

Sunday  
**July 23, 2017**  
10:00 a.m.

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Greg Culver

We are alive in Christ.  
We love God,  
we care for one another,  
and we help people  
here and around  
the world.



Plain print indicates worship leader.  
**Bold print indicates congregation.**  
\*Indicates please stand as able.

### Gather to Worship

Welcome

### Ministry Opportunities

#### \*Call to Worship

There is no “them” and “us.”

**There is only “all of us.”**

We are not a chosen few.

**We are all part of God’s family.**

We gather as one.

**Let us worship the Lord together!**

#### \*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Lord God, the majesty of Your creation leaves us breathless with wonder. Every day we marvel at fresh discoveries. Stars, older than imagination can embrace, appear within the galaxy. Creatures who have long walked the earth or explored the oceans choose to reveal themselves. Awesome wonders in hidden places of the planet allow us a glimpse of their beauty. And yet, Lord, we see only a tiny part of the universe You have created. Our little piece of the world reminds us we are part of something bigger.

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**Vicksburg United Methodist Church**

217 South Main St  
Vicksburg MI 49097

Rev. Greg Culver

Phone: 269-649-2343 ♦ [vicksburgumc.org](http://vicksburgumc.org)

Yet too often we believe that our small corner is the most important because we live in it. We guard it jealously, we deny entry to others, we fail to open ourselves to Your Holy Spirit that we might become our true selves, people in whom others recognize Your beauty and Your glory.

**Forgive us our need to own You, Lord. And when we would force You into our small corner, help us to follow You into the great wide open to be places of welcome and refuge. In Jesus' name — amen!**

**\*Hymn:** 529 How Firm a Foundation (verses 1, 5)

**Scripture Lesson:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Children's Time:** *Joanne Culver*

**Sermon:** "Peace As Institution"

### **Reflective Prayer**

*The worship leader will not read this aloud. Each congregant is invited to a moment of silent reflection as we transition to the hymn.*

A drop in the ocean.

Silent and small,  
the slightest touch  
unnoticed, insignificant.

And look!

A tiny movement,  
timid at first  
then growing, spreading,  
shifting, stirring,  
ripple after ripple  
sending messages  
that transformation can happen  
not simply on the surface  
but deep down  
in the stagnant places.

*Lord, help me to believe  
that the little I can do  
might cause the great changes you seek.*

**\*Hymn:** 3187 We Fall Down

**Prayer for Others and for Ourselves**

**Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

Offertory: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

**\*Doxology:** 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Living in love demands more, Lord, than money, however rich we may be.

**Following Your Son Jesus calls us to stretch beyond our goodness and our charity, beyond our generosity, to discover reserves we did not know existed, to tread paths that are unfamiliar, to receive as well as give, in ways we never imagined. As we commit our offering, may we recommit our lives in selflessness and service to the glory of Your kingdom. All praise and glory to You, O Lord! Amen!**

**\*Hymn:** 2070 He Is Exalted

**\*Blessing**

**\*Depart to Serve**

Take Home Idea for the Week:

*We are all made in the image of God, yet we are all also unique.*

*This week, look at your family. Maybe find some old photos of grandparents and great-grandparents.*

- *What unites you?*
- *What makes you distinctive?*
- *When you look at our church family, what unites us?*
- *What makes us different?*

*Thank God for the person Who unites us best: Jesus!*

*Coming up next Sunday, July 30: Ephesians 4:1-16; "Encouraged & Equipped."*

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### **For Cheer and Hello**

Liz Anderson  
Mary Evelyn Bell  
David Bretz  
Alice Dibble  
Barb Griner  
Pat McClelland  
Iris McGahan  
Beverly Nimmo  
Robert & Carmen Parsons  
Char Rice  
Marv & Kitty Starbuck  
Al Thomas  
Mina Willett

### **For Lost Loved Ones**

Carol Berkey  
Virginia Caswell  
Al Hosner  
Clarence Kohler (Norm's brother)

### **In Service to Our Country**

Matt Kohler	Tyler Smith
Jeff Kudary	Richie Steinacker
Ryan Miller	Nathan Stevens
Walker Polsinelli	

### **For Hope and Healing**

Andrew's friends  
Braylon Brown (Laverne Swinehart's great-grandson)  
Jack and Cynda Buckallew  
*Paul Evans (Noni Heikes' cousin-in-law)*  
*Josh Haas' sister and newborn twins (Hank Stamm's friend)*  
*Elliot Hiemstra (Joe and Betty Gruber's great-grandson)*  
*Evy Inman*  
Fred Nelson  
Larry and LaVon Rolfe  
*Sara (Georgia Rolfe's granddaughter)*  
Henry Stamm  
Lily Stamm  
Trisha and family (Amy Moberley's friend)

### **Attention: United Methodist Women**

Your revised calendar of events is available at the Welcome Center. Please pick up your copy today.

### **Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families**

July 23: Marshall Linebaugh  
July 30: Joe and Betty Gruber

## Coming Deadlines

- Newsletter items are due Monday, July 24
- ScripCents orders are due Tuesday, August 1, by 2:00.

## This Week's Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 7/24 James Jukes  
Erin Williams
- 7/25 Greg Burke  
Dennis Sherman  
Jessica Stevens
- 7/26 June French  
Isaac Jukes  
Jager Luegge  
Don Puckett
- 7/27 Loren Turner
- 7/28 Rollie Read  
Kearah Williams
- 7/29 Marvin Starbuck

### Anniversaries

- 7/23 Mike & Sharon Pendola
- 7/25 Lee & Susan Halladay
- 7/26 Greg & Mardi White

## This Week

### Sunday, July 23

- 9:30 a.m. PIT CREW, Room 118  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

### Monday, July 24

- 6:30 p.m. Church Council meeting in the Taylor Room

### Tuesday, July 25

*no activities scheduled*

### Wednesday, July 26

- 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Winners in the Taylor Room

### Thursday, July 27

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle at Aurelia Reed's home

6:00 p.m. RAW (HS Youth), FLC

### Friday, July 28

- 10:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether, Room 219

### Saturday, July 29

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Jim Goecker

## Coming Events

### Tuesday, August 1

7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting

### Tuesday-Friday, August 15-18

9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School (till noon)



Tuesday-Friday  
August 15-18

9:00 to noon

The best week of the summer!

- New friends • Amazing experiments
- Creative games • Lip-smacking snacks
- Surprising adventures • Incredible music

For more information, email  
[vumcyouthguy@yahoo.com](mailto:vumcyouthguy@yahoo.com)

To register your child(ren), call  
269-649-2343



To download a Registration Form, go to  
[http://vicksburgumc.org/Forms/VBS\\_RegistrationForm.pdf](http://vicksburgumc.org/Forms/VBS_RegistrationForm.pdf)  
or find them at the Welcome Center.