltzer	HARVEST FEAST	Sperry Claypool	John Doud
19	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Joyce Oatley	<i>Bob LeVand and team</i>	Patrick Delaney	John Doud/ Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg
26	Tom & Diane Jobson	Karen Anderson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Richard Harvey	Pat McCurdy

NOVEMBER 2017 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>1</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> 10am -1pm CHURCH FALL CLEAN UP DAY
<u>5</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion (circle)	<u>6</u> Office 12-2:30pm	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am 11:30 HARVEST FEAST -Fellowship Hall 2pm DAR Veterans' Service - Sanctuary	<u>13</u> Office 12-2:30pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> 6:30 pm Ecumenical Event in Traverse City at Temple Beth El	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am - Ecumenical Weekend	<u>20</u> Office 12-2:30pm Board of Trustees 6:30pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>23</u> THANKS-GIVING	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>27</u> Office 12-2:30pm	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>30</u>	Mission – Salvation Army	

Non-church activities that take place in the church building:

FOOTLITERS REHEARSALS: Tues & Thurs 7-9pm, Sat & Sun 3-5pm - through November 18th.

Jazzercise: 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:45pm: Mon, Wed, Thu; 4:30: Wed. Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month

2017 Missions - Jan.: Our Church's Wider Mission, Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing, April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church, June: New Hope Shelter, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund