



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 4

April 2016

Fools for Christ

April Fools' Day isn't a religious holiday, though it may date to Pope Gregory XIII and his new calendar. In 1582, he shifted New Year's Day from April to January, and people who didn't believe the change were called April fools.

April Fools' Day may also be connected to the lightheartedness that comes with warmer weather, as well as to medieval Christian festivals that involved pranks, disguises and a temporarily inverted social order.

Yet, in Scripture, such reversal characterizes the kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, St. Paul writes that the gospel seems foolish to people who don't know Christ, that God uses the "foolishness of our proclamation" to offer salvation to all and that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Jesus "foolishly" inverted the social order, saying the last will be first and the first, last.

So if on April 1 — and every day — we live as "fools for Christ," we're precisely what he calls us to be!

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Evangelism tip

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

—Madeleine L'Engle



Church Staff

Pastor
Dr. Bufford Coe

**Administrative Assistant/
Financial Assistant**
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+Christian Symbol+

Tau Rho

The symbol of salvation is composed of the Greek letters tau (T) and rho (P). It was first used in ancient New Testament manuscripts as an abbreviation for the Greek word for "cross." The symbol also seems to visually represent Jesus on the cross.



Pastor's Article

I am glad I have a key to the back door of the church. Many times, when I arrive for events at the church, the parking lot is full and cars are parked in the street, so I park by the back door off the alley and come in that way.

That is what happened on a recent Tuesday evening. I was here for a meeting of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. Our Boy Scout leaders were meeting in the church library. The leaders of the South County CROP Walk were meeting in room 219 (the old Friendly Forum classroom). The sewing group (Sew What Now, God?) was in the Taylor Room and hundreds of people were passing through the building to vote in the presidential primary election in the Family Life Center.

If you are only here on Sunday morning, you may not be aware of all the activity that takes place in this building during the week. We have forty preschool students who attend our Hearts and Hands Preschool between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Wednesday Winners, a group for disabled adults, meets here every Wednesday from 10:30 until 1:00. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes from Vicksburg Middle School meets here every Friday after school. This winter, we had open volleyball every Monday evening and four different basketball teams for children and youth practiced here Tuesday through Friday. The Boy Scouts meet here Monday evening and the Cub Scouts meet here twice a month on Tuesday. Loaves and Fishes distributes food here once a month. Then there are those occasional events such as blood drives, rummage sales, elections, Wolverine Conference leadership training for student athletes, and funeral lunches. All of this is in addition to our traditional church activities such as committee meetings, choir and bell rehearsals, the after-school program for Middle School students, our regular meetings for high school and middle school students, and UMW meetings. It's no wonder our parking lot is full so much of the time!

Our church has a unique role to play in our community. Because of our building and our location here in the center of the village, we have an opportunity to serve our community in a way that no other church can. We have the facilities to accommodate not only our own church activities but other community groups that need a convenient place to meet. All of this keeps us connected to the world around us and sends the message that we care about the community in which we are located.

I am thankful that I serve a church that is as much connected with its local community as we are. We are alive in Christ and it shows!

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

Church Camp Assistance

This church regularly provides financial assistance to persons from our congregation attending one of our United Methodist camps each summer. Because registration for the camps is now done online, the church office might not be aware of all the people from our church attending camp unless you tell us. If you are attending one of our United Methodist camps, make sure the church office has your name, the camp you will attend, and the dates you will attend so we can help make camp more affordable for you.

Church Leaders

Church Council ~ Jim Thompson (thompsonjim@comcast.net)

Finance ~ Don Dailey (ddaileymu@gmail.com)

Trustees ~ Ken Akin (ken@redneckswapmeet.com)

Personnel ~ Andrea Read (readandrea28@gmail.com)

Pastor Parish ~ John Cleveland (Jcleveland327@gmail.com)

Caring Ministries ~ Barb Addis (Bb1a2b3@aol.com) & Vera Walker (vrwlkr@yahoo.com)

Global Missions ~ Tom Aitken (twaitken@att.net)

Memorial ~ Ken Franklin (drkenfp@mac.com)

Worship ~ Brad Addis (braddis109@aol.com)

Preschool Advisory Board ~ Jessica Hawkins (jessijean317@hotmail.com)

Wills & Trust ~ Chris Morris (morrisslaw@ameritech.net)

Nominations ~ Pastor Buff Coe (buffordc@aol.com)

Abuse Prevention ~ Hank Stamm (henrystamm3rd@yahoo.com)

Lay Leader ~ Ken Franklin (drkenfp@mac.com)



Prayer Closet

GET READY TO PRAY IN MAY!

For 30 memorable days we're going to pray around the world.

All of us. For the whole world, every single country. In thirty days. Really, we can do this. We are all aware that our world faces unprecedented challenges and threats. There are wars and rumors of war. There are famines, disasters and terrors of every kind. Millions of children are orphaned, abandoned and unloved. Countless people are poor and hungry. Countless others are persecuted—often for the "crime" of being a Christian. The scope of human suffering is immeasurable. But there is one powerful thing we can do about it: **We can pray.**

The strategy is simple: We are designating the entire month of May as our **30 Days of Prayer for the World**. It will take just a few minutes to pray for each day's requests. And even though it won't take much time it will make a huge impact. The unified effect of Christians praying can unleash a spiritual awakening, renewing our church and spiritually transforming our lives and the lives of others around the world.

This is going to be an important journey. Don't miss it!

We will be talking more about this in the month to come and will be passing out World Prayer Atlases to everyone at the beginning of May. This is going to be a very interesting, exciting and meaningful experience and we look forward to sharing it as a church family. This wonderful opportunity is for all ages. Everyone can be involved. Everyone can make a difference.

Praying for Portage

The Chaplain for the Portage Public Safety Department contacted us inquiring about whether or not we would be willing to be part of their prayer chain, for not only victims and their families, but also for the men and women of the police force and fire department as well as their families. Pastor Buff said we would be happy to participate. So....

As they send us their prayer list (they said sometimes weekly, sometimes bi-weekly) we will include those requests in the Monday Report for everyone to hold up in prayer.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matt 18:19 NIV) Let's all agree to agree with any request lifted up to the Lord.

Here is the first prayer list. Note: Victims are listed by name. Police officers and fire fighters are listed by number to protect their privacy.

VICTIMS:

- ✝ Jeff is still dealing with cancer issues.
- ✝ Kevin as he struggles with faith.
- ✝ The family of baby Bennett who passed away earlier this month is celebrating the birth of a child from the sister of baby Bennett's mom. As we can all imagine there are a wide range of emotions involved here.
- ✝ Latisha who was involved in a family dispute that turned into a fight with another person needs help controlling her emotions. Unfortunately her five -year old son witnessed the fight.

OFFICERS/FIREFIGHTERS:

1. The Officer who is going in for neck surgery.
2. The Officer going in for shoulder surgery.
3. The Officer whose son has leukemia.
4. The Officer with the newborn baby.
5. The Officer whose young daughter is still battling cancer.
6. The Grandparent of baby Bennett who was mentioned above.



Mission News

Hunger Crop Walk (April 24th)

CROP Hunger Walks are community fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), an international relief, development, and refugee resettlement agency. Money raised by CROP Hunger Walks nationwide is used by CWS to provide food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development for needy people around the world. 25% of the money raised in our CROP Hunger Walk is distributed to local hunger-alleviating agencies in the Vicksburg/Schoolcraft Area!

You can be involved by praying, donating, helping in the kitchen, or with registration. Or, better yet, get your walking shoes out of the closet. See Diana Pomeroy for sign-up sheets and start collecting your donations.



Crop Walk is Coming

The 22nd Annual South County CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, April 24, 2016. The walk starts at 2:00 p.m. with registration at 1:00 p.m. It's all happening at Vicksburg United Methodist Church. Visit www.crophungerwalk.org/vicksburgmi for more details.

Jesus said, "When did we see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and provide water, naked and clothe you, a stranger and welcome you, sick and helped you, in prison and visited you? And he answered The truth is whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."



Covenant Bible Study to Resume

Here it comes!!

Covenant Bible Study will be starting up again following Spring Break. We will be continuing the study with the second 8-week session starting April 11 or 12, (Monday or Tuesday) depending on which is better for the most people.

Join us! We have room for a few more and would welcome you with open arms. Contact John Cleveland, 649-1405, Jcleveland327@gmail.com if you are interested.

Flower Power

The All Daughter Annual Dinner will be held Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The dinner is sponsored by the Susanna Wesley Circle.

Tickets will be available in the church office beginning the second week of April. They also will be on sale April 24 and May 1 during both church services. Reservations have to be received no later than Monday, May 2. For more information, call Janet Noel (269-649-1291).

Tickets

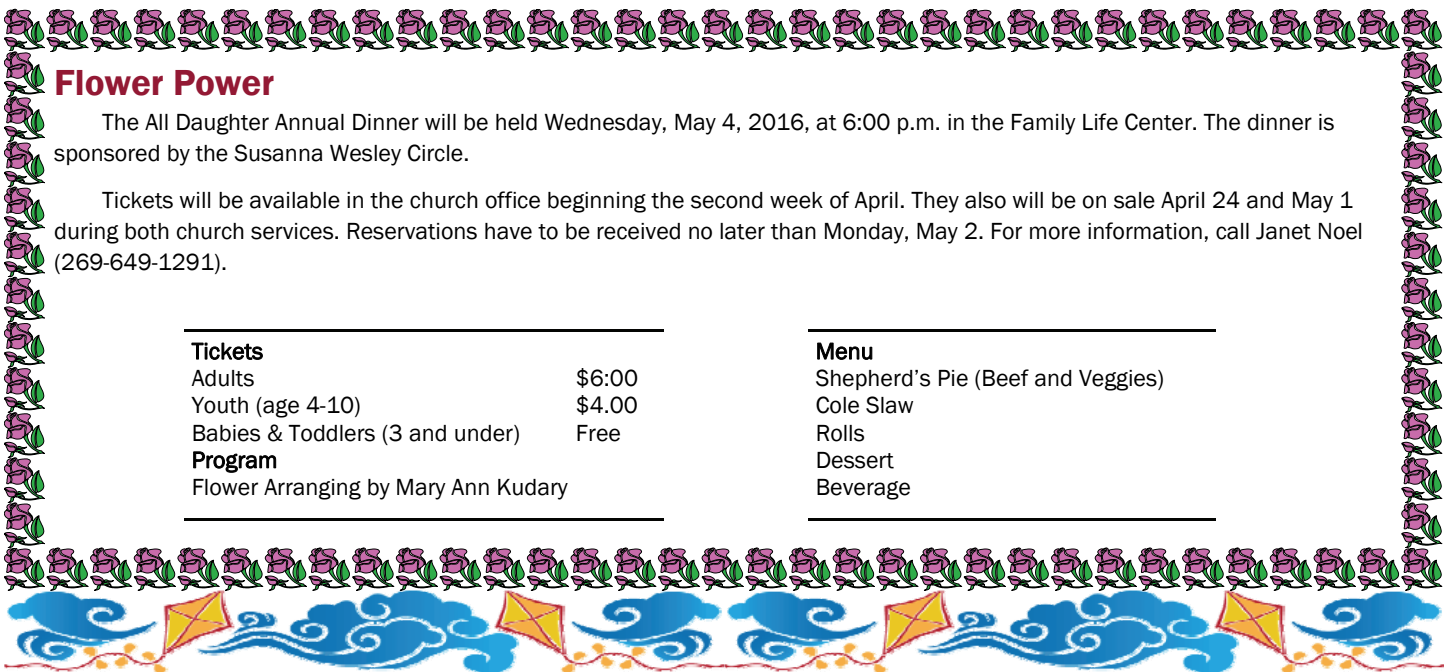
Adults	\$6:00
Youth (age 4-10)	\$4.00
Babies & Toddlers (3 and under)	Free

Program

Flower Arranging by Mary Ann Kudary

Menu

- Shepherd's Pie (Beef and Veggies)
- Cole Slaw
- Rolls
- Dessert
- Beverage



Sunday School News

Sunday school break

Most Sunday school classes will not be meeting on April 3rd or the 10th. The only one that may still have class will be the KJU class ~ check with John Cleveland before those dates.

Vacation Bible School

The dates are on the calendar as we prepare for the most energetic week of the church year ~ VBS. Mark out August 8-12 this summer and come and join the learning and the fun.

Cave Quest from Group Publishing will be our study guide this summer where we will learn on day one that Jesus gives us hope. Sal the salamander will help us through the morning as we learn the prophets foretell the light of the world!



It is never too early to volunteer and the online registration has been opened up. We will have a link to the website in the next newsletter. Contact Miss Lisa for questions or details church_ladi@yahoo.com.

For all the latest VBS news, go to: <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/vicksburgumc>.

Preschool Enrolling for 2016-2017

Heart and Hands Preschool set a new record this current school year for students enrolled with 40 students in our three classes combined! We would love to continue our growth trend next year, and we have a good start. We currently have 21 students enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year. However, there are still spots open in all three of our classes and we are still accepting enrollments, so please help spread the word to your families, friends, and neighbors.

We will be offering three different classes: 3-year-old class: Tue/Thu 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

4-year-old class: Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

4-year-old class: Mon-Fri-12:45 p.m.—3:45 p.m.

Contact Amber Morris (269-649-2343 ext 106 or heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org) for more information or to set up a visit during the school day.

Other Preschool Happenings



In March we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday. We also painted noodles for the letter N and made edible bird nests.

For the letter V, we made mini volcanoes with baking soda and colored vinegar.



Scholarships for College

Each year, this church awards scholarships to members of our congregation attending institutions of higher education. Applications for scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year are available on our church website vicksburgumc.org. They also are available at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

The deadline for returning completed applications to the church office is May 1. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.



April UMW Calendar & Events

7	11:00am	UMW Executive Committee
	12:30pm	UMW General Meeting (See below for details)
16	9:00am-3:00pm	Keep Making Peace Day, University UMC, East Lansing
21	9:30am	Susanna Wesley Circle
21	7:00pm	Priscilla Circle: Hostess-Laverne Swinehart
22-23		Spiritual Growth Wesley Woods UM Camp
24	During service	Priscilla Circle Bake Sale
26-30		Rummage Sale Week
26	9:00am-2:00pm	Set up
27	9:00am-6:00pm	Donation Drop off
28	9:00am-3:00pm	Donation Drop off
29	9:00am-6:00pm	Rummage Sale
30	9:00am-2:00pm	Rummage Sale



UMW First Meeting of 2016

The program for the first meeting (April 7) is "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2016." Please bring a dish to pass (plus a copy of the recipe to share) and your own table service. We will enjoy lunch as part of the lesson. Additionally, we will be collecting an offering that will help women gain the resources they need to care for themselves and their loved ones. Come enjoy the fellowship and learning!

Priscilla Circle First Meeting of 2016

Priscilla Circle will be starting up the new year with a meeting on April 21 at 7:00 p.m. The hostess will be Laverne Swinehart. We would love to have any gals join us who would like to participate in an evening circle. Three bake sales (see below) during the year provide the funds for supporting Christmas giving at our local South County Community Center.

During our meetings we share devotions, a lesson, refreshments and lots of fellowship! Call Jean Philport (269-649-3675) if you are interested. Thanks.

Save the Dates

June 15 Mission Day, Gobles UMC
July 14-16 Mission U, Albion College

More information is on the UMW bulletin board in the narthex as well as in upcoming newsletters.

Spring Rummage Sale

Spring is in the air!!! It's filled with robins, flowers, and our Spring Rummage Sale.

Merchandise Needed: Clean, gently-used clothing, electronics, jewelry, tools, toys, decorations, books, movies, appliances, furniture, household items, crafts, etc.

People Needed: Volunteers are needed to help any time—you choose your days and hours (see calendar above).

Other supplies needed: Large paper grocery bags; food for the workers is also appreciated.

Detailed schedule of events is listed above. Be sure and shop the sale. We have lots of good stuff and great bargains. Come. See. Save.

Mail Bag



From Bonnie Holmes

Thank you SO much for your prayers, words of encouragement, calls, cards, food, the pretty plant, and Buff's visits during my recent illness. Your good thoughts really hastened my recovery. God bless you for caring.



From LaVon Rolfe

Thank you to the Caring Ministries for the colorful plant they gave me at Easter. It certainly brightens the room.

Thanks for thinking of me. God bless.



April Birthdays		
4/1	BETH Griner Jerry Root	4/12 Gregory Berndt GUILA Harrison Larry Rolfe
4/2	ANNE Howard MICHAEL Beams MIKE Oswalt	4/13 MILDRED Corsaut 4/14 PAT McClelland 4/15 Owen Moberley TOM Aitken
4/3	Isabell Deppe Rev. VIRGINIA Caswell	4/16 JOEL Smola SAWYER Barton
4/4	ANNA LYNN Pauli	4/17 CLARENCE Haines RONALD Wolak
4/5	GEORGIA Rolfe Hanna Ouvry PAUL French	4/18 BECKY Berndt Logan Pauli
4/7	Stephen Phillips ELIZABETH Pauli JOHN Jukes KARLA Stubblefield	4/20 ANNELORE Cannizzaro Josephine Hosner LEE Philport
4/8	MATT Barton DARCY Osborn LYNNE Melvin	4/22 JULIE Taylor JUNE Taylor 4/23 TODD Griffin
4/9	SHELLY McCauley Xavier Cleveland	4/24 LAURA Asher 4/25 William Oswalt
4/10	ALEX Dailey LEA Johnson Timothy Melvin	4/26 GLORRAINE Bragg 4/29 MELVA Kohler ROBERT Bland
4/11	Abigail Oswalt FELICIA Taylor	4/30 MEL Zimmerman



April Anniversaries	
4/5	Brad & Heather Fenwick
4/11	Thomas & Bonnie Holmes
4/16	Jerry & Nancy Fulton
4/18	Michael & Lorene Tichvon
4/19	Gary & Mildred Corsaut
4/20	Paul & Marilyn Schutter

Kids Hope

Spring is definitely in the air and the kids are loving it!

They are having so much fun playing outside sans boots and heavy winter jackets. We are so proud of the strides our students have been making recently. Reluctant readers are enjoying books, a self-proclaimed math-hater has turned a corner, and a struggling writer is now working at getting words on paper. Hurrah for all these children for overcoming obstacles, for their dedicated mentors who provide encouragement and hope, and for all the prayer partners who faithfully lift them up in prayer. Our Kids Hope kids are blossoming!

A Kids Hope Story from another program

Peter, a Kids Hope Director, was walking home after his mentoring session when he passed a lady who said, "Hello Peter." He stopped and said hello back asking, "How do you know me?"

"You're in charge of the Kids Hope program and one of your mentors has been very kind to Liam, my grandson." She went on to explain how her grandson lives in a very difficult situation, and is faced daily with feelings of rejection and fear. "Without his mentor," she finished, "life would have been impossible for him to handle over the past two years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."





Vicksburg United Methodist Church

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E-mail: reception@vicksburgumc.org

Sunday Worship

Worship ~ 9am
Sunday School ~ 9:50am
Worship ~ 11am

Church Office Hours

Mon–Thurs: 8:30–12:30, 1:00–4:00

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG

The Visitor

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Cartoon Corner



Bible Quiz



What was the name of Esther's cousin who raised her after her parents died?

- A. Hegai
- B. Haman
- C. Mordecai
- D. Ahasuerus (also known as Xerxes)

Answer: C (See Esther 2:7.)

