

Sunday
September 6, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



Call to Worship — based on Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
People of God, open your eyes! Look around! The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here — among us and within us. God's salvation is close at hand — nearer than you know. So open your hearts and minds to the Spirit, and let's worship God together!

Opening Prayer: Psalm 149 (NRSV) *Praise for God's Goodness to Israel*

¹ Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. ² Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ³ Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. ⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. ⁵ Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. ⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, ⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, ⁸ to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, ⁹ to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

Scripture Lessons: Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 13:8-14 (*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "Thank You for Your Time; Thank You for Your Interest"

Prayer of the Day, and the Lord's Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever and who taught us to pray... *Our Father...*

Holy Communion: The Great Thanksgiving (Brief version)

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.
Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power for ever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.



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On the night before meeting with death Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts, that in the sharing of this bread and the drinking of this cup we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory ~ Barb Hosner

Ushers will come to your vehicle with the elements. Offerings in support of the church may be given during this time as well. If you wish to help the United Methodist

Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) efforts to help those affected by Hurricane Laura, please go to www.umcor.org or you may send it via snail-mail to UMCOR, 458 Ponce De Leon Ave. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308. On checks please write: "UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery Advance # 901670" on the memo line. 100% of giving goes directly to help those affected.

Offering Prayer — based on Matthew 18:15-20

Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.

Loving God, we are gathered together to listen to your Word and to witness to its truths. We give joyously today and dedicate this offering and our hands to your work. We are inspired to share your glorious love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Increase our talents and offerings so that your name is exalted with unending praise. Blessed is your name! Amen.

Benediction — from the Uniting Church of Australia

As eucalypts engulfed in a bushfire, we were once dead; enveloped in our own self-interest and weakness. Source of life, love and hope, you liberate us from that death and breathe new life into us...

Through our fear, our doubt, our confusion may we continue to journey in the way of Jesus, liberated, challenged and nurtured by your Spirit of mystery and grace.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

9/6 Dawn Jones
9/8 Megan Burke

Anniversaries

9/9 Scott & Emily
Hansson

Prayer for Family and Friends

Previous Requests

Please pray for the family of Darrel lobe (Lynne Melvin's friends). who passed away recently: his wife, Tammy, and children, Rebecca and Scott, and three grandchildren.

Tim Melvin is home from the hospital and doing better every day.

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.

Outside/In-person Worship continues!

Sunday, September 13
9:30 a.m.

Vicksburg High School parking lot
(east side by the lacrosse field)



For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz
Barb Griner
Flossie Lang
Nona Mattheis
Beverly Nimmo

Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv Starbuck
Mina Willett
Betty Witcher

UMCOR needs your help

UMCOR-trained volunteers are assisting people in Iowa and Texas/Louisiana following the recent storms. Your help is needed to provide the tangible items necessary for relief work, including personal protection equipment that volunteers will need to stay healthy.

A donation to UMCOR will go a long way to help as cleanup continues. Make checks payable to VUMC with UMCOR storms in the memo line, or give online at [GIVE TO UMCOR](#).

Office hours

The church office is closed until further notice, but Polly is working from home and checks voicemails and emails regularly. You can also call her at home.

Donate through consignment

UMW has an account at Home Again Consignment Store at 815 W. Prairie St., Vicksburg. Anyone can drop off good new/used items at the store for consignment, and the proceeds will be donated to UMW. You must make an appointment by contacting Home Again, 269-649-1944, Facebook page and homeagainvicksburg.com. The Facebook page and website have the rules for consigning, limits on items brought in at one time, etc. Good clothing and housewares and even collectibles and antiques are welcome. Be sure to really look things over before you take them in. Thanks for any donations.

Midweek prayer meeting

On Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, Pastor Greg hosts an online “**Midweek Prayer Meeting**” when people are invited to log-on for “on-the-spot” prayer regarding the joys and concerns of the congregation and on behalf of our world.



If you have a prayer need for yourself or on behalf of another, you may “stop by” however briefly or as long as you want during the time of our online prayer meeting.

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link: [online prayer meeting](#).

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

Lay Servant Classes

This fall more than 20 Lay Servant Courses are being offered on ZOOM by Districts throughout Michigan. Course credit transfers from District to District. Lay Servant Ministries is one of the significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. [Read more](#)

Prayer requests are available by phone

You can hear the weekly prayer requests by calling the church (649-2343). When the answering machine answers, dial 370.

Daily Devotionals

The devotional emails we have been receiving each weekday have been a blessing. You are encouraged to share devotionals as well. Email them to [Polly](#), and she will send them out to everyone.

Do we have your information?

We like to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries in the bulletin and newsletter. Do we have your information? If not, please contact Polly in the office and let her know.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Missions at Work in VUMC



MISSIONS: WHAT OUR CHURCH IS REALLY GOOD AT DOING...AND DOING...AND DOING!!...EVEN IN THIS SHUT-DOWN PERIOD, WE ARE STILL DOING THROUGH OUR SUSTAINED GIVING MONEY AND OTHER WAYS. Penny Sult said to me the other day, "Well we better be good at Missions, as it is a very important requirement of being a Christian!" Well said, Penny.

Remembering a bit of my own faith journey, from a young age I thought that Missions at churches was always "Foreign Missions". Maybe I had seen a movie about missionaries in foreign lands. Of course, now we all know that Missions is just as important locally, in our own families, and even to some of our own church members. Some of our efforts have been in very large, epic works, but just as many or more in seemingly small touches. We do have a small Missions Committee who let us know of emergencies and of ongoing needs. Our current chair of Missions is Tom Aiken, and he remains excited about what we are doing and what needs to be done. This strikes me as being an example of what I remember about our chairs in the past....is it a specific gene requirement?

Up next, I will attempt to remind you of just a few good works in our history.

Great Gospel SING OUT: If you would have asked chair Blaine Rice how to raise more money for UMCOR, he would have said, "Pray about it!" That is what he did, and in a dream God spelled out just what to do and how. When Blaine awoke, he wrote it down. Thus began a ministry of having not only our church, but up to 15 surrounding UMC raising lots of money for hunger. Competing choirs and musical groups would get together in October, sing, and bring along the funds contributed throughout the year. Each church was given a classification, based on size, so they were fierce in winning a trophy plaque to take back home. The first SING OUT, in Oct 1989, had nine churches and raised \$1,800. The last one was March 2017, had three churches, and raised \$2,534. But the good news was over a period of 28 years, this group raised a total of \$474,098, according to our last SING OUT leader, Jen Thompson...all for world hunger. Good job!

And who can forget Diana Pomeroy, a Missions chair, up front with a "flood bucket," urging us to each take a bucket and fill one for victims of floods. Can you still remember all those flood buckets stacked in heaps, just waiting to be picked up and shipped? Good job!

Crop Walks (communities responding to overcome poverty): Brad Addis organized this group and welcomed anyone locally/beyond to come and participate by walking, rocking, praying or kayaking. The job for each participant was to ask church members, families, work buddies, friends, etc., to contribute to their walk or any activity. In 2019, The Crop Walk had 50 signed up, ages from two to 90, and raised \$7,650. In the 25 years of this walk, these fine responders have raised approximately \$228,000. South County Community Services received 25% of this total, and the rest has made a difference in the lives of many, many people around the world. Good job!

Angel Tree: Under the wing of Missions, someone sets up a small tree in the lobby with names of families who do not have the means of making Christmas bright at their homes. A member takes a name and tries to fulfill Christmas wishes on the list. They are wrapped and taken to SCCS, who then hands them out. We also did something similar a few years back called Shoe-Boxes filled with things like soap, toothbrushes, deodorants, etc. Where did we take these? Anyone remember?

A few others: Box tops, pop tops, coupons, Family Fare grocery receipts, rummage sales, bazaars, quilts, Boy Scouts, Saturday groceries, ice cream socials, Haiti Hot Lunches, youth groups and scholarships, \$10/week for groceries for hungry dispersed two times a year to SCCS and Generous Hands, Wesley Foundation, Red Bird Missions, Six Lanes, school supplies for Generous Hands, Vacation Bible School, Kids Hope, blood drives, voting, etc. We have even supported two different families from refugee countries until they could get on their feet. Plus, we give Ministry Shares to the Conference from our tithes to support all kinds of other missions.

You get the idea...not enough space to list them all. Thank you, God, for enabling us to be capable to give generously.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton