

Sunday  
**January 28, 2018**  
10:30 a.m.

## Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Pastor Greg

We are alive in Christ.  
We love God,  
we care for one another,  
and we help people here  
and around the world.



217 S Main St  
Vicksburg MI 49097  
269-649-2343  
vicksburgumc.org

Rev. Greg Culver  
231-675-4452  
gpculver@mac.com



Plain print indicates worship leader.  
**Bold print indicates congregation.**  
*\*Indicates please stand as able.*

### Gather to Worship

#### Welcome

#### Ministry Opportunities

#### Call to Worship

Let us gather and turn, turn towards the light.  
Let us gather and turn, turn towards each other.  
Let us gather and turn, turn towards God.  
**Let us be reborn, renewed, renamed, as God's children.**

#### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth, You sent Your Son, Jesus, into the world to reveal the true light, the true way, for us to be saved. For centuries the church has tried to filter Your light through different cultural lenses, through different traditions, through different interpretations of what it means to be saved. Times and understandings have changed and yet still the church does not always find ways to shine Your light in ways that help others to know You. Forgive us Lord, we are fickle people, slow to learn and even slower to change. Help us turn back to the light that shines in Jesus, Who guides our way.

**Forgive us Lord, for hiding the light in doctrine, theology, tradition for tradition's sake while failing to let the light shine brightly for all people.**

Lord, help us to choose to follow the light wherever it may lead us, and to share the light with all people.

**So be it! Amen!**

**\*Hymn:** #605 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

**\*Scripture Lesson:** John 3:1-21

*Because this is the sacred story of our Lord Jesus Christ, please do Him the honor of standing as able for the reading of the Gospel.*

**Children's Time:** Joanne Culver

**Anthem:** John 3:16 ~ performed by the children

**Sermon:** Unbroken Words: “Word of Wisdom”

**\*Hymn:** #420 Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verses 1-3)

**Praying for Others and for Ourselves**

**Blessing of Christian Service - Kids Hope**

**Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

Offertory: Great and Mighty Lord ~ *solo performed by Diana Pomeroy*

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Light of the world, shine upon us this day, renew our commitment to being light bearers.  
Receive our offerings which the church will use to continue to spread your light here at  
home and further afield. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** #2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center

**\*Blessing**

**\*Depart to Serve**

*Coming up next Sunday, February 4: Sermon Series: Unbroken Words — “Word of Well-Spring”  
John 4:1-42. Holy Communion will also be celebrated!*

### For Cheer and Hello

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Liz Anderson   | Robert & Carmen       |
| David Bretz    | Parsons               |
| Barb Griner    | Char Rice             |
| Pat McClelland | Marv & Kitty Starbuck |
| Iris McGahan   | Al Thomas             |
| Beverly Nimmo  | Mina Willett          |

### Prayer for Family and Friends

#### New Requests This Week

Phyllis Barrett's sister-in-law passed away. Please remember her brother and family in prayer.  
Margaret Kerchief (wife of Dr. Karl Kerchief) was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.  
Susie Ward (Jo Pope's son-in-law's sister) passed away.  
Eleanor Warren (aunt of Sharon Pendola and Tamra Stamm) passed away.

#### Previous Requests

Nathan Brockman (Marie Ketvirtis' nephew) is recovering from surgery.  
Jack and Cynda Buckallew  
Alice Dibble passed away. Please remember her family in prayer.  
Joe Green (Laverne Swinehart's son-in-law) is hospitalized.  
Norm Hackett passed away. Please remember his family in prayer.  
Shirley Kohler (Larry's sister) is having problems in areas of the cancer she had previously and will have more tests.  
Tyler Lynch has health concerns.  
Tim and Lynne Melvin as Tim will have surgery and possible treatment for cancer.  
Abbigale and Amelia Murray and Andrew Adams  
Larry and LaVon Rolfe  
Grant Swinehart (Laverne's son) broke his elbow.

### In Service to Our Country

**Kohler, Matthew L.**  
USS Harry S Truman CVN75  
Unit 100255 Box #3137  
FPO 2E 09524

**Major Jeff Kudary**  
1049 Willow Circle  
Clarksville TN 37043

**SFC Miller, Ryan**  
249th En (Prime Power)  
APO AE 09333  
Al Asad Airbase, Iraq

**Walker Polsinelli**

**Richie Steinacker**  
8429 Shallow Creek Rd  
Ft Worth TX 76179

**Geoff White**  
5112 Hickory Ln  
Klamath Falls OR 97601





## The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### You are invited to the new Bible study



Thursday Night Vids has begun. We're trying a video-based Bible study in the library at 6:30 on Thursday evenings

and going till ? This week is the fifth study in a five-week series by Ray Vander Laan entitled, "The Mission of Jesus." Come and see!!

### Church Directory Changes

Please make note of the following changes in your recent church directory:

**Cohrs, Robert**  
1069 Houghton Ln  
Charlotte MI 48813

**Moore, Kevin & Carol**  
10654 East VW Ave  
Vicksburg MI 49097

**George, Ken**  
PO Box 2590  
Kalamazoo MI 49003

**Parsons, Robert & Carmen**  
605 Schuring Rd, Apt 2-B  
Portage MI 49024

### This Week's Celebrations

#### Birthdays

1/28 Andrea Read  
Janet Zang  
1/29 Charlene Dailey  
Katie Geiger  
Lynn Griner  
Dawnara Rollins  
1/30 David Nic  
Jim Smola

1/31 Steve Ensing  
Mike Hardy  
Dee Morton  
2/1 Julie Griffin  
Marianna Hiemstra  
2/2 Chuck Myers  
2/3 Anessa Read

#### Anniversaries

1/29 Gene & Janet Zang

Today's acolytes are  
Briar Luegge and Ella Luegge

January 21 attendance:  
Worship 103      Sunday School 28

### Calendar

#### Today

*Susanna Wesley Circle Sub Sandwich  
Sale orders will be taken*

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

#### Monday, January 29

6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC  
6:30 p.m. Scout troop meeting, Taylor Room

#### Tuesday, January 30

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

#### Wednesday, January 31

10:30 a.m. Wednesday Winners in the Taylor Room  
2:30 p.m. SHED (middle school outreach)  
5:00 p.m. HELIX (middle school youth)  
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir practice in the Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

#### Thursday, February 1

10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC  
5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th and 6th grade)  
6:00 p.m. Play Gym in the FLC  
6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth)  
6:30 p.m. Bible Study in the Library

#### Friday, February 2 - Pastor's Day Off

11:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether in Room 219

#### Saturday, February 3

*morning Susanna Wesley Circle assembling subs  
in the Taylor Room.*

#### Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

### Coming Events

#### Sunday, February 4

*after Worship pick up your sub order*

#### Monday, February 5

*7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team, Library*

#### Tuesday, February 6

*6:00 p.m. Preschool Open House  
6:30 p.m. Scout Den meeting, FLC  
7:00 p.m. Trustees meeting in the Library*

#### Thursday, February 8

*2:00 p.m. Advance Care Planning in the Library  
6:30 p.m. Scouts District Round Table, Taylor Rm  
7:00 p.m. Nominations Committee meeting*

### Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due Thursday, Feb. 1

### Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

Jan. 28: Joe and Betty Gruber  
Feb. 4:

# Walking the Labyrinth

Lent 2018  
A Place to Pray and Seek God

Vicksburg United Methodist Church  
217 S. Main St. Vicksburg, MI 49097  
[www.vicksburgumc.org](http://www.vicksburgumc.org)



## Walking the Labyrinth at Vicksburg United Methodist Church

The labyrinth has been a means of prayer and meditation since the first days of Christianity. By walking the path of a labyrinth, Christians found a safe means to fulfill their sacred pilgrimage vows when travel to the Holy City of Jerusalem was unsafe.

In a labyrinth, which is flat, one can always view the center, and so the mind can be still and attentive. The winding path into the center and back out again is a metaphor for the journeys of life and faith, as labyrinths are designed to help us find our way with God. As you walk the labyrinth, the journey is yours to take as you wish – or as you are led. The goal is walking (crawling?) with God through prayer – asking, seeking, and listening.

A video introducing the labyrinth (on 40'x40' canvas) will be shown on Monday, Feb. 12, at 7:00 p.m. There will also be scheduled opportunities during Lent when the labyrinth will be set up for prayer walks in the Family Life Center.

For those wishing to go deeper, there will be a Tuesday evening (2/27, 3/13, 3/27) Lenten book discussion featuring *Walking the Labyrinth: A Place to Pray*, by Travis Scholl (ISBN# 978-0-8308-3583-6). If you would like Pastor Greg to order you a book, please let him know by Feb. 5 ([gpculver@mac.com](mailto:gpculver@mac.com)).

For both church and community... All are invited to walk and pray.

## Give Your Family the Precious Gift of your Choices

What if a sudden medical event happened to you and you could not make medical decisions? Have you made an advance care plan for your healthcare? Attend an informative kitchen table small group discussion where we will review the steps involved to share the precious gift of your wishes for healthcare. You will learn how to create a free advance directive document that identifies who you would want to make medical decisions and how to initiate the critical conversation with your loved ones. Join us Thursday, Feb. 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the library for this event. Please contact Polly to RSVP at (269) 649-2343 or [reception@vicksburgumc.org](mailto:reception@vicksburgumc.org).



## Coffee hour

Treats are needed for February and March. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or call Vera Walker, 532-3551.

## Flowers for the church altar

We need flowers for Sundays. There is a sign up sheet for this. If you need help, contact Dee Morton about ordering flowers from Heirloom Rose in Schoolcraft for \$25.

## Sub Sandwich Sale

by Susanna Wesley Circle  
you can still place your order  
**TODAY**

6" sub bun with deli style sliced turkey, ham, salami  
and sliced Co-Jack cheese

**\$5<sup>00</sup>** each  
(pay when you order)

pick up sandwiches on  
**Saturday, February 3 at noon**  
in the Taylor Room kitchen

**or February 4 after church**  
Super Bowl Sunday

