



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 3

March 2016

Easter Joy

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.



A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa

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Deliver us

We sing and say "hosanna" every Palm Sunday but hardly ever in between. So what does that word mean?

That first Palm Sunday, crowds spread their cloaks before Jesus as people had before Jehu to proclaim him king (2 Kings 9:13). They waved palm branches in greeting — a traditional sign of celebration (Leviticus 23:40). And, of course, they shouted, "Hosanna!"

This was an exclamation of "a people in distress [addressing] their king or their god," explains Bible scholar William Barclay. Drawn from Psalm 118:25, hosanna is Aramaic for "save now." By the time of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Barclay says, hosanna may have "become to some extent only a cry of welcome and of acclamation, like 'Hail!'; but essentially it is a people's cry for deliverance and for help in the day of their trouble."



"Hosanna!" is the plea of an oppressed people to the one they recognize as their true king: Jesus, their Savior.

Church Staff

Pastor
Dr. Bufford Coe

**Administrative Assistant/
Financial Assistant**
Kathy Rix

Choir/Praise Band Director
Tamra Stamm

Custodian
Paul French

**Heart & Hands Teacher/
Director**
Amber Morris

Heart & Hands Teacher
Kelli Young

Heart & Hands Assistant
Amber Smith

Kids Hope USA Director
Barb Bladt

Youth Director
Hank Stamm

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Rix

Walking the faith

As spring buds and temperatures rise, it's fun to get outside and walk. Walking is great for both body and mind. "To solve a problem, walk around," advised St. Jerome. Naturalist Henry David Thoreau agreed, saying, "The moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow." Indeed, walking has been linked to improved creativity and reduced anxiety.

Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 "Live as children of light," while others use "walk": "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" (NKJV). What a great rendering! Living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is an intentional, active pursuit; we must choose when, where and how we do it.

Now that we're children of light — newly alive springtime people, Easter people! — Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it. When our faith becomes active, new thoughts flow, anxiety decreases and we make strides in our relationship with Jesus.

—Heidi Mann



Pastor's Article

Every year, we join with other churches in the Vicksburg Ministry Alliance to hold a series of breakfasts on Tuesday mornings during Lent. The breakfasts begin at 6:45 and end at 7:25. A freewill donation covers the cost of the meal. Each week, a lay person from the host church will bring a devotional message. Reservations are not needed; everyone is welcome. This year, we have reduced the number of breakfasts from six to four. The locations of the Lenten breakfasts this year are as follows:

- March 1 Vicksburg United Methodist Church, 217 South Main Street
- March 8 Lakeland Reformed Church, 10442 Sprinkle Road
- March 15 St. Martin's Catholic Church, 5855 East W Avenue
- March 22 Chapman Memorial Church of the Nazarene, 7520 East U Avenue

On Good Friday, March 25, we will gather in our sanctuary at noon along with Christians from other Vicksburg churches to remember our Lord's crucifixion on that day. This service is under the leadership of the Vicksburg Ministry Alliance. The Vicksburg High School choir will sing as part of the service that day.

Our Easter celebration begins bright and early with the Easter Sunrise Service which I will lead at 7:30 in our sanctuary. The Easter Breakfast will be served in the Family Life Center beginning at 8:15. The Chancel Choir will present their Easter cantata at both the 9:00 and the 11:00 worship services. We will also be welcoming a group of new members into our congregation that morning. Sunday School will meet as usual at 9:50.

Holy Week and Easter are such a special time of the year as we celebrate these stories that are at the heart of the gospel message. I hope you will be able to be with us as we remember and proclaim the message of Christ's death and resurrection.

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

Sacrament of Baptism

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated in the worship services on Easter Sunday, March 27. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism should contact Pastor Buff.

There will be a meeting for the parents of children to be baptized on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. (the meeting will last about an hour). At this session we will discuss the meaning of baptism and review the baptismal liturgy.

Church Leaders

- Church Council** ~ Jim Thompson (thompsonjim@comcast.net)
- Finance** ~ Don Dailey (ddaileysu@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 (vrvlkr@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

The Prayer of Intercession

To intercede means to stand in the gap for someone else, to plead his case before the throne of God. If there is a breach in people's relationship with God due to a particular sin in their life, we have the privilege of placing ourselves in that breach and praying for them. We can intercede for them and expect to see them comforted and encouraged while they wait. We can also expect a timely breakthrough for them concerning their need being met.

Praying for others is equivalent to sowing seed. We must sow seed if we are to reap a harvest (Galatians 6:7). Sowing seed into the lives of other people through intercession is one sure way to reap a harvest in our own life. Each time we pray for someone else, we are inviting God to not only work in that person's life, but also in our own.

Intercession is one of the most important ways we carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ that He began on this earth.

We can release God's power in the lives of others by praying for them. Joyce Meyer

Compassion for Others

Compassion develops and grows when a person is confronted by the deep needs and distress of people who are unable to help themselves. Helplessness appeals to compassion.

Compassion is silent, but does not remain secluded. It reaches out at the sight of trouble, sin and need.

Compassion flows out in earnest prayer for those in need, and it has sympathy for them. Prayer for others is born of a sympathetic heart.

Prayer is natural and almost spontaneous when compassion grows in the heart. Prayer belongs to the compassionate believer.

Dear God, please grant me a compassionate and sympathetic heart for people. I want my prayers for others to flow from a heart overflowing with compassion for others. Amen. E. M. Bounds

Finance Corner

Our new finance secretary, Kathy Rix, is starting to become familiar with the steps to record all of the church's transactions. She is closing the gap on getting caught up from the changeover in the finance secretary position. As that piece gets under control, she will begin to undertake the work of switching to QuickBooks, which will make managing things much easier. During that process, we will likely need some additional data entry expertise. If you have the time, expertise, and would like to assist with the data entry, please let Kathy Rix know at reception@vicksburgumc.org.

Nancy Fulton was a guest at the meeting and asked some great questions regarding the tile wall in the hallway to the family life center and the status of our ministry shares. As a result, we will be reviewing all of the donations made, purchase tiles, and get going on the process of creating any tiles that have not already been completed. Nancy has agreed to be a point person on tracking this information going forward. We also will be reviewing donations made towards ministry shares to make sure that these payments are being made as intended.

As always, we strive to provide an open meeting environment and encourage any church member to attend our meetings and/or submit questions for us to follow-up on. The VUMC Finance Committee meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 7pm in the library. For those who would like to receive finance committee correspondence, including agenda and minutes, please email Don Dailey at ddaileymsu@gmail.com and we will add you to our supplemental distribution list. As always, we welcome your questions and strive to provide full transparency into the church's finances.

Through your gifts and tithes, VUMC, continues to support our communities with the love of Christ.

God Bless!

VUMC Finance Committee



Mission News

Flint Water Crisis Appeal

Excerpts from the Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey letter follow:

Last October, when it became public that lead levels were dangerously high in Flint’s water and among Flint’s children, United Method-ists in Flint and the surrounding area leapt into action raising money, providing filters, donating bottled water, and reaching out to community members.

For this reason I am calling on all United Methodists in the State of Michigan to respond in the following ways:

Earnestly and fervently pray for the people of Flint and for all our elected officials.

Your offerings for the people of Flint will enable continued short-term assistance and lay the foundation for a long-term response.

We will collect donations between now and Easter for Flint. Make checks payable to VUMC with Flint water on the memo line. We will then mail one check to the Crossroads district Water Response.

One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up on March 6th .

This One Great Hour of Sharing covers the operating costs of UMCOR, which allows UMCOR to be where it needs to be, when it needs to be there, for as long as it needs to be there ... and allows UMCOR to funnel earmarked donations directly to the designated project.

Crop Walk

Get your walking shoes out of the closet, the Crop Walk is coming April 24th .

The Mission Team



Speaking of Crop Walk

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.”



Easter Sunday Breakfast 2016

We will be having our Easter Sunday Breakfast again this year. In order for it to be a success, we need everybody to pitch in. You can donate food, help set up (will take place Saturday evening), or help clean up. It’s kind of all hands on deck.

There will be sign-up forms available during services on March 6 and March 13. Please be sure to take one and let us know how you can help. Let’s celebrate Christ’s resurrection together.



“I am the resurrection and the life.”
JOHN 11:25



Sunday School News

Lenten Study

The entire SS department is very much enjoying their Lenten Journey together this year as we study Adam Hamilton's study "The Way". The children, youth and KJU classes are watching the video together. Great conversations have taken place. Brad Addis and Betty Thomas share their insights with us as they have been to the Holy Lands and can reiterate what Adam shows us on the video. The kids are learning that they are important too, as several adults checked in with Alex Geiger after his sledding accident, letting him know that they had been in prayer for him over the week.

The study culminates on Easter Sunday and we will be holding class that morning. Spring break will not have started yet...

The Butterflies are back!

So, there should be lots of us around to watch as we free the butterflies! Yes, back by popular demand, we will watch caterpillars evolve into butterflies as we relate their life cycle to that of Jesus.

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. We are now officially enrolling for the 2016-2017 school year. Please help spread the word to your families, friends, and neighbors.

We will be offering three different classes:

3-year-old class: Tue/Thur 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.

Our informational Open House will be held 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2016. Enter through the door with the Heart and Hands sign above it.

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



March UMW Calendar & Events ????????

- 1 6:45 a.m. First Lenten Breakfast ~ Hosted b VUMC
- 3 11:00 a.m. UMW Executive Committee
- 12:30 p.m. UMW General Meeting (See below for details)
- 12 1:00 p.m. Spring Fling Tea Time (see below for details)
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 9:30 a.m. Susanna Wesley Circle
- 7:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle ~ Hostess: Diana Pomeroy (In the Taylor Room)
- 20 Priscilla Circle Bake Sale



First Meeting of 2016

The program for the first meeting is "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial 2016." Please bring a dish to pass plus a copy of the recipe to share. Additionally, we will be collecting an offering that will help women gain the resources they need to care for themselves and their loved ones. See you there!

Spring Fling Tea Time

Sponsored by Kalamazoo District United Methodist Women, registration deadline is March 5. Adult admission is \$7.00, Girls 5-12 is \$5.00 (girls must be accompanied by an adult). The day of the event, check-in begins at 12:30 p.m.. The event runs from 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. at Portage Chapel Hill UMC (7028 Oakland Dr., corner of Romence Road). Registration and additional information on the UMW bulletin board in the church Narthex.

Sewers Needed

Can you sew? Do you want to help kids? **The Kalamazoo District Needs You!** We are making one-handed school bags. The pattern can be obtained from midwestmissiondc.org or on the UMW bulletin board in the Narthex.

Save the Dates

- April 22-23 Spiritual Growth Wesley Woods UM Camp
- 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.

Mail Bag



From the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo

As reported last month, the Wesley Foundation is relocating. They have invited us to their open house on Friday, March 11th 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. There will be a time of dedication at 6:00 p.m..

They also thanked the church for the gift we provided to their capital campaign.



From Habitat for Humanity

We received a thank you letter from the Executive Director expressing his appreciation for our donation to the organization. He stated it will be used to improve the quality of life of its partner families, volunteers, and the entire community.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Trace Puckett | 18 Sherril Shane |
| 2 Harrison Barton
Tyler Hawkins | Alexandra Morris |
| 3 Charlotte Rice | 19 Jo Pope |
| 4 Jeff Geiger | 23 Shirley Valencourt |
| Kari Treanary | Carol Berkey |
| 5 Colleen Kiley | Marc (Edward) Tilbury |
| 7 Norm Hackett | Mark Johnson |
| Mike Tuinier | 24 Brad Beams |
| 11 Alan Smola | 25 Chris Morris |
| 12 Charles Girolami | 26 Susan Halladay |
| 13 Nelly Avis | 27 Brian Root |
| Barbara Addis | 28 Amy Slancik |
| Mary Rusk | 29 Connor Polsinelli |
| 14 Justin Moberley | Robert Gruber |
| 16 Andrea Luegge | 30 Michael Asher |
| | 31 Vernon Noel |



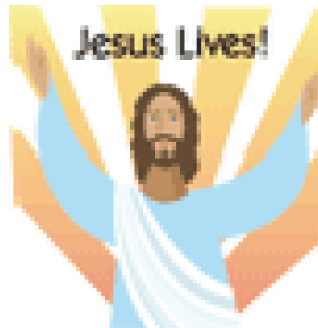
Daylight Savings Time Begins Soon

We switch to Daylight Savings Time on March 13. So.....

At 1:00 a.m. on Sunday, reset your clocks to 2:00 a.m. or you will be late for church. (Sorry about the lost hour of sleep.)

“God proved his love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’”

—Billy Graham



March Anniversaries

- 3 Kent & Shelly McCauley
- 6 Jeff & Mary Ann Kudary
- 15 Ken & Debi Franklin
- 22 Jack & Elizabeth Page
- 31 Mike & Jody Tuinier



Kids Hope

A Kids Hope Story from Australia.....

Claudia had mentored Franklin since early primary school right up until grade 6 several years ago. Franklin had been a quiet student, without much response at times, making it difficult for Claudia to gauge if mentoring was really making a difference. It wasn't until recently that she knew for sure. She was volunteering in an Op Shop* when a teenage boy and dad walked in prompting Claudia to ask "Is that you Franklin?" upon seeing some resemblance. Franklin's eyes lit up when he saw her. Claudia was amazed to learn from the dad that when they had recently moved from their family home of 20 years, all Franklin wanted to take with him was a box of treasured holiday post cards she sent over the years and a small gift she had given him at Christmas during their time at primary school. Mentoring matters!

*An Op Shop is an establishment run by a charitable organization to raise money.

Membership Classes

All adults and high school students who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend the orientation sessions now being held at 9:50 a.m. every Sunday morning. These classes will prepare persons to become members of our church family and the global United Methodist Church, but persons may choose at the end of the classes whether or not they wish to join. The classes may also be of interest to persons who are already members but want to learn more about The United Methodist Church or our local congregation. Our new members will be welcomed into the congregation during the worship services on Easter Sunday, March 27. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.





Vicksburg United Methodist Church

217 S Main St
Vicksburg MI 49097
Phone: 269-649-2343
Fax: 269-649-2538
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

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Cartoon Corner



Bible Quiz



While Jesus was dying on the cross, who mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself"?

- A. Priests
- B. Scribes
- C. Elders
- D. All of the above

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:41-42.)

