

Sunday  
**May 27, 2018**  
10:00 a.m.

## First Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples;  
serving God's world.



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Plain print indicates worship leader.  
**Bold print indicates congregation.**  
*\*Indicates please stand as able.*

### Gather to Worship

#### Welcome

#### Ministry Opportunities

#### \*Call to Worship

Fill your minds with eternal thoughts, and fill this room with praise.

**We sing to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.**

Look into the mystery. Hear the truth.

**We listen for the Word of the Lord.**

Remember the good news. Believe the Gospel.

**We trust again in God's grace.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God!**

#### \*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

All praise and glory to You, God of all righteousness! We know how the apostle Paul counted himself as a righteous person when zealously carrying out the law as a Pharisee. He considered himself to be blameless, but counted all that as loss when he came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. From that time on, righteousness took on a new meaning. Paul knew that he no longer needed to perform exemplary deeds in order to earn Your love. All he had to do was to accept Your gracious and unconditional love.

**Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior is all that is needed to secure Your love.**

We know that we can neither earn nor deserve all that You have done for us.

**Help us to surrender our worldly attitudes and values so that, like Paul, we can celebrate anew lives centered in Jesus Christ.**

Paul acknowledges a desire to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ so that he can die and rise also. He urges others to do likewise.

**Forgive us, O God, when we lose sight of the goal of our lives as Christians — that of following Jesus; even when that means, and perhaps, especially when that means taking up our cross, and sharing in the suffering and struggle that Jesus shares with us.**

Merciful God, in the cross, we see the lengths You were prepared to go, to “do great things for us”. **Whatever gains we may have experienced in our lives, like Paul may we regard them as loss, compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord. This we pray in His name. Amen!**

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, as “our righteousness is one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith” (Philippians 3:9). The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn:** #451 Be Thou My Vision (verses 1, 3)

**Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 3:1-14

**Anthem:** Jesus, We Crown You with Praise

**Children’s Time:** *Joanne Culver*

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

**Hymn:** #2233 Where Children Belong

**Sermon:** “*Graceful Sacrifice*”

**\*Hymn:** #297 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

**Praying for Others and for Ourselves**

**Litany for Memorial Day — *Book of Worship for United States Forces (1974)***

Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country’s story:

**We give You thanks, O God.**

For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

**We give You thanks, O God.**

For those who, in all times and places, have been true and brave, and in the world’s common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

**We give You thanks, O God.**

For those who served our country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

**We give You thanks, O God.**

Almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these Your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before You those who mourn them. Look upon bereaved families with Your mercy. As this Memorial Day brings them remembrance of those they have lost, may it also bring Your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in Your living presence.

**Amen.**

**Offering Our Gifts and Tithes**

Offertory: Ain't No Rock Gonna' Shout for Me

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful God, we bring these gifts before You to celebrate how You have made with us, Your chosen people, a new and everlasting covenant through the death and rising of Your Son. Do not allow us

to become smug about being the people You love, but help us to be worthy of Your trust and to give You a response of deep faith expressed in service.

**Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn: #175 Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

\*Blessing

\*Depart to Serve

Coming up next Sunday, June 3: *Graduation Sunday*

## Prayer for Family and Friends

### Updates and Praise

Baby Holly (Vera Walker's great-great-niece) is gaining every day. She can go home in a few more weeks! Thanks for prayers.

Elton Lang is back home but still requires a lot of nursing care. Please keep him and Flossie in your prayers.

### New Requests This Week

Dick (Ron Avis's friend) fell out of a tree and is hospitalized with broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

Burt Heikes is healing from a major leg infection and now has a kidney stone.

Dan Moyle (David Eaton's cousin) is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery.

Bev Taylor (Julie Taylor's ex-sister-in-law) has been removed from life support and is in Hospice care.

Please pray for safety for Cande Vermeulen and her daughter, Kim, as they travel.

Pray for families of Santa Fe students who were killed.

Pray for students who have to face the fear of a shooting in school.

### Previous Requests

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Derek's (Lynne Melvin's co-worker) cancer treatments are no longer working. Please pray for him and his family for peace and acceptance.

Lauren Frantz's swallow needs to get stronger. She cannot eat or drink by mouth yet.

Please pray for Noreen Heikes and family at the loss of her 2-year-old grandson in an accident.

Michael Kohler had a pacemaker/defibrillator implant.

Tim Melvin continues radiation treatments and is very tired.

Sharon (Cande Vermeulen's friend) has begun cancer treatment.

Cordell Sherman is having tests to find the cause of his illness.

Jon Sherman is having a second surgery on his hand.

Please pray for safety for Tom and Karen Simpson as they travel.

June Taylor is having a lot of pain in her back and hip.



### 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.

Today's acolytes are  
Mac Read and Vaughan Read

May 20 attendance:  
Worship 131 Sunday School 32

## This Week's Celebrations

### Birthdays

5/27 Cassandra Mullen

### Anniversaries

5/27 Don & Tamra Puckett

6/2 Carl & Erin Williams

## 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

Thank you!



## In Service to Our Country

### Matthew Kohler

16 Claymore Dr  
Hampton VA 23669

### Major Jeff Kudary

1049 Willow Circle  
Clarksville TN 37043

Ryan Miller is home

### Walker Polsinelli

1230 Morehead Pl., Apt 202  
Sumter SC 29150

### Geoff White

5112 Hickory Ln  
Klamath Falls OR 97601

## You are invited

The children of Bud and Lori Lash invite you to attend the 60th Wedding Anniversary celebration in honor of their parents, on Sunday, June 10, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Taylor Room. No gifts please.

## POP! needs a CD player

POP! (young children's worship) needs a small CD player. If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Laurie Nic at 823-5188.

## Bible Study

We are looking to form study groups to dig in to what God has to say. This will be a "direct from the Bible" study! Whether you are a beginner, a long-time student of the Bible, or somewhere in between – there will be a place for you.

Please note on the attendance slip if you are interested – including phone and email and best time for classes. We will contact you shortly.

## Coming deadlines

- Newsletter items are due by Tuesday, May 29.
- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 1.

## Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

May 27: Joe and Betty Gruber  
June 3: Laverne Swinehart

## This Week's Calendar

### Today - Summer Worship schedule begins

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Monday, May 28 - Memorial Day

OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

### Tuesday, May 29

2:00 p.m. Sew What Now God, Taylor Room

### Wednesday, May 30

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)  
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. *Baccalaureate at VHS auditorium - everyone is invited*

### Thursday, May 31

*Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City*

5:30 p.m. ROUTE 56 (5th and 6th grade)  
6:30 p.m. RAW (high school youth)

### Friday, June 1 - Pastor's Day Off

*Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City*

### Saturday, June 2

*Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City*

## Coming Events

### Sunday, June 3 - Graduation Sunday

*Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City*

8:00 a.m. *Graduation Breakfast in the Taylor Room*

### Tuesday, June 5

6:30 p.m. *Rotary Strive Banquet in the FLC*  
7:00 p.m. *Trustees in the Library*

### Thursday, June 7

11:00 a.m. *UMW Executive Committee in the Library*  
12:30 p.m. *UMW Lunch in the Taylor Room*  
2:00 p.m. *Kids Hope party at Tobey School*

### Saturday, June 9

9:00 a.m. *Pie and Ice Cream Social on the lawn till 3:00*

## Thank you

Dear Pastor Culver and church family, thank you so much for all of your thoughts, prayers, cards, and inquiries following my surgery and lightning bolt!! It is wonderful to know friends are there when you need them! Thanks to Pastor Greg for his visit at the hospital and the beautiful rose that lasted beyond the lightning disaster! It has been an interesting journey, and I am finally back home, although all the work is not yet completed. Love to all ~ *Carol Lohman*

Dear friends, thank you for all you have done to embrace our family with love and support since the loss of our precious Mason [Heikes]. Special thanks to Pastor Greg, Carla, and "the kitchen crew." ~ *Nancy Lowe*



# CLASS OF 2018

High School Seniors and their families are invited to join us for a

## Graduation Breakfast

on Sunday, **June 3**, at 8:00 a.m. in the Taylor Room

Please RSVP to Polly in the church office ~ 649-2343



## Meijer's "Simply Give"

The South County Community Services (SCCS) Pantry has been selected again for the Meijer *Simply Give* program. When

you shop at the Shaver Road Meijer **until Friday, June 18**, purchase a \$10 *Simply Give* donation card upon checkout. Meijer will double your \$10 donation to \$20 for SCCS. Friday, June 1, is double match day, where your \$10 becomes \$30 on that day. *Simply Give* cards are available at the store and can be used many times to donate.

Your help makes a big difference. Last year SCCS served 4,783 individuals needing help to put nutritious meals on the table.

For more information, visit <http://meijercommunity.com/community-needs/hunger-relief/simply-give/>.

**Remember – Friday, June 1 is the best day to donate!**



*We need pies, so get those recipes rollin'! See Kathy Phillips.*

## PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, June 9

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

on the front lawn

Vicksburg United Methodist Church  
217 South Main Street  
downtown Vicksburg

### June food donations

For the month of June, we will be collecting instant oatmeal for Generous Hands and South County Community Services.



with age or grade.

Children ages 3 years through third grade will be dismissed after Children's Time and returned after offering. Please be sure your child has a name tag



at the Vicksburg Old Car Festival