

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ

December 2016/January 2017

Pastor's Corner By Pastor David Galbraith

Dear Church Family,

What will happen to our church? That's a good question, but not the correct question. The correct question is what will happen to God's church? You see, if we think of the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ as our church, we will make decisions that are pleasing to us and maybe pleasing to God. If we remember whose church this is, we will ask God to direct our decisions by His will.

What is God's will for this church? I don't know! What I do know is that if we all pray that God's will be done, then God's will, will be done.

We have made a decision to follow the suggestions of the Fruitful Congregation Journey Consultation Team and to adhere to the Ministry Action Plan. There is a lot of work ahead of us and the very first item on the list is that we create a Prayer Team to meet at the church at least once a week.

You will be asked to be an active participant in this time of transition. Yes, there is going to be change. Yes, we won't look like this church in a few years. Yes, we HAVE to do something to become a missional church.

When I use the term "missional church," I'm referring to the Mission of the church. You know what that is, *Making disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* That is the mission. The vision is to describe HOW we will develop and complete the mission.

Please ask God what you can do to help Mount

Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ become the church that God created us to be.

God bless each one of you,

Pastor Dave



STEP 3

OK, we're on our way. The Ministry Action Plan was adopted at the All-Church Conference on November 13, 2016. The vote was 62 Yes, 7 No, and 6 Abstentions.

We, the Fruitful Congregations Journey (FCJ) Team, are asking everyone to pitch in and help develop the future of the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church of the Risen Christ by saying "yes" when asked to be a part of this movement.

We thank you all for your support and efforts.

Blessings,

Your FCJ TEAM

Michael Adkins, Amy Allen,
Sandi Hudson, Roger Hudson,
Tiffany Kelly, Rose McKinney,
Lois Neuman, Tom Nigh,
Kathie Petty, Jan Pope,
Teresa Sexton, Jo Sullivan,
Kenny Thompson, and Jinny Waymire



From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

Thank you, Jesus, for this lovely church building and fantastic congregation.

To the People of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church: Thank you for having my crew and me take care of the church janitorial needs. We are truly blessed.

If anyone sees anything that needs cleaned in either building (Building #1 – sanctuary, pastor's offices, and old Fellowship Hall. Building #2 – Family Life Center, kitchen, and pre-school), please let me know what needs cleaned. Call Dave Branson (317) 626-6226 or contact Tim Waymire, Operations Director, and we will take care of it, if possible. (Two hundred eyeballs are better than two.)

Suggestions: Please shut off class room lights and close doors after use. By shutting doors, if there were ever to be a fire, the fire would be contained to a very small area. In Building #2, preschool and childcare – could you please also shut and lock your classroom doors? Almost every night we have a lot of persons young and old using both buildings.

Have a great Christmas. Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season.

-----Dave Branson – Janitor, Custodian, Trash Man, or Environmental Services
(Our preschool children call me the trash man. Then, I usually get one to twenty hugs from them.)

Help the Handicapped

One of our church missions is collecting used items for temporary or full-time handicapped persons. We collect the items or can pick them up at your home. The items will be cleaned and sanitized and then delivered for free to anyone needing the items.

The most needed items are wheelchairs, shower chairs, and bedrails.

Other needed items include bedside commodes, raised toilet seats, push walkers with wheels and a seat, plain walkers with no wheels, and crutches for children and adults.

If you know of anyone who needs one or two of these items, please call Dave Branson (317)-626-6226 or Rose McKinney (317)-894-8687.



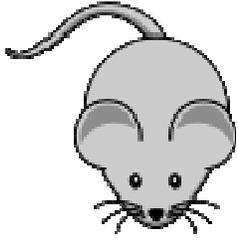
The church driveway and parking lot project has been completed and looks beautiful after resurfacing, sealing, and striping.

Trustees' Corner

By Tim Waymire

The church Trustees have been busy and have completed a number of projects with the help of Dave Branson and his crew.

- The Family Life Center furnace room 212 was repaired, faulty thermostat.
- All furnace filters were replaced.
- The castle was disassembled from the front yard and broken down.
- New LED lights were installed in the sanctuary.
- The driveway and parking lot have been resurfaced, sealed, and striped.
- The kitchen has been cleaned and sanitized – the ceiling, the walls, and all appliances,
- The north side of the church building has been pressure washed, and the block has been painted.
- The area surrounding the dumpster has been painted.
- The gutters were all cleaned.
- The parsonage has a new roof installed.
- The drain line at the entrance to the doorway on the northeast side of the building was removed and replaced with rigid pipe to prevent future flooding.



Monty's View By Monty the Church Mouse

Hello, I am your friendly church mouse, Monty. And you can bet I keep busy keeping with up with the church. Just this summer we had an array of ministries going on for all ages from children to adults.

The new children's ministry called Kingdom Kids is going strong for ages two through sixth grade. I just love seeing those eighteen kids who don't usually get Christian education at that time of day gather here on Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Special kudos to Dale Dickson and Kathie Petty, Neetra DiBartoli, Mary Springer, Debbie Dickson, George and Cindy Winterstein, Jason and Jan Pope, Angie Ludlow, Tim Waymire, Herb and Bodonna Hale, Pat Shreve and many others who helped with this ministry.

Recently, I have heard some talk about adding Outdoor ministries. One of the big issues in getting prepared for outdoor ministries is having an outdoor restroom. We want to be sure we meet the criteria! Plans include children's volleyball, soccer, kickball, and other physical sports and games. For more information on this as to when the activities will be offered, talk to Neetra DiBartoli. We want to be sure to be politically correct in our offerings and not leave anyone out!

I just love Thursdays. That is when the SonShine Kids come to the church for the after-school indoor ministry. This has been going on for the last five years, and it is a great program. I pick a place where no one can see me so I can listen to the music and the lessons. Then during activity time, I have to be sure to pick a safe spot where I won't get run over or hit by a ball.

So, SonShine Kids is an indoor ministry, and Kids' Kingdom provides both indoors and outdoors ministry. This makes it possible for children to have ministry for the church family as well as the community. As you can see, the children's ministries are growing and could use your help. To volunteer, contact the church office.

You know what I would love to see? I'd love more drama, maybe as part of the children's sermons, and some music drama for children and adults in morning worship or at special events.

Exciting things have been happening at worship, lately. First the men, then the women, and then the children led the worship service here recently. I can't wait to see what's next!

I am your nosy, friendly church mouse, Monty.
I am Monty; I am he!

Worship Updates By Pat Zarse

Everyone was invited to bring an ornament for our Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. We decorated the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, during the worship service.

Worship bulletins are now being prepared three weeks ahead. This means announcements need to be submitted as early as possible. Also, announcements for projection on the screen need to be turned into the church office no later than Monday for them to be displayed the following Sunday.

On the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church worship schedule so far is the Christmas Cantata December 18, the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m., and a Hymn Fest Sunday, January 29.

If you would like to be a greeter on Sunday mornings before worship, please contact Jerri Stang. You are needed at the doors by 10:15 a.m., and you will receive a prepared list of instructions to guide you. Thanks for volunteering.

An acolyte training is set for January. Jo Sullivan will lead the training and will announce the date.

Special thanks to all the women who led our worship service October 23, and to the children who led worship on November 20. You are greatly appreciated!!

The next meeting of the Worship Committee is Monday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m.



During Children's Worship Service on November 20, children led the service, served as ushers, and presented special music, "He Has the Whole World in His Hands."

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Staci Wilson

Happy Holidays from your Preschool and Childcare Family!

We have been very busy the last few weeks. The children have enjoyed learning all about fall, their healthy bodies, and making beautiful art projects. The children just finished the week with their Thanksgiving celebrations, and enjoyed their own little feast. The children just finished helping with the Yankee Candle Fundraiser, and it was a huge success. We look forward to having a few fun events in the future with the money we raised! The children also participated in the Coins for Cooper campaign, to support Cooper during his fight with Leukemia; they raised over \$400 for the family this holiday season. Thank you to everyone who helped to support the children through the fundraiser or by sending in your change!

As we begin to look forward to the holiday season, the children are getting excited to learn all about Advent in the coming weeks. They will also continue to learn their letters, and numbers. They will also be working on several crafts, so be sure to stop by the preschool/childcare hallways to see all the work they are making; the children love to share all their creations with you.

The children will also be collecting mittens/gloves, and hats for their giving tree in the weeks to come, so if you would like to donate, please feel free to add your items to the tree. The children in our 3's and 4's classes will be working on their Nativity plays for the last days of school to share with parents.

Preschool will be enjoying Christmas break December 22-January 3, so classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. Our childcare program will enjoy their Christmas break December 26 – January 2, 2017, with childcare reopening on Tuesday, January 3 at 7 a.m. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each one of you from the Children and Staff our Daytime Ministries program.

Christmas Break

Pre-School: December 22- January 3

Return January 4

Childcare: December 26 - January 2

Return January 3

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Mark your calendars for the Church Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you have not yet signed up to donate crafts, baked goods, food items, or to help, it's not too late. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or call Pat at 317-894-7192. Help is needed from everyone. Also, please plan to join us for lunch, which will feature soup, chicken salad croissant, drink, and dessert.

Last year at the Bazaar, we collected boxed and canned foods for our local pantry, and we will be doing a food collection again this year. In addition to that, we will be collecting used shoes for those without through an organization called "Changing Footprints." The donated shoes are used locally and around the world. Clean out your closets, and bring your shoes that don't fit, are out of style, or you just plain don't like anymore. At the entrance to the Family Life Center, you will find a grocery cart for food donations and tubs for donated shoes. Thanks for your generous donations.



Shepherding Committee

By Cindy Kendall

During October, the Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of Warren Hampton, brother of Doug Hampton, with a white carnation on the sanctuary altar. In November, Bill Branson, father of Dave Branson, and brother of Mel Branson, was remembered with a white carnation on the altar with his passing. Our condolences and prayers are with both families.

The birth of Landyn Michael D'Angelo was celebrated with a red rose on the altar on November 20. Landyn is the grandson of Connie D'Angelo. He was welcomed home by his parents, David and Lindsey D'Angelo and big sister, Lexi. Congratulations to the D'Angelo family!

The Shepherding Committee asks for the congregation's help in sharing your info to meet the needs of our church family. Contact Cindy Kendall 317-326-8193 or Pastor Dave. Thank you!



Music at Mount Comfort By Shawn Gilliland

The Chancel Choir of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church will be presenting its annual Christmas Cantata, "The Promise of a King" on Sunday, December 18, during worship service. It is a stirring proclamation of hope for the world by composers Lloyd Larson and Joseph Martin.

On Christmas Eve both the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir will be playing and singing some familiar Christmas selections.

This year's Christmas Eve service is set for 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.



Irene Beeson Celebrates her 100th Birthday

Irene Beeson, long-time member of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church celebrated her 100th birthday with a reception and pitch-in dinner after worship service in November. Mrs. Beeson was a previous recipient of the church's Towel and Basin award for Christian service. (Photo, Tom Seng)

Christian Education By Pat Ringer

Have you felt awe about anything lately? I recently read an article about awe moments and how focusing on something that awes you can be beneficial to your attitude and overall health. I love autumn, and I have had several awe moments lately when I look at the trees in all their colorful splendor. I have seen some beautiful sunsets and even an awe-inspiring sunrise or two. The super moon last weekend really wowed me, and while driving home and looking at the moon in the east I said out loud to myself, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

I've had more awe moments this past week while helping collect Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and witnessing people's generosity to brighten many children's lives by letting them know that people on the other side of the world care about them and, particularly, that God loves them!

God loves each one of us and wants us to know His Son better. We have a number of dedicated Sunday School teachers who serve as God's servants by teaching various studies, and they would love to have you join one of their Sunday School classes. Sunday School meets from 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m., and you can even enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while you learn and enjoy the fellowship of other believers.

We also have several dedicated adults who – because they love children and want those children to know Jesus – faithfully give of their time to lead the children's and youth Sunday School classes. They would be delighted to welcome lots of new children and youth into their classes!

There may well be a number of awe-inspiring moments waiting for you in a Sunday School class at Mt. Comfort UM Church of the Risen Christ! Wouldn't you like to find out for yourself?

Card of Thanks

On behalf of all of my family, I want to thank Mrs. Waymire, Mrs. Stang, and all of the other people who helped out with the funeral dinner for my father, Bill Branson. The dinner was fantastic. Everybody really appreciated it.

Dave Branson

MISSIONS

By Rose McKinney

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The week of November 14-21 was an exciting time for our church as we were visited by many people bringing shoeboxes filled with items for children throughout the world in the Operation Christmas Child program. One young woman came with 150 shoeboxes that she had filled all by herself. For her, it is a year-long activity which she carries out with a great deal of enthusiasm, and she pays the price for shipping each box. A father and daughter came with two boxes as they were on their way for her to compete in the National Bible Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. They were both so excited about the shoeboxes that they plan to return to their church in hopes of getting at least 150 boxes next year. A mother with her two boys brought boxes from their church, and she explained that in their family, when they have a birthday party, the boys ask their guests to bring items for the shoeboxes instead of gifts for themselves. We have a local company located across from the airport that brings several boxes filled by their employees. It is good to see the smiling faces of young children who present the boxes that they have worked to fill. However, one little one cried because he had to give up something in his box; he is learning about giving. One of our youth groups, Club 56, has filled shoeboxes with the items you donated. We collected 108 boxes from MCUMC,

with 24 packed by Club 56, our youth group. We delivered 2,274 boxes from our church relay center, in more than 140 cartons. Big thanks to the gentlemen who helped pack the trailer.

Thank you to those who participated in filling shoeboxes and to those who helped with the collection in the Relay Center at our church and the delivery of all those cartons to the next stop in their journey.

HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Thank you to those who gave food for the Thanksgiving dinners for five area families. Look for the Christmas tree in the foyer with the cards that will have names of individuals in five local families that we will help with their Christmas gifts. Pick a card (or cards); buy the gift suggested on the card; wrap the gift, and attach the card on the outside of the gift and return it to the tree.

The people of our church are so generous, and I appreciate your giving-spirit. Thank you.

FLETCHER PLACE

Your representatives, Sandy Abel, Rick and Kathy Aldrich, David Branson, Roger Hudson, Janet Kleine, Rose McKinney, Barbara Olin, and Pat Ringer, went to Fletcher Place on October 24 and fed over 100 people a hot meal. Look for the dates for Fletcher Place visits coming in 2017.

Below, Rose McKinney, Pat Ringer, Roger Hudson, and Karen Stumph prepare Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for shipment at our church Relay Center.



Mt. Comfort Youth
By Tiffany Kelly
Youth Director

This is a truly exciting time for Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. We are getting ready to start our new youth groups! Club 56 (the 5th and 6th grade youth group) is already off to a fantastic start! There will be a seventh and eighth-grade youth group, and a 9 - 12 grade youth group.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to help our youth grow and develop into future leaders at our church. We will help inspire them, nurture them, and help them make a difference in our church, our community, and our world (Love God, Love Others, Serve the World).

Meetings will be held in November/December to discuss the vision for our youth groups. I would like to have the first official youth event just after the start of the new year. The youth will be choosing their names, colors for the youth rooms, and upcoming events!

Please pray for our youth and our new youth groups!!!

*You are invited to the January, February, and March
 Birthday and Anniversary Celebration
 Sunday, February 19, 2017,
 for a pitch-in dinner after worship service.*

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

- 1 Clover Boyd
- 2 Tiffane Brown
Linda Triarsi
- 4 Janet Nylund
- 5 Tracy Henry
Norietta Miller
- 7 Christina Bundy
Nancy Holder
- 8 Terry Beeson
- 11 Amalia Moss
- 13 Ruth Carder
- 14 Jerry Henry
Madelyn Ludlow
- 16 Tom Hillsman
Blake Johnson
- 18 John Phillip
- 20 Bruce Heckman
- 29 Harry Hensley



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- 1 Elizabeth Hampton
Gregg Henry
Jane Jarrett
- 2 Jack Zering
- 8 Pat Zarse
- 9 David Gioe
- 11 Kenneth Fry
- 13 Ashley Malloy
- 16 Douglas Hampton
- 18 Amy Marie Foddrill
Taylor Gibson
- 22 Maureen Bowery
Nicole Gibson
- 23 Tena (Hampton) Jones
- 26 Nalani Vasquez
George Winterstein
- 29 Matt Thompson
Jacob Yanan

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

- 6 Tom & Jodi Watkins
- 12 Bob & Linda Perry
- 15 Dave & Elaine
Holloway

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

- 15 Bob & Norietta Miller
- 18 Bill & Linda Yates
- 26 John & Maureen
Bowery
- 27 Jerry & Mary Satterly

JANUARY

- 3 Jack & Rose
McKinney
- 7 Austin & Nicole
Gibson
- 12 Steve & Pat Ringer
- 17 John & Libby Bales
- 26 Michael & Candy
Adkins
- 28 Harry & Sharon
Hensley



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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Men's Bible Study, Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. at Bloom Care

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

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| November 29 | Advent begins |
| December 1 | Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m. |
| December 3 | Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| December 18 | Christmas Cantata, 10:30 a.m.
Christmas gifts due (giving tree) |
| December 24 | Candlelight Service – 7 p.m. |
| December 25 | Christmas Sunday |
| January 2 | Childcare returns from Christmas break |
| January 3 | Preschool returns from Christmas break |
| February 19 | Birthday/Anniversary Pitch-In after Sunday worship |

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