

Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Greg Culver

Youth Director

Hank Stamm

Choir/Praise Band Director

Tamra Stamm

Administrative Assistant

Polly Preston

Financial Assistant

Michelle Morgan

Custodian

Jean Cook

Heart & Hands

Director and Teacher

Kelli Young

Heart & Hands Assistant

Director and Teacher

Stephanie Sinon

Heart & Hands Assistants

Lindsey DeGraaf, Courtney Zenz

Kids Hope USA Director

Sharon Pendola



“What’s the Good Word?” — *Worship Outlook*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Thank you so much for your prayers and patience as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 wilderness.

I would like to express appreciation for the folk on the Strategic Planning Team: Brad Addis, Mary Burke, Don Dailey, Alex Ensing, Lori Ensing, Kristen Flynn, Carol Lohman, Hank Stamm, and Vera Walker. Our conversations (and spirited debates!) have been quite enjoyable! We have grown in our relationships among one another and our shared dependency upon the Lord. Under current circumstances and stressors we continue in hope to give God the most “profound hallelujah” to the best of our abilities.

Sunday, February 14, is St. Valentine’s Day, and so we would like to do something really special by taking the 9:30 drive-in worship on the road to go show love for our homebound and shut-in folk. Mapped-out car caravan routes will be provided for drive-by honks and waves. Please join us for this very special mission of encouragement and love. Festive signs and vehicles decorated for the occasion are highly encouraged! Even though we will not be doing the drive-in service as we would normally do, a worship service will still be posted on social media for you to watch at your leisure.



Heart and Hands Preschool

Heart and Hands returned to in-person learning on January 6th after being virtual since November.



Our students, staff, and parents were so happy for us to be back in school! We all have been adjusting well, and so much fun learning has taken place.

In January we learned about different types of buildings, how they are made, and what tools are used. We also learned about Jesus’s many miracles!

Please continue to pray with us for the health and safety of our staff and students (we have had a very healthy year so far, praise God!).

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. It may not be the most anticipated day on the worship calendar for modern Christians — and Lent may not be anyone’s favorite season — but the church must not be allowed to let the seemingly last vestiges of Christian memory regarding the importance of this day to lapse, especially during a pandemic. A liturgical rite of some sort will be posted online as our witness before almighty God.

On Sunday, March 7, live-stream worship will (tentatively) begin in the sanctuary. We say “tentatively” because safety protocols (masks, safe-distancing, etc.) will continue to be prioritized. The COVID-test positive numbers from the Kalamazoo County Health Department will be monitored for week-to-week inside worship feasibility. Radio transmission will still be available in the parking lot.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for the Christmas love gift! I am truly honored to be your pastor!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Greg

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.

Drive-In Worship

**9:30 Sunday mornings
in the church parking lot**

tune your radio to FM 101.1

Also at home:

- ◆ **Live stream** (watch the service live) on your computer or cell phone at 9:30 Sunday mornings at meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn. A GOOGLE ACCOUNT IS REQUIRED.
- ◆ **Listen live** (listen to the service live) on your phone at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Shortly before 9:30, call (413) 340-2217 and enter the following pin when prompted: 950 134 510#.
- ◆ **Watch on YouTube.** After church, the video of the service will be posted on YouTube, and the link directly to that Sunday’s service will be emailed to you.
- ◆ **Watch any service anytime** on YouTube. A Google account is not required. Go to YouTube.com and search for Vicksburg UMC. Select “Vicksburg UMC” from the list, then select the service you would like to watch.



Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18–19; Mark 10; Luke 18

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

PSALM 36:7

As they were traveling in Galilee, Jesus' friends asked Him a question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matthew 18:1).

The kingdom of heaven is wherever God is King and everything is good. Jesus' friends thought that maybe people with a lot of money would be the most important people in the kingdom. Or maybe those who prayed or fasted the most would be the greatest.

Jesus called over a child. Now in that time no one asked children for their thoughts. No one gave children special treatment. But Jesus said, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (v. 4).

Children don't have a lot of money. They don't have power. They don't pray or fast to be the best. They just love Jesus.

In God's kingdom, the people who realize their need for Jesus will be great. People who are like little children—who seem unimportant to everyone else—are very special to Jesus.

At another time, parents were bringing their children, even tiny babies, to Jesus. Jewish mothers and fathers usually brought their children to the Temple to receive blessings from the priest. But these parents wanted Jesus to bless their children.

The disciples held back the parents. Per-

haps they thought Jesus was too busy to see the children. So many people wanted to hear Jesus and be healed by Him!

But Jesus showed the disciples again that they did not understand. "Let the little children come! Don't stop them! The kingdom of God belongs to those who have the faith of children." And Jesus took the little ones in His arms. He blessed all the children and prayed for them, and then sent them back to their happy parents.



Thank You!

Thank you, Kathy Phillips, for the gift bag from Member Care. ~ *Sue Epley*

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the goodie bag that was delivered by the Hersons. I appreciate the thought and caring of all the church family. Love ~ *Myrna (Myrna Forsythe passed away on Jan. 2 at the age of 84. Please remember the family in your prayers.)*

Dear church family, what a nice surprise we had when we found a bag of "goodies" at our door! It was so thoughtful of you to include us in the "senior baskets" (how did we ever get this old so fast?!). We do thank you so much for brightening up our day! Our church family means so much to us, and we miss seeing everyone during these difficult times! Love and hugs ~ *Bob and Nancy Harper*

Thank you for the goodie bag. I quickly sat down and enjoyed reading the wonderful pamphlet of celebrating 150 years of worship. I ate all the goodies and used the new VUMC coffee mug, "Because We Care," and you sure do. Thanks again ~ *Barb Hosner*

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the goodie bag!! The cheese and crackers, calendar, Upper Rooms, and candy are so appreciated!! Everything was so very thoughtful And it was even more special for the personal delivery by Nancy Herson! It was lovely to catch up with her on my front porch with masks and socially distanced. We miss our family, and that includes our church family! Please take care, everyone! Sincerely ~ *Lynne Melvin*

To the Membership Care and Celebration Committees, what a lovely surprise to find a Christmas bag filled with joy on my front porch. I'm so sorry I didn't hear the deliverer. Thank you so much for the thoughtful contents. The "Celebration Book" is a true treasure. I enjoyed reading Nancy's weekly bits of history and now with Bonnie's memories they are all together. I know it was a true labor of love and truly appreciated by all. Lori's drawing of the church is wonderful. We as a church family are blessed by you gifted, thoughtful, and caring people. Thank you so much ~ *Bonnie Oswalt*

Thank you to the Member Care Sunshine Ladies for brightening my day and warming my heart. Thank you for letting me know I am thought about. ~ *Georgia Rolfe*

Thank you for the wonderful goodie bag that was delivered by elves to our back porch while we were out picking up our grocery order. What a great surprise. Enjoyed all the treats, and the rest of the items were very thoughtful. ~ *Arden and Penny*

I appreciate the interesting Sunshine Bag that I received before Christmas, and I appreciate each person involved in that project under the guidance of the Member Care Committee. ~ *Laverne*

I really enjoyed my care basket. What a beautiful pick-me-up for me. I drink out of my VUMC mug every morning and just love all the goodies and books and puzzle book. I am reading through the celebration book and enjoying it. In Christ ~ *Charlene Taylor*

I want to thank Kathy Phillips for the surprise gift bag from Membership Care. It was so thoughtful. ~ *Betty Thomas*

Thank you to all of the wonderful prayer warriors there. Surgery went well [in December], and I am healing according to schedule. I could feel all of the prayers and good vibes headed this way. What a great place to call family. Thank you all again. ~ *Cande Vermeulen*

Thank you, church family, for all the prayers, gifts, food, and visits after the death of my sister and cousin [in December]. We appreciate all the prayers especially, for our family, and for our country. Sincerely ~ *Lori Lash*

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to UMW last year. Having no way to do fundraisers, your donations have been a blessing to us. They have helped us to be able to give to several local organizations. In His Service ~ *UMW*

South County Community Services relies on donors like you to continue serving families in need in our community. Thank you so much for your generous support of our programming! We couldn't do it without you! ~ *Drew*



COVID-19 Vaccine wait list available for seniors

If you are 65 years old or older, you can now sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine waiting list in Kalamazoo County! To sign up, call 269-373-5200 and press number 1, or go to <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19vaccine.php> and complete the Waitlist Pre-registration form.

The health department is experiencing extremely high call volume. To avoid long wait times on the phone, they are encouraging people to pre-register online.



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, or <https://www.homeagain-vicksburg.com/>. Facebook and website have the rules for consigning.

Caring Ministry will meet

Caring Ministry will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 1:00 p.m. in the Taylor Room.

Susanna Wesley Circle will meet

Susanna Wesley Circle is going to meet on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the Taylor Room. Their theme is **Time for New Beginnings**. There will be several items to discuss, and we value your input.

CDC guidelines will be followed. Please come join us.

Deadlines

ShopWithScrip (formerly ScripCents) orders are due in the church office by 2:00 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 1 and 15.

Items for the March newsletter are due in the church office by Monday, Feb 22.

Midweek prayer meeting

To join the online prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 8:45, please click this link: meet.google.com/hii-yaux-qgs.

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

New address

Marv Starbuck has a new address: Park Place Assisted Living, 4226 S. Westnedge, Building D, Room 15, Kalamazoo MI 49008. Phone 269-888-2294.

Loaves and Fishes

Free groceries will be distributed on Saturday, Feb. 20, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., in the church parking lot. No referral or appointment is needed. Bring bags and boxes to carry food. Need Food Line: 269-343-3663.

February Celebrations

Birthdays

1 Julie Griffin
2 Chuck Myers
9 Noni Heikes
12 Sandy Minger
14 Lauren Burke
14 Alex Oswalt
16 Walter Gose
17 Jolene Cron
17 Cande Vermeulen
18 Jill Barton
19 Anna Sponseller

20 Laverne Swinehart
21 Betty Gruber
26 Andrew Falconer
26 Diana Girolami
26 Lilly Puckett
28 Brian Eberstein
28 Edward Haberle

Anniversaries

14 Jim & Joan Smola
17 Chuck & Vera Walker
18 Larry & Sally Kohler

Kzoo Prayer Center online

The Kzoo Prayer Center continues to meet virtually via Zoom. You are welcome to send your prayer requests to Prayer@KzooPrayer.org. You can be prayed with in absentia, over the phone, or by joining your personalized team on Zoom.

Office hours

Polly will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 1:00 and will continue to work from home Mondays and Thursdays. The building remains closed, so please call ahead if you need to enter. 649-2343

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Vicksburg United Methodist Church

217 South Main St
Vicksburg MI 49097

Rev. Greg Culver

269-649-2343 ♦ vicksburgumc.org

Becoming disciples, serving God's world.

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship
in the church parking lot
and livestream at
meet.google.com/ybu-swbd-ocn


Church Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The doors remain locked,
so call 649-2343 if you
have something to drop
off or pick up.

The Visitor

February 2021



Lent 2021

*Ash Wednesday
on February 17 to
Maundy Thursday
on April 1*