
MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mount Comfort United Methodist Church (of the Risen Christ)

October/November 2016

Pastor's Corner By Pastor David Galbraith

Dear Church Family,

Here's something to ponder. Why do you pray? For some of us, prayer might be such an ingrained part of our day that it is second nature. For others of us prayer might seem confusing and daunting...how do we find the right words and how do we find the time?

Prayer is an important part of our community of faith. We dedicate time in worship to pray together and through the week we send out prayer chain emails updating folks in the congregation about requests for prayer.

Prayer is such an important part of this community's life and of my own personal life, that I love asking that question and exploring a little deeper: why do we pray?

Sometimes it seems like we pray because we are worried, worried about health, jobs, kids, family and friends, and our world. Often when we encounter difficult news like a scary diagnosis or violence in faraway countries, we feel powerless and unable to do much to help. In those moments perhaps we pray because there is nothing else we can do.

But sometimes we pray because we are thankful for the good things in our lives, we might feel blessed and want to respond to those blessings.

Ultimately I think the most important reason we pray is because prayer helps us know God, hear from God, and express our dependence on

God. Prayer connects us with God and helps us to gain a fresh perspective. And at its very root, prayer is an act that attests to God's presence with us. God is right here with us, and prayer is a way of communicating and reaching out to that Holy Presence with us.

That is why we pray. So take a moment to quiet your mind, and pray.

God bless each one of you,

Pastor Dave



STEP 2 IS ONGOING

Thanks to all of you who took the Fruitful Congregations Journey Step 2 survey on line. MCUMC had 78 responses, and Pastor Dave and your FCJ team members are pleased.

The FCJ consultation weekend has concluded; next steps include three "Town Hall Meetings" at MCUMC to discuss the proposed Ministry Action Plan. This will be followed by a MCUMC Charge Conference, where church members will vote yes/no for adopting the Ministry Action Plan.

Town Hall Meeting Dates

Tuesday, October 4, at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 22, at 5:00 p.m.

Charge Conference Date (vote taken)

Sunday, November 13, at 11:35 a.m.



Missions Moment By Rose McKinney

On Monday, September 12, members of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church prepared and served a hot meal for over 100 people at Fletcher Place. The menu included Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, peaches and cookies. Those serving the people of the Fletcher Place area were Sandy Abel, Rick and Kathy Aldrich, Dave Branson and friend, Roger Hudson, Janet Kleine, Rose McKinney, Barbara Olin, John Stumph, and Jo Sullivan. The diners always appreciate a hot meal, and Swiss steak is a favorite. Our next visit to Fletcher Place is scheduled for Monday, October 24. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rose McKinney or the church office.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is time to begin preparing the shoe boxes for our collection to send out to children throughout the world for Operation Christmas Child. This annual Missions project provides an opportunity for “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Shoeboxes will be distributed at church, along with detailed instructions. Each box is filled with such items as soap and wash cloth, tooth paste and tooth brush, socks, T-shirts, pencils, pens, crayons, paper, paints, small toys, puzzles, books, etc. A book about Jesus will be placed in each box in the language of the recipient. When children receive their Operation Christmas Child box, they also are offered a series of classes with follow-up information and answers to their questions, if they choose to participate

Mt. Comfort Church’s collection is Sunday, November 13. We are a collection site for this area and will collect shoe boxes Monday through Friday, November 14 – 18, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, November 19, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, November 20, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m. There will be a short time to get boxes in on Monday, November 21, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m. We will then take the hundreds of boxes to their next stop before being shipped overseas.

Have fun making your box(es) as you think about the joy you will bring to a child as well as an opportunity to learn about Jesus.



Sharon and Harry Hensley, the most recent recipients of the Mt. Comfort UMC Towel and Basin Award, have given generously of their time and talents to the church.

Towel and Basin Award

Dr. Harry and Sharon Hensley were honored with the Towel and Basin award during worship service in August. The Mount Comfort United Methodist Church Towel and Basin Awards are presented to church members to recognize “a lifetime of Christian service to church and community.”

Harry and Sharon Hensley are long-time members of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. Most recently, Harry served as chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Under his leadership MCUMC adopted its current Safe Sanctuaries plan. Sharon had been involved in the music ministry of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, singing in choir and playing handbells. Dr. Harry Hensley served the area as a medical doctor with an office in the Oaklandon area prior to his retirement.

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church has been blessed to have them as part of its church family.

SonShine Kids – Year Five

Thursday, September 8, marked the start of the 2016-17 SonShine Kids program at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. Enrollment is growing, and the program is off to a good start.

The program meets most Thursdays when school is in session, from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. at the church.

Children are escorted by adults from Mt. Comfort Elementary School to the church. In addition, we have a few children from other schools who have joined the program.

The SonShine Kids program includes a light snack, activity time, a lesson on character development, homework help (if needed), and enrichment sessions that provide a variety of choices, such as art, music, drama, and nature.

Thanks to the congregation for its financial support and for the donations of snacks as well as arts & crafts supplies.

If you can donate an hour or two to help or are willing to be “on call” when our regular volunteers cannot be present, please call Herb Hale at 317-703-0495 or Rick Aldrich at 317-443-6928.

Holiday Bazaar Set for December 3

Guess what’s right around the corner? The fifth Annual Holiday Bazaar set for Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church.

Hopefully, you are making crafts and art to sell and will soon be baking also. Everything is the same as last year – vendors, silent auction, luncheon, and sweet shop. Each year the bazaar gets bigger and better, and this year promises not to disappoint.

Sign-up sheets will be out in the Narthex in November, seeking your help and donations. Please sign up. Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in December! All proceeds go the church, so you will be supporting a good cause with your donations and your participation.

MCUMC MISSION STATEMENT

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THE WORLD.**



Monty’s View By Monty the Church Mouse

Monty, Monty, Monty is back! Let’s all sing it together, for where Monty is, there is fun and joy. Everything that has a beginning also has an ending. And everything that has an ending, we sometimes forget to enjoy the beginning and the middle and the rest of the story.

I remember when I first came to be your church mouse, we were having so much fun watching Homer the cat chasing me under the couch and through the table legs until Homer couldn’t stop and ran into my water pan and got baptized. What a laugh we all had! Oh boy, did we play jokes on some of our church friends!

Yes, whatever we do, it must someday come to an end. Now that should not keep us from enjoying the present as much as we can and learning how to make each incident and each activity a joyful noise to the limit with God. “Make a joyful Noise” to the Lord, for it is a tribute to Him and to you and to me.

-- I am Monty, I AM HE, the church mouse!



Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir, now under the direction of Shawn Gilliland, has returned, singing the anthem, “Majesty” for its first performance with the new director.

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal is set for 6:00 p.m.

The choir will be preparing for the Advent season and will present a Christmas cantata December 18 during worship service.

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Staci Wilson

PRESCHOOL

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Preschool has had a wonderful start to our new school year. The preschool is blessed to have about 76 children in attendance this year. We have spent the first few weeks of school getting to know the children and their families through special projects and pictures. Be sure to come visit the preschool hallways and check out all of the children's artwork.

Preschool has added a couple of new teachers to our staff this year. We welcomed Janet Feeny as our lead teacher for the two-year-old program, as well as a three-year-old class also. We also welcomed Carmen Law as the assistant teacher in our two-year-old classroom. Tina Burke is serving as a three-year-old classroom assistant this year, and she is assisting in childcare.

We are very excited about the school year ahead. Picture day was in September. Fall Break is just around the corner. Our preschool will be closed October 3-14 to observe fall break. We will be teaching the children about safety, fall, colors, and so much more in the coming weeks.

CHILDCARE

What an active area of our building! We have a full schedule of activities going on daily in childcare. There is time for free play, arts and crafts, reading, science learning, and so much more. We have approximately 29 children enrolled in our childcare program currently. We welcomed a new lead teacher this fall, Heather Stewart. Heather is a mother of four active children and has a childcare assistance background. She loves learning and crafts, so she is keeping the kids extra busy with great activities daily.

We are looking forward to the fall season and all of the learning opportunities it will bring.



Fall Vacation

MCUMC Preschool

October 3 – 14

Trustees Update

By Tim Waymire

The Finance Committee and Church Council have approved a refinance of the church mortgage, providing the monthly payment will not increase and the mortgage has a fixed rate, not to exceed 20 years.

The financing has gone through, and three capital improvement projects will be underway shortly.

- Roof replacement for the parsonage
- Parking lot and driveway repair and paving
- New church signage with LED display for the front lawn

Look for these projects to begin very soon!

FCJ Weekend

The Fruitful Congregations Journey weekend included a church workshop on Saturday, September 24. Below, groups work on an activity to identify What is Best, What Must Change, and What MCUMC Will Look Like in 5 Years.

The Rev. Steve Clouse, Director of Church Development for the Indiana Conference, led the workshop, which met from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at MCUMC. Rev. Clouse presented survey results of 12 people who visited MCUMC this summer as "secret shoppers" and provided insight into the changing trends of church attendance as he led the group to reflect on our strengths and concerns.



One Super Charged Conference!

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church has planned something new for this year's annual Charge Conference. All 109 churches in the Central District will meet together for one session on Saturday, November 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Julius C. Trimble, newly appointed bishop, will lead the gathering. Pastors and designated church leaders are required to attend; however, the event is open to any Central District UMC member. All churches are asked to make a sign to identify their group.

The session will be filled with music, worship, praise, and inspirational speakers as well as the annual business items. All who attend are asked to bring "price of admission" donations for local missions. Suggested donations include the following.

- Hats, mittens, socks, blankets, coats (new items)
- Chapstick, underwear, bags of apples (Fletcher Place)
- Coffee, creamer and sugar (Roberts Park Homeless Outreach)
- Winter clothing items (Vida Nueva Ministries and Brightwood Community)
- Art supplies – markers, crayons, construction paper, paints, colored pencils (East

Tenth UM Children and Youth Center Inc.

If you wish to attend, please contact Pastor Dave Galbraith for more information. St. Luke's is located at 100 W. 86th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

<http://www.inumc.org/2016chargeconferences-central>

Laity Day with the Bishop

Julius C. Trimble, the new Bishop of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, will lead Laity Day with the Bishop, Saturday, October 15. A Call to Hope is the theme of this year's leadership event, which will be held at Castleton United Methodist Church, 7101 Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, IN. Speakers and workshops will be featured with a focus on fruitfulness, leadership and relationships. Contact Pastor David Galbraith if you want to attend. Registration deadline is October 2. More information is available on the Conference website.

<http://www.inumc.org/laityday16>

Shepherding Committee

By Cindy Kendall

In August the Shepherding Committee observed the passing of Willa Strane, mother of Pat Grinstead, with a white carnation on the altar. Willa was blessed to live for 93 years! Our condolences go out to Pat and her family.

During September we celebrated the birth of Riley Anne Rush with a red carnation on the altar. Riley was born on September 10 and weighed 8 lbs. 1oz. Riley's parents are Jacob and Bekah Rush. Proud grandparents are Don and Gail Rush. Congratulations to the entire Rush family!

Please remember to share any information where the Shepherding Committee can be of help. Contact Cindy Kendall 317-326-8193 or Pastor Dave.



Worship Committee Notes

Sunday announcements now are projected on the screen prior to service. Please give your announcements to the church office as soon as possible so they can be included.

Special thanks to the men who led our September 18 worship service. The women will serve in worship October 23 and the children on November 20. Sign-up sheets will be announced and will be placed in the narthex.

The choir will present the Christmas Cantata on December 18. The Christmas Eve service is set for December 24 with one service only at 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church will start 2017 with a Hymn Fest on January 29. Be thinking of your favorite hymn.

Special thanks to all who volunteer on Sunday mornings – Greeters, Liturgists, Acolytes, Children's Message, Ushers, Sound Booth, Nursery, Children's Church, Special Music, and Choir.



Announcements

October 1 – Volunteers are needed to assist Dave Branson with a community outreach project to move furniture and to strip and wax the floors at the Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen. Be there at 7 a.m.

October 2 -- A new adult Sunday School Class on Basic Beliefs begins and will be led by Reverend David Parry at MCUMC.

Introducing Shawn Gilliland



Welcome to Shawn Gilliland, Music Ministries Director at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. Shawn, who began his duties in September, introduces himself in the following interview.

What is your background in music?

My background in music includes the following: I started taking piano lessons at the age of six (lasted two years). In fifth grade I started taking trumpet lessons and that continued for four years. At Arlington High School I sang in the choirs and played in the band for four years. I performed in three musicals while at Arlington.

What is your educational background?

I received a BS in vocal music from Ball State University, where I sang in many ensembles while taking private voice lessons. After graduating from College I was involved in many musicals, performing at Indianapolis Civic Theatre, Footlite Musicals, and Christian Theological Seminary. I have also sung in the Indianapolis Opera Company.

What has been your career path?

In 1987-1988 I worked at Paige's Music. I was hired at Morristown Junior-Senior High School for the 1989-1990 school year, teaching choir to both junior high and high school students. In the fall of 1997, I left Morristown to become the choir director at Eastern Hancock Middle School/High School, where I have students in grades K-12. This year marks the start of twenty years there. I have been the choir director at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Christ Presbyterian Church, and Bethel United Methodist Church.

Feel free to add any biographical information you would feel comfortable sharing.

I met my wonderful wife Margie (pronounced Margee) on the stage (Footlite Musicals), and in June of this year we celebrated our 25th anniversary. She has gone with me wherever I have directed. She has a theatre degree from Marian University and enjoys singing and playing hand bells. (We came out of "retirement" in 2014 to perform at the Rick's Theatre summer production of "The Music Man.")

I believe that Mt. Comfort has the ability to grow in many ways. With that growth, I hope to continue building upon the success of the previous choir director. Anyone is welcome to join the choir on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. We have been having a good time, and I have been enjoying working with the choir members.



Christianity and Islam Book Study Announced

Pastor David Galbraith will lead a new book study addressing Islam and Christianity beginning in October. One group will convene Sunday evenings from 4 – 5:30 p.m., with the first meeting set for October 2, which will be get acquainted and a discussion time. A second group will be established and will meet at a mutually agreeable time. In announcing the study, Pastor Dave stated, "If you are as confused about Islam, Muhammad, and the Quran as I am, let me know if you are interested in a study as described below."

Christianity and Islam, so much in common, so far apart by Ronn Kerr delves into a comparison and contrast of the world's two largest religions. The book addresses thirteen topics, including Jesus and Muhammad, Culture and the Role of Women, Violence and Warfare, and The Future of Christianity and Islam. "Written for Christian adults and older youth that have little knowledge of Islam other than what they have seen in the news, this study aims at providing a general understanding of the differences and similarities between these two great religions" (<http://www.kerresources.com/Xnty&Islam.html>).

Next Steps – FCJ Step 2

The Fruitful Congregations Journey weekend concluded Sunday, September 25 during worship service. The visitation team of the Rev. Steve Clouse, Rev. Mark Fenstermacher, Rev. Jill Wright, and Mark Eustler (Coach) conducted interviews and Focus Groups on September 24. Rev. Steve Clouse led a church workshop September 24 and presented the sermon followed by the Consultation Report and Ministry Action Plan on Sunday, September 25.

In his sermon, entitled “Go,” Rev. Clouse challenged Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church to recapture the spirit of “Go,” as illustrated in Acts 15 and 16. He stated, “We have to let the spirit of Jesus define our mission field. Every church and every Christian has a mission field that they are uniquely gifted by God to reach.”

In presenting the Consultation Report, Rev. Clouse enumerated the Strengths and Concerns for Mt. Comfort UMC. The Ministry Action Plan (MAP) outlined five steps for MCUMC to complete over the next two years.

Town Hall meetings will be conducted for review and discussion of the MAP. A yes/no vote will be conducted November 13. Only MCUMC church members who are present may vote on the plan.

October 9, 2016

Please plan to attend a pitch-in dinner and 100th birthday celebration for Irene Beeson after Sunday worship service.

November 20, 2016

Please plan to attend a pitch-in dinner after Sunday worship service to honor those persons with October, November, and December birthdays and anniversaries.

October Birthdays

- 3 Cheryl Buntun
- 4 Jon Yanan
- 5 Becky Gibson
- 6 Justin Pope
- 7 Irene Beeson
Kylie Meredith
- 8 Laurel Hoepfner
Wilson Hoepfner
Linda Neer
Donna Weiler
- 12 Morgan Phillipp
Linda Yates
- 14 Kathy Aldrich
- 16 David Morton
- 19 Brandon Ludlow
- 23 Richard Griffin
- 26 Jay Kleine
Bob Ewing
- 27 Morgan Deno
Debby Dunn
Angie Ludlow
- 28 Dana Voelkel
- 29 Jodi Watkins
- 30 Max Marsh

November Birthdays

- 3 Casie Copeland
Amber Branson Dixon
Tom Seng
- 5 Joe Byers
Carol Seng

November Birthdays

- 6 Bob Miller
- 7 Danny Brown
Dan Johnson
Teresa Sexton
- 8 Myrna Galbraith
- 9 Tina Branson
- 10 Barbara Gioe
- 11 Marcy Green
- 13 Thomas Dickson
Gene Springer
- 14 Seth Lee Rujiraviriyapingo
- 15 Bradley Gibson
Lucas Gibson
Jessica Vadas
- 16 Dave Branson
- 17 Leona True
- 20 Mel Branson
- 22 Michael Adkins
Sherry Hutchens
Darla Gibson
- 24 Mary Springer
- 26 Bill Yates
- 27 Becky Coffman
Larry Hodson
- 28 Gary Johnson
Linda Perry
Craig Sheets
- 29 Mark Piercy
- 30 Megan Benson

October Anniversaries

- 1 Chip & Wendy
(Weatherford) Marks
- 15 Rudy & Janet Nylund
- 16 Jim & Sharon Farmer
- 26 Jarrod & Janet Beeson
- 28 Wayne & Sherry
Hutchens

November Anniversaries

- 1 Mark & Julia Settlemyre
- 19 Maurice & Jane Jarrett
- 20 David & Barbara Gioe
- 21 Scott & Joyce Ellenberger
- 22 John & Karen Stumph
- 23 Mel & Connie Branson
- 25 Austin & Shelbie
Heckman



Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church
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Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Sundays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. – Kingdom Kids
Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study
Thursdays, 10 a.m. - Women's Bible Study

October 1	Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen, floor work, 7 a.m.
October 2	Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 3 – 14	No Preschool, Fall Vacation
October 4	MCUMC Town Hall Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
October 9	100 th Birthday Celebration for Irene, Pitch-In
October 10	MCUMC Town Hall Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
October 15	Laity Day w/ Bishop, Castleton UMC, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
October 22	MCUMC Town Hall Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
November 5	Charge Conference, St. Luke's UMC, 9 a.m. - noon
November 13	MCUMC (voting) Charge Conference, 11:35 a.m.
November 20	Birthday & Anniversary Pitch-in after worship
December 1	Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m.
December 3	Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
December 18	Christmas cantata, worship service
December 24	Christmas Eve service, 7 p.m. (only)

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