

Sunday  
**September 27, 2020**  
9:30 a.m.

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Greg

Becoming disciples,  
serving God's world.



**Call to Worship** — based on Exodus 17:1-7

Come, all who thirst—come to the water! You who long for the water of life — come and drink! Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness; quench your thirst at God's well of grace. For God is here among us, offering living water to all who would drink!

Let's worship God together!

**Opening Prayer:** Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, <sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

<sup>12</sup> In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. <sup>13</sup> He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

<sup>14</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light. <sup>15</sup> He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. <sup>16</sup> He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

**Scripture Lessons:** Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32  
(*Kingdom New Testament*)

**Sermon:** "Bend the Knee"

**Congregational Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty God, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend, you who sit enthroned over the flood — We are staggering in the surf of breakers bringing bad news, and worse news, while an invisible menace laps at our doorstep.

Father of all mercies, have mercy on us — We are anxious, exhausted, angry, and sad. We need your peace that surpasses understanding to guard our hearts and minds in Jesus the Messiah.

Be our refuge and strength; be our very present help in this time of trouble.

Even in this trouble we thank you: for a creation that refuses to wait for death's shadow to pass; for technology that unites exiles and draws the solitary near; for your church that prevails in catacombs and quarantine; for your own Holy Spirit who is socially present with us, always.

But oh, forgive us, Lord of All: for hating our unwashed neighbors in our heart; for opening our hearts to unfettered



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

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

fear; for closing our hearts, and our pockets, to any in need; for loosening our grip on your precious and very great promises.

Assure us, our Gracious Redeemer: that our sins are nailed to the cross of Jesus; that we are clothed in his righteous white robes; that you will never leave us nor forsake us; that nothing – nothing! – can separate us from your love.

Great Physician, we continue to pray for those most vulnerable to this virus: for the elderly, the weak, and those with chronic conditions; for the poor, the hungry, and the isolated; for those already infected. Deliver them from this evil, and prevent the rest of us from carrying it to them.

God of Hosts, we pray for the caregivers on the front lines: for doctors and nurses and healthcare workers; for police and firefighters and government officials; for parents in the home and under-shepherds in the church: Guard and guide them; shield and sustain them.

Rock of Ages, we pray for the newly unstable: for those who have lost jobs, lost businesses, lost savings, lost homes; for those facing the likelihood of losing even more — Hide them in the cool shadow of your wings; provide every good thing for them that you, as a good Father, know they need.

Indwelling Spirit, empower your people to serve: to get wisdom, and live by it, and share it freely; to embody peace amid the strife of tongues; to present our bodies as living sacrifices; to suffer with Jesus in patient endurance.

Give us all fresh confidence that there is: no future where you are not present, no sorrow

where you are not near, no tears not kept in your bottle, no locust-eaten years you will not restore.

And so we trust you, our Generous Provider: if the curve does not flatten, if the market does not pull up, if the shelves go empty, and if all our accounts drain to pennies — Even still, let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength; let us take joy in the God of our salvation.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Messiah, our Life Authority, who taught us to pray... *Our Father...*

**Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory ~ Barb Hosner**

**Offering Prayer** — based on Philippians 2:1-13

*Thank you for your continued support in prayer and finances.*

Faithful God, we gratefully acknowledge that you are the giver of all things. You call us to share these gifts so that we may experience the joy and humility of giving to others. We pray that this very act of offering our gifts to you will enable us to be obedient disciples of your work. We are blessed to receive and to offer the message of salvation. Jesus Christ is Lord. Praise your holy name! Amen.

**Benediction**

May the Source of life hold you in the faith; the Word of life speak clearly in truth throughout the frightened world around you; and Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom, sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

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

## For Cheer and Hello

David Bretz  
Barb Griner  
Flossie Lang  
Nona Mattheis


Robert & Carmen Parsons  
Marv Starbuck  
Mina Willett  
Betty Witcher

## In Service to Our Country

Walker Polsinelli  
Tyler Smith

Geoff White

**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.

## Prayer for Family and Friends

### Praise

We are safe. Cannot travel yet as trees are down all over. We have been extremely lucky. You see the good in people. Have had several offer us help. Take care. We will be cleaning up debris. ~ *Rexalee Goecker [in Dauphin Island, Alabama]*

Prayer is so powerful. My son and two grandchildren are safe, and that is a great blessing. Thank you for your prayers. ~ *Jo Pope*

### Updates and New Requests This Week

Beverly Nimmo passed away on Sept. 8 at the age of 92. Please remember her family in prayer.

### Previous Requests

Pray for Vera and Chuck Walker and family, as Vera's sister, Joyce, passed away.

Pray for those in the areas of the fires on the west coast.

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

## This Week's Celebrations

### Birthdays

9/27 James Barrett  
Mary Burke  
9/28 Emily Hansson  
Jessica Hawkins  
Betsy Myers  
9/30 Morgan Wood  
10/2 Vaughan Read

### Anniversaries

9/29 James & Phyllis Barrett  
Greg & Becky Berndt  
Ron & Sharon Steinacker  
10/5 Greg & Joanne Culver

## World Communion Sunday

Throughout the year, we encourage giving to United Methodist Church special offerings.

**World Communion Sunday is October 4.** This offering is collected the first Sunday in October and supports World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

If you would like to give, please make your check payable to VUMC and write World Communion Sunday on the memo line and mail it to the church or bring it to church Sunday morning with your regular giving. Or give online at [UMCgiving.org/giveWCS](http://UMCgiving.org/giveWCS).

We invite you to join us!

## Sunday Worship

9:30 Sunday mornings

Family Life Center

The service will also be transmitted to the church parking lot via FM signal for those who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Please wear a mask.
- Use the ramp leading into the Family Life Center. Other entrances will be closed.
- Upon entrance to the Family Life Center, your temperature will be checked. Hand sanitizer will be available, and no common surface items will be handed out (bulletins, hymnals, etc.).
- No hugging, other than "air hugs"; avoid crossing within six feet of each other; there will be no coffee and refreshments.
- Restrooms outside the Family Life Center will be available.

We will continue our established practice of placing the service on YouTube, Facebook, and the church website ([vicksburgumc.org](http://vicksburgumc.org)).

Thank you so much to the many people who are working together to make worship possible. We are so very blessed! Thanks to you, too. Your love and support for your church family is very appreciated.

## 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.

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link: [meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs](https://meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs).

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

## 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.



## Other Committees You May Not Know About

It takes an army of volunteers to manage and direct the everyday activities of your church. You are probably familiar with Worship, Member Care, Trustees, Missions, SPRC, Ad Council, and Education. Thought you might like to hear about some of the lesser known committees.

**Nominations:** This committee meets as needed, with special emphasis on filling vacancies before the annual conference each year in the fall. They have the heavy duty of meeting, considering potential candidates, and then contacting these candidates to get acceptance of the position. Their goal is to find the best suited person for an opening, and the success of your church depends on their success. If you get one of these calls, be kind and give careful consideration to the request. You can always grow into a job you never would have thought of before for yourself.

**Memorials:** Meets as needed. Donations come in as "memorials" in honor of a member/constituent who has passed away. Thank you notes are sent to the contributor. When the donations accrue, the funds are usually spent on something not accounted for in the operational budget.

**Kids Hope Coordinator:** This person's responsibility is with both mentors from our membership and the personnel of our school where we do our mentoring. In our case, this is Tobey School. Ranges from 10-15 mentors, depending on the number of students needing help.

**Scouting Liaison:** This person has independent responsibility and reports any requests/issues with the Scouts to the Ad Council.

**Wills and Trusts:** This committee has approx. four members and meets as needed. Any requests they receive for monies or donations is directed to Finance Committee for advice and assistance.

**Scholarship Committee:** This committee has four members and meets in late spring to discuss the funds available and requests for scholarships. Reports to Wills and Trusts.

**Preschool Advisory Board:** Three church members meet with the Preschool Board once each month. They act as liaisons with the SPRC.

**Library and Archives:** One member each is assigned to these two areas with independent responsibility, and any needs are communicated to Trustees.

**Safe Sanctuary:** Clarifies safety procedures for our youth and communicates with SPRC and Trustees.

**Online Ministry:** Independent responsibility. Any needs communicated to Pastor. This position could be altered to fit current needs.

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):** Has nine members, meets monthly. Sends reports to Ad Council. In charge of hiring, firing, and communications between staff, pastor, and congregation.

**Lay Members of Annual Conference:** Has two representatives whose responsibility is to attend SPRC, Finance and Ad Board meetings, and attend the District Annual Conference in late spring and give a report to the congregation.

**Generosity and Stewardship:** Has four members who meet bi-monthly and are responsible for organizing, planning and carrying out any campaigns for fundraising.

*Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton*

## UMCOR needs your help

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

A donation to UMCOR will go a long way to help as cleanup continues. Make checks payable to VUMC with UMCOR storms on the memo line, or give online at [advance.UMCOR.org](http://advance.UMCOR.org).

## Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

## Office hours

The church office is opening back up with limited hours for now. Polly will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and will continue working from home Mondays and Thursdays.