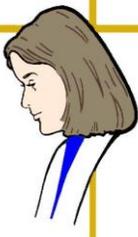


THE PARISH POST

Volume 45 - Issue 5

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

May 2017



*"For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.
God has made everything beautiful for
its own time."
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 11a NLT*

*"Do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:18b-19a NIV*

Calendar Reflections

As I look at my May calendar, I know it will be a busy month filled with meetings, packing, and so much more. Two special worship observances catch my eye. On May 14, we will celebrate Mother's Day. On May 21, we will recognize our graduates (including one related to me!). Today I am thinking of these occasions in a new light — from the perspective of a pastor who is about to move on from this congregation and begin in another.

I love being a pastor. Probably the only thing I love any more is being a mother. The two roles are not mutually exclusive. In fact, in the tradition of the Episcopal Church a female pastor is addressed as Mother (just as a male priest in the Catholic Church is addressed as Father). No one has ever called me "Mother Sherri" (as they do my colleague, Mother Paula, at the Church of the Mediator). However, there is a mothering aspect to taking care of a congregation.

For one thing, I get to have a special relationship with the children and grandchildren of your families. I could never begin to describe to you how precious they are to me. I've told church members before that the children's sermon is the hardest piece of my Sunday preparation (coming up with an idea), but the most enjoyable time in the worship service for me. I loved leading the children in a Palm Sunday processional last month. I tried hard not to think about it being my last time — or my eyes would well up with tears. When I left my previous congregation, I remember that my very hardest "goodbyes" were with the children. Perhaps especially now that my own children are such big, grown-up young men, I really value the chance to be another "mother" mentor to these little ones. And, of course, they teach me so much!

Even with adult members of the congregation, there is an aspect of "mothering" which may be present in pastoring. There is a certain amount of caring, nurturing, and tending which takes place between a pastoral "shepherd" and her (or his) "flock." This is especially true in times of need — when there are health crises to manage or losses to grieve. Yet, there are also joyful times. I have baptized little ones and watched them grow and blossom into glorious teens. I have confirmed young people who are now married and have families of their own. What a privilege and honor it has been for me to be a part of all of these life celebrations!

You may not be flattered by my comparing you to my children! I mean no offense, but I think there are some parallels. And, one thing I know about children: they grow up!

This leads me to the other occasion on the calendar — graduation. How old is the typical high school student at graduation? Eighteen. How many years have I been pastor in Three Oaks? Eighteen. Coincidence? Maybe. Can I make something of this? Of course. :)

Eighteen years is long enough to raise a child from birth to graduation. As any parent knows, that time absolutely flies by! And yet, when you look at your children wearing caps and gowns, you have to recognize that they are not babies anymore. It is time to let them spread their wings and attempt to fly. To hold on to them and try to keep them in the nest would only stunt their growth and development.

It will soon be time for you to fly with a new pastor — to enter a new stage in the church's life cycle of growth and development. As much as this saddens me on a personal level, it is an appropriate and even necessary change. While I know I am loved here, I truly believe that you will have new opportunities to grow with new leadership. Also, I will have new opportunities to grow with new challenges in a new congregation.

You know what official word is given to graduation? Commencement. To commence means to begin. At the end of their academic journey, students are invited to celebrate the opportunity to start a new chapter in life. They look forward, not backward. The focus is on the future, not on the past.

(continued on page two)

(continued from page one)

Yet, this time of beginning is also an ending of sorts. Relationships change. Classmates don't see each other so often. Former teachers sometimes become colleagues. So, too, relationships change in a congregation when there is a pastoral transition. After July 1, I will not be your pastor anymore. You will have a new pastor. This is hard for some people to understand. I will still care about you, but I can no longer care for you in the same way. It's sort of like how a mother can't stick her nose in her grown son's business in the same way as she did when he was small. :)

I will always love you. I will always regard you as dear friends. I will always be thankful for the time I had to serve among you. But I will no longer be ministering to your needs. I will no longer be providing pastoral care or officiating at your special occasions (baptisms, weddings, and funerals) or giving advice about how to run the Three Oaks church.

Part of this relationship change is practical. I will have a new congregation (which is even larger than this one) to look after. My life will be plenty full and I will not have any extra time or energy. Plus, you will want to bond with your new pastor. We are still awaiting news of who that might be. But, whoever comes here will want to form a relationship with you. This pastor will be eager to be your next mother/father/shepherd. S/he will have gifts to take you into the next phase of life (the college years?!). If I were hanging around and hovering in the background, it would hinder the formation of this relationship.

Change is difficult for some of us. But change is a part of life. The seasons come and go. Our children grow up. Our parents age. Our attention shifts. Our responsibilities alter. Friends, this is life. Over the coming month and a half, I hope to end well my time here in Three Oaks so that all of us can begin well the next chapter. God is preparing to do a new thing. May we have the eyes to perceive it!

With love and gratitude,
Pastor "Mother" Sherri



Our Summer Worship schedule will begin on June 4. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. for June, July, and August. Communion in June will be on June 11.



*"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,
Danny King, Ricky Zeiger, and Ethan Zeiger.

Those who are in care facilities:

Buchanan Meadows – Sabra Lambert;
Hamilton Grove – Betty Smith;
Pine Ridge – Esther Thomas;
Woodland Terrace – Shirley Hoadley

Those who are homebound:

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

Those with health problems:

Betty Lou Ahrens, Julian Becker, Ruth Boothby,
Fran Conley, Ray Davidson, Savannah DeVries,
Robert DeWitt, Bill Donner, Linda Doyle,
Tim Fenderbosch, Andrew Hamilton, Dawn Hayes,
Lisa Henrich, Joyce Herring, Dave Hess,
Joe Hinman, Shauni Hinman, Ron Knuth,
Jenna Krueger, Diana Monson, Dorothy Nicholas,
Alex Renbarger, Chris Riley, Sue Rubeck,
Gert Schlieter, Dave Schlundt, Ken Seifert,
Clara Small, Brian Sokolowski, Kevin Strauss,
Esther Thomas, Pat Trumball, Stan Tull, Barb Truhn,
Tim Truhn, Jon Vollman, Brenda Warman,
Tamara Williams, Lonnie Zebell, Dan Ziebarth.

Those welcoming a new baby:

Jessica (Sittig) and Chris Baker welcoming a daughter, Joan Mae, on April 19.

Those who grieve:

Family and friends of Richard Strauss, Sam Potter,
Bill (Sonny) Lewis, Perry Pickens,
Ogden Krossovitch, Bill Kirk, John Ireland,
Edythe Barnes, and Dorothy Brayboy in the loss of her brother.

Other:

Baby River, three months old, who was badly abused and has broken bones and head trauma.
Baby Oakley born at just 24 weeks and in NICU.
Karla Mast & family welcoming a new baby.
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 **Bonnie Pickens** at the death of her husband, **Perry**, on April 1. Thanks to all those who helped with the funeral luncheon.

We also extend our sympathy to **Doris Krossovitch** at the death of her husband, **Ogden**, on April 7. Ogden had been a member of our church for almost 60 years. Sympathy cards may be sent to:

Doris Krossovitch
Brookdale Senior Living
2860 Country Dr., Apt. 353
Fremont, CA 94536

We further extend our sympathy to **Jon Vollman** at the death of his brother-in-law, **Bill Kirk**, on April 11.

We also extend our sympathy to **Jim Ireland** at the death of his father, **John Ireland**, on April 19.

We also extend our sympathy to **Dorothy Brayboy** at the death of her brother.

May the Lord comfort these families in their time of grief.

Bible Trivia

There are ten places in the Bible where people were raised from the dead.



1. Elijah raised _____ . (1 Kings 17:17-24)
2. Elisha raised _____ . (2 Kings 4: 18-37)
3. A dead man came to life when he was placed on _____ . (2 Kings 13:20-21)
4. Jesus raised _____ . (Luke 7:11-15)
5. Jesus raised _____ . (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56)
6. Jesus raised _____ . (John 11:1-46)
7. _____ was resurrected. (Matt. 28) (Mark 16) (Luke 24) (John 20-21)
8. _____ came out of their graves after Jesus' resurrection. (Matt. 27:51-53)
9. Peter raised _____ . (Acts 9:36-51)
10. Paul raised _____ . (Acts 20:9-12)

Answers on page four.

Special Music



On Sunday, May 28, **James McDuffy**, a talented singer with a deep baritone voice, will be at our church for worship to share several familiar hymns.

James has sung at General Conference, West Michigan Annual Conference, Kalamazoo District events, and hundreds of churches around the country.

Invite your friends and family to join us. We will be taking a love offering for James and his CD's will be available for purchase.



Baby Joy

Congratulations to **Jessica (Sittig)** and **Chris Baker** on the birth of a girl, **Joan Mae**, on April 19. The excited grandparents are **Paul and Faye Sittig**. Baby Joan is the eleventh grandchild for Paul and Faye!

Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet



Our church will host our annual Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet on **Wednesday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m.** It will be a Hawaiian luau this year. The menu will include Kalua pork, sweet potatoes, fruit and beverage. Dessert will be coconut and chocolate cake. Come dressed in Hawaiian clothes for fun! Our program will be a repeat musical performance by **Bonnie Pickens'** grandson, **Dave Farris**, and his partner **Dave**.

Please sign up in the narthex. We will be recruiting volunteers once again among the men of our church to serve and clean up after the meal.

Sisters in Faith



Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. **Beverly Harrington** will share devotions; **Ellie Rogers** will provide refreshments; and **Joan Davidson** will lead Bible Study.

Blessings in a Backpack will be done by **Ellie Rogers** on May 18.



Work Day

Thank you to all who helped with Spring Clean-up day last month. We had nine people. Many hands make light work.

Thank you to these volunteers: *Nancy Davis, Jim Flick, Sharon Flick, Doug Hinman, Rhonda Hinman, Ray James, Keith Kehoe, Sharon Phillips, and Jim Thompson.*



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

Answers from page three:

1. the widow's son
2. the Shunammite's son
3. the bones of Elisha
4. a widow's son
5. the daughter of Jairus
6. Lazarus
7. Jesus
8. Many Saints
9. Tabitha
10. Eutychus



Community Lunch

The community is invited to attend the River Valley Community Lunch Program on Thursday, May 25, 1:00 at the Middle High School Campus. This month's theme is Top Graduating Seniors. Following the program, the superintendent, principal and other staff will provide updates and answer any questions. Cost is only \$2 per person.

Special Music Sign-Up

Our choir will be taking a well-deserved break over the summer months. We will be looking for special music beginning June 4. Please sign up in the narthex to share your talents with the congregation.



Sisters in Faith Rummage / Bake Sale

The rummage sale will be Friday, June 2, 9:00 – 4:00 and Saturday, June 3, 9:00 – 3:00. There will be a \$2 per bag sale on Saturday from 12:00 – 3:00. We will continue to accept items until Tuesday, May 30. If you have larger items you would like to donate and need help, please call Rhonda Petro at 756-9847.

Yes, you read correctly! The Sisters in Faith will be hosting their annual rummage sale ... along with a bake sale. We feel that this would be an incredible opportunity to raise funds for our ongoing needs and missions.

We are asking for help from all who would be willing to contribute a baked good(s) to the cause. We will be selling a variety of baked items. Some suggestions might be: pies (always a favorite), cakes, cupcakes, cookies, mini or full loaves of bread, brownies, rice krispie treats, etc. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone interested in baking.

We request that you bring the baked goods Thursday, June 1, so that we may package them accordingly. Thank you for your consideration to help!

Rummage Sneak Peak

As a thank you to the congregation for its support of the rummage sale, we are offering a "Sneak Peek" night of shopping on Thursday, June 1, from 5:00 to 7:00. This will give you an opportunity to find the treasures you desire before they're gone.



Easter Breakfast

A big thank you to all who helped put on a fantastic Easter breakfast! We are certainly blessed with many helping hands. There were 65 people in attendance, and the fellowship we shared with one another is the true meaning of what Easter represents. Hallelujah, He is risen!



Join Us

"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

The first Thursday in May has been designation by Congress as a National Day of Prayer. The River Valley Ministerial Association is organizing a prayer event to take place at noon on May 4th. We will meet in the small park at the corner of Maple and N. Elm St. in Three Oaks to join in prayer for our country and our leaders. Please bring your own chairs. In case of inclement weather, we will gather at Real Life Community Church.

Shipshewana Trip

We will be taking our annual shopping excursion to the flea market at Shipshewana on either Tuesday, June 13 or Wednesday, June 14. We will leave the church at 7:00 a.m. and return at approximately 7:00 p.m. The date will be decided soon. Everyone in the congregation is invited. Please sign up in the narthex so we will know how many vehicles are needed. If you sign up and then are not able to make it, please call someone else who is planning to attend so the group will not need to wait on you.



Sunday School Mission



Pick up a collection can in the narthex for this year's Sunday School mission project. Donations will support the "Great Lakes Burn Camp".

Great Lakes Burn Camp (GLBC) provides a unique experience that promotes healing, self-esteem, confidence, and general well-being for burn injured children. More information can be found at: www.greatlakesburncamp.org. You may return filled cans any time to the church office.



Don't forget your mom on Sunday, May 14, Mother's Day! Bring your mom to worship with you!

Children's Church



May 21 will be the last day of Sunday School for this school year. Children's Church will begin May 28.

For our summer programming this year, we are planning to show Christian movies, such as *Veggie Tales*. We are looking for volunteers to take turns watching the children each week. If you love children and can turn on a TV, you are qualified! Please sign up in the narthex.



From the Bookshelf

by Rhonda Hinman

With flowers blooming, it is time to do some gardening. This month's featured book is "*Bees in the Butterfly Garden*" by Maureen Lang.

Raised at an exclusive boarding school, Meg Davenport has everything she needs but none of what she's wanted most, like the love of a family or a future not dependent on following etiquette and marrying well. So when she receives shocking news of her father's death, Meg seizes the chance to break every rule that has governed her life. Especially when she learns John Davenport wasn't the wealthy businessman she thought, but one of the Gilded Age's most talented thieves.

Ian Maguire knows that John, his mentor, would never have wanted his beloved daughter to follow in his footsteps. Yet she is determined to carry on his legacy, and her talent for garden design has earned her an invitation to stay with one of Fifth Avenue's wealthiest families. With friends like those, Meg could help Ian pull off his biggest heist yet.

But living in both worlds is more treacherous than Meg imagined. And as Ian's concern for Meg turns to love, he finds himself torn between greed and guilt. Can they find the legacy they both long for, or in trying to gain everything, will they end up losing it all? Check out this book to see what happens.



Thank you for letting us use your beautiful church for our dress sale!

Miss Three Oaks/River Valley Committee:

With Gratitude

Brianna Martin, Audrey Beth, Brittney DeRuiter, Makenzie Bronson, Dayna Schumm, Emma Springer, Madelyn Keller, Hannah Crumley.



Who's Who at TOUMC

Do you know that *Ed and Yvonne* have been to Hawaii ten times?

Although *Ed and Yvonne Homolka* met at 14 and 20 years old, they didn't start dating until three years later.

Yvonne, who was living in California at the time they met was staying with her sister in Chicago. They were married on April 15, 1967 at First Methodist Church in New Buffalo. They celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. Ed and Yvonne moved around a lot early in their marriage. They lived in New Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland and New York. They moved to New Buffalo permanently because that is where they wanted to raise their family. They have two children, Maggie and Adam. Adam and his wife Shelley live in Lowell, Michigan. They have four children, Lincoln, Ben, and twins Isaiah and Adelyn. Maggie and her husband Tom live in Naperville, Illinois. They have two children, Chloe and Zack. They are proud of their children. Maggie is a personal flight attendant for a billionaire. She worked as a flight attendant for United Airlines for 15 years. She is currently working on her pilot's license. Tom works for British Petroleum in marketing. Adam owns a physical therapy clinic. Shelley is a counselor.

Ed was raised in Cicero, Illinois. His family always had a second home in New Buffalo. He had an older sister. His dad owned a heating and air conditioning business. He graduated from J.S. Morton High School. He went to the University of Illinois where he graduated with a degree in engineering. He was on the football team there and in a fraternity. He worked in engineering for ten years. He really didn't like it. He took some financial classes and was certified as a financial advisor. He is now retired.

While Ed lived in one place growing up, Yvonne lived in many places. They moved around a lot because of her dad's jobs. He had a variety of jobs. If an opportunity arose which he thought he'd like, they moved to the location of that job. They moved back and forth between New Buffalo and California several times. In Yvonne's junior year she lived in California, Arizona and New Buffalo in a six-week period. She said she was always the new kid. She graduated from New Buffalo High School. She was a cheerleader. She then went on to South Bend College of Commerce. After college she started working as a flight attendant for TWA. She continued that job for a while after being married. She then went to United Airlines. She worked on the ground for nine years. In 1983 she started working for New Buffalo Area Schools as a secretary in the counselor's office. After 17 years, she took her current position as administrative assistant to the superintendent.

Ed and Yvonne keep busy with their grandchildren. Since Ed is retired he said that he has become a "manny" to his grandchildren. He often goes and takes care of his grandchildren while their parents are out of town for business. He enjoys his time with them. He is in Lion's Club and is a Mason. Yvonne likes to read historical novels and stories about time travel. She enjoys making beach glass jewelry. For many years they were involved in various organizations. They have traveled to many places. They have free flights for life with United Airlines through Maggie. They would like to travel more. One place that they have not been is Upper Michigan. They would like to cross Mackinac Bridge and visit there. Yvonne thinks it would be fun to take the ferry from Ludington, Michigan to Chicago.

Ed grew up in the Catholic Church. Yvonne has always been Methodist. They were members at Water's Edge (First Methodist in New Buffalo) for many years. They were married there. Maggie and Adam were baptized there. When change took place, they didn't feel like they fit in any more. They visited several churches before coming to T.O.U.M.C. They felt like they fit in here and felt welcomed. They transferred their membership last month. They want to become involved in activities here. We are pleased and blessed to have them as members of our church family.



Missions News

Thank you for your donations of paper and cleaning products for the Harbor Country Emergency Pantry. They will be distributed to those in need.

The Annual Conference mission collection is the beginning of June and there is an opportunity to help others. This year they are asking for the following items:

- Women's undergarments - small size bras and all sizes of panties
- Men's undergarments – briefs and boxers of all sizes
- Deodorant – small size
- Washcloths
- Brushes and combs
- Toothbrushes
- Razors

There will be a collection box in the narthex and items need to be in no later than Sunday, May 28.



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been active lately with preparations for the Lenten Soup Supper and making our sanctuary ready for Easter.

There are many people to thank for all the help with the Soup Supper, beginning with all those who made crock pots of soup. We had ten wonderful varieties to choose from! Also, our bakers who brought in a myriad of tasty desserts - we lacked nothing! Thank you to *Connie Warnke* who went out and purchased, as well as donated, bread, crackers and punch ingredients. It takes many hands to pull off the many gatherings we as a church host and we thank all who helped set up and clean up, as well. We had 52 people gathered to enjoy the soup and desserts before the Lenten Service. New Buffalo City Flowers donated the palms we had for Palm Sunday - many heartfelt thanks to them. It is a joy to see the children marching in waving their palms for Jesus.

Easter Sunday saw our sanctuary beautifully adorned with the colors and scents of spring with the array of flowers arranged throughout. Thank you to all the families who shared their flowers with us on such a joyous and miraculous day in our lives.

Happy spring to all and spread the word HE LIVES!

Joan Davidson,
Worship Chairperson



Community Vacation Bible School

Plans are underway for our community Vacation Bible School this summer, June 26-30, 9:00-12:00 each day. VBS will be held at the Free Methodist Church, sponsored ecumenically with our church and several others.

We will need many volunteers for Crew Leaders, Assistant Crew Leaders, Preschool Helpers and Snack Staff. If you would like to help, contact Ginger Schumm at 269-845-9210 or by e-mail at daynatoys@comcast.net. A list of supplies needed for refreshments and games will be in the narthex soon.



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.

Justice in Everyday Life: May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Coloma UMC (144 S Church St, Coloma, MI) Led by Deacon Cora Glass. Required book: ISBN# 9781426766138, *Social Principles of The United Methodist Church* (contact the District Office for a free copy) This course looks at the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (UM Polity): May 6 and May 20, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Coloma UMC (144 S Church St, Coloma, MI). Led by Rev. David Hills. Required book: ISBN# 9781426767173, *The Method of Our Mission* by Lacey C. Warner. This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. A copy of *The 2016 Book of Discipline* is recommended for this course.

You Can Preach!: May 6 and 20, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Coloma UMC (144 S Church St, Coloma, MI). Led by Rev. Ron VanLente. Required book: ISBN# 9780881773842, *Go Preach!* by John P. Gilbert. This course is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for pastors seeking a basic refresher course, and for others who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence.



Books Needed

Episcopal Church of the Mediator is organizing its sixth annual "Chikaming Community Book Share." They are collecting gently used and/or new books to be distributed to each and every child in the two elementary schools who attend the River Valley elementary schools to promote lifelong literacy and the love of reading and learning!

Last year they collected over 300 books and were able to give each child a book at the end of the school year. Please bring your donations and place them in the box in the narthex by May 21.



Congratulations to Jack Vanzine who was inducted into the National Honor Society. He is the son of Yuri and Kristy Vanzine and grandson of *Chuck and Julie Sittig*.



Golden Cross

Golden Cross Sunday promotes health and welfare ministries within our West Michigan Conference and in the local church.

Agencies which benefit from these funds are:

- The Methodist Children's Home Society provides for children who are emotionally troubled and homeless. Some are abused, others deserted, but all are having difficulty coping. Although adoption is now a secondary program, it is still a major concern. The Society believes we have no throw-away children and it serves as a redemptive arm of the Church.
- Clark Retirement Community seeks to provide quality care in a Christian atmosphere of love and concern. In addition to comfortable shelter, nutritious meals and ongoing nursing care for those who need it, Clark seeks to meet the physical, spiritual and psychosocial needs of residents.
- Bronson Methodist Hospital is a major regional center seeking to provide quality care for sick and injured persons. Concern for the whole person is expressed not only through physical care, but also mental, spiritual and social welfare of people. The pastoral care department provides an in-house chaplaincy as well as the training of clergy for this ministry.

Half of the offering will stay in our local church to support ministries that serve persons with disabilities such as preparing large print bulletins and servicing our elevator. We will observe Golden Cross Sunday on Mother's Day, May 14. You may use a pew envelope and mark it "Golden Cross."

THANK YOU!

*Sisters in Faith,
For everything you do... thank you so much for allowing us to gather for fellowship and lunch after Perry's funeral. It was just wonderful.*

*You are a blessing to so many.
The family of Perry Pickens.*



Church Directory

Please pick up your copy of the new church directory available in the narthex later this month.



Peace with Justice

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice.

Although you may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds - and yielding fruit! - of peace.

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

Will you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday? Will you empower local Christians - in Pennsylvania and Arizona and Liberia - to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in?

In Jesus' inaugural address, standing in his home synagogue in Nazareth, he detailed his game plan, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to - and experienced by - the poor. We will receive this special offering on May 28. Please give generously.



Graduation

We will recognize the accomplishments of the following young people at our worship service on May 21. Please plan to attend.

Graduating from River Valley High School on June 9:

Andrew Bellaire

son of Mark and Sabrina Bellaire

Kyle Seifert

son of Kenneth, Jr., and Becky Seifert

Graduating from New Buffalo High School on June 4:

Margaret Seifert

daughter of Steve and Aimee Seifert

Graduated from Western Michigan University on April 29:

Dana Hammons

daughter of Daniel and Doreen Hammons

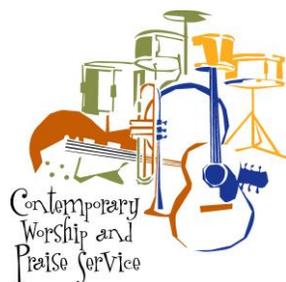
Graduated from Grand Valley State University on December 10:

Ben Bartelmay

son of Brad Bartelmay and Sherri Swanson

If we have inadvertently left anyone off this list, please let us know in the church office.

The community is invited to attend River Valley's Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 p.m.



Contemporary Worship

Our next Contemporary Worship Service will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 11:00 a.m. Music will be led by Danielle Gibson and Maggie Martin. Come and enjoy singing praise songs in this special service.

When God Created

Mothers...

(submitted by Betty Swanson)

When the Good Lord was creating Mother he was into his sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the spec on this order?"

She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable.

Run on black coffee and leftovers.

Have a lap that disappears when she stands up.

A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair.

And six pairs of hands."

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands...no way."

"It's not the hands that are creating me problems," said the Lord, "It's the three pairs of eyes that Mothers have to have."

"That's the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

"Lord," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Come to bed. Tomorrow..."

"I can't," said the Lord. "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and can get a nine-year-old under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a Mother very slowly. "It's so soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this Mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber, "I didn't put it there."



by Erma Bombeck, 1983

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

May 2017



Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by May 21.



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!

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 7 | Communion
"When You Least Expect It"
Luke 24:13-35 |
| May 14 | Mother's Day
"Blessed Among Women"
Luke 1:39-45 |
| May 21 | Graduate Recognition
Contemporary Service
"Send-Off"
Acts 1:1-11 |
| May 28 | Guest Musician – James McDuffey |

**Three Oaks
United Methodist Church Staff:**

Pastor: *Rev. Sherri Swanson*
Secretary: *Cheryl Kersey*
Organist: *Martha Spychalski*
Custodian: *Mary Weers*

To Reach the Pastor:

Please call the church office first: 756-2053.
If you do not reach her there,
leave a voice message on her cell phone
at 269-405-0002.