

Sunday  
**February 4, 2018**  
10:30 a.m.

## Fifth 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.



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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

Not all water tastes the same.

**Let us gather around the watering place where streams of living water run and welcome the foreigner, the outsider, the guest to this place of love.**

Let us welcome each other in the peace of Christ, offering a hand and the words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."

**And also with you.**

#### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Holy Living Water, we gather and we chatter; we gather and we share; we gather and we drink together.

**Today as we gather we are amazed that You thirsted just as we thirst; You needed companions, just as we need companions.**

Help us not to be amazed at these seemingly simple things: water and words. For water and words are what brought holiness to life.

**Living Water. Living Word. Jesus: human carpenter and divine Messiah all rolled into One.**

We are awed by Water and Word and yet, even as we are awed, we also find we need to seek forgiveness and wholeness — for we take them for granted.

**Forgive us, when we are careless with our words.**

Forgive us, when we squander the water.

**Forgive us, when we forget that it was through God's unlimited love that the Word joined us and the Water brought us life.**

Forgive us for forgetting that God's love is through the Water and Word.

**Living Word, Living Water, we bring ourselves to You with gratitude and hope, amen.**

**\*Hymn: #2244 People Need the Lord**

**\*Scripture Lesson:** John 4:1-42

**Children's Time:** *Beth Griner*

**Anthem:** Blessed Be Your Name

**Sermon:** Unbroken Words: "Word of Well-Spring"

**\*Hymn:** #641 Fill My Cup, Lord

**Praying for Others and for Ourselves**

**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**

**We bring You all that we have, Living God. We make these offerings, small as they may be; and as we bring to You from our plenty, help us to share more: not just our offerings, but Water and Word as well, so all may hear and know and be refreshed. Amen.**

**Holy Communion - *The Great Thanksgiving for Black History Month***

*FYI: February marks Black History Month, a tribute to African-American men and women who have made significant contributions to America and the rest of the world in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, the arts, entertainment, and many other fields. While it is grievous that Sunday morning is still the most segregated time in our nation, we anticipate the day when all of Christ's holy church will share in God's great banquet in the age to come. We acknowledge this to teach our children of a Table where ALL who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You formed all people in Your image and breathed into us all the breath of life. When human cruelty reared its ugly head, You sustained African peoples and made it possible for them to survive the middle passage, auction blocks, whipping posts and forced labor.

You softened the hearts of many who worked in secret on their behalf. You lifted the dignity of people of color with the message that God sides with the oppressed and delivers the captives.

You strengthened many hands to struggle for justice and freedom.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of Your glory! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ, Who left the comforts of glory to live among a people estranged from God. By His life and example He taught us that it was possible to love our neighbors and live together as family.

By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Holy Spirit.

On the night in which our Lord gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this is remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of You; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, there — wherever Your people are gathered this day.

Empower the gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that all Your people may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at His heavenly banquet.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Glory! Glory! Amen! Amen!**

\*Hymn: #3093 Fill My Cup, Lord (verses 1, 3)

\*Blessing

\*Depart to Serve

*Coming up next Sunday, February 11: Sermon Series: Unbroken Words — "Word of Washing" John 9:1-41.*

**Prayer for Family and Friends**

**Updates and Praises**

Ryan Miller is thankful for the communications from church family. He hopes to come home sometime in April or early May.

David and Elisha Penning have a new son, Asher, and they are now home.

**New Requests This Week**

Lynne Melvin and family at the loss of her sister, Sue Duffy

Jim Miller (Betty Gruber's brother) was admitted to a long-term care facility and is in Hospice Care.

**Previous Requests**

Phyllis Barrett's sister-in-law passed away. Please remember her brother and family in prayer.

Nathan Brockman (Marie Ketzvirts' 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.

Margaret Kerchief (wife of Dr. Karl Kerchief) was recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

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.

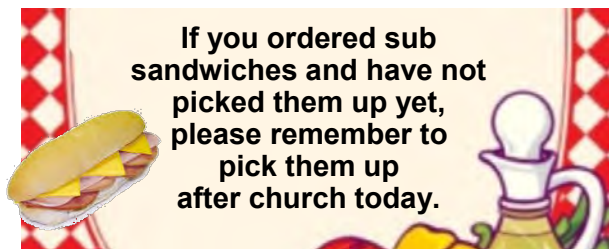
Susie Ward (Jo Pope's son-in-law's sister) passed away.

Eleanor Warren (aunt of Sharon Pendola and Tamra Stamm) passed away.

**For Cheer and Hello**

Liz Anderson  
David Bretz  
Barb Griner  
Pat McClelland  
Iris McGahan  
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen  
Parsons  
Char Rice  
Marv & Kitty Starbuck  
Al Thomas  
Mina Willett



## Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due Thursday, Feb. 15
- Church Council submissions are due Feb. 20
- Newsletter items are due Monday, Feb. 19

## Coffee hour

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

## Church Directory Changes

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Cohrs, Robert</b><br>1069 Houghton Ln<br>Charlotte MI 48813 | <b>Moore, Kevin &amp; Carol</b><br>10654 East VW Ave<br>Vicksburg MI 49097          |
| <b>George, Ken</b><br>PO Box 2590<br>Kalamazoo MI 49003        | <b>Parsons, Robert &amp; Carmen</b><br>605 Schuring Rd, Apt 2-B<br>Portage MI 49024 |

## This Week's Celebrations

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b><u>Birthdays</u></b> | 2/7 Avery Slancik   |
| 2/5 Steven Dibble       | 2/8 Tom Hardy       |
| 2/6 Rex Bragg           | Hayden Hayes        |
| 2/7 Laurie Nic          | 2/9 Noni Heikes Dr. |



## 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

## Calendar

### Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
*after Worship pick up your sub order*

### Monday, February 5

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

### Tuesday, February 6

2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room  
6:00 p.m. *Preschool Open House*  
6:30 p.m. *Scout Den meeting, FLC*  
7:00 p.m. *Trustees meeting in the Library*

### Wednesday, February 7

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 8

10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC  
2:00 p.m. *Advance Care Planning in the Library*  
5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th and 6th grade)  
5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board meeting in the Library*  
6:00 p.m. Play Gym in the FLC  
6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth)  
6:30 p.m. *Scouts District Round Table, Taylor Rm*  
7:00 p.m. *Nominations Committee meeting*

### Friday, February 9 - Pastor's Day Off

10:00 a.m. Knit & Stitch 2gether in Room 219

### Saturday, February 10

*no activities are scheduled*

### Monday through Friday

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

## Coming Events

### Monday, February 12

7:00 p.m. *Labyrinth class, FLC*

### Tuesday, February 13

10:00 a.m. *Staff meeting in the Library*  
6:30 p.m. *Scout Committee meeting in Room 125*

### Wednesday, February 14

6:30 p.m. *Scout meeting in Room 125*  
7:00 p.m. *Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary*

### Thursday, February 15

9:30 a.m. *Susanna Wesley Circle, Taylor Room*

Today's acolytes are  
Kelsie Tuinier and Kylie Tuinier

January 28 attendance: Worship 127

## 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 (2/12, 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.

### 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.

## Thursday PLAY GYM

10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.



Fun, inexpensive

### "play with me" group

for 1- to 5-year-olds  
and their favorite adult.

Next session

begins **Feb. 22.**

Sign up by calling the office.



### 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).



### 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.

