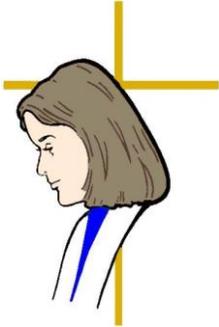


# THE PARISH POST

Volume 46 - Issue 4

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
*Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.*

April 2018



## Pastor Susan's Corner

Holy week has arrived. We will soon be saying "Happy Easter"!! "Happy Resurrection of the Lord!!" It is a time for all of us to remember that Jesus overcame death on the cross and rose again to bring hope to the world. Reminding us that no matter what we are going through

in life that he is there with us to empower and strengthen us - even when we are living in a valley, dealing with circumstances beyond our control.

As I was reading "Jesus Today" by Sarah Young, my reading for today spoke to me in a special way - it seemed as if it was speaking to the pain and transformation that my life has taken over the past several months. It also reaffirmed the promise that I've always believed that God has a plan for my life, even though it isn't always what I hope for or dream of. I'd like to share this devotional with you and I ask that you allow God speak to you in the circumstances you are facing as individuals and as a church.

*"I call you to lead the life that I have assigned to you, and to be content. Beware of comparing your situation with that of someone else - and feeling dissatisfied because of the comparison. It is also harmful to compare your circumstances with what they used to be or with fantasies that bear little resemblance to reality. Instead, make every effort to accept as your calling the life I have assigned to you. This perspective helps take the sting out of even the harshest circumstances. If I have called you to a situation, I will give you everything you need to endure it - and even to find Joy in the midst of it."*

*Learning to be content is both a discipline and an art: You train your mind to trust My sovereign ways with you - bowing before My mysterious, infinite intelligence. You search for Me in the detail of your day, all the while looking for good to emerge from trouble and confusion. You accept the way things are without losing hope for a better future. And you rejoice in the hope of heaven, knowing that indescribably joyful Life is your ultimate calling!"*

*The following scripture speaks volumes:*

*"Let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches." 1 Corinthians 7:17*

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want." Philippians 4:12*

*"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him, and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!" Romans 11:33-36*

*(Jesus Today, Sarah Young p. 218-219)*

Needless to say, life has been full of surprises and had a great turn of events for me - which, in turn had an impact on you. However, I believe with great certainty, that it was all a part of God's plan for all of us. However, in spite of it all, I am still the same person at the core of my being - A woman of God who has been called to be a Pastor in the United Methodist Church. I love Jesus; I love my family; I love and adore my grandchildren; and I love my church family; and most importantly I am being saved by God's grace each and every day.

My official move date will be June 11, as I move to Selma, Indiana, to serve the Redkey United Methodist Church. I pray that we can be the light of Christ to one another and to our community until that time.

*Pastor Susan*



*“When one member suffers, we all suffer and when one member is honored, we all rejoice.”  
1 Corinthians 12:26*

**Those who serve as missionaries, especially:**

Kate & Peter Walugembe in Jinja, Uganda;  
Del & Sandy Groves in Zambia;

**Those who are in the military, including:**

Christopher Blackwell, Gabrielle (Gabby) Crumley,  
Ricky Zeiger, and Ethan Zeiger.

**Those who are in care facilities:**

Buchanan Meadows – Sabra Lambert;  
Pine Ridge – Esther Thomas;

**Those who are homebound:**

Dorothy Brayboy, Helen Heward, and  
Doris Krossovitch.

**Those with health problems:**

David Baker, Dick Best, Dorothy Brayboy,  
Larry Colgren, Bob Flick, Jim Flick,  
Andrew Hamilton, Bryce Hamilton,  
Beverly Harrington, Dawn Hayes, Priscilla Hellenga,  
Jim Ireland, Karen King, Maria Povlock Lewis,  
Linda Methany, Eileen Osmond, Steven Patzer,  
Alexis Renbarger, Jerry Schaffer, Barb Scalf,  
Gert Schlieter, Dorothy Schoff, Rick Schroeter,  
Ken Seifert, Bob & Charlene Sprick,  
Frances Stanage, Kevin Strauss, Bill Swanson,  
Crystal Thompson, Kat Turner, Elsie Zabel.

**Those who grieve:**

Family and friends of Dave Vales.

**Other:**

Ben Bartelmay as he serves in the Peace Corps.  
Peace throughout our world.

**Please note:** Names will be deleted from the  
above list after one month unless an updated  
request is received.

**Wanted: Coffee Time Treats**

We are in need of people to help with treats for coffee  
time after worship. Even if you don't like to bake, you  
could still help out. All you have to do is purchase  
treats, bring them in, we will be glad to plate them and  
set them out. Thank you.

**Bible Trivia**



Jesus speaks from the cross.  
Rearrange the words correctly  
to hear what Jesus said while  
dying on the cross.

1. forgive Father, doing. them, know they for do they  
are what not Luke 23:34
2. you tell in paradise. I will me today the truth with be  
you Luke 23:43
3. you here Dear is woman, son.... John 19:26
4. your Here Mother is John 19:27
5. God, have my My you forsaken why me God,  
Matthew 27:46
6. I thirsty. am John 19:28
7. is finished. It John 19:30
8. your into my Father, commit hands I spirit.  
Luke 23:46

*Answers on page three*

**Work Day**



The date for our all-church work  
day has not been determined  
but it will be a Saturday in April  
or May. We will need many  
volunteers to help so watch the  
announcements and your email

for sign up information. Contact one of the Trustees if  
you have any suggestions for projects.

**Sisters in Faith**



Last month 18 women enjoyed our  
annual dinner out at the Red  
Arrow Roadhouse

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 18, at 7:00  
p.m. at the church. Refreshments will be provided by  
Joan Davidson. All ladies of the church are invited.

Blessings in a Backpack is on April 19.



### Save the Date

Plans are underway for our annual Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet which will be held on Wednesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Look for sign-up sheets to appear in the narthex soon. We will again be recruiting volunteers among the men of our church to serve and clean up after the meal.



### Mark Your Calendar

Sisters in Faith are planning a Rummage Sale for June 1 and 2. As you do your spring cleaning, please consider donating unwanted saleable items to the church. You may bring smaller items now to the two Sunday School rooms in the southeast corner of the basement.

If you are in need of assistance with your items, or perhaps need us to pick them up, please call Rhonda Petro at 756-9847.



*Answers from page two:*

1. Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.
2. I tell you the truth today you will be with me in paradise.
3. Dear woman, here is your son.
4. Here is your mother.
5. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
6. I am thirsty.
7. It is finished.
8. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.



### Community Lunch

The community is invited to attend the River Valley Senior Lunch Program on Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 noon at the

Chikaming Elementary Campus. This month's theme is Earth Day. Following the program, the superintendent, principal and other staff will provide updates and answer any questions. Cost is only \$2 per person.



### Spring Sports

Several of our High School youth are participating in sports at this time of the year. Best wishes on your season!

Nettie Donner	RV Varsity Track
Nicole Gibson	RV Varsity Softball
Katharine Kersey	RV Varsity Softball
Hannah Korbelt	RV Varsity Softball
Ella Olson	RV Varsity Softball
Steven Seifert	RV Varsity Baseball
Emma Springer	RV Varsity Softball
Madison Vollman	RV Varsity Softball

Mike Springer	RV Varsity Softball, assistant coach
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In pre-season rankings, our Lady Mustangs varsity softball team is ranked tenth in the state for Class D.



### Easter Celebration

We look forward to a wonderful resurrection day celebration at our church on Easter Sunday, April 1. The morning will begin with a breakfast sponsored by our Fellowship Committee at 9:45 a.m.

Then at 11:00 we will gather for a joyful worship service in the sanctuary as we proclaim "Christ is risen!" After the children's message, the children will be invited to go downstairs for Sunday School with Nancy Caid. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us for this very special day in our church.



### It's GATE Time! New Season - New Time

Water's Edge UMC (18732 Harbor Country Dr, New Buffalo) is pleased to support G.A.T.E. (Gathering At The Edge) ministry, which features lunches prepared for older adults of the Harbor Country Community every Wednesday.

Please note the new times: Program begins at 11:30 a.m.; and lunch is at 12:00 p.m. Healthy, delicious lunches are available at a nominal cost of \$4.00 a person. Buffet style choices include soup, salad, sandwich and dessert. The comfortable, relaxed setting provides opportunity for conversation and friendship. Programs ranging from entertainment to educational are offered.



## Enchilada Recipe

Several people asked for the Chicken Enchilada recipe from the Mexican Fiesta. Here it is. Enjoy

### Easy Chicken Enchiladas

2 Cups chopped or shredded cooked chicken  
1-8 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
1-8 oz. jar salsa, divided  
8-6 inch flour tortillas  
2 to 3 Cups shredded cheddar cheese

Stir cream cheese (softened in microwave makes it easier to stir in) and 1/2 cup salsa into chicken.

Spoon 1/3 cup (or desired amount) down center of each tortilla, roll up. Place seam side down in lightly greased pan.

Top with remaining salsa and cheese.

Bake at 350 for 20 minutes or until thoroughly heated.



## From the Bookshelf by Rhonda Hinman

This month's feature is a new book by Chris Fabry entitled "*Under a Cloudless Sky.*"

Will the truth about the town's past be its final undoing or its saving grace?

In 1933 in the mining town of Beulah Mountain, West Virginia, two young girls form an unbreakable bond against the lush Appalachian landscape, coal dust and old hymns filling their lungs and hearts. Despite the polarizing forces of their fathers, one a mine owner, one a disgruntled miner, Ruby and Bean thrive under the tender care of Bean's mama, blissfully unaware of the rising conflict in town and the coming tragedy that will tear them apart forever.

In 2004 Hollis Beasley is taking his last stand. Neighbors up and down the hollow have sold their land to Coleman Coal and Energy, but Hollis is determined to hold on to his family legacy on Beulah Mountain. In his way is Buddy Coleman, an upstart mining executive who hopes to revitalize the dying town by increasing coal production and opening the Company Store Museum. He'll pay homage to the past, even the massacre of 1933, while positioning the company for growth at all costs.

What surprises them all is how their stories will intersect with a feisty octogenarian living hundreds of miles away. When Ruby Handley Freeman's grown children threaten her independence, she takes a stand of her own and disappears, beginning a journey to face a decades old secret that will change everything for her and those she meets.

This is a good book. It is interesting and captivating.



## Native American Ministries Sunday

One tribe in North America has told this story for centuries: when people "pale as birch" crossed the great water in large canoes, they brought with them "The Black Book." However, the bringers of the physical Book could not have known what it would mean and look like to be Native and a follower of Jesus.

Today Native Americans - with many unique languages, many unique cultures - honor their heritage, and live as Jesus-followers, led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors.

Most Americans today recognize that the history following the arrival of the large canoes bore little resemblance to the one all Christians identify as Creator. That's why the people of The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are creating a new history. Through Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift on this day equips Native congregations - like New York's Onandaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation - to worship and serve as only they can. This work, and hundreds of other ministries, are possible because you give. Our giving allows Native Americans to encounter, worship and serve Jesus.

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

Dr. Richard Twiss, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, asks: "Will we be allowed to develop new ways of doing church that honor God's purposes for the creative expression of our cultures? Will new ministry partnerships and coalitions form? Will you help be a part of this wonderful process of reconciliation, restoration and release?"

Say "Yes."

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you educate seminarians, plant churches and cultivate outreach. Learn more at <http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday>.

We will receive the Native American Ministries special offering on Sunday, April 15. There will be an insert in your worship bulletin.



*Grace to you and peace,*

*You are probably aware by now that final preparations are coming together for the creation of a new District of the Michigan Annual Conference in our corner of Southwest Michigan. Our District, now (temporarily) known as*

*District 7, will have the distinction of representing more churches than any of the other emerging Districts. I'm excited about the possibilities this presents for shared mission and ministry. And I'm hoping that you will find a blessing in being part of a District that seeks to focus on equipping disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the church and the world. As the congregations that are part of District 7 gather together to make something new, my main aim remains the same as it has been since I began my work as a District Superintendent over eighteen months ago - to connect, equip and exhort each local church so that they are empowered to offer a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.*

*Because I've always believed that the work of the church can only be accomplished when we use all the gifts that God's Spirit has blessed us with, I am asking you to share the names of people you believe might have insight and experiences to contribute to the work of our new District's core teams. I am looking for individuals to serve on the Committee on District Superintendency, the District Board of Church Location and Building, the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the District Leadership Team. If you know of people who should be included in the leadership of the new District, please forward their names and contact information to the District Office by Friday, March 30.*

*And be sure to mark your calendar for the District 7 Organizing Conference which is scheduled for Saturday, May 12 from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM. That day all the churches in District 7 will gather at Pathfinder United Methodist Church in Portage, Michigan to focus on the theme of Coming Together for the Common Good. We will begin the day with a worship service, do the business of selecting leadership and voting for a new name to replace the District 7 moniker, and finish with a shared meal around common tables. We're asking each congregation to bring a 6" X 6" piece of cotton fabric to the event. Quilters will work to combine all the individual pieces you bring to create a banner that will represent our new District. You'll be hearing more details about our May 12 Uniting Conference in the weeks ahead, but for now I'd invite you to save and share the date.*

*I'd also invite you to pray that Spirit would inspire us to reach for God-sized dreams as our new District begins its work. My hope is that we will seek to move*

*beyond business as usual to embrace the challenge of equipping each church in the District to provide our communities with a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.*

*God's Peace,  
Dwayne Bagley  
District Superintendent, District 7*

*P.S. Despite the opportunities for hilarious references to penal colonies and the "Hunger Games" that the name, District 7, provides, we'd like to get rid of it as soon as possible. So, if you have suggestions, please forward them to our District Office.*



*Dear Three Oaks UMC Friends in Mission,*

*Thank you for partnering with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Through your gift, you are helping to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that*

*communities are unable to recover on their own.*

*Through the compassion and solidarity of faithful friends like you, UMCOR is able to provide comfort to those impacted by disasters like earthquakes and storms, food for the hungry, and healthcare to those who otherwise would have none. These are just a sampling of the good works that gifts like yours make possible. One hundred percent of your gift through The Advance, the designated giving channel of the United Methodist Church, will go directly to the people who need it most. Thank you for giving so generously.*

*Find out more about UMCOR's work by visting [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).*

*Your gift of \$234 from your Christmas Eve offering will bring hope to those who need it most.*

*Grace and Peace,*

*Roland Fernandes  
General Treasurer, UMCOR  
General Board of Global Ministries*

*Russel Pierce  
Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising  
General Board of Global Ministries.*

Three Oaks United Methodist Church  
2 East Sycamore Street  
Three Oaks, MI 49128

Phone 269-756-2053  
Fax 269-756-2061  
E-mail [toumc@att.net](mailto:toumc@att.net)  
Web [www.toumc.org](http://www.toumc.org)

*Address Service Requested*

# April 2018



**Please Note**

Please turn in all submissions  
for next month's Parish Post  
newsletter by April 22.

If we could deliver your next Parish Post by  
e-mail, please inform the church office.  
It would be faster, easier, and cheaper.

Thanks for your help!

Three Oaks  
United Methodist Church Staff:  
Pastor: *Rev. Susan Martin*  
Cell phone: *574-370-5121*

Secretary: *Cheryl Kersey*  
Pianist/Organist: *Martha Spsychalski*