

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ

February/March 2016

Pastor's Corner By Pastor David Galbraith

Dear Friends,

Christmas is behind us, the New Year is upon us, and it's already time for Lent. The season of Lent will start on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will have a service on Ash Wednesday in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a celebration of the Resurrection, and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

I am convinced that our church is in the early development of a church that is seeking God's will and doing what is required of us to complete the course. We are moving quickly toward a new horizon for the MCUMCRC, and our excitement and involvement are testimonies to our faith in God.

You are a blessing to the **Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ**. Thank you for all you do for our church and the Kingdom of God.

God bless each one of you,
Pastor Dave

Upcoming Services

Please join us at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ for services in preparation for Lent as well as services during Lent and Holy Week.

February 7 -- Prayer and Healing service, 6:00 p.m.

February 10 -- Ash Wednesday service, 6:30 p.m.

March 6 -- Prayer and Healing service, 6:00 p.m.

March 20 -- Palm Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

March 24 -- Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.

March 27 -- Easter Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.

Cantata, *O What A Savior*



Here's what you can do to help our church bear the fruit that God intended the **Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ** to bear.

1. Pray! Pray that WE listen to what God has to say to us, and then DO what He asks us to do.
2. Talk to the folks who are wearing those yellow buttons and ask them what they are learning.
3. Read the books that are being read by the FCJ team. (See page 2.)
4. Encourage each other.
5. Love everyone.

Please pray for your FCJ Team: Michael Adkins, John Bales, Roger Hudson, Sandi Hudson, Tiffany Kelly, Rose McKinney, Tom Nigh, Kathy Petty, Jan Pope, Teresa Sexton, Jo Sullivan, Kenny Thompson, and Linda Wynn. Prayer Team: Amy Allen, Lois Neuerman, Kathy Petty, and Jinny Waymire.



Fruitful Congregations Journey **By Tiffany Kelly**

What a year 2015 was and what a great start to 2016. The FCJ (Fruitful Congregations Journey) team is on FIRE right now! Let me catch you up to speed on all that we have been doing. We meet with four other UMC teams every month for a "Shared Learning Experience," and we also meet with just our team and the pastor at a later time each month to review what we have discussed at our shared learning meetings. It's interesting to hear each church's struggles, as they are all very different from each other.

We have read the following four books: *Renovate or Die: Ten Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission*, *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results*, *Direct Hit: Aiming Real Leaders at the Mission Field*, and *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*. You are all welcome to read these books as well so you can learn what we are learning. The best two by and far have been *Renovate or Die* and *Simple Church* (just my personal opinion). We have also watched the following video: *Taking Your Church to the Next Level*.

We have developed a Communication Team within FCJ to help develop a plan to communicate to you what is happening through FCJ and what our next steps are going to be. Members of that team consist of Mike Adkins, Jan Pope, and me. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

FCJ team members have also been working with the school behind the church – Mt. Comfort Elementary School -- and are partnering with them in a new ministry to help feed the children in that school who do not have enough to eat. This started with us just helping to provide food during the children's two-week breaks, as the school sends home backpacks of food for the weekends, but it has now become so much more. (Did you know that the food supplied in the kids' backpacks for the weekends comes only from the teachers? Not anymore! MCUMC is now helping consistently, so continue to bring food!). A huge THANK YOU to Jan Pope for working with the school and putting this ministry together. If there are any carpenters out there, please see me, as I have an idea for a food bin for this.

We have completed five of the seven monthly meetings and have two to go. Our last session was one of the most eye opening, I think for all of us. We discussed the church's process to lead people through the discipleship path. Whaaaaaatt? We are supposed to have a process? This is what we all asked ourselves. It was an amazing concept that made us think so much



Feed the Hungry Student has become part of the MCUMC Missions Team Food Ministry, which supports local food pantries. Place your donations in the grocery carts outside the sanctuary.

about what we can do in this church. It really got our gears turning with ideas, thoughts, and questions. So can you guess what we are going to work to develop? Right! A process to lead people through the discipleship path. Don't worry, we will keep you informed of what is going on, the progress we are making in developing that process, and what we need you to do – yes, you will be a huge part of this process. Look for information in our next newsletter article, or it may show up in the bulletin. You just never know with us!

I would love to go so much more in depth on what we are learning, but there's just not enough room in this article. I'm so sorry. If you have questions, or would like to learn more, just ask one of us who wear the yellow FCJ buttons. We are more than happy to take time to tell you about the great things we see for this church. We are definitely moving in the right direction!



Healing and Prayer Services Set

The Prayer and Healing services are back at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Living Christ.

The first service will be held as a preparation time for the beginning of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10. The first Lenten Prayer and Healing Service will be Sunday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Prayer and Healing services will continue throughout Lent with services on March 6 and April 3, each at 6:00 p.m.

Services will include special music, a brief devotional, and opportunities for prayers for healing. Please plan to attend, and invite others.



Upward Soccer 2016

The Upward Soccer season is quickly approaching! Mt. Comfort is currently accepting registrations for children from Kindergarten (age 5) through sixth grade. The registration deadline is March 12. Registration forms are available at the church and on Facebook™, Mt. Comfort UPWARD soccer.

Each child must attend a soccer evaluation session on one of the following dates: Thursday, February 25, 5 – 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Thursday, March 3, 5 – 8 p.m.

Other important Upward dates include the following. Week of March 14 – practices begin. Saturday game days begin April 9 and run until June 4 (no game Memorial Day weekend). June 5 – Awards Celebration.

Many opportunities exist for church members and volunteers to join in the fun. Player Evaluations – 6 – 8 people per session. Coaches – 8 – 10 coaches to help children learn soccer and God's word. Referees – 3 per game day. Concession stand – 2 to work the stand, and 1 to cook hot dogs in the kitchen. Church representatives – 2 per game to pass out devotions to all parents. Spectators – everyone to cheer on the children on game day! Prayer partners – everyone to pray for a safe and successful season.

To serve as an Upward volunteer, please contact Teresa Sexton (call or text 317-716-1282) or call the church office (317-894-8965).

Children's Ministries

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings

Children's Church - Grade 4 and under, after the Children's Moment, Sunday Worship

UPWARD Sports, Soccer - For children in kindergarten (age 5) through Grade 6, weekly practices and Saturday game days

MCUMC Preschool - Age-based classes for children ages 2, 3, 4.

MCUMC Child Care - Christian day care, ages 2 through Pre-K, M-F, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Includes lunch, snacks, and educational programming.



Monty's View By Monty the Church Mouse

Monty is back.

Yes, I am Monty, I am he.

Lately, I have been running up and down the halls for exercise. Perhaps, the next time you are at church, you may want to listen as you are resting in the fellowship hall or in the back of the sanctuary; you might hear me, Monty, running my wind sprints. The other night, for example, there were a lot of mice feet trotting around in different directions, for I was training my new mice recruits who will start their duty soon for the year 2016. I have a lot to teach them.

A few years ago, I sorta saved a church. You see, we were having break-ins at this church, and our sound equipment was stolen. The church board asked me if I could help. [The sound equipment named in this article belonged to another church, and Monty was at work in this other church at this time.] We came up with a plan. I was to hide in the sanctuary and sleep on a big pillow under the organ. Everything was set, and the next night it happened. I heard a noise near the sound equipment. My mouse ears perked up, and my mouse temper began to flare up. Who was messing with my church? I was told not to take any chances, but I couldn't help myself. I saw the two burglars near the piano, so I got an idea. I jumped on the piano and ran up and down the keys. I played "Chopsticks" as loud as I could, and two robbers took off, and I took off after them. I managed to get up in the pant leg of one of the robbers. I ran up his leg, and did he freak out! You should have seen those guys scat. We didn't have any more break-ins after that!

I am happy to report that the new mouse recruits are learning quickly and appear to be a solid group of able-bodied rodents. Training camp hasn't been easy, but all of the hard work is definitely worth the effort!

Until the next time . . .

I am Monty, the church mouse.

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Pat Zarse

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

As we have begun a new year, I seek your prayers for Daytime Ministries – all the children and their families, preschool and childcare staff, and the guiding board.

A special thank you to my church family for your Christmas gift. It means so much to know that you are there praying for us, supporting this ministry of the church, and donating toys and supplies.

A special thank you to members of our Trustees. The color choices for the childcare room have exploded with excitement, not only for the children, but for their families, and the staff. Great appreciation goes to Charlie Crowe for his magnificent paint job. WOW!!! Anyone please ask; I'd love to give you a tour.

Special thanks to Tim Waymire and Herb Hale for all they do for the church. They are my go-to guys. Also to those who have plowed the parking lot, cleaned entrances, and assisted with water leakage problems. You are greatly appreciated! It takes all of us working together.

*Serving HIM,
Pat*

PRESCHOOL

In January Preschool children studied Winter, Science, and Mexico, and also the letters *I, J, K,* and *L.* The children enjoyed playing with snow and icicles in the water tables. We missed only one day of preschool, as Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation was closed.

We have one more week of Mexico in February, and then we will continue with Valentines, Opposites, Day & Night, and also the letters *M, N, O* and *P.* We will party all month – have a Mexican Fiesta, celebrate Valentine's Day and Opposite's Day, and come in our PJ's for Pajama Day. There will be no preschool on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15. Spring Break will be March 14 - 25, paralleling the calendar of Mt. Vernon schools.

Several two and four-year-olds have registered in January, but we still have openings. Please share this information with others.

CHILDCARE

We welcome on Childcare staff a new substitute assistant, Liz Long. She has a son in elementary school and enjoys working with the children. Between the staff's doctor's appointments and illnesses, she has been very busy subbing. Welcome aboard, Liz.

We have several new children in childcare and welcome them and their families. A reminder for everyone – There is no childcare the second week of Spring Break, March 21-25.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Open House and Registration for Fall 2016 will be held Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.. All preschool families will have the opportunity to register the week prior to the Open House. All the classrooms will be open and staff available the evening of the Open House. Registrations will be accepted in the lobby of the Family Life Center. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you.

Shepherding Committee News

By Cindy Kendall

In December, long time and well-loved member Sleepy Fry was remembered with a white carnation on the altar. His sweet, calm personality and servant's heart will be missed by all. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his wife, Cat, and the entire Fry family.

The congregation learned this past month of the passing of our dear sister in Christ, Barbara Robinson. On January 3, a white carnation was placed on the altar in honor of Barbara's life. Please keep Barbara's family in your prayers.

As always, we ask that the congregation keep us posted on circumstances where we can be of help. Please contact Pastor Dave or call Cindy Kendall at 317-326-8193 with your information. Thank you!

*The better we know God, the better we can choose the right path. - Thomas Jones, in The Upper Room
"Thought for the Day." October 12, 2015.*

Spring Break

**Preschool March 14-25
Childcare, March 21-25**

This Little Light of Mine

By Tiffany Kelly

Christmas. To me, it's a dreaded and loved holiday, and I'm usually always glad when it is OVER. Dreaded, because I hate the commercialization that it is now known for and the extreme busyness. Run here, go there, do this, buy that. UGH! 99% of children think it is a holiday to celebrate Santa Claus and get presents. Now, we all like to get presents, and that's OK. The Magi brought presents to Jesus (albeit sometime after Jesus was born). But the scale at which we spend money on things we don't truly need is flabbergasting!

But this is a LOVED holiday for me when I reflect on it. I LOVE that I get to celebrate Jesus' birth every year. LOVED that I get to celebrate God's son who came to save me and all of us! My therapy team at work did something that I have not had the privilege of participating in before, but this year it was my idea. Did it involve spending money and buying presents? Yes. However, we adopted an employee and her family for Christmas. This employee does not work in my department, and she has two young children. It had been a financially and emotionally difficult year. We had someone in the facility get a wish list of things and clothing sizes for her and her two children. We had someone else gather the information because we did not want to know who we were helping. We just wanted to know we were helping someone. We collected over \$500 in my little department. Someone went shopping, and someone else did the wrapping. A few days before Christmas, we had our department pitch-in and had the employee come that day to pick up her gifts. This was the day we learned who we helped. She immediately broke down in tears when she saw that she and her children were going to be able to celebrate Christmas. The gifts we were able to give were the only gifts her children received this year.

We had another co-worker who had some significant medical bills. Again, our department pulled together to give money to this person to help her out in her time of need. Our LOVE for the people that we work with this year has been more than evident and the ideas that have come from this experience have grown.

My husband and I were also able to buy some gifts for the Giving Tree this year. Giving of our time, money, and LOVE were among the best gifts I personally was able to give this year. God has truly blessed me with the people he has surrounded me with. I was able to look past the commercialized holiday and see what this holiday and everyday should really be about . . . giving LOVE outside of yourself, your home, and your church. Impacting lives of others through God's LOVE. (Can you see the theme of the article yet?)

Valentine's Day is coming up. The LOVE holiday. Most people think of this holiday as showing LOVE to your spouse or children. I personally don't need a special holiday for this. I show LOVE to my husband every day. But in writing this article, I'm thinking of how I can show God's LOVE to others outside my home, family, and church on this holiday. How can I make a difference?

Let your light shine and show God's LOVE to others every day, not just on the holiday! Let them know the glory of knowing JESUS and his LOVE!

MISSIONS

By Rose McKinney

Thank you to all who bought and wrapped Christmas gifts for the twenty-five members of five families for Christmas. Those who delivered the presents were greeted with big smiles and some hugs. We got a thank-you note from one of the families. They all appeared to be thankful and grateful for the gifts. You make that happiness possible!

Mt. Comfort UMC will continue to collect groceries for local food pantries and supplies and shoes for Hope House in Greenfield. We support C.O.M.E. (Community Outreach Mission of the Eastside, serving Buck Creek, Sugar Creek and Warren Townships) with our presence on Wednesdays, when the food (and financial assistance, if money is available) is dispensed at Cumberland Baptist Church.

The Missions Committee will continue to serve hot meals to the homeless at Fletcher Place. We have signed up for the following Mondays in 2016: February 29, August 29, September 12, and October 24. If you would like to help with this mission, you can accompany the committee or offer to make cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. for our desserts. It will take most of the afternoon until about 5:30 p.m. to travel to Fletcher Place, prepare the food and serve it, clean up, and return to the church. Contact Rose McKinney if you are interested.

Mt. Comfort UMC will again be a collection center for Operation Christmas Child in 2016. Some people like to buy items for the shoe boxes throughout the year, especially when there are sales. The Christmas shoebox collection will be Sunday, November 13 through Monday, November 21, 2016.

If you have suggestions for additional projects for missions or have any questions or comments, contact Rose McKinney personally or call 317-894-8687.

MCUMC Mission Statement

We are committed to making followers of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Music at Mt. Comfort

By Dave Morton

What are people saying about being a part our music ministry?

Recently members of the Handbell and Chancel Choirs were given index cards, and here is what they wrote.

Chancel Choir

“Choir brings me closer to God. Singing the songs of worship gives me hope and encouragement, every day of the week.” –Rylee

“I enjoy choir because I get to know all the people and the great variety of music we sing.” – Robyn Hendrix

“I have always loved to sing and the opportunity came at church and I embraced it. I love the people and I love our choir.” –Donna Hale

“I love to sing for the Lord! Dwight and Dave make it fun!” –Pat Shreve

“I love singing in the choir, and I love putting all the parts together and hearing the beautiful harmony. We are like a family working together.” –Linda Wynn

“I love the fellowship and inspirational music. There is no pressure – just try as well as you can because Dwight and David will help anyone who asks.” –Anonymous

“I love that we are given CDs with our part predominantly heard of all the music we will be singing, so that it is easy to practice and be prepared.” – Anonymous

“Choir is much more than just singing. We share prayer requests, joys, and our lives with each other. It is what strengthens our connection with God.” – Anonymous

“Look forward to Wednesday evenings and having music back in my life. I love to worship through Music!” – Anonymous

“I love being a part of our loving and caring choir family.” – Anonymous

Handbell Choir

“I have so much fun at practice. I always thought it looked like fun before I joined more than 15 years ago when I took the plunge, and I am still loving it! It is such a great feeling of accomplishment when we play each song.” – Jo Sullivan

“We make beautiful music, of course, but the camaraderie is unsurpassed! We are a family.” – Pat Shreve

“Being a part of the bells is a wonderful thing. There’s nothing like making an instrument sing to God! It is a great feeling to be a part of a wonderful group in the sharing of love, support, and worshipping our heavenly Father.” –Tiffany Kelly

“Bell Choir gives me an opportunity to enjoy church music with fun and interesting people. Our director is very knowledgeable and gets a lot out of the group, and the congregation enjoys the music we play.” –Rose McKinney

“Praising Jesus is a real joy! The people in bells and choir are really fun to be with and our prayer time is very supportive and meaningful for all of us!” –Sharon Hensley

We want you to join us! Or, if you know of anyone who might be a potential ringer or singer for our choirs, please write his or her name on an “Espionage Card,” and hand it to any choir member or leave it at the reception desk. And, remember! All are welcome *at any time* to be a part of our wonderful music groups. We would love to see you at our weekly practices.

Handbell Choir - Wednesday, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. *Children and youth are encouraged to join our handbell choir and will be mentored by an adult handbell choir member during all Wednesday night rehearsals.*

Chancel Choir - Wednesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Praise Team – Sunday from 9 to 9:30 a.m.

I hope to see you there!

Dave Morton, Director of Music Ministries

■ *Card of Thanks*

We want to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity during the Advent and Christmas season. The cards, notes, homemade goodies, and gifts are greatly appreciated. We love each of you and pray that God will bless you abundantly in 2016. Love, Pastor Dave and Myrna



Mt. Comfort UPWARD Soccer

Follow us on Facebook. Download an UPWARD Soccer registration form from our Files tab.

Update on Helping Hand Ministry

Almost every church from time to time finds itself in a situation where someone comes to the church with an emergency or crisis situation. These types of situations are directly from God, and He wants us to deal with them with love and realistic solutions. In the past five years, Mt. Comfort UMC has not had very many of these situations; however, a mother and her two children started actively attending our church. During the next few years, the mother became increasingly ill with surgeries, hospitalizations, and rehabilitation. She also has the added difficulty of being blind. In fact, she has spent no more than two of the last five years in her home with her children; they were essentially on their own.

Several Mt. Comfort UMC folks began to help in the following ways: provided food, clothing, and transportation to church; taught the boy how to drive, helped him go to the prom and stood in for his parents at his graduation. In addition, folks from Mt. Comfort counseled both of the children on a regular basis. The younger child, due to the fact that her brother found a job and moved out, found herself alone in the house with questionable conditions, no food, and no resources.

Those church volunteers who have been directly involved with this situation have recognized the dilemma that the mother finds herself in, as she cannot be eligible to leave rehabilitation for her present home or any other housing unless it is handicapped accessible. As a result, the younger child has been left by herself in the home and will likely need to be placed in foster care. It is the feeling of the volunteers that this is not a suitable option. Until the housing situation is resolved or the court will place the child in a foster home, we are trying to use volunteers to take her to school and to provide housing.

A letter about this situation from one of our volunteers was recently forwarded to us from our pastor's desk to make everyone aware of the needs. In the meantime, be in fervent prayer. If you feel led to provide help with this situation in any way, you may contact Pastor Dave or Bob and/or Norietta Miller.

*You are invited to the January, February, and March
 Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
 Sunday, February 21, for a pitch-in dinner after worship service.*

BIRTHDAYS



FEBRUARY

- 1 Heather Johnson
- Rudy Nylund
- 3 Sandy Abel
- 4 James Yanan
- 6 Betty Alder
- Vivian Hoepfner
- Thelma Marsh
- Drew McClellan
- Karen Stumph
- 11 Tiffany Kelly
- 12 Roger Hudson
- 13 Becky Coffman
- Colton Jones
- 14 Marj Hillsman
- 16 Jason Pope
- 18 Jack Abel
- Tristen Bundy
- 21 Carrie Smith
- 22 Connie Branson

- 27 Janet Kleine
- 28 Pat Fentz
- David Saxon

MARCH

- 1 Anastasia Hendrix
- Darvin Fenter
- 2 Candy Adkins
- 3 Max Sellers
- 5 Larry Fentz
- Maurice Jarrett
- 6 Amanda Ross
- 8 Cindy Kendall
- 10 Sheila Voelkel
- 11 Wayne Hutchens
- Katelyn Phillipp
- 12 Sharon Hensley
- 13 Donna Zering
- 14 Julie Heckman
- Kathleen Petty
- 16 Lori Thompson
- 17 Steve Dant
- 19 Jeffrey Dant
- 20 Justin Piercy
- 23 Barbara Olin
- 24 Julia Settlemyre

- 25 Sharon Adams
- Judy Fenter
- Dave Holloway
- 26 Dylan Piercy
- 27 Connie D'Angelo
- Debbie Denton
- Danny Dunn
- Jimmy Vasquez
- 30 Elaine Poulos
- 31 Maribeth Sellers

ANNIVERSARIES



FEBRUARY

- 10 Jerry & Gerry Henry
- 14 Rick & Kathy Aldrich
- Hoye & Delores Breedlove
- Pat & Shirley Ross

MARCH

- 5 Dennis & Jeri Stang
- Frank & Cheryl Buntun
- 22 William & Ruth Carder

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church
3179 North 600 West
Greenfield, IN 46140

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

January 30	Chicken and Noodle Dinner, 5:30 - 7 p.m. (free will offering)
February 7	Prayer & Healing Service, 6:00 p.m.
February 10	Ash Wednesday service, 6:30 p.m.
February 13	Fruitful Congregations Journey meeting, 9 a.m. - noon
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 21	Birthday/Anniversary celebration, pitch-in dinner. 11:45 a.m.
February 25	UPWARD soccer player evaluations, 5-8 p.m.
February 27	UPWARD soccer player evaluations, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
March 3	UPWARD soccer player evaluations, 5 - 8 p.m.
March 6	Prayer & Healing Service, 6:00 p.m.
March 12	UPWARD soccer registration deadline
March 12	Fruitful Congregations Journey meeting, 9 a.m. - noon
March 8	Preschool Open House, 7 p.m.
March 15	UPWARD soccer practices begin
March 14-25	Pre-School spring break
March 21-25	Childcare spring break
March 20	Palm Sunday
March 24	Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.
March 25	Good Friday (no MCUMC service)
March 27	Easter Sunday service & cantata, <i>O What A Savior</i>
April 3	Prayer & Healing Service, 6:00 p.m.
April 9	UPWARD soccer Saturday game days begin

Visit our website: <http://www.MCMethodist.com>