



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 23, Issue 10

October 2016



Christian Symbol

Door

A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and personal relationship with Jesus: "Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7, NIV). Conversely, a door represents Jesus' desire to be invited into our lives and hearts: "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me" (Revelation 3:20, NIV).

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You Are Invited!!!

All adults and high school students who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend the four orientation sessions that will be held at 9:50 a.m. beginning Sunday, October 2. These classes will prepare persons to become members of our church family as well as the global United Methodist Church. Persons may choose at the end of the classes whether or not they wish to join the church.

The classes may also be of interest to persons who already are 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 Sunday, October 30. For more information, contact Pastor Buff.



Pastor's Article

Next month, from October 30 through November 20, we will be celebrating a church-wide stewardship program called "Defying Gravity." Over a four-week period we will examine the generous life—what it is and why it can be hard to experience. We will be studying the topic of generosity, including data from surveys, insights from experts, and conversations with generous people about their goals and habits. We want to understand why generosity brings people joy and what forces work against it. Many of us want to experience the significance of blessing others but feel trapped by past decisions and misled by a society that bombards us with messages of having more and having better.

The good news is that Jesus offers us a way to "defy gravity" and break free from the culture of more. Come hear what the Bible and others say about how to experience a generous life. There will be exercises and challenges during this series to help you consider your relationship with money, possessions, and giving.

You will not want to miss a single Sunday of "Defying Gravity."

Love in Christ,

Dr. Bufford Coe

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

Welcome Bishop Bard

Bishop David Bard began serving the Michigan Area on September 1. A welcome event will be held on **Sunday, October 16, 2016**, at 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 212 South Park Street in Kalamazoo. It will include a worship service during which Bishop Bard will preach. Following the service is a reception. Two others events are also planned: 10:30 a.m. on September 24 at Waterford Central UMC and 3:00 p.m. on October 23 at Indian River UMC . Please join us at any or all of these events.



Prayer Closet

Alone With God

He rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35)

One of the most striking aspects of Jesus' public life was precisely that it was so public. Everywhere we turn in the Gospels, we find Jesus surrounded by crowds, followed by crowds, literally hounded by crowds of people. The pressures on Him must have been enormous. His insistence on praying in solitude is noteworthy. From the beginning of Mark's Gospel we see Him in action, recruiting disciples, teaching, preaching, healing, casting out demons—and then, "in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed." Jesus' ministry will henceforth be marked by periods of intense public activity, punctuated by times of solitude for reflection and prayer.

Solitude is a lost ingredient in modern life. We seem, in fact, to go out of our way to fill our lives, from morning to night, with all manner of noise and clamor. We are never quiet, never at rest, never alone.

But if we are to be men and women of prayer, we must take our cue from Jesus, who carved out times of solitude in the midst of His hectic life. It was in those times that He found the refreshment he needed to go back into action.

Solitude has become so alien to us that the prospect can seem cold and barren. But Jesus clearly relished being alone with God. To Him it was not merely a "spiritual discipline" or a "religious duty." It was a joy, a delight.

Jesus knew who He was as the beloved Son of God, and he loved to spend time alone with His Father. We, too, are the children of God. May we likewise come to take delight in times of prayer alone with God!

--Do you regularly set aside times to be alone with God in the course of your life?

--What steps will you need to take to make such times a reality?

Heavenly Father, we pray that you will help us recognize our need to be alone with you in the midst of our busy lives. Help us to take the necessary steps to make times of solitude and reflection a regular part of our life. Amen

Mission Moments

Great Gospel Singout

The 28th annual GREAT GOSPEL SING OUT will be October 9th at 3:00 pm at Vicksburg UMC. Mark your calendars now. To date the Sing Out has raised over \$450,000 for UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief).

SCCS

South County Community Services is in need of canned goods and boxes of whole grain cereal. As for personal items The National Honor Society had a drive for personal items so thankfully there is no need for additional toilet paper. However there is a need for the other items on the list, particularly laundry detergent and dish soap.

Thank You so much for all that you do.

The Mission Team

Church Leaders

Church Council ~ Ken Franklin—Acting Chair (drkenfp@mac.com)

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 (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 (jessjean317@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)



Office Notes



Upcoming Deadlines

Newsletter: The deadline for the November issue of *The Visitor* is Monday, October 24, 2016. Items must be received, preferably via email, by end of day to be included for November. The newsletter will be distributed with the Good News on Thursday, October 29.

Church Council: The deadline for submissions for Church Council (i.e. minutes) is Wednesday, October 19, 2016. All items will be forwarded to the Church Council on Thursday, October 20, 2016.

Mail Chimp Email

The email inviting you to subscribe to the new email lists from the church was sent out on September 21. Check your email. If you want to be included in the new email lists, and you have not responded, you need to do so no later than Friday, October 21, 2015. The email lists will be finalized during the week of October 24. The first emails from the new system will be sent beginning on November 1. So get your replies back soon. If you can't open the attachment and you want to receive all the emails, then just reply and state, "Include me on all VUMC emails."

Change to Scrip Cents Order Frequency:

The next date for Scrip Cents orders is Tuesday, October 4. After that, we will be changing to a schedule where the Scrip Cents orders are submitted every other Tuesday. In order to work them into the office schedule most efficiently, they need to be ordered on weeks where we are not tied up with accounts-payable activities. So, the next date (after October 4) for Scrip Cents will be Tuesday, October 25. After that, they will be ordered every other Tuesday. The orders are placed early in the morning, so to be included, your orders need to be in the office no later than 8:00 a.m. on the ordering day.

Announcements for the Good of the Order

Church Council Time is Changing

At their last meeting (in September) the Church Council decided to change its meeting time to 6:30 p.m. beginning in October. They still will be meeting the fourth Monday of each month.

Concert at Klines Resort Clubhouse

Alan Tripp and Scott Griffin will be in concert at the Klines Resort Clubhouse on Sunday, October 2, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Admission and refreshments (coffee & cookies) are free; however, there will be a freewill offering taken to support the ministry.

Klines Resort is located at 22260 Klines Resort Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093.

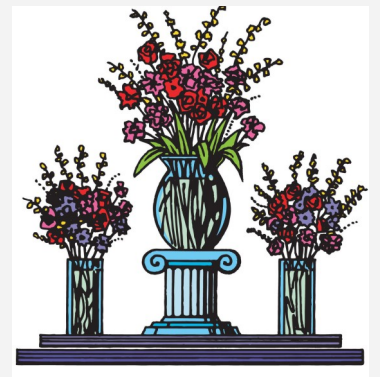
Empty Spots on the Flower Chart

Everyone enjoys seeing beautiful flowers on the altar during Sunday morning services. They are especially meaningful when they are in honor of a person or event.

Anyone who has a special person or event they would like to celebrate or commemorate is invited to provide altar flowers for Sunday morning worship services on any given week. The flowers are yours to take home after the service. You can celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, memorials, accomplishments, etc.

You say you do not have any special event or person to celebrate? You are still welcome to provide flowers to celebrate the sacrifice that Jesus made and the life He has given us.

The flower chart hangs on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Simply pick a Sunday, sign your name and list the event you are honoring. If there is not an event, you can put, "To the glory of God."



Holy Baptism is Coming!

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated during the worship service on Sunday, October 30, 2016. 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 Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. During this session, we will discuss the meaning of baptism and review the baptismal liturgy. The meeting will last about an hour.



Education Page

Sunday School

I know it is only October, but it won't be long before we will begin rehearsal for the Annual Children's Christmas Program. If you have kids who are Middle School age or younger, we would love to have them participate.

The program has not been selected yet. That will be happening very shortly. Rehearsals will be during the Sunday School hour starting November 13 and continuing through December 4. The program will be presented December 11 during both services. The kids will be leading the services that morning, so there are plenty of opportunities for speaking parts.

If your youth might be interested, please contact Miss Lisa via email (church_ladi@yahoo.com), or phone (269-649-0602) or just let her know when you see her. (Make sure she writes your kids' name(s) down right then!)

Blessings,
Lisa

Kids Hope USA

September has been a busy month. We are getting the paperwork completed and the schedules set for the 6 returning student/mentor matches. We eagerly await the new student referrals and are excited about making new friends.

We still have a need for more mentors and prayer partners. Pray that we can meet the needs of all the children who are recommended to our ministry. Tutoring sessions start in October.

The 2016/2017 school year is going to be great! Please join us as we share our time and our love with at-risk students at Tobey Elementary.

Save the Date

The Kids Hope Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 15

Dates of Note

October Anniversaries

10/02	DOUG & TANYA DeLong	10/15	Greg & MARY Burke
10/11	PAUL & JUNE French	10/18	JAMES & JENNIFER Thompson
10/12	BONNIE & Dennis Sellers	10/23	JEREMY & ANNE Howard
	WIL & ELOISE Emmert		RACHEL & ROBERT Ball
10/13	MARVIN & KATHRYN Starbuck	10/29	JUSTIN & SARA Carrier

October Birthdays

10/2	Vaughan Read	10/10	CHARLIE Cannizzaro		TAMARA Janer
10/4	MINA Willett		Elise Howard	10/20	Amelia Murray
	Nicholas Akins		James Hulett	10/23	Burt Heikes
10/5	Drew Geiger		KEN Cron		NANCY Blanchard
	LORI Lash		LUCAS Cannizzaro	10/24	Jeff Kudary
	TAMRA Puckett		MIKE Pendola	10/25	HANK Stamm
	VANCE Johnson	10/11	JEANNINE Morris	10/26	Bianca Agnone
10/6	ALEX Cannizzaro	10/12	MIKE Slancik		HEATHER Fenwick
	KRISTY Herson		THEODORA (Doreen) Akins		Octavia Valencia
10/7	Breanna Dailey	10/13	JOAN Smola		THOMAS Holmes
	KEN Franklin	10/14	Olivia Cannizzaro		WIL Emmert
	MARY Ruple	10/15	Elin Oomen	10/27	CYNTHIA Field
10/8	MARY ANN Kudary		HILARY Fiebig		Ronan Thompson
10/9	BRADLEY Addis	10/17	LINDA Hasso	10/29	KRISTEN Hossink
	JEFF Johnson	10/18	Mardi White	10/31	DENICE Pauli
			ROGER Kroshinsky		



October UMW Calendar & Events

6	11:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
6	12:30 p.m.	United Methodist Women—Thank Offering
9		Priscilla Circle Bake Sale Date Changed
15	9:00 a.m.	Conference: Annual UMW Conference @Muskegon Central UMC in Muskegon
16		Priscilla Circle Bake Sale—New Date
20	9:30 a.m.	Susanna Wesley Circle
31		Happy Halloween



Save the Dates

- October 15 is the Annual UMW Conference in Muskegon, Michigan.
- November 3: 2017 Officer installation and pledge service.

Fall Rummage Sale

W O W !!! LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

Thank you – thank you- thank you for another successful Rummage Sale!

- YOU donated gently-used, clean items for the sale!
- YOU donated yummy food for our workers!
- YOU worked at the sale!
- YOU shopped for tons of amazing bargains!
- YOU packed & loaded leftovers so the Salvation Army could help still more folks!

With your help, the UMW raised over \$3,000 to help people in our community and around the world! **WOW!** And we'll do it all again come April 2017! Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,
The UMW Gals



Priscilla Circle Bake Sale

There will be a bake sale sponsored by Priscilla Circle on Sunday, October 16 (note date change from October 9). All profits will go to support the Vicksburg Community Center's Christmas giving programs.

The sale will include lots of goodies. So come and pick up a dessert for Sunday dinner and support a good cause at the same time.

Mail Bag

From Hanna Ouvry

Thank you for the scholarship that you provided me for this upcoming school year! It helps me out financially and also helps me to know I have the support of the VUMC congregation. See you all soon!

From Susanna Wesley Circle

Thanks to everyone who did some early Christmas shopping by donating to the Susanna Wesley Circle's No Bake bake sale. All of the proceeds received (over \$200.00) will be donated to the South County Community Services for their clients at Christmas.

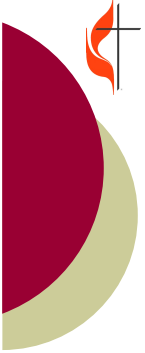
From Kay DeMoss

Please run this announcement in the Visitor. Marve and Kitty Starbuck have moved to:

Park Village Pines
Room 207, 2910 Crystal Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Phone: 269-649-1991 (same number)

Stop by and have a cookie and cup of hot chocolate!





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

Celebration & Praise: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.
Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Mon—Thurs: 8:30 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

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

The Visitor

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Cartoon Corner



Bible Quiz

It's intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books doesn't mention autumn?

- A. Matthew
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Proverbs
- D. Jude



Answer: A (See Proverbs 20:4, ESV; Jeremiah 5:24; Jude 1:12.)

