

Sunday
March 10, 2019
10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

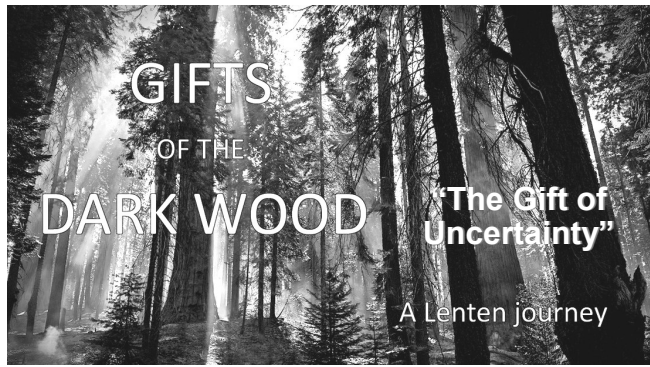
Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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

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



Plain print indicates worship leader.

Bold print indicates the people.

*Indicates please stand as able.

Gather

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, Ministry Opportunities

Threshold to the Dark Woods

(Choir) There's a path... though it winds its way through
darkness

We would choose... to avoid it if we could

We awake... to an unexpected calling

God says, "Come... there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

(Leader) Today we begin a journey during the season of Lent.

Our worship theme, "Gifts of the Dark Wood", is about seeing life through new eyes. When we allow ourselves to accept the journey within the "dark woods", the Holy Spirit guides by nudging us, to awaken us to a fuller life. We know life is messy and uncertain. Rather than as a problem to be solved, what if we saw uncertainty, failure, emptiness, and loss as an odd sort of gift? What if we saw how these uncomfortable times can actually help us let go of all we cannot know so that we can live more wholeheartedly?

(Choir) There's a path...

There's a path

...though it winds its way through darkness

We would choose...

We would choose

...to avoid it if we could

We awake...

We awake

...to an unexpected calling

God says, "come..."

God says, "come"

...there are gifts in the Dark Wood"

Opening Prayer

**Unexpected Love, enter our lives and open us to the gifts
residing deep within the darkness of our lives. Walk with**

us, speak to us, call to us. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise: #399** Take My Life

***Litany of Confession, Assurance, and Peace**

For giving fear too much face-time,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For digging in rather than going with the flow,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For holding on too tight when what we need to do is let go,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

Silent prayers...

Hear these words of assurance: God dwells with us, no matter how sure or unsure we are. God is not uncertain about whether or not we are worthy of love. God is with you, forgiving and restoring you to wholeheartedness.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Let us pass the unsurpassed peace of Christ with each other!

Pass the Peace.

Proclaim

The Word Read Aloud: 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

Hymn: #2233 Where Children Belong

Children's Time ~ *Pastor Greg*

Children 3 yrs. to 3rd grade will be dismissed to POP! with Therisa Gruber

The Word in Music: Trust in the Lord ~ *Chancel Choir*

The Word Proclaimed: "The Gift of Uncertainty" ~ *Pastor Greg*

Respond

Reflect in Action

There will be time to reflect each week. Today as the music plays, you are invited to write something you are uncertain or worried about on a slip of dissolving paper and bring it to the front of the sanctuary. Drop it into the water and stir it so that it dissolves. This is a symbol that our uncertainty is met by trust in God's presence — a true gift of the Dark Wood.

***Prayer Song:** Come and Rest

(Choir) Come and rest

Come and rest

Come and listen

Come and listen

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker

Ushers will collect prayer requests.

Prayers of the People, and The Lord's Prayer

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory: The Gift of Love ~ *Chancel Choir*

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

Sent

***Closing Hymn: #3113** A Wilderness Wandering People

***Blessing**

You have a place in this world — a place where everything comes together in your soul and your body as you merge into the Kingdom of God. Please speak these words:

**May the Spirit of the Living God,
Made known to us most fully within life's
Dark Wood:**

**Go before you to show you the way;
Go above you to watch over you;
Go behind you to push you into places
you may not necessarily go yourself;
Go beneath you to uphold and uplift you;
Go beside you to be your strong and
constant companion;
And dwell within you to remind you that
you are surely not alone,
And that you are loved — loved beyond
your wildest imagination.
And may the fire of God's blessing burn
brightly upon you, and within you,
Now and always. Amen.**

***Refrain**

(Choir) There's a path...

There's a path

...and it leads us out together

To the wood...

To the wood

...where the darkness hovers still

We are sent...

We are sent

...and the Spirit goes before us

God says, "go..."

God says, "go"

...be my presence in the world."

***Postlude**

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Jack and Cynda Buckallew need prayer, as Jack is in ICU at Bronson.

Deb Denney (Den and Marlene Sherman's friend) just found out she has cancer and will have surgery soon.

Stacey Simpson Duke, a UM minister in Ann Arbor, is fighting cancer. Her father in Georgia is also fighting the same disease.

Please continue to pray for Lizz Heikes. It appears that she needs a hip replacement and may need the other done soon.

Nona Mattheis is now at Heartland Nursing Home in Three Rivers. She fell and hurt her knee, but she is doing well.

Regardless of the letters this world applies to us (i.e. Gen X, Gen Y, RN, MD, LGBTQ), let us remember the most important letters are LOVE. Only God knows hearts.

Previous Requests

Jody Alzner (Sharon Pendola's coworker) passed away. Please pray for her family and friends.

Don (one of Diane Pomeroy's clients) fell. He is 98 years old. He lost a lot of blood and received 30 stitches.

Carol Eaton

Cheryl Fleming (Tom and Karen Simpson's friend) is mourning the loss of her brother.

Leslie (Amy Moberley's sister) is looking for a job. Jon Sherman (Den and Marlene's grandson) has health problems.

Taylor (Mystical Townsend's friend) is struggling through his walk with God.

Mystical Townsend wants God to continue guiding her in the right direction.

Ronald Vermeulen (Brianna Bryan's grandfather) is battling lung cancer and will start chemo soon.

Prayers for our church. Love is kind. Love is patient. Love does not envy. Love accepts all things.



In Service to Our Country

Matthew Kohler

Ryan Miller

Walker Polsinelli is in Kuwait

Tyler Smith

Geoff White

5112 Hickory Ln
Klamath Falls OR 97601

VUMC's Mission Statement



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.

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Pat McClelland
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen
Parsons
Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Mina Willett

Today's acolytes are
October Moberley and Ella Luegge

March 3 attendance:
Worship 118 Sunday School 40

Weekly Donations

Needed each week

General Fund:
\$ 5,288.50
Building Fund:
\$ 1,140.66

Received Feb 24-Mar 2

General Fund:
\$ 1,672.00
Building Fund:
\$ 936.00



Children ages 3 yrs. to third grade leave the worship service right after the kids' message and return to the service after the offering.

Please be sure your child has a name tag with age or grade and your cell phone number.

Coming deadlines

- Minutes and reports for the Church Council are due in the church office by Tuesday, Mar. 12.
- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Friday, Mar. 15.

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission needs bread

We are continuing to collect bread for The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. If you would like to contribute, please bring loaves of sliced white bread to the church, and they will be delivered.

Potluck Lunch and Guest Speaker

Join us today after Worship for a potluck lunch followed by guest speaker Dr. Bruce Springer from Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Service. Dr. Springer will speak about the opioid crisis, the impact on families and communities, and available treatment and services.

Post General Conference Listening Sessions

United Methodists from around the globe gathered in St. Louis to wrestle with the proposal to move the denomination beyond our impasse related to inclusion of LGBT individuals in the life of our Church. There is the potential that questions remain.

To help address those you may have, the Greater Southwest District is offering a number of listening sessions. Our intent is to present the facts as we know them, discussing the implications for local churches and providing a model to engage in further conversation. Everyone is encouraged to attend a listening session at one of these locations:

- Mon., Mar. 11, 7:00 p.m. - Stevensville UMC
- Tues., Mar. 12, 7:00 p.m. - Allegan UMC
- Thurs., Mar. 14, 7:00 p.m. - Bttl Crk: Chapel Hill UMC
- Sun., Mar. 17, 2:00 p.m. - Portage: Chapel Hill UMC
- Sun., Mar. 17, 7:00 p.m. - Sturgis: First UMC

24-Hour prayer vigil

We would like to have prayer for our church, our church family, and others for 24 hours a day, if possible. If you would like to sign up for an hour (as many as you would like), please write your name in available spaces on the chart near the welcome center.

This Week's Calendar

Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
after Worship Potluck lunch with Dr. Bruce Springer

Monday, March 11

- 6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Troop meeting, Taylor Room
- 7:00 p.m. *Post General Conference Listening Session, Stevensville UMC*

Tuesday, March 12

- 2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room
- 5:30 p.m. *Audit meeting in the Library*
- 6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth) in Rm 107
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Den meeting in the FLC
- 7:00 p.m. *Post General Conference Listening Session, Allegan UMC*

Wednesday, March 13

- 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Winners, Taylor Room
- 2:45 p.m. SHED (mid. school outreach), Rm 107
- 5:00 p.m. HELIX (middle school youth), Rm 107
- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir practice, Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, March 14

- 5:30 p.m. *Preschool Board in the Library*
- 6:30 p.m. *Scouts Distr. Round Table, Taylor Rm*
- 7:00 p.m. Apprentice class, Library
- 7:00 p.m. *Post General Conference Listening Session, Battle Crk Chapel Hill UMC*

Friday, March 15 - Pastor's Day Off

no activities are scheduled

Saturday, March 16

- 8:30 a.m. *Loaves & Fishes in the FLC till 9:30a*
- 10:00 a.m. Pickleball in the FLC

Monday through Friday

- 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. Heart & Hands Preschool

Next Week

Sunday, March 17

- 2:00 p.m. *Post General Conference Listening Session, Portage Chapel Hill UMC*
- 7:00 p.m. *Post General Conference Listening Session, Sturgis First UMC*

Monday, March 18

- 7:00 p.m. *Church Council in the Taylor Room*

Tuesday, March 19

- 12:00 p.m. *Lenten Luncheon in the Taylor Room*

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

- 3/11 Alan Smola
- 3/12 Chuck Girolami
- 3/13 Barb Addis
- 3/13 Mary Rusk
- 3/14 Justin Moberley
- 3/16 Andrea Luegge

Anniversaries

- Nelly Avis
- 3/15 Ken & Deb Franklin