

Sunday
March 4, 2018
10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent (Communion Sunday)

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

In Psalm 17, the psalmist writes: "I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words."

Hear us, Lord, as we gather this day, recognizing our desire to serve and our success in serving sometimes lie far apart.

"Wondrously show Your steadfast love O Savior of those who seek refuge..."

We seek in Your house of prayer to come closer to You, in humility and frailty, that You might hold us with strength and compassion.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God, You made us, and You know us through and through. Best, and most amazingly of all, You love us — no matter what.

Not only is there no point trying to pretend with You, there is no need. You know all the shameful secrets that we try to hide; You know the goodness and generosity in us that we tend to discount.

Not only do You see what we have done or failed to do, but You also understand the reasons why, as even we ourselves do not. You know whether it was bravado or anger, anxiety or awkwardness that made us open our mouth and say those words that we now so desperately wish were unsaid.

You know why we kept silent and said nothing, when there was a word of comfort or apology, an offer of help or a declaration of support that might have made all the difference to someone who was hurting.

And still... yes, still You love us.

Draw close to us now in the silence, we pray, as we take the risk — as much as we dare — of opening ourselves to the gentle, thorough scrutiny of Your Spirit.

Shine Your light into the dark and shady places of our lives, and speak Your word of peace.

Silence.

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Lord, set us free from guilt and shame for what is past.

Set us free from whatever it is that makes us most likely to fail again.

Set us free to be who we already are: Your beloved children, called into the service of Your Son, and equipped by Your Spirit to continue faithfully to the end. Amen.

*Hymn: #352 It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

*Scripture Lesson: John 18:12-27

Children's Time: *Jolene Cron*

Anthem: Who Is That Man?

Sermon: *Around the Cross — “Jesus, Unfriended”*

*Hymn: #398 Jesus Calls Us (Verses 1, 3-5)

Praying for Others and for Ourselves

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory: I Did Nothing But Believe

*Doxology: #95 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication

Living God, we come out of the shadows to offer You our gifts, asking for the courage that we will need to make good on our promises.

We promise to stick with You, wherever that journey may lead us, and we ask for courage to keep going to the end. We promise to be authentic when we speak about You, and ask for courage not to hide either our convictions or our uncertainties.

Much as we would like to, we cannot promise never to let You down, but we promise that when we do, we will allow You to heal and restore us.

We ask for courage to admit to our failings, and humility to rely on You to help us not to make the same mistakes again. Amen.

Holy Communion -- A Great Thanksgiving for Lent

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 always good and right to give You thanks and praise, O God, for You have loved us with an everlasting love. You called together a people fit to praise You, and even when we failed You, You sent to us prophets and sages to draw us back to Your will and Your way. In the fullness of time You sent to us Your only Son, Jesus, born of a woman and of the Holy Spirit, to bring to us life and life that is abundant. In life, He bore to us Your message; in death He pronounced forgiveness; in raising Him, You declared victory over sin and death.

On the night He was given up for us, our Lord Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room. And there at the table, He took a loaf and having given thanks to God he broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is to be given up for you."

And after supper, likewise, He took a chalice, and giving thanks to God He gave it to them saying, "Take and drink, for this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we do show forth the death of Christ until He comes again.

Send the power of Your Spirit, O God, upon us gathered here out of love for You, and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may truly be His body, cleansed by His blood, and strengthened to serve You faithfully throughout the world. Through Him, with Him, and in Him, all glory and honor be to You, almighty God, now in Your church, and forever. Now, with the confidence of Your children, we are bold to pray: *Our Father...* (using "sins")...

Behold, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to His supper. My friends, these are the gifts of God for all of God's people. Come and receive the Lord.

— Communion Liturgy taken from *Services and Sacraments of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

***Hymn:** #357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea (verses 1-3, & 5)

***Blessing**

***Depart to Serve**

*Coming up next Sunday, March 11: Sermon Series: Around the Cross — "Jesus, the Criminal".
Scripture: John 18:28-40. John Cleveland preaching.*

Prayer for Family and Friends

The family of Mary Evelyn Bell, who passed away Rex Bragg is suffering from gout in one of his wrists.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Lauren Frantz

Karen (Lynne Melvin's friend) was diagnosed with metastatic cancer. Hospice has been called in.

Tim Melvin is recovering from surgery.

Lee and Jean Philport are mourning the unexpected loss of a grandson.

Diana Pomeroy and other friends and family at the sudden loss of her classmate, Leslie McSpadden

Georgia Rolfe has a detached retina.

LaVon Rolfe, Tamra Stafford, and family at the loss of their husband and father, Larry

Jerry Schuring and sons as their wife and mother, Linda, lost her battle with cancer.

Ron Steinacker is recovering well from surgery.

Mike and Jody Tuinier and other friends and family at the sudden loss of their friend, Barb

Molhoek

Prayers for health and healing for all

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

3/4 Jeff Geiger

Kari Treanary

3/5 Colleen Kiley

3/7 Norm Hackett

3/7 Mike Tuinier

Anniversaries

3/6 Jeff & Mary Ann

Kudary

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



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.



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

Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

Mar 4: Laverne Swinehart
Mar 11:

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due Thursday, Mar. 15
- Church Council submissions are due Tuesday, Mar. 20
- Newsletter items are due Monday, Mar. 26



Talent Show
mission trip fundraiser
Sunday, April 15

Entry Form

Name _____

Contact Information _____

Please fill this out and put in Hank's mailbox
in the work room. Hank will contact you.
This is open to everyone.



This Week's Calendar

Today

9:00 a.m. *Labyrinth* available in the FLC (till 12:30)
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, March 5

6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC
6:30 p.m. Scout troop meeting, Taylor Room
7:00 p.m. *Worship Planning Team* in the Library

Tuesday, March 6

12:15 p.m. *Lenten Lunch* at Lakeland Ref. Church
2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room
6:30 p.m. *Scout Den* meeting, FLC
7:00 p.m. *Trustees* meeting in the Library

Wednesday, March 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
6:30 p.m. *Scout meeting* in Room 125
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 8

10:00 a.m. Play Gym in the FLC
5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th and 6th grade)
5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board* meeting, 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 Room

Friday, March 9 - Pastor's Day Off

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

Saturday, March 10

9:00 a.m. *District Lay Servant Class*, Library
6:00 p.m. *VCAC Destination Italy*, Taylor Room

Monday through Friday

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

Coming Events

Sunday, March 11

Daylight Saving Time begins

9:00 a.m. *Labyrinth* available in the FLC (till 12:30)

Tuesday, March 13

10:00 a.m. *Staff meeting* in the Library
12:15 p.m. *Lenten Lunch* at St. Martins Catholic Church
6:30 p.m. *Scout Committee* meeting, Room 125
7:00 p.m. *Labyrinth Class*, FLC

Wednesday, March 14

1:00 p.m. *Caring Ministries* meeting in the Library
7:00 p.m. *PPRC* meeting in the Library

Thursday, March 15

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

Walking
the
Labyrinth

Lent 2018
A Place to Pray and Seek God



Walking the Labyrinth at Vicksburg United Methodist Church

There will 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 (3/13, 3/27) Lenten book discussion featuring *Walking the Labyrinth: A Place to Pray*, by Travis Scholl (ISBN# 978-0-8308-3583-6).

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

Today's acolytes are
Owen Moberley and
October Moberley

2018

Ministerial Alliance



12:15 to 1:00

March 6

Lakeland Reformed Church
10442 Sprinkle Rd

March 13

St. Martin's Catholic Church
5855 East W Ave

March 20

Chapman Memorial Church of
the Nazarene
7520 East U Ave

Everyone is welcome!

We invite you to Holy Week services

Palm Sunday

March 25

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday Community Service

March 30 at noon

Easter Sunday

April 1

Sunrise Service at 7:30
Breakfast at 8:15
Worship at 10:30



Vicksburg United Methodist Church

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