

Sunday
November 8, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

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 the worship leader.

Bold print indicates the people.

*Indicates please stand as able.

Gathering

“History belongs to the intercessors — those who believe and pray the future into being” + Walter Wink (1935-2012), American theologian

Psalter: Psalm 131 (NRSV)

A Song of Quiet Trust

¹ O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. ² But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. ³ O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

Litany after a Bitter Election

Lord God, this season in our history has not brought out the best in most of us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

While democracy is an amazing thing, even a gift from above, sometimes the process of pitting people against each other results in less than truth and less than the love you told us to have for our neighbors.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

This election has shown the deep anger, the deep dissatisfaction in this country. It has shown in disturbing ways the historic divides between races and the growing gaps between economic classes. We want to hang in there together in this big, beautiful country where no one group has all the answers. Show us how we need each other as we work toward something bigger than all of us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help us to try to do good for and with each other. Help us to at least be kind, to try to understand each other. For those of us who call ourselves Christians, help us to be examples of loving our neighbors as ourselves, even if we are honestly mad and can barely stand our neighbors.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help us to practice these virtues going forward. We will really need your grace as we start to live with the results.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Come Lord Jesus, be our host — stay with us. With friend, with stranger, with young and with old — be among us. Come close to us that we may come close to you.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us that we may forgive one another. Renew us so that, where we have failed, we may begin again.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

***Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we still exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America. Help us never to take these blessings for granted.

We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as President, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement.

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

Amen.

Scripture Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
(*Kingdom New Testament*)

Sermon: "Ramped-Up & Raptured"

Response to the Word: Ancient Celtic prayer

I will light a light in the name of the Maker, who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for me.

I will light a light in the name of the Son, who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.

I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who encompasses the world and blesses my soul with yearning.

You are the Trinity of love: God above us, God beside us, God beneath us: The beginning, the end, the everlasting One.

Amen.

Sharing God's Gifts, and Offertory

Offering Prayer

Thank you for your prayers and support of our finances.

Lord God, thank you for upholding our lives. As we give our gifts and tithes to you, we are reminded of your great gift. We give you praise and honor for giving us the indescribable gift of your Son, Jesus. It is too wonderful for words that Jesus laid down his life so we could be translated from death to life. We are so blessed that Jesus redeemed us from the curse and set us free to live for you and with you for eternity.

Amen.

Pastor's Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the world and all its leaders [silence]: May leaders of nations work together for lasting peace so that healing and justice may arise over all the earth. We pray...

Let us pray for our nation in this time of reflection, turmoil, and transition [silence]: May each of us in the United States soften our hearts with kindness that we may listen to one another with respect, express our thoughts with humble clarity, and always seek the good in the other as we strive to form a more perfect union. We pray...

Let us pray for all Christians and people of faith and goodwill [silence]: May we never

lose hope in the mercy of God even in the midst of chaos, and may we never tire of doing good for the sake of the gospel. We pray...

Let us pray for all who have been elected to serve in our national and local government [silence]: May those chosen to carry the burden of office be given wisdom to know what is right and just and be strengthened to always work for the common good. We pray...

Let us pray for those who competed for the office of President of the United States [silence]: May those who lost be consoled and their hearts be filled with peace so that they may persevere in serving the people of our nation in new ways. We pray...

Let us pray for the President (or President-elect) who must carry this immense responsibility [silence]: May God give him eyes to see a path toward unity for a people deeply divided; ears to listen to good counsel and hear the voice of the oppressed; a heart humbled and opened by the weight of this office; and a spirit of service to all people of this land. We pray...

Let us pray for reconciliation among families and friends divided [silence]: May we learn to love each other despite our differences and focus on the work that continues beyond this election: the work of unity,

respect for one another and for all life, and peace in our world. We pray...

Let us pray for the ones most affected by the choices we have made [silence]: In all we do, may we keep the merciful face of Christ ever before us who is seen in those who are poor, refugees, or migrants, those who are sick or without homes, those without food or meaningful work, those who are yet to be born, those who are prisoners, and those whose lives are unvalued. We pray... This, and so much more, we need to pray in the name of Jesus...

Our Father who art in heaven...

Parting Words: "God Is For Us"

Video: Will Willimon is retired-Bishop of the North Alabama Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Benediction

Lord Jesus, send us anywhere you would have us go, only go there with us. Place upon us any burden you desire, only stand by us to sustain us. Break any tie that binds us, except the tie that binds us to you.

And the blessing of God: + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — be with you, those you love, those you cannot stand, those you serve and those who challenge you — this day and always.

Amen.

***Postlude**

Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Please pray for Dan Cook and family, as his wife, Lindsey, died this past week. Dan is a friend of Kris Miller and the son of Jean Cook, our custodian.

Myrna Forsythe is recuperating at home following surgery for a new pacemaker.

Nick Marko (Therisa Gruber's future son-in-law) was in a bad car accident last week and is in ICU at Bronson Hospital.

Randy Myers (Georgia Rolfe's brother) is 95 years old and has issues with his heart.

Pray for Leanne Spiegelberg (Kris Miller's aunt), and all the family, as Kris's uncle, Dwight, died last week.

Previous Requests

Glory Bragg is recovering from surgery and is in rehab at:

Heritage Community Rehabilitation
2400 Portage St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Phone: 488-2483

No visitors are allowed because of COVID. Please pray for Maxine Melvin (Tim's mother), who is 92 yrs. old and worries so about her family. She has lost so many.

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world.



Establishing a History/Archive Room of VUMC

Have you ever noticed that God seems to work out your schedule to fit a project He has in mind for you to do? That has been my experience many times, but none as obvious as my participation in developing a History/Archive Room for VUMC.

It was early Fall of 2006 when I received a phone call from Steve Fryling, a member of Nominating Committee, asking me if I would consider accepting the job of Historian at our church. Well, I had never even thought of it before, but I had just closed a store in Portage and thought I had lots of time! I said, "Well, tell me a bit about it and what has been done in the past. He sheepishly answered, "Well we really do not have any kind of archives officially stored detailing our history." Okay. "Where are the records stored that you do have?" "Well, they are just all over the church in different rooms in boxes."

Okay. I told him I would take a look, see what was there and then give him an answer. We had moved most of our storage to the Lee Paper Mill while we were building the Family Life Center. These boxes and boxes had been moved back from the Mill and put into any space any room had open! Fortunately, my son Matt was also without employment, and he is the most organized person I know, maybe tied with Steve Fryling. Matt helped me clean, sort and organize all of these rooms. It took us two 40-hour weeks, but when it was over, we had approx. 25 banker boxes full of history papers (and lots of clean rooms, too). Now what was I to do with them? **No clue where to start.**

I phoned the Conference History/Archives Office in Lansing. They were very nice...but not much help. They were proud of VUMC to even entertain this idea! I then found the help I needed in a visit to Vicksburg Historical Society. They had stored all of their history papers in three ring notebooks. Wow. Really simple. I then enlisted the best helper anyone could have ever wanted: Betty Witcher. She and I met at least once a week for four hours, for 15 years. She never complained

about sorting through paper after paper, even though she would voice a nice word for people who did not date papers! Dates ruled our organizing! Other volunteers did stop in once in a while, and most did not come back, saying, "It is such boring work...how do you stand it?" One other person I would like to thank is Betty's sister, Vickie Worthington. She was a great help also, especially in computer work, making all the notebook spine categories for us. I still have to call her in service for a new one.

Originally, we did not need much financing. All we were doing was sorting boxes into categories such as Ad Board, Worship, Choir, etc. Once this was done, Steve called and asked if I needed any funds. Yes, I needed to purchase many three ring notebooks, vinyl sleeves to protect thousands of sheets, tabs, pens, -- lots of items.

The Trustee Committee moved us around a bit from room to room until they decided on a more permanent space in the basement. Not the best for humidity preservation, but you work with what you have. My husband, J.R., and I were fortunate to have 25 running ft. of quarter sawn oak apothecary cabinets that were perfect for storing all those notebooks. A bit later, the room was painted, a rug added, along with an old table and chairs, and we had an official archive room for storage of history papers. Sorry to report we do not have many vintage artifacts. We did not find any really valuable brass candle holders, etc. My belief is that these pieces were probably pitched at some time by some well-intentioned person who thought they were just old junk. I kept hoping until the last box was emptied!

Today, in 2020, if there is any question you may have regarding the history of VUMC, take a walk to the end of the hallway in the basement. Look at a typed index file laying on the table, find the category you are interested in, and the index file will tell you the number on the spine of the notebook you need. There are lots of photo books also to peruse.

Thoughts, memories and research by Nancy Fulton

Welcome!

The service in the Family Life Center is transmitted to the church parking lot via FM signal for those who wish to remain in their vehicle.

- Wear a mask and remain 6 ft. from others.
- Use the ramp into the Family Life Center.
- Your temperature will be checked.
- Restrooms are available.

Donations for Sunshine Bags

Caring Ministries will be making Sunshine Bags for our senior members who are not getting out. We encourage you to donate, if you like, and we would like any items dropped off at church by the welcome center throughout November.

Items can be handmade or purchased, perhaps at the dollar stores. Suggestions include (but are not limited to) bookmark, fish crackers, candy, pads of paper, Bible verse.



Midweek prayer meeting

On Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, Pastor Greg hosts an online "Midweek Prayer Meeting".

To join the on-line prayer meeting, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-gqs.

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

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Monday, Nov. 16.
- Items for the December/January newsletter are due to Polly reception@vicks-burgumc.org by Monday, Nov. 16 (early deadline due to Thanksgiving).

Can you donate flowers?

Joyce Newton is planting flowers at the church. If you would like to donate mums or spring bulbs, please bring them to the church.

Office hours

The church office is open with limited hours for now. Polly will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 1:00. The church is still closed, so call ahead if you need to drop something off.

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.

Thank you

Dear church family, thank you for the lovely rose (delivered by Beth and Dee), the many cards, and the countless acts of love that we have received for the passing of mom, Marge Baughman!

One of the things she enjoyed when visiting us was going to church and Sunday School! Barb and I are so blessed to have such a loving and caring pastor and church family! In Jesus' love ~ *Brad and Barb*

please see more on the other side

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

This Week's Celebrations

Birthdays

11/10 Brady Puckett
11/11 Owen Gruber
Margaret Haines
11/12 Patrick Hillenbrand
11/13 Janet Noel

Anniversaries

11/12 Chuck & Lois
Myers
11/14 Stephen & Kathy
Phillips

please see more on the other side