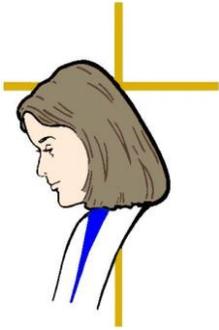


THE PARISH POST

Volume 46 - Issue 3

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

March 2018



Pastor Susan's Corner

What a month to remember February 2018 has been. We've experienced about all the different weather scenarios that we can imagine. We have seen a lot of snow, a lot of rain, fog, icy roads, flooded roads filled with pot holes, and even some sun and 60+ degree

weather. I've always heard that if you don't like the weather in Michiana, just wait a day or two and it will change. That has been so true for the past three months or more. And with the drastic changes in weather also come all the illness. I have to say this has been the longest in my lifetime that my family has been infected with the bug, viruses, etc. that are going around. I've heard from a lot of you that it takes forever to get over the ick that's been going around. My prayer for all of us, is that Spring will get here quickly and the bugs will go away and we can all be healthy and full of energy to build and strengthen the kingdom of God.

My computer decided it needed in on the bug too - the operating system, Windows 10, decided to crash, so I lost everything I had been working on since mid-October when my other computer was stolen. I never realized how valuable all the files were on my computer until this happened. 12+ years of ministry files, pictures, bulletins, etc. are gone - so be sure you back-up everything very often.

It is hard to believe we are approaching the Second Sunday of Lent. Which means only four more Sundays before Easter - Celebrating the Resurrection. I hope you will be able to join in the weekly Lenten Soup Dinner and Worship with the River Valley Ministerial Association. The next five services will be on Thursday evenings, beginning with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. The schedule is: March 1, "God's 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).



We will have a Maundy Thursday Service at Three Oaks UMC on Thursday March 29 at 6:30pm. Then on Sunday April 1 we will begin day with Easter Breakfast at 9:30, followed by Resurrection Morning Worship at 11:00am. Please invite your friends and families to join in this special time of worship and celebration of the Risen Lord.

Lent





Condolences

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of *Shirley Hoadley*, who died February 8.

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

"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;
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;

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,
Andy Martin, Linda Methany, Eileen Osmond,
Steven Patzer, Alexis Renbarger, Jerry Schaffer,
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 Shirley Hoadley, and
Ken Williams.

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.

Bible Trivia

Names of Jesus

Here are some of the names Jesus used for Himself. All of the answers are found in the gospel of John.



1. "I am the _____. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (6:35)
2. "I am the _____. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (8:12)
3. "I am the _____. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep" (10:14-15)
4. "I am _____. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (11:25)
5. "I am _____. No one comes to the Father except through me" (14:6)
6. "I am _____; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (15:5)

Answers on page three

Trustees



The Board of Trustees is prioritizing projects for the Spring Work Day. If you have any suggestions for maintenance needs around the church, please speak to a Trustee member.



UMCOR Sunday

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do. That’s because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly called One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

Whenever disaster strikes, UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give on UMCOR Sunday. Please give generously when we receive this special offering on Sunday, March 11.

Your *GIFT* . . . helps a child smile, a family recover and a community rebuild after disaster strikes. As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster:

“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)



Easter Flowers

Our Worship Committee is once again making Easter flowers available for purchase. Plants that come in 6” pots are: tulips and hyacinths, \$6.50 each; traditional Easter lilies, \$7.00 each; chrysanthemums in a 6 ½” pot are \$7.00 each. Hydrangeas in an 8” pot will cost \$12.00 each and azaleas in a 6 ½” pot will cost \$12.00 each. Order forms will be in the worship bulletins and all orders must be turned in by March 18. Please include payment with your order.



Harbor Country Seniors in Need

As you may know, I serve on the River Valley Senior Center Board of Directors, along with Ellie Rogers. Our nurse, Kathy, was telling me about seniors who visit her for medication and blood pressure checks and some of them do not have enough food to last through the month. She did not say if they qualified for commodities but stated most are too proud to ask for help. The center gets bread donated weekly and she thought it would be nice if there was a way to at least get protein items for them until their monthly social security checks arrive.

She mentioned non-perishable foods such as jars of peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken, protein bars, etc. and they could at least make sandwiches since the bread is already donated. She stated there were about 10-12 persons. I’m suggesting that if members from our church would like to donate an item for this project each month, we could have a box in the narthex, and I will get the items to Kathy for distribution. Only she would know the names of those individuals. She would fix a care package and give it to them directly.

I am suggesting this as a community mission project for our church as a way to give back to those in need.

Sharon Phillips



Answers from page two:

1. Bread of Life
2. Light of the World
3. Good Shepherd
4. The Resurrection and the Life
5. The Way and the Truth and the Life
6. The Vine



Community Lunch

The community is invited to attend the River Valley Senior Lunch Program on Wednesday, March 7, at 12:00 noon at the Three Oaks Elementary Campus. This month's theme is Dr. Seuss. Following the program, the superintendent, principal and other staff will provide updates and answer any questions. Cost is only \$2 per person.



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



From the Bookshelf by Rhonda Hinman

The cold weather is still with us for a while yet. What better way to spend some of that time inside than to sit down with a book? This month's feature is a new book by Irene Hannon, entitled "*Dangerous Illusions*." It is the first book in a new series. It is a suspense novel with some romance thrown in.

Trish Bailey is on overload trying to deal with a demanding job, an ailing mother, and healing heart. When a series of unsettling memory lapses leads to a tragic death and puts Trish under police scrutiny, her world is once again thrown into turmoil.

Detective Colin Flynn isn't certain what to think of the facts he uncovers during his investigation. Did Trish simply make a terrible mistake, or is there more to the case than meets the eye? As he searches for answers, disturbing information begins to emerge and if the forces at work are as evil as he suspects, the situation isn't just dangerous...it's deadly.

If you like suspense, I think you will enjoy this book.

Again this year I would like to recommend Adam Hamilton's book "*24 Hours That Changed the World*." It is a very moving book. As it says on the back cover, "Walk with Jesus on His final day. Sit beside Him at the Last Supper. Pray with Him in Gethsemane. Follow Him to the cross. Desert Him. Deny Him. Experience the Resurrection. Reading this book, you can imagine being there." Adam Hamilton is a great writer. It is a book worth reading.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 11.

Don't forget to "spring" ahead one hour and check the batteries in your smoke detectors!



Team Meeting

Reconciliation Committee will meet Sunday, March 4, at 12:00 noon immediately following worship.

Sisters in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Ellie Rogers will share refreshments and devotions. Joan Davidson will lead the Bible Study.



All the women of the church are invited.

Rhonda Petro will do Blessings in a Backpack on Thursday, March 15 at 3:00.



Dinner Out

Every year the Sisters in Faith look forward to a great night of fellowship at Red Arrow Roadhouse. The food is great and they are always very accommodating. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please sign up in the narthex. The more the merrier!



Church Council

Our Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m.



Senior Class

Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring "A Matter of Balance" at the Buchanan Area Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 6 through March 29, 1- 3 p.m. This program is designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. Book fee: \$15.00. To register call 695-7119.



A Mental Health First Aid Course will be offered at Harbert Community Church on Friday, March 2, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The course is free and meals are provided. For more information and to register call 426-4321.



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.

Donations Needed



Members of Sisters in Faith are currently volunteering at Van Buren County social services. There has been a need to sort and organize clothing that has been donated, for the children that are placed into foster homes. Many items, such as: shoes, coats, pajamas, clothing, socks, underwear, toiletries and baby care items, are donated. These items are then sorted by size and placed in totes, to create necessity kits, to be sent with a foster child, to their new home. These necessity kits typically include two shirts, two pairs of pants, a set of sleepwear, under garments, socks and toiletries. The baby kits consist of three outfits. three sleepers, diapers, baby wipes, a bottle, blanket, bib, socks and toiletries.

Currently, there is a need for the following items:

BOYS:

underwear sizes 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20
Socks size same as above
Clothing size 6
Pajamas sizes 8, 10, 12, 6

TEEN:

pajamas sizes S, M, L

GIRLS:

clothing sizes 12 mo., 18 mo., 2T, 5, 6, 7, 8,
socks sizes 5, 6,

TEEN:

underwear sizes S, M, L

Please consider donating/purchasing these items. If you have any questions, would like to donate or would like to volunteer your time, please speak to *Rhonda Petro* or *Julie Beckett*.

Be the difference,

Rhonda Petro
Sisters in Faith Chairperson



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.



Who's Who at TOUMC?

Did you know that *Ray James* was the R in A & R Truss Co.?

Ray and Jean met through mutual friends. After dating for about a year they got married in 1965. They were married in June. In August, Ray had an accident at work.

He was run over by a forklift. He spent three months in a body cast. He was off from work for six months. Their first year of marriage held some challenges. They have three children. Ray Jr., who along with his wife, Lisa and their two children, Ronnie and Amanda live in Three Oaks. Dennis, along with his husband Alejandro lives in Houston, Texas. Kristy, along with her children, Justin and Kaylee live in Three Oaks. They have three great-grandchildren, Mya, Kalum and Alex.

Ray has lived in New Buffalo or Union Pier all of his life. He is the eighth child of ten children in his family. There were five boys and five girls. His dad was a truck driver. His mom worked for many years in a factory called Turnbuckles. Ray graduated from New Buffalo High School. After graduating, he went to work at CBI. He later co-owned his own company, A & R Truss Co. He owned it for 35 years. He is still working at L & S Metals in Valparaiso, Indiana. Ray likes to fish when he can find the time. He loves to read.

Jean lived in Wanatah, Indiana until she was ten when they moved to New Buffalo. She grew up on a farm in Wanatah. Her dad, tired of farming moved the family to New Buffalo. Both of her parents worked in a mental hospital in Westville, Indiana. Jean is the fourth of five children in her family. She had two older sisters, one older brother and one younger brother. Jean graduated from New Buffalo High School. She worked at Rosie's restaurant in the kitchen for years. She then stayed at home to take care of her mom. After that she worked in the cafeteria at New Buffalo School. She also worked in the after school program, BASE. Jean likes to go to rummage sales with her friends.

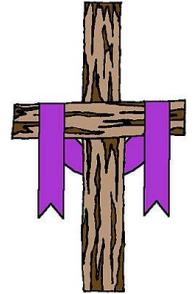
Ray and Jean love to travel. They have done quite a bit of traveling through the years. They have been to most of the states. They have also traveled internationally. Some of the places that they have visited are London, Barcelona and the Panama Canal. They have been on six cruises. Two of those were to Alaska and Hawaii. When Jean's parents lived in Florida, they went there a lot. They visit their son, Dennis in Houston where it is warm. Dennis took Jean to Costa Rica last month as a birthday gift.

Ray and Jean enjoy watching their grandchildren play sports. When their children were young, they were involved in sports boosters clubs.

Ray and Jean transferred their membership to TOUMC from Waters Edge in New Buffalo. They felt welcomed here. Ray serves on the trustees committee. Jean serves on the fellowship committee and is on the Reconciliation Team. They are both willing to help out wherever they can. We are blessed to have them as a part of our church family.

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.

Soup Supper will be served at 6:00 followed by worship at 6:45 and the remaining schedule is: 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



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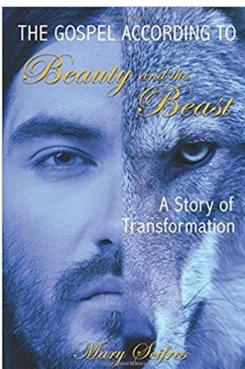
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March 2018



Please Note

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



The Gospel According to Beauty and the Beast Lenten Bible Study

If you haven't had the chance to sign up, it's not too late. We will have Bible Study on Sunday mornings February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 9:30 a.m. We will also have study on Tuesday afternoons February 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 2:00 p.m. The Sunday and Tuesday Studies will cover same material. If you are interested please sign up on the table in the narthex. The study books are available from Pastor Susan for \$10. If there are not at least five people signed up for the Sunday or Tuesday time-slot we will not hold the study.

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*