

THE PARISH POST

Volume 46 - Issue 5

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

May 2018



Pastor Susan's Corner

Pastoral transitions are bittersweet for congregations, the incoming pastor, and the pastor who is leaving. Transitions bring out all kinds of emotions among the participants - from sorrow, joy, regret, happiness, fear, uncertainty, compassion, etc. A transition means there will definitely be change for everyone involved. For the church it signals a change in leadership - preaching styles, administrative styles, music selections, gifts for ministry, missional priorities, and abilities.

For each pastor it means saying good-bye to people they have grown to love, moving to a new community, a new home, a new region. Going to a new church that has "their" own way of doing things - moving into their "traditions" that take a while to learn. We must choose new places to shop, buy groceries, doctors, and hospitals. Making this transition affects every member of our family. Those who live with us are uprooted and planted in new home, school, church, and community leaving behind beloved friends, teachers, and associates. Other family members find their parents or grandparents, siblings, and children moving closer or further away.

We have embarked upon an ending and a new beginning for the Three Oaks United Methodist Church, for Pastor Brenda Ludwig (your new pastor) and her current church, Jacob's Finger UMC, and for Pastor Andy Martin and me - as well as the Redkey UMC, Elkhart New Hope and the Selma Christ UMC and New Burlington UMC as well as Pastor Randy Davis and Pastor Dennis Rush who are both entering into retirement.

I encourage you to be in prayer for YOUR church, the Redkey UMC, Jacob's Finger UMC, Elkhart New Hope UMC, Selma Christ UMC, and the New Burlington UMC. Pray that each church will make the transition well and will spend the next two months celebrating the ministry and the giftedness that God has blessed them with through their current pastor. Pray that their hearts will be prepared to welcome and love without reserve their new pastor and families. Pray that God

will continue to lead and bless each church with a desire to be Kingdom builders. Pray that God will enrich and strengthen the ministries that are flourishing and allow those to die that are no longer productive.

I also ask that you pray for Pastor Brenda, Pastor Andy, and I that God will renew our Spirits and help us to do no Harm, to do Good, and stay in love with God. Pray that our families will make the transition well - that we are able to leave well and begin our new place of ministry with acceptance, encouragement and hope for healthy and growing ministries. May we each live up to the potential God created within us.

I will be praying for each of you as you make this transition - may you live in peace and unity with one another. May you have open hearts, open minds and open doors and good attitudes during this transition.

Our move date is scheduled for June 11-12. My last Sunday to preach will be June 3. I will be at Indiana Annual Conference from June 7-9 in Indianapolis.

Blessings and prayers,
Pastor Susan





We celebrate the baptism of *Garrett Will Matthew Backus* on April 8. Garrett is the son of *Kyle and Mindy Backus*. Baptismal sponsors were *Keith & Nicole Kehoe*. May God bless your family at this special time.

Make sure matches bulletin from 4-29!!!!

**“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;

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, Susan Balling, Amanda Below,
Dick Best, Dorothy Brayboy, Bob Flick, Jim Flick,
Andrew Hamilton, Bryce Hamilton, Nicole Hamilton,
Beverly Harrington, Dawn Hayes, Priscilla Hellenga,
Jim Ireland, Karen King, Maria Povlock Lewis,
Linda Methany, Eileen Osmond, Steven Patzer,
Alexis Renbarger, Judy Ross, Jerry Schaffer,
Barb Scaff, Gert Schlieter, Dorothy Schoff,
Rick Schroeter, Ken Seifert,
Bob & Charlene Sprick, Frances Stanage,
Kevin Strauss, Crystal Thompson, Kat Turner.

Transitions:

Pastor Brenda Ludwig, Pastor Susan Martin,
Pastor Andy Martin, Pastor Randy Davis,
Pastor Dennis Rush, Three Oaks UMC,
Jacob’s Finger UMC, Redkey UMC,
Elkhart New Hope UMC, Selma Christ UMC,
New Burlington UMC.

Those who grieve:

Family and friends of Larry Colgren, Stan Tull,
Mark Hellenga, Gordon Krell, and Carrie Mitchell.

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

Match up the Mothers with their sons and daughters.



Rachel, Elizabeth, Hagar, Rahab,
Naomi, Jochebed, Eve, Hannah, Sarah, Leah, Eunice,
Mary

1. Cain, Abel and Seth. (Genesis 4)
2. Issac. (Genesis 21:1-7)
3. Timothy. (2 Timothy 1:5)
4. John the Baptist. (Luke 1)
5. Jesus (Matthew 1:16)
6. Miriam, Moses and Aaron (Numbers 26:59)
7. Dianah. (Genesis 34:1)
8. Boaz. (Matthew 1:5)
9. Ishmael (Genesis 16)
10. Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis 46:19)
11. Samuel. (1 Samuel 1)
12. Mahlon and Kilion (Ruth 1:2)

Answers on page three



Work Day

The date for our all-church work day has been set for May 19. Please sign up in the narthex. Contact one of the Trustees if you have any suggestions for projects.

Lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome to meet at Viola's Restaurant for breakfast at 8:00.



Sisters in Faith

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. All ladies of the church are invited.

Blessings in a Backpack will be on May 17.



Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet

Our church will host our annual Mother-Daughter-Sister Banquet on Wednesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.

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.



Answers from page two:

Answers:

1. Eve
2. Sarah
3. Eunice
4. Elizabeth
5. Mary
6. Jochebed
7. Leah
8. Rahab
9. Hagar
10. Rachel
11. Hannah
12. Naomi



Neighbor By Neighbor

Connecting Harbor Country Residents to Social Services.

Local Assistance Panel

Neighbor by Neighbor will host a Home Repair Collaborative Panel Discussion on May 8, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

at the New Buffalo Library. Berrien County residents in need of financial assistance in making home repairs who have an interest in learning about local help available to them should attend. Panel presenters include: Harbor Country Mission, Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, USDA-Rural Development, and local banks.



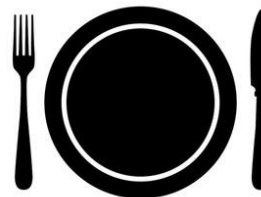
Community Lunch

The community is invited to attend the River Valley Senior Lunch Program on Thursday, May 17 at 12:00 noon at the

River Valley Middle High School. This month's theme is Top Seniors of 2018. Following the program, the superintendent, principal and other staff will provide updates and answer any questions. Cost is only \$2 per person.



Our Summer Worship schedule will begin on June 3. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. for June, July, and August.



Meals Ministry

The Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry with the generous support of Meals on Wheels will offer a free meal and a time of fellowship on Thursday, May 17, 5:00 – 7:00 at our church. Come join this community gathering! Everyone is welcome. If this is successful, it will be a recurring event on the third Thursday of each month.



From the Bookshelf by Rhonda Hinman

Here it is May and hopefully spring is finally here to stay. This month's featured book is "One Perfect Spring" by Irene Hannon.

Life is like lilacs, the biggest blooms come only after the harshest winters.

Independent single mom Claire Summers is doing her best to make lemonade out of the lemons life has handed her. Workaholic Keith Watson is interested only in the bottom line, until a letter from Claire's eleven year old daughter reaches his desk and changes everything.

As the executive assistant to a philanthropic businessman, Keith is used to fielding requests for donations. But the girl isn't asking for money. She wants help finding the long-lost son of a neighbor. As Keith reluctantly digs into this assignment, he has no idea how involved he and Claire will become, nor how unusual the results will actually be. Who could have guessed that a child's kindhearted request would bring love and hope to so many lives....including his own?

Just as spring brings hope this story brings hope. Booklist says Hannon's latest is a story of the hopeful aspect of love, in which she introduces readers to characters just as real and broken as each of us and shows how, through a bit of faith, grace, and trust, people can blossom too.

SENIOR Expo

The 22nd Annual Senior Expo will be on Thursday, May 10, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College. There will be entertainment, door prizes, vendors, photography contest and more. Admission is free.

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 3. Please sign up in the narthex to share your talents with the congregation.



Mark Your Calendar

Sisters in Faith are planning a Rummage Sale for June 2 and 3. 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. Larger items will be accepted and stored in Fellowship Hall after our Mother Daughter Banquet on May 10.

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.



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 almost 50 people in attendance, and the fellowship we shared with one another is the true meaning of what Easter represents. Hallelujah, He is risen!



Graduation

We will celebrate graduation at our worship service on May 20. Please plan to attend.

Graduating from River Valley High School on June 1:

Annette Donner
daughter of Bill and Tracy Donner

Nicole Gibson
daughter of Analinda Gibson
granddaughter of Ellen Sokolowski

Katharine Kersey
daughter of Ron and Cheryl Kersey

Hannah Korb
daughter of Bill and Laura Korb
granddaughter of Matt and Nancy Caid

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, May 20, at 4:00 p.m.



Who's Who at TOUMC

Did you know that Martha Spychalski had the opportunity to play a square grand piano?

Martha was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. She the only child of George and Ruth Hinkle. Her dad worked at Bendix and her mom at Adams High School. Martha graduated from Adams High School where she played the clarinet in the band. After high school she went to Indiana University for two years. She then got married. She has two children, Michelle and Paul. After 15 years of marriage, Martha was widowed. On November 30, 1991, she married Tom Spychalski. They were set up on a blind date by mutual friends. She has six grandchildren. Michelle and her husband Chuck Heit's children are Alex, Kyra and David. Paul and his wife Tamara's children are Sarah, Emma and Olivia.

Martha worked for a while at both Three Oaks Florist and New Buffalo Florist. She then took a job at The Medical Group in Michigan City. She started as a receptionist moving up to a medical assistant in neurology. After leaving there, she worked as a medical assistant for a Podiatrist at Lakeshore Bone and Joint in Chesterton, Indiana. After retiring, she went back to work a couple of times. She retired for the last time in 2010.

Martha loves to bake. She enjoys walking on the beach and collecting beach glass. She enjoys playing the piano and organ.

Tom and Martha love to travel. They have traveled extensively. They travel a lot with Tom's sister, brother and sister-in-law. They have taken trips overseas to Spain, Italy twice, Austria, Germany, England, France and a river cruise on the Danube. This year they are going to Northern England and Scotland. They took a cruise down the Saint Lawrence River. They have also traveled in the States. They have been to Oregon, down south and Hawaii. One of their favorite places is New Orleans, which they will be visiting again this year. New Orleans is where she had the opportunity to play the square grand piano. It was at the Beauregard Keyes House. There are places that Martha would still like to visit, one of them being Portugal. She would also like to take some road trips to states that she has not yet visited.

Martha was raised Baptist, where she played the piano as a teenager. Her first husband and a friend's husband were both Catholic. They decided to look for

a church that they both would like. They ended up at New Buffalo Methodist. Later, since Martha lived a couple of blocks from TOUMC, she started attending here. She joined our church family 27 years ago. At just about the same time she started playing organ for us. She also played the organ at New Buffalo and Lakeside. Just recently, she played the organ at the Catholic Church in Bridgman. Tom was raised Catholic and has remained so. But, we do have the pleasure of a visit from him now and then. We are blessed to have Martha as a part of our church family.



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 13. You may use a pew envelope and mark it "Golden Cross."



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 27. Please give generously.



Many thanks to all who donated food items to the senior center! The center's nurse, Kathy Steinke, stated the clients are very appreciative. She requested the following future items as it seems those are the items most requested: low sodium canned meat (tuna, chicken, Spam), peanut butter, jelly, saltine crackers, granola bars, baked beans, and Ramen noodles. We would like to continue to collect food items as it seems there is a need - some clients receive monthly commodities and others only receive quarterly. Thank you for your support.

*Sharon Phillips and Ellie Rogers
River Valley Senior Center Board Members*

Children's Church



May 27 will be the last day of Sunday School for this school year. Children's Church will begin June 3.

For our summer programming this year, we are planning to show Christian movies. 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.



Don't forget your mom on Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day! Bring your mom to worship with you!



Sunday School Mission

Our Sunday School year is almost over and it's time to turn in collection cans for the Van Buren County Foster Children Program. Bring your cans to the church office anytime this summer. We will be starting a new collection in the fall.

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May 2018



Please Note

Please turn in all submissions for next month's Parish Post newsletter by May 20

For the Next Seven Sundays we will be sharing in a sermon series "Momentum for Life. Through this Series we will be looking at the Psalms of Ascent - Psalm 120-Psalm 134. I would like to invite you to read through these Psalms and Pray that God will make these Psalms a vital part of your life. As we all strive together to Build Momentum in our Journey with God. Striving to be the Best we can be for God.

1. April 22 Momentum for Life 2:"Holiness"
Psalm 122
2. April 29 Momentum for Life 3 : "Devotion"
Psalm 121
3. May 6 Momentum for Life 4: "Readiness for Lifelong Learning" Psalm 127
4. May 13 Momentum for Life 5: "Investing in Key Relationships" Psalm 128
5. May 20 Momentum for Life 6: "Visioning"
Psalm 122:2 Jeremiah 1:11-19
6. May 27 Momentum for Life 7: "Three E's-
"Eating, Exercise, and Evangelism"
Psalm 128:5-6
7. June 3 "Choose Life" Deuteronomy 30:15-20;
Matthew 5:21-37

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*