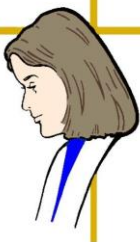


THE PARISH POST

Volume 45 - Issue 10

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

October 2017



Pastor Susan's Corner

The last few months have been full of transitions for our church and for my family. Moving to a new home and church and conference comes with one transition after another. It seems to have gone smoothly—I think I finally feel settled at Three Oaks UMC and our new parsonage in Granger. I'm still learning the "West Michigan Conference" way. Transitions always bring changes for everyone. I've become acclimated to making new friends, finding a new grocery store, and driving 40 minutes from Granger to Three Oaks. The transition for TOUMC has brought with it several changes too--- Saying good bye to a much loved and great friend in Pastor Sherry and welcoming me into your family. Learning to adapt to new leadership can always create a bit excitement, grief, and confusion all at the same time.

I want to assure you that I want to pick up where pastor Sherry left off and move us forward into the future. I can promise you that I am very excited to be here and to work with each of you to figure out where God is leading us for the future of Three Oaks UMC. I can also promise you that I have faith that God has great and exciting things in store for all of us as we strive to build the Kingdom of God in Harbor Country. I also want to confess that I know I will not always do everything the way Pastor Sherry did--- I'm not sure of all she did or how she did: we are two women called by God to serve and grow his Kingdom-- Each of us have different gifts and abilities that God has blessed us to use for God's glory. Pastor Sherry was able to share her gifts and graces with you for the past 18 years--- and you were blessed. I have been called to use my gifts and graces with you--- for Such a time as this.

Transitions also give way to questions about "How Will Pastor Susan Do things?" When is she in the office? When is she available? Will she come to the hospital when I am there? Will she visit us in our home? What does she feel God is calling us to do?

I want to set your minds at ease and answer some of these questions. First of All: I am available by phone and text messaging 24/7. My cell phone number is 574-370-5121. I want you to call or text me and let me know if you or a family member is in the hospital, has a fall, or needs someone to talk to.

My planned office hours are 10am-4pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-- however when I have night meetings I will come in later in the day—arriving at

2pm. There will be times I will not be here on those days because of Conference or district meetings or making hospital visits. I will be working in my office at homes on most Wednesdays. Fridays are the day I have committed to spending with my hubby, Andy. If you need me anytime-- please don't hesitate to call – we will set an appointment.

I want to come to the hospital to visit you, so I ask that you please let me know if you or a family member is hospitalized. You can call my cell phone or call the church phone and we will also send out prayer requests to your church family. If I don't hear from you, I will not know you are there, HIPPA laws do not allow the hospital to let me know you are there. If you know of a friend that goes to hospital that would like a visit, please let me know too.

I would also love to visit you in your home--- If you so desire. I will always try to call before I come, because I know you are busy people; I also understand that not everyone appreciates drop in visits. I usually prefer to have notice myself, I like to have the house ready for visitors--- so I like notice so I can tidy things up a bit.

I believe that God has many things planned for the Three Oaks United Methodist church and community. On August 27, we had an opportunity to share the ideas God had laid upon your hearts as you were circling the Community in prayer.

God is calling us to do something exceedingly great.

1. After School program
2. Movie Night
3. Open and Welcoming to All--
4. Soup Kitchen
5. Food Pantry
6. Youth Group
7. Senior Gatherings
8. Outreach
9. Live Nativity
10. Meal Ministry

I believe all of these things are great ideas and are very attainable. I look forward to working with Church Leadership to find a way to make them happen in the next year or so. It will require all of us working together, everyone using their gifts and abilities God has given to you to use for his glory. I believe without a shadow of a doubt that God has equipped us to do exceedingly great ministries for his kingdom.

I am looking forward to years of ministry with you and pray that God will help us through the transitions and make us a strong and vital ministry team in 2018.

Blessings, *Pastor Susan*



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

Those who serve as missionaries, especially:

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

David Baker, Dick Best, Dorothy Brayboy,
Alyssa Budzik, Bob Flick, Andrew Hamilton,
Bryce Hamilton, Riley Haughey, Dawn Hayes,
Priscilla Hellenga, Joyce Herring, Darrell Hinman,
Jim Ireland, Steve Kiburis, Maria Povlock Lewis,
Linda Methany, Eileen Osmond, Steven Patzer,
Alexis Renbarger, Elna Rogers, Sue Rubeck,
Jerry Schaffer, Gert Schlieter, Dorothy Schoff,
Rick Schroeter, Ken Seifert, Julie Sittig,
Frances Stanage, Kevin Strauss, Bill Swanson,
Crystal Thompson, Kat Turner, Elsie Zabel.

Other:

Ben Bartelmay as he serves in the Peace Corps.
Victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
Children and teachers returning to school.
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



Women in the Bible

1. What was the name of Ruth's mother-in-law who she loved and wished to follow? (Ruth 4:15)
2. Who is the first woman mentioned in the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11? (Hebrews 11:11)
3. Besides Mary, His mother, what four other women are named in the family tree of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1:1-16?
4. Along with her husband, she risked her life for Paul. Who was she? (Romans 16:3-4)
5. She and the prophet Nathan together carried out a plan to ensure that her son became Israel's next king. (1 Kings 1:11-30)

Answers on page three



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

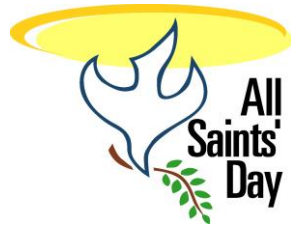


Choir News

There is a need for voices in our church choir. Practice is held on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. If you have an interest, prayerfully consider joining our group.

Agape Feast and Worship
Sunday, October 8, 2017
11:00 a.m.
Three Oaks UMC- Fellowship Hall
Food, Praise, Worship, and Fellowship!
Join Us! Bring a Friend!
Bring brunch items to share as we worship together.

Please make note of the following address in your church directory:



Bonnie Pickens
11159 Red Arrow Highway
Warren Dunes Village #135
Bridgman, MI 49109
Phone: 269-465-9487



MI Choice: A Program Offered by Region IV Area Agency on Aging

MI Choice services are for adults 18 and older who have nursing-home level of care needs. They want to live at home or in another residential setting instead of a nursing home. The residential setting could be a home, assisted living, adult foster care or homes for the aging.

The program is open to individuals 18 and older, who have a chronic illness or disability and need more assistance to remain independent in their home or community-based setting.

The MI Choice program recently helped:

- o A 52-year old individual with kidney failure who is on dialysis. This individual needed help with meals, homemaking chores, and transportation.
- o A 46-year old who became paralyzed due to a viral infection and requires full hands-on assistance with all activities of daily living.
- o A 51-year old who had had several mini-strokes and is no longer able to remain safely at home alone while his wife is working.

Qualified individuals can receive a range of services and supports. Options might include help with bathing, dressing and transferring, or light housekeeping, laundry, home-delivered meals, specialized equipment, caregiver relief, adult day care, nursing services, non-medical transportation, a personal emergency response system, electronic medicine dispenser, or help moving from a nursing home.

If you, a friend or loved one has nursing-home level of care needs and wants to live at home, call Region IV Area Agency on Aging.

Call the Info-Line at (800) 654-2810 to speak with a trained specialist who can answer questions about the MI Choice program. You may also visit our website at www.AreaAgencyonAging.org and click on *My Choice Home-Based Services*.

Answers from page two:



1. Naomi
2. Sarah
3. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba
4. Priscilla
5. Bathsheba

Special Remembrance



On November 5 our congregation will observe "All Saints Day." On this special day we remember those who have gone before us into God's heavenly kingdom, especially those

who have died in the past year.

Our worship service will include the celebration of Holy Communion as we gather around the Lord's table with the "great cloud of witnesses." If you have lost a loved one in the past year, please turn in their name (and date of death, if known) to the office by October 30 so that they may be included.

Community Lunch

Everyone is invited to attend the River Valley Community Lunch Program on Thursday, October 26, at 12:00 noon at the Chikaming Elementary Campus. The program is: Fall Harvest. Cost is only \$2 per person.



World Communion Sunday

On Sunday, October 1, we will join with Christians around the world as we break bread together. We will enhance the worship space with items and breads from around the world. If you have items you are willing to share, please bring them to the church by 10:30 next Sunday morning.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Phillipines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.

Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

Will you give generously on World Communion Sunday to make education and vocational impact possible for more students, like Mary Grace? Will you equip gifted and qualified students from around the globe to become the world-changers God created them to be?

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God's children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we're resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

An offering envelope will be provided in your worship bulletin. Please give generously on World Communion Sunday, October 1.



Holiday Treasures

The Stevensville United Methodist Women are busy making preparations for the 35th annual Holiday Treasures Arts and Crafts Bazaar. It will take place on Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Stevensville UMC (5506 Ridge Rd., Stevensville). The event will showcase a variety of handmade items created by local artisans. There will be a Cookie Walk and Bake Sale featuring a wide variety of scrumptious home-baked cookies and treats. The Luncheon Café offers a menu that includes hot turkey sandwiches with mashed potatoes and gravy, Sloppy Joes, salads, homemade pies, and desserts. For more information, call 269-429-5911



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Berrien County Association of Churches will be held Union Memoria A.M.E. Church (911 S. Crystal Ave., Benton Harbor). The evening will begin with fellowship at 6:00 followed by a banquet meal at 6:30. The program and business portion will begin at 7:00, during which time there will be reports from the Board of Directors, vote on the 2018 budget, and new members to the Board of Directors and Camp Warren Endowment Board will be elected. The cost of dinner is \$10 and will be collected at the door. Reservations must be turned in by October 5 by calling 269-926-0030.



Craft Show

The Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Sodus is sponsoring their 38th annual Arts and Crafts Show on Saturday, October 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds in Berrien Springs. Admission is only \$2.00 and there will be over 280 exhibitors plus food vendors and a bake sale. You can check out their website at www.chapelhillcraftshow.org.



Save the Date

Our annual Church Conference with Kalamazoo District Superintendent, Rev. Dwayne Bagley, will be held on Sunday, December 3. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet at 10:15 a.m., worship will be at 11:00 a.m. and the full Conference will convene at 12:00 p.m. All church members have a vote and are encouraged to attend.

Committee chairpersons are asked to submit an annual report on activities to the church office by November 5. These will be combined in a booklet for members who attend the conference.



Missions

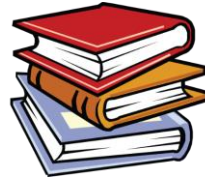
We will be taking part in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The project is run by Franklin Graham, president. It involves a Christmas wrapped shoe box, of average size, top and bottom wrapped separately, or a plastic shoe box filled with age-appropriate items for a boy or girl. There will be suggestion sheets on the table in the narthex. As in the past the funds given for the globe offering will be used to cover the cost of the \$7.00 shipping. The boxes are shipped around the world to children who would otherwise not have any presents to open. These need to be turned in by November 12.



Sisters in Faith

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. *Elna Rogers* will share Devotions/Bible Study and *Chris Zebell* will share refreshments. All women of the church are invited.

Sharon Flick and Faye Sittig will do Blessings in a Backpack on Thursday, October 19 at 3:00.



From the Bookshelf by *Rhonda Hinman*

This month's featured book is *Long Way Gone* by Charles Martin.

No matter where you go, no matter whether you succeed or fail, stand or fall, no gone is too far gone. You can always come home.

At the age of eighteen, musician and songwriter Cooper O'Connor took everything his father held dear and drove 1,200 miles from home to Nashville, his life riding on a six-string guitar and the bold wager that he had talent. But his wager soon proved foolish.

Five years after losing everything, he falls in love with Daley Cross, an angelic voice in need of a song. But just as he realizes his love for Daley, Cooper faces a tragedy that threatens his life as well as his career. With nowhere else to go, he returns home to the remote Colorado mountains, searching for answers about his father and his faith.

When Daley shows up on his street corner twenty years later, he wonders if it's too late to tell her the truth about his past and if he is ready to face it himself.

A radical retelling of the prodigal son story. *Long Way Gone* takes us from tent revivals to the Ryman Auditorium to the tender relationship between a broken man and the father who never stopped calling him home.

This is a great story of redemption and lost love. If you have not ever read a book by Charles Martin you are missing out on a great author. We have several of his books in the library. *Long Way Gone* is his newest, written late in 2016.





Please Note

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

October 2017



- October 1 **World Communion Sunday**
 "Jesus said, 'I am the bread of the world.'"
 John 6:25-40
- October 8 **Agape Feast and Worship**
 Theme: Welcome Home
 Luke 15:11-32
- October 15 **Singspiration – Service of Hymns, Songs, and Scriptures**
 Priscilla Hellenga
- October 22 **Guest Speaker – Alexis Renbarger**
- Sermon Series: "Habits of Hospitality"*
- October 29 **"Habits of Hospitality: 1. Offering Peace"**
 Luke 10:1-9
- November 5 **All Saints Sunday**
 "Habits of Hospitality: 2. Welcoming All the People"
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- November 12 **"Habits of Hospitality: 3. Sharing Our Authentic Selves"**
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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*
Custodian: *Mary Weers*