

Sunday
May 2, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Office Hours:
Tues., Wed.
9:00-1:00



Gathering

For the Kids — Vine and Branches

Opening Prayer — from *The Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us to perfectly know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: #242 Love Came down at Christmas

A Christmas song?! Isn't this "just for Christmas"? Ponder the words. With still more regret the congregation is asked to refrain from singing out loud for reasons of health and safety. (You may, of course, hum.) Thanks for your understanding.

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: "Burnout"

Hymn: #700 Abide with Me (vs. 1-4)

Congregational Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer

Holy and loving God, we come to you today with the prayers of the heartbroken, the hopeful, and everyone in between. We thank you that you know us, you love us, and you meet each of us where we are at.

We ask that you bring comfort, hope, and healing to the heartbroken. God hold our fragile hearts as many hurt from medical conditions, loss of loved ones, traumatic news, loss of employment, loneliness, hurt words, and many other things that bring pain. Repair and restore our hearts. Return to us the joy of your salvation so that our mourning can turn into dancing once again.

We thank you that we see some signs of hope and an end to this pandemic that has burdened, harmed, and taken away many people. We continue to acknowledge and grieve loss, and as spring is blooming, so are the signs of hope. God grant us patience and wise discernment as we continue to navigate existence in the pandemic so that our social and economic needs can be met, but we also do our best to keep people safe.

God of justice and grace, we continue to pray for healing and comfort for the continued grief of family and friends of those who have died violent deaths. We want, need, and ask for verbal and physical abuse to stop and for all people to be treated justly and with dignity.

God, if we are honest, the life of faith and ministry can be tedious and draining work. It's easier to be angry than to love. As we walk with you, remind us that you walk with us. We are not alone. We can hope because you are with us. May we feel your embrace and comfort as we navigate the troubling waters of this world. We ask for reminders that spark joy in our lives — from the things we eat to the things we hear. Give us reminders that you are not done working in this world, and that redemption and resurrection are at work.

We trust in this, the unfailing love of your Son Jesus who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory ~ Barb Hosner and Karla Stubblefield

Dedication of Gifts and Self — based on 1 John 4:7-21

Thank you so very much for your love, prayers, and financial support!

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift is an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears. Amen.

Video: "A Certain Union"

North Carolina farmer Rob Bowers talks about Communion.

Silent Confession

Holy Communion

God is here with us and with you!

Let's give our hearts, intentions, and thoughts over to God.

Let's also give thanks to God who gets everything!

Yes, God gets everything! God made everything! Let's show our thanks and honor God.

Giving God our thanks and honor is the best thing we can ever do!

God, you created everything; every living thing was put on earth by you. All peoples of every nation belong to you. Together with all creation (everything on earth and in heaven) we give you praise and join in with the world's eternal song of praise:

Holy, incredible, unimaginable God, full of power and strength, all of heaven and earth are full of the signs of your glory! You amaze us! And your Son Jesus whom you sent is equally amazing! We are continually amazed by you! God you are amazing and so is your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through your holy plan (Christ's birth, death, and resurrection) your Church was born.

You saved us from the power of sin and eternal death and you made a new agreement with us through baptism and the Holy Spirit. Christ sent us to tell the whole world about his love and now we, his family, are joining at his holy table.

As a way to remember Christ's perfect love and life, we joyfully and thankfully give you back our lives as holy, living sacrifices.

Receive this gift of our lives together with Christ's gifts for us as we speak the truth about our faith:

Christ dies; Christ lives; Christ is coming again!

God, we ask you to pour your Holy Spirit on each person and on these simple gifts symbolizing bread and wine. Make them the body and blood of Christ so that by taking them into our bodies you will make us the body of Christ for the rest of the world and everyone will know that sin is redeemed by Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Renew us and help us remember we are Christ's Church.

Strengthen our faith and service in every nation and with all people so we can faithfully show and tell the world how much your love can do.

Use your Holy Spirit to make us at one with Christ and at one with each other so we can care for the world until Christ comes again and we all join around his table as family in perfect love. We proclaim to the world that you possess every good quality and you deserve all of our honor and obedience now and forever. Amen.

Response Hymn: #2036 Give Thanks

Visual Benediction: "Abide in Me"

Based on John 15:9-12.

In the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit — One God, now and for ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Postlude

The offertory prayer is copyrighted © 2021 by David S. Bell, United Methodist Foundation of Michigan.

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Tom Simpson had surgery Monday to place another wire in his brain to help alleviate symptoms of Parkinson's. Praise God the surgery went well. Please pray for improvement in Tom's symptoms.

Laverne Swinehart had back surgery this past week, and the surgery went well, but she had a step drop in mental abilities. Her short-term memory is mostly gone. She can talk and would appreciate calls from her friends, though she usually naps between 2:00 and 5:00. Her address is 9673 South 34th St., Scotts MI 49088; phone number 269-626-8211.

Julie Taylor's son, Scott, who lives in California, has passed away. Please pray for Julie and all the family. If you would like to send a card, Julie's address is 14462 Portage Rd., Vicksburg MI 49097; phone 269-720-8393.

Previous Requests

Sue Epley fell last week and is recovering from multiple fractures.

Pray for every family undergoing difficulties.

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

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.

This Week's Calendar

Today

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, May 3

no church activities are scheduled

Tuesday, May 4

7:00 p.m. Trustees in the Taylor Room

Wednesday, May 5

8:00 p.m. Midweek prayer meeting online

Thursday, May 6

no church activities are scheduled

Friday, May 7 — Pastor's Day Off

no church activities are scheduled

Saturday, May 8

no church activities are scheduled

Next Week

Saturday, May 15

8:30 a.m. Loaves and Fishes in the parking lot till 9:30a

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

5/3 Valerie Hamilton

5/3 Holly Tarnor

5/6 Anthony Knowles

5/7 Gabriel Cleveland

5/7 Christine Mohr

5/8 Evy Inman

5/8 Michael Tichvon

5/8 David Vermeulen

Anniversaries

5/2 Steve & Kathy

Hambright

5/3 Rick & Barbara

Bladt

5/5 Josh & Felicia

Bassler

For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz

Flossie Lang

Robert & Carmen Parsons

Mina Willett

Betty Witcher

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

Thank you

Thank you to our church friends for the cards and calls for our 65th anniversary. We received so many, it was a nice celebration. We are just missing everyone so much. ~ *Paul and Marilyn*

Help is needed at Sycamore Cabin

Brad Addis is looking for a crew to go up to Wesley Woods to work on Sycamore Cabin in the very near future! Please contact Brad if you are interested! 269-649-1328 is the home phone and try to navigate the tricky system they have, or 269-532-2296 cell phone. If he doesn't answer you can't leave a message but he'll know you called!

VUMC scholarships

Scholarship applications will be available in the church office through Thursday, May 6. You may also request one to be emailed to you by contacting Polly at reception@vicksburgumc.org. Completed applications are due back in the church office, either paper copy or email, by Sunday, May 9.

Pastor Greg's office hours have changed

Pastor Greg will likely be in his office Mon., Wed., Thur. 9:30 to noon. Please call ahead to confirm.

Coming deadlines

- ShopWithScrip orders are due in the church office by 2:00 tomorrow.

Watch any Sunday service anytime

on YouTube. Search for Vicksburg UMC and select it from the list, then select the service you want to watch.

Midweek prayer meeting

To join the online prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:30, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-ggs.

Otherwise, to join by telephone, dial: +1 415-604-0783; enter PIN: 815 342 983#.

Donate through consignment

United Methodist Women has an account at Home Again Consignment Store at 815 W. Prairie, Vicksburg. Anyone can drop off good new or used items at the store, and the proceeds will be donated to UMW. You must make an appointment at 649-1944, Facebook page and <https://www.homeagainvicksburg.com/>. Facebook and website have the rules for consigning.

Twelve Baskets offers free food

If you are in need of food, you can shop twice a month at Twelve Baskets on the following dates each month:

- 1st and 3rd Fridays from 2:30 to 5:30
 - 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00
- Currently, drive-through shopping is necessary, and food will be delivered to your vehicle.

Twelve Baskets is located at 10332 Portage Rd., Portage, just north of E. Osterhout Ave.

If you are in need of food and are not able to get out to shop, please contact Kris Miller at (269) 760-3036 or millerberg@comcast.net. Kris can accommodate one home delivery per week.