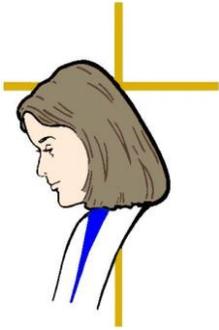


THE PARISH POST

Volume 46 - Issue 2

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

February 2018



Pastor Susan's Corner

Due to illness, the publication of Pastor Susan's Corner will be delayed until next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding of this unforeseen event.



*"When one member suffers, we all suffer and when one member is honored, we all rejoice."
I Corinthians 12:26*

Those who serve as missionaries, especially:

Kate & Peter Walugembe in Jinja, Uganda;
Del & Sandy Groves in Zambia;
Dr. Elma Jocson in the Philippines.

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;
Woodland Terrace – Shirley Hoadley

Those who are homebound:

Dorothy Brayboy, Helen Heward, Doris Krossovitch,
and Ken Williams.

Those with health problems:

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

Those who grieve:

Family and friends of Lester Wayne Doyle.

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.



Condolences

We extend our sympathy to *Elmer Doyle* at the death of his brother, Lester Wayne Doyle, on January 22, 2018.

May the Lord comfort your family in this time of grief.

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to *Kyle and Mindy Backus* at the birth of a baby boy, Garrett Will Matthew Backus, on October 27. He was 4 lbs. 2 oz. and 18" long.

Though Garrett was premature,

after staying a couple of weeks in the hospital, he was able to come home and now weighs 9 lbs! He joins his big brother, Cole. Be sure to steal a peek at him on Sunday – he is a doll!



Bible Trivia

Happy Valentine's Day



Fill in the blanks with the words below to complete 1 Corinthians 13:8

Love is (1) _____, love is (2) _____. It does not (3) _____, it does not (4) _____, it is not (5) _____. It is not (6) _____, it is not (7) _____, it is not easily (8) _____, it keeps no record of (9) _____. Love does not delight in (10) _____ but rejoices with the (11) _____. It always (12) _____, always (13) _____, always (14) _____, always (15) _____. Love never (16) _____.

truth	protects	evil	envy
angered	kind	proud	rude
hopes	wrongs	self-seeking	trusts
patient	perseveres	fails	boasts

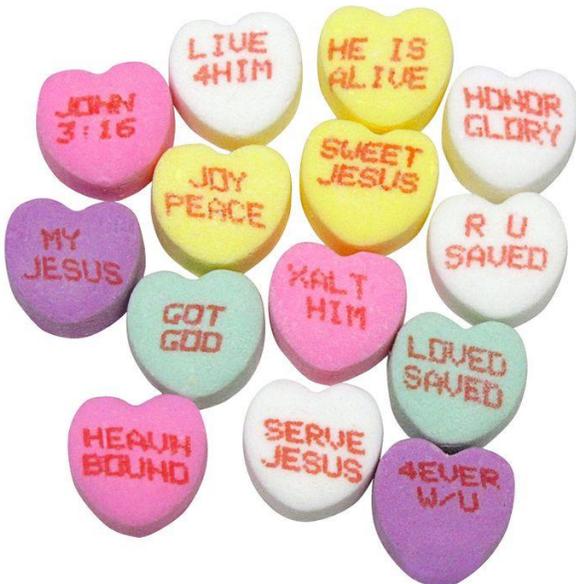
Answers on page three



Mexican Fiesta

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a "Mexican Fiesta" immediately following service on Sunday, February 25. The Fellowship Committee will be providing the meal. The menu will consist of a taco bar, chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice and sopapillas w/vanilla ice cream.

Please sign up in the narthex so we know how much food to prepare and join us for this festive time.



Reconciliation Team

What is this team all about?

We are a group of like-minded people who want to further expand the love of Christ to everyone. In this day, there are races of people who feel singled out or unloved. There are people of different sexual orientation who have been condemned by the church. Some are labeled, because of a past crime. This is something the Reconciliation team feels very strongly about. It is our goal to welcome all people, no matter of their race, sexual orientation, past criminal history, etc. We feel, as members of Christ's church, that all people are valued and deserve our love.

Jesus shared a table with those that were considered "outcasts"...shouldn't we?

If you would like to join the Reconciliation team, or perhaps sit in on a meeting, we would love to have you.



Prayer Chain

If you would like to be part of our email Prayer Chain, please email the church at: toumc@att.net and let us know or speak to a greeter or usher on Sunday morning to have your name and email address added to the sign-up sheet. Thanks for your help!

Name District 7

The boundaries of the new Michigan Conference Districts have been announced. The new Districts will be operational on July 1. DS Dwayne is seeking suggestions for a name for District 7.

Considerations for new names would ideally include geographic identity. Send suggestions to mandana@kalamazoodistrict.org.



Answers from page two:

1. patient
2. kind
3. envy
4. boast
5. proud
6. rude
7. self-seeking
8. angered
9. wrongs
10. evil
11. truth
12. perseveres
13. trusts
14. hopes
15. protects
16. fails



From the Bookshelf by Rhonda Hinman

It's February, which often brings to mind Valentine's Day. I have chosen a title with the word love in it for this month's feature. It is "*The Love Letters*" by Beverly Lewis.

Marlena needed time to let things sink in. It was beyond her how all this could possibly work out, adding the care of an infant to her daily routine. Fortunately, it would just be until Luella returned home from the hospital and was stronger. No more than a couple of weeks, surely.

Marlena Wenger's life takes an unexpected turn on the day she learns she must care for her estranged sister's baby. Spending the summer in Brownstown, Pennsylvania, to assist her Mennonite grandmother, and miles from Marlena's Old Order Amish beau, she feels out of her element in nearly every respect. Yet Marlena determines to do her best and stay focused on her future, even as those hopes become drastically altered.

Love comes in many forms. Check out this book to see how many ways love is displayed in this story.



We are looking for volunteers to provide refreshments after our worship services. Sign up in the narthex.



Sisters in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Rhonda Petro will share refreshments. We are still looking for someone to lead

Bible Study and devotions.

All the women of the church are invited.

Sharon Flick and Rhonda Petro will do Blessings in a Backpack on Thursday, February 22 at 3:00.



Valentine Tea

Sisters in Faith will be hosting a Valentine Tea on Monday, February 12, at 6:30. Tea and refreshments will be served. There is also an activity planned. Come and join us and invite your friends for a great time of fellowship.



Lay Servant Classes

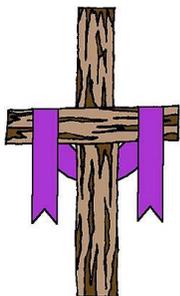
The District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries will offer a variety of classes this spring. Mark your calendars now; all classes are free. You order your own book and can bring your lunch.

Classes will be held Saturdays, March 10 and 24 from 9am-3pm at Vicksburg UMC. The following classes will be offered: Basic, Leading Worship, and Transforming Evangelism. Register online at: <http://forms.michiganumc.org/kalamazoo-district-spring-2018-lay-servant-classes/> by March 3.

The required book for the Basic Course: ISBN # 9780881776263, *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandy Jackson. This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

2018 Lenten Services

The River Valley Ministerial Association is sponsoring community worship services during the Lenten season. The theme this year is "Thy Will Be Done." "Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation.



That is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Each service in the series focuses on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters are used as insightful reference points each week to guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

The first service, Ash Wednesday, will be held on March 1 at Episcopal Church of the Mediator (14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert) at 7:00 p.m. The next five services will be on Wednesday evenings, beginning with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. The schedule is: February 22, "God's Will and My Inadequacy - Moses" at Harbert Community Church (corner of Harbert and Three Oaks Roads, Sawyer); March 1, "God' Will and My Dreams - David" at Three Oaks Free Methodist Church (12 E. Michigan St., Three Oaks); March 8 "God's Will and My Identity - Mary, Sawyer Highlands Church (13100 Red Arrow Hwy., Sawyer); March 15, "God's Will and My Worldview - Paul" at Three Oaks United Methodist Church; and March 22, "God's Will and My Response - Lydia" at Lakeside United Methodist Church (corner of Red Arrow Highway and Lakeside Road, Lakeside).

The community is invited to attend all of these events.



Trustees

The Board of Trustees had their first meeting of 2018 on January 8 to elect officers and set projects for this year. The following persons were elected: Chairperson – *Doug Hinman*; Vice-Chairperson – *Joe Hinman*; Secretary – *Elmer Doyle*. Thank you for your service!

The Trustees will meet again in March and will organize an all-church Work Day for this spring. If you have any suggestions for maintenance needs around the church, please speak to one of the officers listed above.

R.E.L.C. Offering Celebrates Diversity



Some of them are among the oldest churches in West Michigan. Others are among the youngest. They are what are known as the Racial Ethnic Local Churches (RELC) of the Conference. RELC was born out of a General Conference mandate some 40 years ago, and has been kept alive ever since by faithful persons across the denomination.

The Rev. Neil Davis, former Kalamazoo District Superintendent, notes: "The RELC exists to resource local churches and ministries to be relevant and vital as they carry out the manifesto of Jesus Christ, which is to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free." Why is there an annual RELC offering? As Neil explains, "These churches and ministries are usually financially challenged, located where great need is prevalent. West Michigan is committed to meeting those needs in our own area as well as around the world."

There are twelve RELC churches in our Conference. From north to south, they are:

1. Greensky Hill Indian Mission UMC, Charlevoix
2. Northport Indian Mission UMC
3. Kewadin Indian Mission UMC
4. Chippewa Indian Mission UMC, Mt. Pleasant
5. La Nueva Esperanza UMC, Grand Rapids (Hispanic)
6. Vietnamese UMC, Grand Rapids
7. Mosaic UMC, Kentwood (multicultural)
8. Korean UMC, Lansing
9. Faith UMC/South Lansing Ministries (multicultural)
10. Salem Indian Mission UMC, Hopkins
11. Bradley Indian Mission UMC
12. Washington Heights UMC, Battle Creek (African American)

We will be observing RELC Sunday on February 4. There will be an insert in your worship bulletin explaining more about this special offering. You can contribute anytime this month by using a pew envelope for your gift.

Recycle and ReUse!

If anyone has any binding combs at home from old Church Directories or Church Conference booklets, please return them to the church office and we will gladly re-use them. Thanks for your help!





Who's Who at TOUMC?

Did you know that *Judy Ross* learned to square dance in fifth grade?

Judy was born and raised in Beloit, Wisconsin. She is the second child of five children in her family, three girls and two boys. She grew up helping with chores around the house and yard including washing clothes in a wringer washer. Her dad was in sales for a tool and die manufacturing company. Her mom stayed at home until her youngest brother went to school. She then went to work as a secretary.

Judy attended a little elementary school with two rooms. There were five grades, first through fifth. Grades one, two and three in one room; four and five in the other. Square dancing was taught to the fifth graders in class. From there she went on to Roosevelt Junior High School for grades sixth through eighth and then to Beloit Memorial High School graduating in 1965. One of her favorite things in high school was archery. After high school she took a job as a waitress.

She later moved to Rockford, Illinois where she met *Bill Ross* in 1972. They were married in 1974 at a Methodist Church in Rockford. They were married for 40 years before Judy lost Bill in 2014. They moved to Three Oaks in 1975. Bill was a truck driver, driving a car carrier. He drove truck from 1971 until his retirement in 1997.

Bill and Judy have daughter, Jenny, who was born in 1977. Jenny and her husband, Adam, live here in Three Oaks along with their three daughters, Sara, Leia and Anna. Judy is stepmother to Bill's other five children and grandma to his fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Bill and Judy owned and operated a store in downtown Three Oaks called Jenny's Antiques. They enjoyed collecting and selling antiques. They traveled around to nearby auctions and estate sales to collect their items to later sell. Bill especially enjoyed refurbishing furniture. Judy stripped, and refinished many of those pieces. Judy managed the store while Bill was driving truck. They owned the store from 1978 to 2006.

Judy enjoys crocheting and reading. She likes to take walks on the beach and collects beach glass. She still likes to refinish small pieces of furniture. She enjoys spending time with her granddaughters. She volunteers at Harbor Country Food Pantry several days a month.

They did some traveling through the years. One of their favorite places to visit was Mackinac Island. They also liked to go to Sault Sainte Marie. They enjoyed boat tours on Lake Superior. They went to Florida. They went to Hawaii twice and really enjoyed it. They wintered in Texas for a number of years. They started out with a fifth wheel. They later bought a lot and had a Park Model (similar to a single wide). Judy would still like to do some traveling. One place she would like to see is Alaska.

Judy was raised in the Lutheran church. They started attending TOUMC in 1980. They thought it was a friendly church and have been a part of the church family ever since. Judy is involved in the church helping wherever she's needed. She has served on various committees. She sings in the choir. We are happy and blessed that Judy is part of our church family.

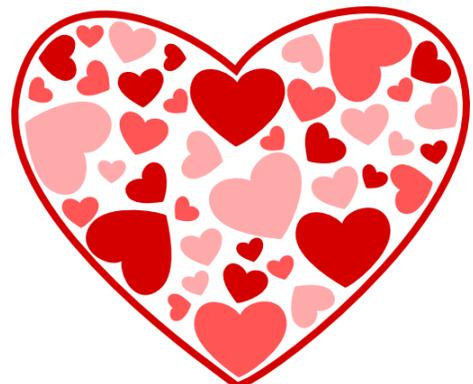


Summer Camp

The 2018 Summer Camp brochures are available in the narthex and online at www.umcamping.org

A week at camp can be an important milestone in a young person's faith journey. At camp they will create lifelong, life-changing memories in a safe, fun, and caring environment.

Beyond traditional Christian summer camp programs, several adult and family events are offered throughout the summer and into the fall. Small or large groups can plan a church family camp at Myers Lake Campground, Lakeview Family Campground or Lake Michigan Camp. These campgrounds offer campsites to adults and families throughout Michigan's warmer months.





Finance News

As of December 31, 2017, the results for our 2018 Stewardship Commitment Campaign have been tabulated. There are a total of 80 giving units in our congregation. Out of this total, 35 giving units returned a commitment card this year. This is a decrease of 8 commitment cards over last year.

- There were 4 new commitments made this year resulting in a gain of \$5,280.
- There were 5 giving units that made commitments that were more than last year resulting in a gain of \$1,280.
- There were 22 giving units that made the same commitment as last year.
- There were 4 giving units that made commitments that were less than last year resulting in a loss of \$1,792.
- There were 12 giving units that made a commitment last year but not this year resulting in a loss of \$23,800.
- The total amount from commitments made for 2018 is \$61,929. This is \$18,462 less than last year.
- This will cover approximately 49% of our budget for 2017.

Thank you for your commitments and the continued support to your church.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hannah Korbel for placing second in Advanced Office Systems and Procedures at the District 10 Regional Competition of Business Professionals of America (BPA) on January 9. Congratulations, also, to *Katharine Kersey* for placing third in Advanced Office Systems and Procedures and Nicole Gibson, who was first in Medical Office Procedures.

Today's students.
Tomorrow's business professionals.

Hannah is the granddaughter of *Matt and Nancy Caid* and Nicole is the granddaughter of *Ellen Sokolowski*.

The State competition is March 15-18 in Grand Rapids. Good luck!



Mission News

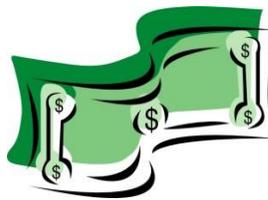
The collection of box tops for the school and the pop tabs is an ongoing project. The containers are on top of the narthex mailboxes.

Sharon Flick,
Mission Chairperson



Weather Closings

As winter is upon us, we are making preparations for the possibility of bad weather. Usually, we will have Sunday services if Pastor Susan can manage the drive. However, if we should decide to close, this information will be posted on www.WSBT.com, TV channel 22; and www.WNDU.com, TV channel 16. You can go to these websites and have closing information automatically sent to your cell phone or via email. On weekdays, the church office will be closed if River Valley Schools are closed. Please use caution when venturing out over these next several months. We want everyone to stay safe!



Year-end financial statements have been placed in the narthex mailboxes. Please pick up yours and save us the postage. If you have any questions about your giving to the church in 2018, speak to *Rhonda Hinman*.

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
Web www.toumc.org

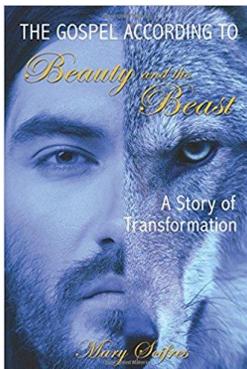
Address Service Requested

February 2018



Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by February 18.



Soup and a Movie

We will kick off our Lenten Sermon Series and Study with a Soup & Movie night on Sunday, February 11, at 5:00 p.m. We will watch "Beauty and the Beast"

before we begin our study by Mary Scifres book, "The Gospel According to Beauty and the Beast." Sign up in the narthex to bring a crock pot of soup or a dessert and join us for this amazing story of transformation.

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 Spychalski*