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Paul French

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Amber Morris

Heart & Hands Teacher

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Heart & Hands Assistant

Amber Smith

Kids Hope USA Director

Sharon Pendola

Youth Director

Hank Stamm

Newsletter Editor

Polly Preston



*Happy
Mother's Day*

What's the Good Word? — Kite-Flying on Ascension Day, May 17

Hello Church!

Have you ever heard of Ascension Day? Ascension Day is the 40th day of Easter. It occurs 39 days after Easter Sunday. It is a Christian holiday that commemorates Christ's ascension into heaven.

I love this day for all sorts of reasons. It is the culmination of Christ's ministry, it is the next stage of God's mission, and it tells us one of the most life-changing truths of our faith, that there is now a human being residing within the Trinity. Read about it here: Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Acts 1:2.

Think of it – one of the members of the Trinity has opposable thumbs, DNA strands, blood and a nose! And so, the ascension of Jesus – fully human, fully God – is our guarantee that one day we, too, will know and enjoy the beauty, grace and love that inhabits the Trinity. It is the life we were always meant for!

And one final reason to love Ascension Day? It is the one Christian holiday that has no parallel celebration, historically or culturally. It flies completely under the radar of our culture, and therefore is not likely to be commercialized or commodified. In fact, it is sad to say that many modern Christians have long forgotten about Ascension Day. And yet, it might be the purest Christian holiday to celebrate.

Here is what one Bible teacher says about it:

"Jesus is Lord — This, of course, is the great truth that Christians celebrate in the Ascension. Jesus is exalted as the Lord of the cosmos, supreme over all the powers. It is perhaps

significant that this is virtually the only Christian festival that has no pagan analogue, and which has not been taken over by the pagan materialistic forces that wreak havoc with Christmas and Easter. The shops do not fill up with Ascension presents, nor can you buy cards saying: 'Happy Ascension to my Dear Granny.' Perhaps (although it would be risky) Christians should begin to celebrate the Ascension more explicitly. Presents or cards might be exchanged, but preferably homemade and symbolic ones, not ones that merely reinforced the prevailing materialism. There is room for new family festivals to be created around this season, parallel with Christmas or Easter celebrations but taking care, again, to avoid collapsing back into paganism. Here is scope for imagination and experiment (N.T. Wright, *Bringing the Church to the World*).

So how to celebrate Ascension Day? Well, because Ascension Day worship services are in short supply — I will go fly a kite — gather up the kids, my child-like spirit, and set a kite to flight. We will watch it flutter and unfurl in the wind, catch sail and soar in the sky. I want to imagine what it must have been like for those first disciples doing just what I am doing, gawking up into the sky.

And then I hope to hear the question of the angel: "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" It is a "don't just stand there" missional question because Ascension thrusts the church on its mission, announcing and inaugurating the reign of Christ in the whole world.

Jesus is Lord!
Go fly a kite!

Kingdom blessings
to you,
Pastor Greg



Church Leaders

Church Council

John Cleveland (jcleveland327@gmail.com)

Finance

Don Dailey (ddaileysu@gmail.com)

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Abuse Prevention

Hank Stamm (henrystamm3rd@yahoo.com)

Lay Leader

Brad Addis (braddis109@aol.com)

Worship Schedule for May

May 6 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-18a

Sermon: "When Christ is Preached"

May 13 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-13

Sermon: "Equal with God"

May 20 — Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon: "In the Lord"

May 27 — First Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Philippians 3:1-14

Sermon: "Graceful Sacrifice"

Donations from Heirloom Rose

Jim Stamper, Master Florist, is donating his services to Vicksburg Untied Methodist Church to provide a rose bud for members who pass away. In addition, he will provide altar flowers for \$25. Please make arrangements with the treasurer to make payment. All arrangements and payments for the roses will be made through Vicksburg United Methodist Church. Please contact the church office or Dee Morton for more details.

HEIRLOOM ROSE

Flowers For All Occasions

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Jim Stamper - Owner
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May

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Rae Ann Graves
- Marie Kevirtis
- Paul Schutter
- 3 Valerie Hamilton
- Holly Tarner
- 6 Liz Anderson
- Anthony Knowles
- 7 Gabriel Cleveland
- Christine Mohr
- Lauren Wolak
- 8 Evy Inman
- Michael Tichvon
- David Vermeulen
- 9 David Pauli
- 10 Sophia Carrier
- 11 Karen Simpson
- 12 Shawn Breece
- Sharon Hosner
- Maya Hossink
- 14 Steve Fryling
- 15 Fred Willis
- 16 Markus Taylor
- 17 Linda Hulett
- Penny Sult
- 18 Kathy Moore
- Kathy Phillips
- Jean Philport
- Al Thomas

- 19 Dominick Hosner
- Phil Tilbury
- 21 Billy Adams
- Ken Herson
- 22 Nana Bradford
- 23 Elizabeth Tuinier
- 24 Sofia Hess
- 25 Tamra Stamm
- Margaret Tilbury
- 27 Cassandra Mullen
- 29 Lee Halladay
- Levi Hawkins

Anniversaries

- 2 Steve & Kathy Ham-bright
- 3 Rick & Barbara Blatt
- 4 Norm & Melva Kohler
- 8 Brian & Jen Pierson
- 9 Michael & Laura Asher
- 10 Marc & Margaret Til-bury
- 11 Charlie & Annelore Cannizzaro
- 20 Mark & Mary Rusk
- 21 Doug & Deb Sponseller
- 25 Vern & Aurelia Reed
- 26 Mike & Guila Harrison
- Randy & Tamra Stafford
- 27 Don & Tamra Puckett

Vicksburg United Methodist Women

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 2 Church Women United – Friendship (Awards)
- 3 Field Trip, Women/Children’s Center, Gospel Mission
- 4&5 District Spiritual Growth, Wesley Woods U.M. camp
- 9 All Daughter Dinner
- 13 Happy Mother’s Day!
- 17 Susanna Wesley Circle, 9:30 a.m.
- 18-20 Assembly District, Columbus, OH
- 24 Priscilla Circle, eat-out lunch

31-June 3 Michigan Area Annual Conference, Traverse City

June

- 7 UMW Executive Meeting, 11 a.m.
- 7 Picnic Salad Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. in Taylor Room – Community House speaker
- 21 Priscilla Circle picnic at Jean Philport’s
- 20 Evening in Mission, Stevensville

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Sewing Challenge for 2018: Baby Blankets. 5 yards of fabric will make 6 blankets cut at 30 x 30 with small hems. Only new, unwashed fabric – no sports, feet or hands, national symbols or animal prints. Directions are posted on the UMW board in the church narthex.



W O W !!! LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
Thank you – thank you- thank you
for another successful Rummage Sale!

- **YOU** donated gently-used, clean items for the sale!
- **YOU** donated yummy food for our workers!
- **YOU** worked at the sale!
- **YOU** shopped for tons of amazing bargains!
- **YOU** packed & loaded leftovers so the Salvation Army could help still more folks!

Because of what **YOU** did, we were able to earn over \$3,000, which is used to make a difference in people’s lives locally and around the world!

WOW! And we’ll do it all again come September 2018!
Thank you everyone!

Sincerely!
The UMW Team



We need buttons

The program for the All Daughter Dinner on May 9 is entitled, "Buttons & Bows," so we are looking for individuals who have their grandma's, mother's, or aunt's old button boxes and would like to put them on display for the Dinner. We'd love to use them. Please contact Betsy Myers.

Coffee hour

Cookies and treats are needed for May. Please provide 4 to 5 dozen cookies or snacks and leave them in the old kitchen marked coffee hour. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call Vera Walker, 532-3551.

May collections for Generous Hands

For the month of May, we will be collecting 100% fruit juice, fruit cups, and unsweetened applesauce.

Prayer requests by phone

You can hear the weekly prayer requests by calling the church (649-2343) before 9:00 a.m. and after 1:00 p.m. When the answering machine answers, press 370.

This month's deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due by 2:00 on Tuesdays, May 1 and 15.
- June newsletter items are due Tuesday, May 29.

Spring Cleanup at Wesley Woods

It's time again for our spring cleanup on Sycamore Cabin at Wesley Woods! I'm looking for volunteers to clean, rake, wash, scrub, and probably replace a few worn out or broken items. I'll also be taking donations for replacement items.

Anyone interested in going out sometime in the next couple of weeks contact me and we will set up a time.

Thanks much for all you do for this very important ministry. *Brad Addis*
649-1328 or 532-2296.

Bible study

Coming soon! Do you want to investigate what's inside that book we use as the foundation of our faith? We are looking for you!

Do you think you will look bad in front of others because you don't really know or understand everything in the Bible? FEAR NOT!! You will be among friends and family who want the same thing as you, and are probably on the same level you are. Class leaders will readily admit to being learners themselves.

We are looking to form study groups to dig in to what God has to say. Be assured, 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.

Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

beginning May 27



Mail Bag



My family and I thank all who sent cards, phone calls, food, and anything else you did, to support us in our time of need due to Rex's passing. We appreciated it very much. In Christian love, *Glory Bragg & family*

Dear friends at VUMC, Generous Hands would like to thank you for the very generous donations of food for the Friday Pack Program. The food donations, totaling 638.7 pounds to date, are appreciated more than words can express. We are currently sending food home weekly with 408 children in our community who face food insecurity; we could not keep up with the growing number of children needing food assistance if it were not for compassionate and caring people like you. Thank you for caring and sharing God's love in this special way.

Tim continues his radiation treatments, which are starting to take a toll on him. He is very tired most of the time. Please pray for strength and encouragement for the rest of his treatments. He is over 33% done already - yay!! Thank you very much for your cards, phone calls & hugs! Those are what is holding us up right now. Thank you ~ *Lynne Melvin*



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.



MAY YOUTH NEWS

We are pleased and excited to have Barb and Brad Ad-dis back from Florida and helping again with The Shed

afterschool ministry! We would also like to recognize Anna Lynn Pauli, Julie Taylor, Kellie Hiemstra, and Xaviar McClintock -Valencia for their continued faithfulness in serving as small group leaders in HELIX, our Middle School ministry.

All congregation members are invited to join the Vicksburg Community Schools for the Baccalaureate Service held at the Performing Arts Center Wednesday, May 30, at 7:00 pm for an evening of worship and praise with our VHS graduates.

Looking ahead to June, our youth ministry will go to our summer hours with all three ministries, Route 56, HELIX and RAW, meeting together until we depart on the Youth Mission Trip July 13. We will meet Wed. evenings from 5:30-7:00.

MISSION TRIP NEWS

We have made our final payment to YouthWorks for our Summer Mission trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia

this summer. There is a mission team meeting Sunday, May 6, from 1:30-3:30. We will be covering our biggest WHY. Why do we serve on short-term mission trips? How can we find Jesus Christ in the mission field?

ALL CONGREGATION HOME WORK!

Sunday, June 3, we will be celebrating our Graduation Sunday service where we honor our graduates. In hopes to leave our students with just a bit more knowledge and make our service more interactive, please come on the 3rd with one piece of knowledge you wish you knew when you graduated high school.

Buttons & Bows
All Daughter Dinner
 sponsored by the Susanna Wesley Circle
 May 9 6:00 p.m.
 \$6 adults
 \$3 children 10 yrs. or younger

PLEASE JOIN US
 for a
PIG ROAST
 hosted by
THE SCOUTS AT
May 6 11:30 AM
 church parking lot (or FLC) as a thank you to the church



April was spent, in part, learning about Paul's transformation, starting on his road to Damascus, and the blinding light that changed his course forever. We had fun making pipe cleaner glasses to "see again," and paper chain "shackles" meant to bind us.



I told the elementary Sunday School class that May will be our last month of Sunday School until September. They all groaned! Seeing those disappointed faces actually brought me joy! That told me they didn't want to stop learning about the stories in the Bible we have shared over the last eight months. Knowing we are charged with making disciples of Christ, my heart was filled, sitting there with nine little souls, on fire to follow Jesus, WITH JOY! Not much makes me happier than being part of their foundation of learning Christ's teachings. Our congregation is blessed indeed to have these children among us.



Vicksburg United Methodist Church

217 South Main St
Vicksburg MI 49097

Rev. Greg Culver

269-649-2343 ♦ vicksburgumc.org

*We are alive in Christ.
We love God, we care for one another,
and we help people here and around the world.*

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Visitor

May 2018

May Calendar

- 1 7:00p Trustees
- 2 1:00p Caring Ministries
- 6 11:45a Scout hog roast "thank you" to the church. Everyone is invited.
- 1:30p Mission Team meeting
- 7 7:00p Worship Planning Team
- 8 10:00a Staff meeting
- 6:30p Scout Committee mtg.

- 9 6:00p All Daughter Dinner
NO BELL CHOIR PRACTICE OR CHOIR PRACTICE
- 6:30p Scout meeting
- 10 5:30p Preschool Board meeting
- 7:00p Safety Team meeting
- 13 Mother's Day
- 15 6:30p Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 6:30p Scout Den meeting
- 17 Ascension Day
- 9:30a Susanna Wesley Circle
- 18 6:00p Scout Pack meeting
- 21 7:00p Finance Committee
- 25 6:30p Preschool Graduation
- 27 (summer worship schedule begins)
- 10:00a Worship
No Sunday School
- 28 Memorial Day
OFFICES CLOSED
- 30 7:00p Baccalaureate at VHS
- May 31-June 3 Michigan Annual Conference in Traverse City

Weekly Activities

Sunday

9:00a Sunday School
10:30a Worship
Beginning May 27
10:00a Worship
no Sunday School

Tuesday

2:00p Sew What Now God

Wednesday

10:30a SCCS Wednesday Winners
2:30p SHED (7th-9th grade outreach)
5:00p HELIX (7th-9th grade)
6:00p Bell choir practice (May 2 only)
7:00p Choir practice

Thursday

10:00a Play Gym (through May 17)
5:30p ROUTE 56 (5th-6th grade)
6:00p Play Gym (through May 17)
6:30p RAW (high school)

Fridays are Pastor Greg's days off.

Please call only in an emergency.

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.
Heart & Hands Preschool (through May 25)

