



Conant Avenue UMC
 18600 Conant
 Detroit MI 48234
 (313) 891 – 7237
 www.conantumc.org

Volume 6, Issue 11

JANUARY



**Reverend Dr. Willie. F. Smith
 Pastor**

Conant Avenue United Methodist Church Newsletter



The Pastor's Pen

Greeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I pray all is well with you and your loved ones as you read this edition of Conant's Newsletter by hard copy or on the web site conantumc.org. We made it into the new year of 2020. At the stroke of midnight December 31, 2019, we traditionally sing Auld Lang Syne. We instinctively sing this tune yet most of us don't know what it means. The original title of the song is Old Long Since. The word auld in the Scottish language translates to old. The song is telling a tale of old friends reminiscing about fun times they had in years past. Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? As Christians this song has some truth to it. There are some things we need to put in our rear mirror and began to focus on the possibilities, the opportunities that this New Year can bring. The failures of the past year should be forgotten, yet the circumstance that brought about the failures should be remembered so they won't occur again. In Isaiah 43 verses 18 and 19, God tells the people of Israel to "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! God can and will do new things in our lives. What we have to do is stay focused on His will and His way. Stay prayed up, develop a prayer ritual similar to how Jesus did as He prayed daily to His father in heaven. Ask the Lord for what you need, ask him for what you want for remember you receive not because you ask not. Always remember God's words to the prophet Jeremiah in the 29th chapter as He said He want to prosper, not hurt or harm us. New and greater things in 2020 can happen here at Conant Avenue. Let us pray for the ministry and mission here at Conant. Let us pray for each other, for the health and welfare of all our brothers and sisters in Christ. For God hears our prayers and answers them in his own way and in his own time. As your pastor, I am looking forward to the New Year, and all the great thing God will do through each and every one of you, right here at Conant Avenue. Let us start the year off with a grateful and positive attitude knowing that God can and God will provide all we need. Blessing to you in the magnificent name of our savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Smith




**The 26th Annual Celebration of
 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

The celebration will be held on
 Sunday, January 12, 2020
 3:00 p.m. at
 Beverly Hills
 United Methodist Church
 20000 W. 13 Mile Rd. Beverly Hills, MI.
David McDuffie and Ciere Turner,
 two of Conant's youth, will receive
 College Scholarships at this year's
 celebration.



**INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT
BIBLE STUDY**

**Continues on Wednesday January 15th
 At 5:00 p.m.**

With the study of Simon Peter

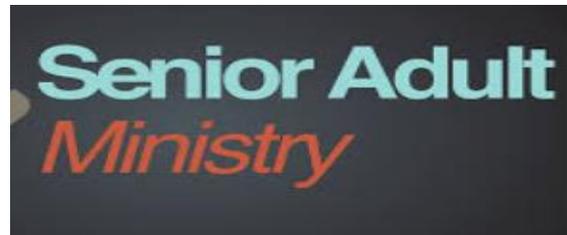
The man who figures generally as the leader of the twelve disciples in the New Testament of the Bible.

UPDATE
 YOUR CONTACT INFO



**PLEASE SIGN and
 TURN IN YOUR
 PLEDGE CARDS,
 See Jim Llorence**

Update Forms are available from our Membership Chairperson, **Evelyn McDuffie**. It is very important that the church keeps accurate contact information records for all of our members as we move into the New Year.



The Senior Ministry will resume meeting on the third Thursday of March, 2020.

Dianne Brown and **Sidney Grace Lee** will Co-Chair. Please consider becoming a member. The Senior Ministry donated twelve blankets to shelters during Conant's recent collection of items for the homeless.

Thank you and blessings,

Jennie Gaye, Reporting

Upcoming Events at Conant

Youth Enrichment Program – Friday Night at the Art Museum resumes on 01/17 at 5:00 p.m.

Children's Dr. King Essay Speeches Sunday, January 26th during 11:00 a.m. worship service.
See **Lakeisha Scott** for details.

"GO PREACH" LSM Class will be held at Conant on Friday, January 10th and Saturday, January 11th
"POLITY" LSM Class will be held Saturday, February 1st.
And on Sunday February 2nd at Conant. (ZOOM)
See **Shirley Bittings** for details

"Family Focus" Worship Sunday – Sunday, January 19th.
Each family will be assigned a pew. Conant families are asked to invited extended family and friends to be their guests for Conant's 11:00 a.m. service on that day. All family groups should wear the same selected color of their choice and sit together on their assigned pew in the sanctuary. Prizes & refreshments will be available.
See **Cheryl Ellington** for details

SPECIAL THANK - YOU S :

Membership Chairperson, Evelyn McDuffie wishes to thank our Conant Families for their togetherness and cookie donations during Conant's **Annual Mrs. Castle's Cookie Exchange on 12/20/19**. Each year there is an increased sharing that promotes fun and unity among the congregation. We thank Evelyn as well as Mary Lawrence for their leadership roles in this annual project.

Thank You to **Charlie Hardy and her Talented Team** for beautifying our church sanctuary as well as the entire church throughout the Christmas Holidays. Also, **Sharon Ellington, Shirley Bittings, Maurice Brown, Dianne Brown, and Avis Taylor** wish to say Thank You to all who purchased the beautiful poinsettia plants that adorned the alter on Christmas Day.

We also thank **them** for their dedication and hard work organizing, purchasing & arranging as well as distributing the poinsettias to their rightful owners after Christmas Worship Service.

Thank You to **Audrey Ramsey, Kathy Gray** and the **Stewardship Team** for their outstanding Stewardship Ministry throughout the year of 2019 as well as their wonderfully successful Christmas Bazaar held in our Conant Fellowship Hall on several Sundays in December.

Thank You to **Otyiah Ross - Chapman, Lakeisha Scott, Ellena Totty, First Lady Dianne Smith and their team** for the wonderful job they are doing directing Conant's Youth Ministry. Their Praise Dancing, Youth Choir, Youth Public Speaking, Youth Bible Study and more, has been a fantastic addition to Conant's continued growth towards excellence for the Lord.

Thank You to **Mother Jennie Gaye** for donating 3 of her beautiful handmade quilts to 3 members of Conant's Congregation.

Thank You to **Carolyn Hildred, Stephanie Jones, Audrey Ramsey & Conant's Stewardship Team** for planning & preparing a fabulous end of 2019 Celebration in Conant's Fellowship Hall during Conant's last Church Wide AD Board Meeting for 2019.

Last Month's Highlights



Youth Activities



Weekly Advent
Candle Lightings



Family Bible Moments



Youth & Young Adult
Christmas Program