

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church

August/September 2017

Pastor's Pondering By Pastor Alex Stone

Have you ever heard someone say something like: "I didn't know what else to do. I tried everything I could think of. I guess I'll have to pray about it." We waste a lot of precious time worrying. We obsess and become anxious about things we have no control over. But, worrying accomplishes absolutely nothing of value. It won't solve our problems, and we'll never recoup the time and energy we've lost. Adversely, when we worry, we weigh ourselves down, which can lead to more serious problems like high blood pressure, insomnia, chest pains, and stress.

In a portion of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes the utter pointlessness of worry and anxiety. He then gives sound reasons for trusting in God. In the verses that follow, Jesus uses the word anxious five times:

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

"And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

"Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all

these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

"Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."
- Matthew 6:26-34 (ESV)

In a nutshell, worry is lack of trust. Prayer, on the other hand, is putting our trust in God to take care of our lives, first, before we let anxiety take over. The energy that we spend worrying can be put to much better use in prayer. God knows what we need, and only God has the power to control the circumstances of our lives. Why not let God take over our worries?

Peace,

Pastor Alex

New Sermon Series!

We're United Methodists . . . but what does that mean? Join me on Sunday mornings beginning July 30 for a six-part series on the founder of a movement within the Church of England that eventually became the United Methodist Church. John Wesley's message of faith continues to speak to 21st Century followers of Jesus. We will be learning about Wesley's life, ministry, and teaching and the impact it had, and continues to have, around the world. [See page 2 for more details.] We're United Methodists . . . and we should be proud of our rich heritage. Join me Sundays at 10:30 a.m. to find out more.

- Pastor Alex





Welcome, Pastor Alex Stone and wife Carla, to Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church!

Sermon Series

Learn what it means to be United Methodists in this new six-part sermon series presented by Pastor Alex Stone. Learn how John Wesley's life and teaching continue to impact the world and how John Wesley's message speaks to us today.

- July 30 John Wesley: Responding to the Times
Revelation 2:1a, 2a, 4-5a
- Aug 6 John Wesley: A Longing for Holiness
1 Peter 1:13-16
- Aug 13 John Wesley: A Crisis of Faith
Romans 4:3-5, 5:1-2a
- Aug 20 John Wesley: The Necessity of Grace
Ephesians 2:8-10
- Aug 27 John Wesley: Works of Mercy
James 2:14-18
- Sept 3 John Wesley: Persevering to the End
Matthew 5:10-12
- Sept 10 Covenant Renewal Service – UMC BOW
Jeremiah 31:31-34



"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

-John Wesley

1703-1791

Founder of the Methodist movement

Meet Pastor Alex and Carla Stone

On July 2, Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church welcomed its new pastor, the Reverend Alex Stone, and his wife Carla. Pastor Alex delivered his first sermon July 9, and on July 23 the church celebrated his appointment with a reception following worship service.

Pastor Alex and Carla Stone both hail from Elkhart, Indiana. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this past February, and they have three children – Hannah Stone, Ryan DeMond, and Chelsea Brunsting – and one grandson, Malcolm Brunsting, who turned four on July 4. Pastor Alex and Carla have three dogs – in order of size – a Chihuahua, and Golden Retriever-mix, and a Great Dane. You might see the Great Dane visiting at church on occasion.

Reverend Alex has pastored in Northwest Indiana, or "The Region," for the last fifteen years, the most recent being at Hammond Woodmar United Methodist Church for eight years. Previously, he led Salem Chapel United Methodist Church in La Port as interim pastor for one year and Hobart Trinity United Methodist Church for six years. Earlier in his ministry, Pastor Alex was appointed to a two-point charge at Markleville United Methodist Church and Mt. Gilead United Methodist Church in Pendleton while working toward finishing his Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary.

Alex was on a personal leave of absence for a number of years during which time he returned to his home church, Elkhart Trinity United Methodist Church, where he taught two Sunday School classes, was the Chair of the Worship Committee, and preached on occasion. Before his leave, he was appointed to Christian Theological Seminary where he served briefly at RoAnn United Methodist Church after three years at a two-point charge as a Youth Pastor at Market Street UMC (now Crosswinds UMC in Logansport) and Clymers UMC.

All said, Pastor Alex comes to Mt. Comfort with over 22 years of ministry experience in the Indiana Conference and former North Indiana Conference. We warmly welcome Pastor Alex and Carla to the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church and community.

Music Notes

By Shawn Gilliland

Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will begin practicing again on Thursday, August 24; Handbells at 6 p.m., and Chancel Choir at 7 p.m. (Please note that THURSDAY night is a switch from Wednesday nights, and Handbell and Choir Practice will be moving to Thursday evenings.)

We would welcome any new members for Handbells and for Chancel Choir. For the Handbell Choir, it would be very beneficial to be able to read music. Limited time? Consider joining us for just the Christmas Cantata. Rehearsals will start by September 28.

Look for the choir to resume being part of worship service in September.



Shepherding News

By Cindy Kendall

On June 18 our beloved brother, Harry Hensley, was remembered with a white carnation on the altar. Harry's memorial service was held June 24, followed with a dinner given by his church family. Harry was a true servant of Christ and will be missed greatly. Our love and prayers go out to Sharon and her family.

Longtime member of Mt. Comfort UMC, Margaret Harris, passed away on July 8. Margaret's life was celebrated on July 9 with a white carnation on the sanctuary altar. Our heartfelt condolences are with the Harris family.

The Shepherding Committee asks for your help concerning the needs of our church family. Please contact Pastor Alex or Cindy Kendall (317-326-8193) with your information.

Thank You!

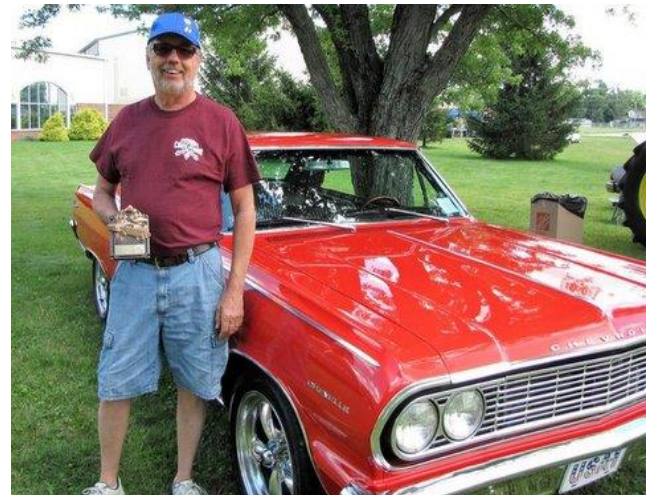
The committee would like to thank the many people who helped make the Hensley Memorial Service dinner possible. Thank you to those who prepared food, worked in the kitchen, put up or took down tables and chairs, or cleaned up afterward. Your efforts were much appreciated.

Rose McKinney, Pat Ringer, and Cindy Kendall
Memorial Service Dinner Committee

Car Show a Success

The first annual Car Show held July 8, 2017, on the front lawn of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church was a success, with 42 vehicles registered. Music was provided by Dave Gioe and Hoyo Breedlove. Concessions of popcorn, hot dogs, and drinks added to the festive atmosphere. Thanks to everyone who worked to make the Car Show a success!

Photos by Dale Dickson – Cars on display, Best Car, and People's Choice award. See more on Facebook, Mt. Comfort UM Church.



Missions

By Rose McKinney

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT MISSION TRIP

Thanks to Dan Johnson for planning the annual mission trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, and to those who made the trip. We put a layer over the outside of the house to give it a smooth surface and then put up vinyl siding, along with some other repairs. Thanks for all your support, prayers, and contributions to Missions. The Mt. Comfort UMC Missions fund pays for all the supplies and materials for the work. The individuals pay for their week's meals and lodging. It is a time of worship, work, and fellowship with one another.



The Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Missions team traveled to the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, June 4-9 and completed a work project for a family in need. (Photo provided by Rose McKinney.)

FLETCHER PLACE

Dates for preparing a meal and feeding the people at Fletcher Place are the following: Monday, August 14; Monday, October 30; and Wednesday, December 6. If you would like to join in this mission project, see Rose McKinney.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE-BOXES) UP-DATE

The deadline for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox donations is Sunday, November 12. Our church regional collection team will be accepting shoebox donations from the area starting Monday, November 13, through Monday, November 20. Hit the sales for school supplies. Remember, we cannot put candy or toothpaste in the boxes, due to some countries that will not accept such items.

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS

Mt. Comfort UMC Missions still is supporting the food pantries of C.O.M.E. and Greenfield with your contributions of food, paper products and personal items, including diapers and feminine hygiene products. Every time I deliver your contributions, the staff is amazed at the amount. They appreciate your generosity. Thanks.



Card of Thanks

Thank-you so much for your many prayers for both Harry and I during Harry's illness. I also appreciate those who prepared and served the good meal following the memorial service.

*Blessings to all of you.
Sharon Hensley*

Preschool/Childcare Updates

By Staci Wilson

Joyful Days

Mt. Comfort UMC has so many exciting things going on in the Preschool/Childcare area this summer! The most exciting news is that we are updating our ministry name to Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare Mt. Comfort UMC. We are so excited to get our new school year started, to meet all of our new families and students, and to continue to enrich and touch the hearts of our children. We are going to be welcoming about 57 students to the program this fall. We still have a few spots left in our 3's and PreK programs, so please let a friend know. We also plan to welcome a few new teachers this fall, and I will introduce them in the next newsletter. Preschool Back-to-School night will be on Sunday, August 13, in the evening. We will open our doors for the 2017-18 school year on Monday morning, August 14, at 9:00 a.m.

Childcare has been enjoying the summer break each and every day. This summer we started Bike Day, where the children bring their own bikes to ride around the parking lot on Mondays and Wednesdays. The kids love this time to ride their own bikes, and many have greatly improved their riding skills. The kids have also enjoyed Water Day on Friday mornings – so many giggles! We have also had Messy Day, Creation Station, many Dress-Up Days, Drive-in Movie Day, and we still have a few more exciting days to come! We have a few full-time childcare spots open for the fall, so please share with your friends and family.

The staff is looking forward to a wonderful, exciting, and Joyful start to the new school year. We would love for you to stop by and see the artwork that will soon begin to fill our hallways. Would you like to share a special skill, time, or ideas with our preschool children this year? Please contact, Staci Wilson at 317-894-6276, or email at staci.mcdirector@gmail.com, to share your ideas and to set up a time to help in our preschool! We love visitors, listening to books, and learning something new. Thank you to everyone who helps support our preschool and childcare ministry program.

Club 56

Club 56 has remained busy, meeting every Sunday afternoon throughout the summer. While the Kingdom Kids program was suspended for the summer, Club 56 has welcomed the younger children and has had a summer full of fun, friendship, and fellowship.

Club 56 started the summer with an afternoon of fun at Skyzone trampoline park. It was fun for all, and even the chaperones "jumped right in." Special thanks to Cindy Winterstein, Dale Dickson, Nitra Bartoli and George Winterstein for chaperoning and proving that it is never too late to act like kids.

Over 4th of July weekend, Club 56 had a picnic at George's house, complete with games and water balloons, before heading off to the Philadelphia United Methodist Church to attend the Armed Forces Appreciation Concert, featuring several of our own Mt. Comfort UMC choir members.

Our next adventure will be a trip to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26. We will have more to tell you on that one in the next newsletter.

And finally, Club 56 has a special surprise for the congregation coming up in a few short weeks. We can't give you any details at this time, but it will be revealed during the Sunday morning service in the next few weeks, so – see you in church, and watch for Club 56!!



Club 56 meets at Mt. Comfort UMC on Sunday afternoons, 4 – 6 p.m. Above, Club 56 members and chaperones pose outside of Philadelphia UMC, where they attended an Armed Forces Appreciation Concert on July 2. (Photo provided by George Winterstein)

From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

God Has a Plan for You

Jesus, thank You for loving me and our church. We are truly blessed. I believe in this quote, "No ministry is worthwhile if it is not creating believers and disciples."

What a great last two months here with Mount Comfort Church – a fantastic spaghetti dinner, an awesome car show – both were well attended and successful – a mission trip to Fletcher Place to feed the less fortunate.

A lot of times only a handful of church members give their time and knowledge (know-how) to the activities of our church outreach to the community around us. The last two months, our congregation from ages 7 to 100 came out of their comfort zones and helped out in the ministries our church put on for unchurched persons and Mount Comfort Church.

I always have a great time and fun doing things for the church or missions. It keeps me from being out in the evil world around us, and helps me from being tempted to sin.

One of the things I get the pleasure of helping with is feeding the people at Fletcher Place with our faithful leader Mrs. Rose McKinney. The people at Fletcher Place are so nice and thankful. Many of them said they love it when Mt. Comfort Church comes, because they get a wholesome and delicious meal. I give people a hug if they want and let them know God loves them and has a plan for them. The Fletcher Place mission had these loving helpers on June 12: Rick and Kathy Aldrich, Roger Hudson, Dan and Patty Johnson, Pat Ringer, John and Karen Stumph, and of course, our leader in missions, Rose McKinney.

A big thank you to everyone who gave the parsonage a facelift before our new Pastor and Carla and doggies arrived.

One last thing before I sign off – the youth group is growing. We have two great leaders, Neetra Debartoli and George Winterstein. The youth are learning the Ten Commandments this summer. Another activity they are doing I cannot tell ya what it is, but a hint, "Pet Rock."

Lord, please keep blessing this church.

Dave Branson (317) 626-6226

Janitor, Trashman, Environmental Services

Trustees Corner

By Tim Waymire

The Trustees have been busy this summer. The parsonage work was completed for Pastor Alex and Carla's July arrival and move-in. Church building repair and maintenance is ongoing. Projects on the list include lighting, exhaust fans, and ceiling tiles. The energy cost savings projects are continuing, and include insulation of the drop ceilings and ventilation ducts. You have probably noticed that the new electronic sign is up and running – let us know what you think.

Thanks to all who have helped the Trustees with these projects.

Below – The new electronic signage for Mt. Comfort UMC is up and running.



Worship Committee

By Pat Zarse

**This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24**

The worship committee met July 10 and welcomed Pastor Alex Stone to Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. Pastor Alex and Carla are happy to be here and are enjoying the parsonage.

Pastor Alex stated that sermons have been planned through September 10, and beginning July 30, the sermon series will be about John Wesley.

Worship Committee also welcomed on board David Gioe, representing our worship praise band. David had not been able to attend in the past because of his job.

The committee is looking for a new sound person and a new wedding/funeral coordinator. If interested, please contact Pat Zarse.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee is Monday, August 14, at 6:00 p.m.



Happy Birthday – Happy Anniversary

Save the Date: August 20, Birthday & Anniversary Celebration Pitch-in, after Worship

August Birthdays	August Birthdays	September Birthdays	
1 Jennifer Benson	25 Gail Malloy	19 Julie Ewing	
2 Sandi Hudson Pastor Alex Stone	26 Jerry Satterly Wanda White	20 Cathy Waymire Chuck Sullivan	
3 Vickie Miller Dennis Stango	27 Austin Heckman	21 Rick Aldrich Bodonna Hale	
4 Ethan Ludlow Don Waymire	28 Linda Fugate Margaret Rujiraviriyapingo	22 Patricia Adkins Bennett Romeril	
5 Dale Dickson Dan Linville	29 Jarrod Beeson Robyn Hendrix Morgan Stricker	24 Frank Buntin Emily Richardson	
6 Layne Dickey Jerri stung	30 Paul Lillyblade William Meredith Amy Waymire	25 Chris Gibson Aiden Grubb Grant Hoepner	
10 Ben Thompson	31 Bonnie Boyd Tyler Heckman	26 Connie Jones Laurie Hansford Matias Marie Rujiraviriyapingo	
11 Joyce Ellenberger		28 Gale DeWitt Pat Grinstead John Stumph	
12 Mike Gibson	September Birthdays	29 Barry Cook	
13 Chris Sexton James Stricker	2 Linda Creed Mary Satterly	30 Tim Boyd Pat Montgomery	
14 Delores Breedlove Mitchell Gibson Kevin Smith	4 Kyle Banayote		August Anniversaries 8 Gene & Mary Springer 12 Dale & Debra Dickson 17 Bruce & Cindy Kendall 25 Norman & Melody Benson 27 Jack & Sandy Abel Harold & Barbara Olin 31 Roger & Sandi Hudson September Anniversaries 7 Ken & Jerri Fry 15 Jack & Donna Zering 18 Matt & Tiffany Kelly 21 Dick & Jackie Gast 23 Kevin & Michelle Sheets 24 Herb & Bodonna Hale 25 Mark & Dottie Copeland
16 Austin Phillippe	7 Nancy Grandstaff		
17 Alison Copeland	8 Steve Ringer		
18 Lyndsey Helling David Murphy Gail Rush	9 Jim Waymire		
21 Lilly Vasquez	10 Pat Bright Brad Estes Drew Malloy		
23 Jordan Kendall Cynthia Winterstein	11 Jamie McClellan		
25 Norman Benson Ron Hoepner	12 Herb Hale Tim Waymire Frank Stricker Deanna Keene		



Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church
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Greenfield, IN 46140

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

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

August 13	Back-to-School Night, Joyful Days MCUMC Preschool 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
August 14	Joyful Days MCUMC Preschool begins this week
August 14	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
August 20	Birthday/Anniversary Celebration, Pitch-in after Worship
August 24	Handbells 6 p.m. and Chancel Choir 7 p.m., practice resumes
October 15	Charge Conference, Mohawk UMC, 6:30 p.m.
October 30	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
October 24	Fletcher Place Meal -- prepare and serve
December 2	Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
December 6	Fletcher Place Meal – prepare and serve

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