

Sunday  
**March 24, 2019**  
10:30 a.m.

## Third Sunday in Lent

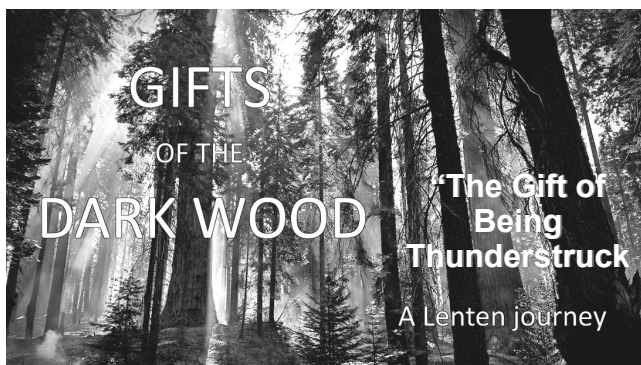
Pastor Greg

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"

Many religions metaphorically describe the voice of the divine coming through thunder and lightning. We often describe experiences of insight as a "sudden flash," "seeing the light" or "rocked my world." The storms in life can make way for moments of insight, like the sun radiating in a clearing in the woods. Such moments can offer us direction, helping us to negotiate life's path, seeing our unique place in the world. The discernment and introspection of Lent invites us to open our senses to be thunderstruck by rays of sunshine that peek through in the midst of the clouds.

(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**

**God of awe-some love, enter our lives and open us to the holy gifts residing deep within the darkness of our lives.**

**Form us as expectant people, watching for Your presence among us that comes through quiet intuition or thunderous “aha’s.” In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** #3008 Open the Eyes of My Heart

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

For being too busy to be wonder-struck by  
Your works,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

For filling the holes in our spirit with things  
that cannot truly feed us,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

For denying the world our best selves,

**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

*Silent prayers...*

Hear these words of assurance: God is  
already making a wonder of you. You are a  
part of this awesome creation. 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:** Job 37:1-5

**Hymn:** #2233 Where Children Belong

**Children’s Time** ~ *Joanne Culver*

Children 3 yrs. to 3rd grade will be dismissed  
to POP! with Jolene Cron

**The Word in Music:** For the Beauty of the Earth  
~ *Chancel Choir*

**The Word Proclaimed:** “The Gift of Being  
Thunderstruck” ~ *Pastor Greg*

### ***Respond***

**Reflect in Action**

*You are invited to share a moment with  
someone seated near you that felt like  
being “thunderstruck.” It might have been a  
time when you felt resolve about a decision,  
an “aha!” or it may have been simply a time  
when you were awed by God’s presence  
through nature, through a person or an  
incident and you experienced peace and  
joy, if only momentary. Take about 2  
minutes each to share. If you would prefer  
simply reflecting inwardly, you are welcome  
to do that.*

**\*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: Deep Waters ~ *Chancel Choir*

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

### ***Sent***

**\*Closing Hymn:** #122 God of the Sparrow God  
of the Whale

**\*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**

**Praise**

Aiden Adams (David and Carol Eaton's 8-wk.-old grandson) is now home after being hospitalized with RSV, and he is doing wonderful.

**Updates and New Requests This Week**

Family and friends of Lori Blakely are mourning her loss, as she passed away unexpectedly. She leaves behind a husband and 2 teenage sons.

Jack Buckallew passed away last Sunday. Please remember to pray for Cynda and their family and friends.

Carol Eaton is awaiting the results of an MRI on the cancer.

Larry Kohler has had back pain.

Paula (Glory Bragg's daughter) fell and needs surgery for a break behind her knee, and she has a badly sprained shoulder.

Sara Sevilla (Den and Marlene Sherman's friend) needs a bone marrow transplant but has other health issues that must be solved first. Prayers for those in need of God's great love

**Previous Requests**

Deb Denney (Den and Marlene Sherman's friend) 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.

Lizz Heikes needs a hip replacement and may need the other done soon.

Austin, Molly, and Eli Linebaugh (Marshall's son and family) moved to Kansas. Austin is transferring to a new opportunity with Pfizer.

Nona Mattheis is now at Heartland Nursing Home in Three Rivers.

Avery Schutter (Paul and Marilyn's infant great-granddaughter) had surgery again. She is still in Ann Arbor.



**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

**Weekly Donations**

Needed each week

General Fund:  
 \$ 5,288.50

Building Fund:  
 \$ 1,140.66

Received Mar 10-16

General Fund:  
 \$ 4,083.50

Building Fund:  
 \$ 3,078.00

**For Cheer and Hello**

David Bretz  
 Barb Griner  
 Pat McClelland  
 Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen  
 Parsons  
 Marv & Kitty Starbuck  
 Mina Willett

**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.



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.**



Every year we join with other churches in the Vicksburg Ministry Alliance to hold a series of luncheons on Tuesday afternoons during Lent. The luncheons begin at noon, and a freewill donation covers the cost of the meal. Each week, a lay person from the host church will bring a devotional message. Reservations are not needed; everyone is welcome. The remaining dates and locations are as follows:

March 26	Lakeland Reformed Church 10442 Sprinkle Rd
April 2	Chapman Mem. Nazarene Church 7520 East U Ave
April 9	St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church 5855 East W Ave

### Coming deadlines

- Items for the April newsletter are due in the church office by tomorrow.
- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Monday, April 1.

### 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.

### Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

Mar 24:  
Mar 31: Joe and Betty Gruber

### Help is needed at the Welcome Center

Monthly Welcome Center “welcomers” are needed. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

**We need decaf coffee for the church kitchen.**

**Would you be willing to donate some?**

### This Week's Calendar

#### Today

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Mission trip training session, Room 107
- 1:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony, Taylor Room

#### Monday, March 25

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

#### Tuesday, March 26

- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at Lakeland Ref. Church
- 2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room
- 6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth) in Rm 107

#### Wednesday, March 27

- 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 28

- 7:00 p.m. Apprentice class, Room 125 (Fish Rm)

#### Friday, March 29 - Pastor's Day Off

*no activities are scheduled*

#### Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 a.m. Pickleball in the FLC

#### Monday through Wednesday

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

#### Next Week

##### Tuesday, April 2

- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at Chapman Memorial Nazarene Church
- 1:00 p.m. Matter of Balance in the Taylor Room
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees in the Library

##### Thursday, April 4

- 11:00 a.m. UMW Executive Committee, Library
- 12:30 p.m. UMW General meeting, Taylor Room

##### Friday, April 5

- 1:00 p.m. Matter of Balance in the Taylor Room

##### Saturday, April 6

*Italian Dinner and Talent Show fundraiser, FLC*

### This Week's Celebrations

#### Birthdays

3/24 Brad Beams	3/27 Dee Dee Hoy
3/25 Chris Morris	3/29 Robert Gruber
3/26 Susan Halladay	3/30 Michael Asher

Today's acolytes are  
Kelsie Tuinier and Kylie Tuinier

March 17 attendance:  
Worship 131      Sunday School 39