

Sunday
August 6, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Ninth 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**

In these difficult times we come to be strengthened through prayer, word and action.

As we gather this day, may we open our eyes to the needs of this world, may we open our ears to the cries of our brothers and sisters, may we open our hearts to love one another through thick and thin.

Let us worship the Lord God together!



Vicksburg United Methodist Church

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Vicksburg MI 49097

Rev. Greg Culver

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***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

God, we come into this place of sanctuary not to escape the world but to bring that world with us into Your presence.

We come to share the week that has been and to look forward to all that You have in store for us.

And, Lord God, as You meet us here, You invite us to lay our burdens down: to lay down all that concerns us about our world; to lay down all that concerns us about our loved ones; to lay down all that concerns us about ourselves, for You carry us and all our burdens.

For all those times our fear overcame our faith, or concerns for our need overrode our concern for others, we ask Your forgiveness.

For those times we failed to see or blatantly ignored an opportunity to share Your light, we ask Your forgiveness.

For those times we might have made a difference but were too tired or too slow or simply couldn't be bothered, we ask Your forgiveness.

Forgive us, Lord, and inspire us to step up for You in the future. And, in Your forgiveness, clothe us with all that we need to put the past behind and go and serve you however you call us today. Convict us here in worship, not just with our failings but with the strength that is ours through You, God of power and might.

In the name of Jesus, amen.

Pastor: Friends the good news of our redemption is true. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

And also with you.

***Pass the Peace**

***Hymn:** 431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

Children's Time: *Kathy Phillips*

Sermon: "Prepared & Ready"

***Hymn:** 513 Soldiers of Christ Arise (verses 1, 4)

Prayer for Others and for Ourselves

*Today's altar flowers are provided by Jolene and Ken Cron
in honor of their wedding anniversary.
July 30 attendance: 10:00 a.m. = 137*

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: Crucified with Christ ~ *Ken Franklin*

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord God, may we be prepared when You ask to take up or lay down our armor and offer our whole selves and all that we have to serve You in gladness. Amen.

Holy Communion

Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this holy mystery. Come.

We are ready!

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took His authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said:

"Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said:

"Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon these gifts of bread and wine. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these seemingly ordinary things in these our seemingly ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst.

Through the broken bread:

We participate in the Body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing:

We participate in the new life Christ gives.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God, You have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at Your table with holy food and drink. Thank You for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and feed those still hungry. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do Your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn:** 374 Standing on the Promises

***Blessing**

***Depart to Serve**

Take Home Idea for the Week:

Clothes play an important role: they cover us, protect us, keep us warm, keep us dry... What about God's armor? What is it that protects you and makes you feel safe? This week, reflect on what we need and what we can do to keep God's protection close by. Thank the Lord for the things which keep us safe.

Coming up next Sunday, August 13: Worship in the Vicksburg Farmer's Market Pavilion, 301 N. Richardson St. Hank Stamm will be the preacher of the day.

Prayer for Families and Friends

Andrew's friend whose father passed away

Mark Boyer, Mary Ann Kudary, and Barb Bungart and families in the loss of their wife, mother and sister, Susan Shirah Boyer

Bernice Flynn (Phyllis Barrett's friend) is having dialysis 3 times a week.

Susan Halladay and family in the loss of Lee

Mark Johnson and other friends and family members in the loss of his friend, Kyle Buttons

Elliot Hiemstra (Joe and Betty Gruber's great-grandson) has a healthy heart. Praise God!

Braylon Brown (Laverne Swinehart's great-grandson)

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Paul Evans (Noni Heikes' cousin-in-law)

Deb Franklin

Josh Haas' sister and newborn twins (Hank Stamm's friend)

Evy Inman

Larry and LaVon Rolfe

Sara (Georgia Rolfe's granddaughter)

Doug and Deb Stafinski's baby granddaughter

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

Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

August 6:
August 13:

Do You Have Church Keys?

Trustees want to know who has keys to the church. Please call Joe or any trustee or the church office if you have a key. If you have one and no longer need it, please return it to the office.

Calendar

Today

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, August 7

7:00 p.m. *Worship Committee in the Library*

Tuesday, August 8

2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God in the Taylor Room

7:00 p.m. *Pastor Parish Relations Committee meeting in the Library*

Wednesday, August 9

10:30 a.m. Wed. Winners in the Taylor Room

Thursday, August 10

5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board meeting in the Library*

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

Friday, August 11

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

Saturday, August 12

no activities are scheduled

Coming Events

Tuesday-Friday, August 15-18

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

Tuesday, August 15

6:30 p.m. *Personnel Committee meeting in the Library*

Saturday, August 19

7:00 a.m. *Loaves & Fishes in the FLC*

Needed for August

Flowers are needed for the altar for the month of August. If you can provide an arrangement, please sign up in the narthex.

Also, treats or cookies are needed for Sundays in August. Coffee, beverages and set will be taken care of. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Coming Deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 on Tuesday, August 15

Play Gym

Here's a great way to reach out to a neighbor with young kids! Invite them to Thursday Play Gym — a fun, inexpensive, "play with me" group for 1- to 5-year-olds and their favorite adult. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center. Sign up online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1312917378791380/?ti=as> or by calling the office.

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

- 8/7 Betty Witcher
- 8/8 Don Dailey
Austin Linebaugh
Jen Thompson
- 8/11 Cheryl Lee
Nona Mattheis
Elizabeth Page
Lori Tichvon

- 8/11 Jan Walsworth
- 8/12 Iris McGahan

Anniversaries

- 8/7 Tim & Lynne Melvin
- 8/8 Brad & Lisa Beams
Tom & Kim Hardy
- 8/9 Ken & Jolene Cron
John & Sharon Wagner
- 8/11 David & Cande Vermeulen



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

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

To download a Registration Form,
go to
http://vicksburgumc.org/Forms/VBS_RegistrationForm.pdf
or find them at the
Welcome Center.