



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2016

Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples – and to us – contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Article	2
Prayer Closet	3
Kids Hope	3
Missions	3
Announcements & Office Notes	4
Education Page	5
UMW & Mail Bag	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7

'Just keep swimming ...'



In Athens, the apostle Paul responded to the people's worship of "an unknown god" by declaring, "[God] is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being'" (Acts 17:23, 27-28, NIV).

Author Diana Butler Bass echoes that sentiment: "If the water is invisible to the fish, is God, as the One in whom we swim, also invisible?" (*Grounded: Finding God in the World*, HarperOne).

I, in turn, am reminded of Dory, the blue tang fish in *Finding Nemo*. Feeling overwhelmed and alone, she chants to herself, "Just keep swimming, just keep swimming." When we feel alone and can't see God, it's not that he doesn't exist or can't be known; rather, he surrounds us so closely that sometimes we miss the fact. God is the Living Water in which we swim. Sometimes we need to just keep swimming until we become aware of that again.

—Heidi Mann

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

Of greatest worth...

Not what I get, but what I give,
this be the gauge by which I live.
Not merely joys that come my way,
but the help I give to those astray.
Not the rewards of money and fame,
but the loads I lift in mankind's name.
This be the pay at the end of the day,
not what I keep, but what I give away.

—Author unknown

give!



Pastor's Article

Who makes decisions for The United Methodist Church if there is no one person in charge? Good question. The only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination is the General Conference.

The General Conference is an international body of over eight hundred delegates that meets every four years. The delegates are elected by annual conferences (at annual conference sessions) to attend General Conference. They represent all annual conferences around the world. Half of the delegates are laity (non-clergy members), half are clergy.

Bishops attend the General Conference but cannot vote. Different bishops serve as presiding officers during the conference. Other bishops cannot speak unless permission is specifically granted by the delegates.

During General Conference, delegates discuss and vote on petitions and resolutions proposed by individuals, agencies, annual conferences, and other groups within the denomination. These actions result in a revision of The Book of Discipline, the denomination's book of law, and The Book of Resolutions, policies of the denomination on current social issues.

It is at General Conference where delegates wrestle with today's issues in light of scriptural teachings and the church's understanding of that teaching. Here is where the church's official stands and church policies are made regarding such issues as human sexuality, abortion, war and peace, as well as determination of ministries and funding. General Conferences are held in years divisible by four, such as 2008, 2012, 2016, etc.

The 2016 General Conference will meet in Portland, Oregon May 10-20. The West Michigan delegates to General Conference are Laurie Haller, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, and Nichea VerVeer Guy, a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids.

For more information on the 2016 General Conference, see <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>.

Love in Christ,



Dr. Bufford Coe

Holy Baptism May 15

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated in the worship services on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism should contact Pastor Buff. On Monday, May 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a meeting for the parents of children to be baptized. At this session we will discuss the meaning of baptism and review the baptismal liturgy. The meeting will last about an hour.

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 (ddaileysu@gmail.com)

Trustees ~ Ken Akin (gm-ken@outlook.com)

Personnel ~ Andrea Read (readandrea28@gmail.com)

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

Caring Ministries ~ Barb Addis (Bb1a2b3@aol.com) & Vera Walker (vwlkr@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 (jessjean317@hotmail.com)

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

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

Abuse Prevention ~ Hank Stamm (henrstamm3rd@yahoo.com)

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



Prayer Closet

GPS 30: THE WHOLE CHURCH PRAYING FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

This month long global prayer strategy is a powerful opportunity for every member of our church. I pray that everyone, individually and as a family embraces this unique experience. Open your hearts and minds to those near and far, similar and different. Enhance your prayers by learning about the people and places that we are lifting up. Get online, pull out an old encyclopedia, spread out a map. Allow this spiritual adventure to be a chance for global awareness and understanding for all ages. Invite others to join you/us as We Pray In May For The Whole World!

Kids Hope USA

The 2015-2016 school year is coming to a close! The last day of mentoring is Thursday, May 26, 2016.

Let's celebrate a good year.

KIDS HOPE END OF YEAR PARTY

DATE: May 19, 2016

TIME: 3:30 to 5:00

LOCATION: Taylor Room

Have a great summer.

Mission Moments

This winter/spring, massive flooding hit the Midwest and the United Methodist Midwest Mission Distribution Center was there quickly getting supplies to those affected. Your generosity, love and commitment to showing God's grace in a practical way made this possible. You helped supply 3,780 cleaning buckets and 1,471 health kits in the first week of January alone.

Preparedness is critical to this mission so they need your help to restock the shelves with 3,000 cleaning buckets. As flooding continues in Texas and other locations in the mid west and south please consider bringing hope to at least one family who was affected or who will be affected by a natural disaster in the upcoming months. They can put together an entire cleaning bucket for \$50. Your gift would bring hope to a family who is hurting but most importantly it could be the catalyst to discovering the "Good News", which is an eternal gift.

The Midwest Mission is your Center, and it exists to help you be the light of Christ in this world. Every kit that goes out is packed with love by a volunteer, and every item in the kits was either donated or purchased with donated funds. Midwest Mission operates solely on individual donations, so your support and drive to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ makes this mission happen.

To make a donation in any amount, make checks payable to VUMC with Midwest on the Memo line or if you would like to make up a health kit, a list of the required items is on the Mission table.

Please don't forget Plus Ten to help SCCS and Generous Hands and the 7's which as goes mainly to local Missions where the need is greatest.

Your Mission Team

Keyboard Festival Coming to Vicksburg

One of the Keyboard Festival events will be held in Vicksburg this year. The Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival 2016 Young Artist Award Winner—Daniel Hsu—will be performing at the Vicksburg Performing Arts Center on Sunday, May 8, 2016, at 3:00 p.m.

Reservations for the event can be made by visiting www.vicksburgcommunityschools.org/pac or by calling the Vicksburg Performing Arts Center ticket office at 269-321-1193.

Ticket Prices

Adults—\$12; Seniors—\$10; Students (18 and under)—\$5; Families of five or more—\$25



Announcements for the Good of the Order

Membership Classes Coming!!!

All adults and high school students who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend two orientation sessions that will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on two Thursdays—May 5 and May 12. Our new members will be welcomed into the congregation during the worship services on Sunday, May 15.



Welcome to the inaugural installment of **Office Notes**. This area will be used to convey information from the office that is pertinent to everyone. So....here we go.

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for the June issue of the Visitor is Friday, May 20, 2016. Items must be received, preferably via email, by end of day to be included for June.

Work Room Manners: All church members are more than welcome to use the work room for the needs of their committees and/or projects. However, please be a courteous neighbor. Recently the room was used after hours (not a problem); however, the cutting blade of the paper cutter was left in an open (up) position. Not only is this dangerous, but **it violates OSHA laws**. So, when using the paper cutter, please leave the cutting arm in the lowered, locked position. Also, someone placed card stock in one of the drawers of the copier (again, not a problem), but then failed to remove it when they were done. This caused documents to be printed on the card stock the next morning because no one was aware that it was in there. If you put special paper/stock in the copier, please remove the unused paper/stock when you are done.

End of Activities & Building Usage Forms: With the coming of summer, many regular activities are coming to an end. Please email me (reception@vicksburgumc.org) and let me know the last day your event will meet. Also, if the event will be meeting in the fall, I need a new Building Usage Form to put it on the calendar.

The new policy is that EVERY event must have a Building Usage Form completed before it goes on the calendar. This is due to several miscommunications during my short tenure, and I am a firm believer in having documentation to support every action. The Building Usage Forms are found in a manila folder that is located at the right-hand side of the mail boxes. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this.

Summer Hours

Office Hours (begins 5/31/16)

Monday—Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Note: Office will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016

Summer is upon us. The hours for both the office and the worship services will be adjusted beginning May 29, 2016. Details are listed below.

Worship Hours (begins 5/29/16)

9:30 a.m.	Pit Crew
10:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship
11:15 a.m.	Celebration & Praise Worship

Time to Tweet

Thanks to Andrea Read, VUMC now has a twitter account. She invites everyone to follow the account.

Account name: @VicksburgUMC
Password: vicksburg2343

We are told that an Instagram account is in the making (with a little luck).

Rev. Dr. Jana Lynn Almeida to Retire

Dr. Almeida is retiring in July. There will be an open house for her on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Place: Lincoln Road UMC
9479 W. Lincoln Road
Riverdale, MI 48877.

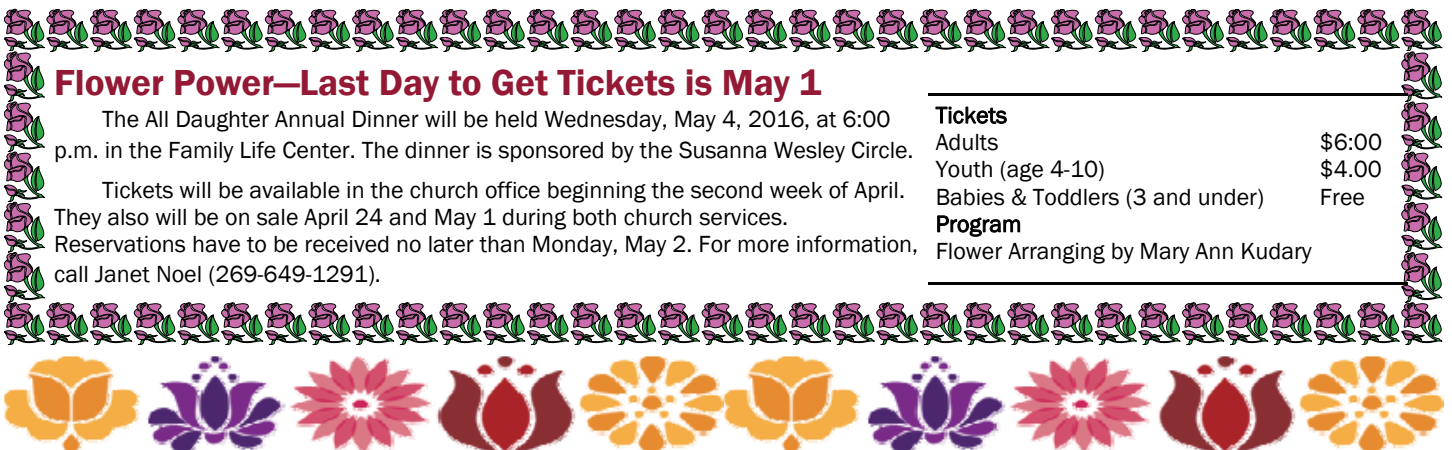
Please RSVP (phone: 989-463-5704) so they can get an approximate count for food.

Flower Power—Last Day to Get Tickets is May 1

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	



Education Page

Sunday School

The SS department ended the Lenten Season's Bible Study on Easter Sunday with one more Sunday of lessons from Adam Hamilton. The KJU class and the youth classes (Pre-K through High School) enjoyed watching the videos together that accompanied the study.

The youth then enjoyed releasing the butterflies in the sanctuary for all to enjoy!

New studies are being led that will round out the Sunday School season for 2015-16. KJU has begun a new study and the Primary classes are enjoying following the lectionary texts that are also the preaching texts as we look at the beginning of Acts. The Primary classes are also learning the books of the Bible through song and it is rumored that rewards will be handed out to those that can recite the books before the end of the SS season.

Speaking of the end of the year, the Sunday school season concludes on May 22 this year. That means that we will be able to celebrate Pentecost together this year on May 15!

Vacation Bible School

Join us August 8-12 this summer as we explore the Light of the World through our VBS theme "Cave Quest". We have several leaders already committed to help ~ kitchen and pre-school ~ but there is lots of room for lots more help.

Groups Cave Quest makes it Easy!

Easy for leaders: Each leader preps only 20 minutes of daily material!

Easy to remember: A single Bible Point is reinforced daily at every station!

Easy for making friends: Small multi-age groups stick together!

On April 30th, I (Lisa) will be attending a FunShop workshop to network with others in the Kalamazoo area that will be using this same theme. Sharing resources has really helped all of us over the years to provide a WOW! factor that helps with the Theme of the week.

Come join the fun as a leader or participant from 9-11:50 a.m. Monday ~ Friday, August 8-12. And watch for the June Visitor for a list of VBS needs.



Graduation Sunday is coming up on June 5!

If you or someone in your family is graduating this spring, please contact the church office to add the student's name and email address to our list. We do not want to leave anyone out, so please help us make sure we celebrate all of our Vicksburg UMC 2016 graduates.

Preschool Happenings



Caring for pets in our veterinary clinic dramatic play area

Enrollment for fall is steadily increasing. We have only four spots left in our M/W/F co-op 4s class. Continue to spread the word to friends and neighbors! Our preschoolers attended field trips at the end of April. Our threes class visited a farm where one of the students lives, our morning fours class visited Hardings at Woodbridge where one of the students' father is the manager and our afternoon fours class visited the Air Zoo. The first week of May we will be holding a Trike-a-Thon to learn about bicycle safety and to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. We are excited for the nicer weather to play outside and a fun-filled month to wrap up our school year!

Contact Amber Morris 649-2343 ext 106 or heartandhands@vicksburgumc.org for more information about the preschool.



Painting on foil



May UMW Calendar & Events

4	6:00 pm	All Daughter Banquet: Hosted by Susanna Wesley Circle
5	11:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting
5	12:30 pm	UMW General Meeting: Racial Justice ~ ?
6		Church Women United ~ May Friendship Day
8		Happy Mother's Day
19	9:30 am	Susanna Wesley
26		Priscilla Circle meeting canceled (Next meeting June 6: Eat out night)
30		Happy Memorial Day!



Priscilla Circle says, "Thanks"

Many thanks to all who helped make the Priscilla Circle bake sale such a success! Every item sold. Many customers said, "Keep the change." We now have a good start to helping the community Center during the Christmas season.

Thank you—Thank you—Thank you—for another successful Rummage Sale!

You show who you are by what you do...AND YOU DID GREAT!

- ✚ Thank you for all the gently used, clean donations of items to sell at the sale!
- ✚ Thank you for all the yummy food for our workers!
- ✚ Thank you to all who worked at the sale!
- ✚ Thank you to all who shopped for tons of amazing bargains!

We needed many hands to help and you raised yours! With your help, the UMW raised over \$3,000 to help people in our community and around the world! Yes, together we were able to make a big difference ... And that's definitely GREAT!

Sincerely,
The UMW Gals

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.

Susanna Wesley Circle to Hold Bake Sale

NOT!

On May 22nd, the Susanna Wesley circle will hold a "No Bake" Bake Sale to raise money that will be used in December 2016 to provide Christmas for others through South County Community Services. There still might be a treat for each donation!

Quilt Show During the Old Car Fest

I would like to organize a quilt show during the Old Car Fest this year. We have so many wonderful quilters in our church, as well as our community. I am wondering if you would be willing to share your quilts for a day. I also would like to know if anyone would like to help me organize this. Other churches have been very successful with quilt shows. Without the ice cream social I believe this would be a great opportunity to welcome people to into our church.

Please let me know if you are willing to let us show your quilt(s) or if you would be able to help. Please call me (Kathy Phillips) at 649-3850 to respond or if you have any questions or ideas.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Mail Bag

From Vera Walker

Thank you to all of my church family for being there for me recently. You are my rock and support and I love you all.

I will miss her so much and my heart is broken right now even though I know my sister is truly celebrating with her heavenly family.

Your love has been with me all the way. Thanks.



5/1	Marie Ketvirtis Paul Schutter Rae Ann Graves	5/10	Sophia Carrier 5/11 Karen Simpson 5/12 Maya Hossink	5/19	Dominick Hosner Jack Bradfield Phillip Tilbury
5/3	Holly Tärner Valerie Hamilton		Sharon Hosner Shawn Breece	5/21	Billy Adams Kenneth Herson
5/4	Robert Cohrs	5/13	Sahara Willoughby	5/22	Betty Bradfield
5/6	Anthony Knowles Elizabeth Anderson	5/14	Steve Fryling	5/23	Elizabeth Tuinier
5/7	Christine Mohr Gabriel Cleveland Lauren Wolak	5/15	Fred Willis	5/24	Norah Hossink
5/8	David Vermeulen Kent Mccauley Michael Tichvon	5/16	Markus Taylor	5/25	Margaret Tilbury Tamra Stamm
5/9	David Pauli	5/17	Linda Hulett Penny Sult	5/27	Cassandra Miller
		5/18	Al Thomas Jean Philport Kathy Moore Kathy Phillips	5/29	Lee Halladay Levi Hawkins Lisa Coe Lucile Miller



G.R.O.W. Groups
(Grief Recovery Outreach to Wholeness)
2016 Spring Schedule Announced

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, friend or co-worker, you may have some questions about the feelings and thoughts you are having at this time. You may feel, “out of balance”...“can’t seem to let go”...“I cry a lot”...“I blame myself” or other similar feelings.

There are two groups scheduled—one during the day and one during the evening. Both groups meet for 6 sessions. The dates are: May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1 & 8. No fee for any session

Daytime Group

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
 Senior Services, Inc.
 918 Jasper Street, Kalamazoo

Evening Group

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Portage Public School Administration Building
 8107 Mustang Dr., Portage.
 Topics Covered

- Introduction to the Grief Process, Your Story...
- Loneliness vs. Being Alone...with options
- Tears Are Healing/Total Body Health Responses
- Anger, Guilt, Stress in the Grief Process
- Grief Management—Setting Realistic Expectations
- Coping With Reminders—The Holidays, Anniversaries & How Do I Know I AM Getting Better?

Call or email Dana Naumann (Langeland Family Funeral Homes) to register or for more information.
 Phone: 269-343-1508
 Email: dana@langelands.com



A MATTER OF BALANCE
 MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Do you have concerns about falling? Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. **A Matter of Balance** is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

Sessions will be held at Vicksburg UMC on Tuesday & Fridays in May (5/3/16–5/27/16), 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. You must pre-register by contacting South County Community Services at 269-649-2901.

Participants will learn to view falls as controllable, set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

Who should attend?

Anyone who...

...is concerned about falls, is interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength, has fallen in the past, or has restricted activities because of falling concerns.

For more information please call:

Marilyn Reed
 Area Agency on Aging, IIIA
 269-373-5224



5/2	Steve & Kathy Hambright	5/20	Mark & Mary Rusk
5/3	Al & Barbara Hosner Rick & Barbara Bladt	5/21	Doug & Deb Sponseller
5/4	Norman & Melva Kohler	5/23	Norm & Millie Hackett
5/9	Michael & Laura Asher	5/25	Vern & Aurelia Reed
5/10	Marc (Edward) & Margaret Tilbury	5/26	Mike & Guila Harrison Randy & Tamra Stafford
5/11	Charlie & Annelore Cannizzaro	5/27	Don & Tamra Puckett
5/19	Jeremy & Emily Franklin Jessica & Levi Hawkins		



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

The Visitor

Volume 23, Issue 5

May 2016

Cartoon Corner



Bible Quiz

Which books of the Bible include an account of Jesus’ ascension?

- A. Luke and Acts
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four gospels



Answer: A (See Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:9.)

