

# MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church

December 2017/January 2018

## Pastor's Ponderings By Pastor Alex Stone, MCUMC

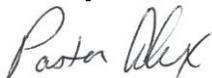
One thing I love about this time of year is the traditions we have in our family. One of them is sitting down to watch the Jimmy Stewart movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*. You may have seen it. It's about this fellow named George Bailey who grows up in a small town and has great dreams and aspirations of seeing the world and making lots of money. (Fingers crossed, attempting to light the cigar lighter in Mr. Gower's drugstore, George cries out, "I wish I had a million dollars." After lighting on the first attempt, "Hot dog!")

But through a series of circumstances that he couldn't control, George never could get out of that little one-horse town. Every time he tried, something happened to keep him there. And to top it off, through a mistake one day it appeared that he would be sent to jail.

He was ready to end it all when an angel (Clarence) came to show him what the world would be like if he'd never been born. George Bailey came to understand that even though he didn't get to achieve his dreams, he did have a wonderful life that impacted many more people than he realized.

I'm convinced there is a little George Bailey in all of us. We want to achieve significance on a huge scale and often forget the small ways that our lives have deeply impacted those around us. Thank God for where He's placed you and the people you've been able to impact. And one day when you meet the Lord, you'll realize you really did have a wonderful life.

Merry Christmas,



## Church Partnership Approved

The Future Task Force, which evolved from the Fruitful Congregation program, presented a proposal to the United Methodist Church Indiana Conference leadership: initiate a Congregation revitalization to consider, but not be limited to, a new name, renewed vision, new core values and organizational structure. In addition, Mt. Comfort UMC would consider extending the use of its building to another United Methodist faith group, which would enable us to better utilize the church facility.

The proposal was approved, and Pastor Alex Stone conducted Town Hall meetings on October 24, 2017, to inform the Mt. Comfort UMC family of a proposal for having MTC (Movie Theater Church) relocate to the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church facility as a separate entity with its own identity. The response of those who attended was positive.

The Church Council then voted and approved unanimously the proposal for Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church to initiate a Congregation revitalization and extend the use of the church facility to partner with Pastor Ethan Maple's MTC (Music Theater Church). A joint committee has been meeting to work out details of the partnership. Representing MCUMC are Pastor Alex Stone, Jack McKinney, Kathie Petty, Tim Waymire, and George Winterstein. December 3 will be the first Sunday for MTC at the Mt. Comfort facility.



## Two Churches Under One Roof

By Pastor Ethan Maple, MTC

Two churches under one roof sounds rather strange; it also probably feels kind of strange. And yet here we are, starting this new partnership together, as Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC, not exactly sure how everything will work out. Undoubtedly there will be bumps along the way as we try to figure out how to live together and, more importantly, do ministry together. In the midst of it all, my prayer is that grace will precede disdain, hope will precede doubt, and excitement will precede fear. I know God has some amazing things in store for us all.

We will continue to learn about one another and, as we do, we'll come to discover the wonderful gifts each congregation can bring to this community (and one another). As that process will take some time, I wanted to let you know the most important thing about our church. We believe that when people experience Jesus, their lives get transformed. And because of that the most important responsibility we have is to help people experience Jesus in their lives in any way possible. Because when people's lives are transformed, so is the community, and the country, and the world. This, my friends, is the power of Jesus Christ.

And we as Christ-Followers should live with this expectation of transformation. In other words, when Jesus is experienced, things should be different, noticeably different. Every time someone comes to church or really encounters any one of us, there is this opportunity to help someone experience Christ in their lives. Never should we allow that opportunity to pass or take for granted the responsibility God has given us. It is humbling to be the carrier of such Good News, the hope of the world.

This Christmas season is an opportunity to renew that hope and excitement of transformation as new people will be coming to our churches. If we are willing to show radical hospitality, reach out beyond our comfort zone, and boldly proclaim the Good News, I can promise you that because of this strange partnership between Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC, lives will be transformed... and maybe, just maybe, so will two churches.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this beautiful facility as we live out God's call to be His church. I look forward to being around the building, meeting new people, and sharing the exciting things God is doing. Since our worship times are the same, it gives us the perfect opportunity to get together before worship for refreshments (you'll always find coffee, donuts, popcorn, and more) in the FLC lobby. Let the transformations begin!

### Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Scripture and Sermon Titles

December 3	Bah! Humbug! Galatians 6:1-10
December 10	The Remembrance of Christmas Past Matthew 4:18-22
December 17	The Life of Christmas Present Luke 2:8-20
December 24	10:30 a.m. – Choir Cantata 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
December 31	The Hope of Christmas Future Matthew 11:28-30
January 7	Gifts for the Christ Child Matthew 2:1-12
January 14	United with the Lord 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
January 21	You Catch 'Em, He'll Clean 'Em Mark 1:14-20
January 28	This Is New Mark 1:21-28



*MCUMC observed All Saints Sunday on November 5. During Honoring the Saints, Pastor Alex read each of the names, and a bell tolled and a candle was lit in remembrance of our church family members and loved ones who passed this year. As the liturgy "For All the Saints" reminds us, we are thankful for their example and their lives of faith and pray "that we like them in holiness may live and die in you" (UMH #711).*



## Trustees Corner By Tim Waymire

The Trustees have been busy completing the church projects. Preparation for the new carpet install included moving church pews and furniture from the sanctuary, and church members pitched in to help (see photo above). The project also included the removal of 1,020 feet of baseboard. The drywall was repaired, primed, and painted to prepare the surface for the new baseboard to be glued to it.

The new carpet and baseboard have been installed in the sanctuary under 48 heavy pews and throughout the hallways. We are still working on finishing touches of the carpet. Carpet is yet to be installed in the cry room and in the hallway leading to the Family Life Center. A new choir director's stand has been built to elevate the director and accommodate the new music stand.

The kitchens exhaust fan motor located up on the roof needed replaced. Repair of light fixtures in the Family Life Center continues.

MTC, Movie Theater Church, is relocating to Mt Comfort UMC. To give them space for their needs, the game room has been relocated to the Fellowship Hall. The Hancock County Children's Choirs materials have been moved to room 104 to give MTC office space.

In preparation for the Christmas Bazaar on December 2, much cleaning and reorganization has taken place to provide all of the needed space for the many vendors.

We are trying to get back to the ceiling and attic insulation project to reduce heating cost. There are still many other projects to be completed.

I cannot give enough THANKS to the people who helped!



## Music Notes By Shawn Gilliland

The Comfort Tones have been rehearsing weekly for Sunday worship, December 17, when the handbells will be playing throughout the entire service. You will hear lots of familiar music. The Chancel Choir will be singing for most of the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Christmas Eve morning when they present *Bethlehem Morning*. This is a beautiful Christmas cantata that has both new and familiar music throughout. Feel free to invite a friend to either or both of these worship services as we prepare for the birthday of Christ.

## DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Staci Wilson

Happy Holidays from all of the Preschool and Childcare children and staff. We hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season. As you can only imagine, it is very exciting in our part of the building. The excitement of the season is growing daily as we begin to decorate and create fun crafts to share. Please be sure to come down and see all the children's artwork!

Well, we have been very busy learning all about Thanksgiving. We talked about what we are thankful for and why. We talked about how we are thankful for all the things God gives to us daily. We talked about healthy foods versus junk foods. The children also enjoyed their Thanksgiving cards from the church. Thank you all so much for showering them with love.

Looking forward to December, the children will be learning all about Advent and the birth of Jesus. The four-year-old classes will be preparing to share the Nativity play with their parents before break. All the students will be working on Christmas crafts and gifts. The children will also be learning Christmas carols to share at the Christmas Program.

We would like to extend an invitation to all of the church family to come and see the children during their dress rehearsal of the Christmas Program. Please join us on Wednesday, December 20, at 10:15 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The program should last about a half-hour. We hope to see you there!

The preschool children will finish December celebrating Christmas in their classrooms and taking a break from December 21 – January 5.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,  
Miss Staci, Director

### Christmas Break

Pre-School: December 21 – January 5

Return January 8

Childcare: December 25 – January 1

Return January 2



## CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

Don't forget to come to the Church Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, December 2, 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. Call Pat Zarse 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.



### Shepherding Committee By Cindy Kendall

The Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of two former members during the months of October and November. On October 15 Wanda White passed away at the age of 93 years old. Wanda had been living the past several years in Summerville, South Carolina. In addition, the church recently received word that Jean Logan Eastes passed away on November 7 in Tennessee. Both ladies were remembered with a white carnation on the sanctuary altar. Our condolences and prayers go out to each of their families.

Please help us by sharing your information of the needs of our church family. Without your valuable info, we are unaware of those who need us most. Contact Pastor Alex or Cindy Kendall (317-326-8193).

#### Help Needed!

The Funeral Dinner Committee is looking for those willing to prepare a dish, volunteer a few hours in the kitchen, or put up and take down chairs and tables for funeral dinners. If you have not already signed up and would like to help, please see Rose McKinney or Cindy Kendall. Thank you!

### United Methodist Church Mission Statement

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

## Club 56

By George Winterstein

Club 56 had a busy and fun fall. Dave Branson's "Memorize the Ten Commandments" challenge was a huge success with all our members, including four-year-old Layne passing the test. The prize was a trip to the firehouse with a tour of the facility and a ride on one of their trucks.

In October we all headed to Fort Harrison for a Friday night hayride through the park. The weather was perfect as the tractor-pulled hay wagon toured the trails. A bonfire followed with hot dogs over the open fire and, of course, s'mores for dessert.

Our biggest event followed the very next evening. What started as a public hayride at the church quickly grew into the Fall Festival. With the combined efforts of The Movie Theater Church, the festival attracted over 300 people and was complete with a hayride, free hotdogs, games for the kids, caramel apples, and a bounce house. We truly were blessed by all the volunteers, the wonderful turnout, the help of the Movie Theater Church and the beautiful weather. (See photo below.) The community event far exceeded even our most optimistic expectations. Plans are already underway for next year's festival.

The members of Club 56 recognized the veterans of our church family with a Veteran's Day tribute during the November 12 church service. Each veteran received a thank you note from the kids and a veteran's prayer bookmark. Decorative cupcakes were available for the congregation after the service. A special thanks goes out to Cindy and Neetra for coordinating the cupcake bake-off on Friday night and to all the kids who helped.

Finally, we packed thirty shoeboxes for the annual Christmas shoebox campaign. Special thanks to Lily Sexton for carrying most of that load. She always steps up to volunteer when needed.

It is with the blessings and support of all of you that Club 56 prospers, and we thank everyone for their support. Please look for and support the Club 56 table at the Christmas Bazaar.

God Bless.



## From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

Our Lord has blessed His church where we attend and worship, here at MCUMC.

We've had an awesome and very productive October and November. This includes walls painted, new carpet installed with new baseboards, great Bible study with Pastor Alex and wife Carla, and a great turnout for the community hayride and Fall Festival. Other activities include a Missions team at Fletcher Place to feed the hungry, Hope House donations, and the Operation Christmas Child collection for Samaritan's Purse.

I believe if Mt. Comfort church has a community function every month, unchurched persons will see God is touching hearts here, and they will come and join us. I know these community events cost a little money, but I believe and have faith that God will provide for these monthly events, if we ask Him.

The next community event is December 2, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the church, the Christmas Bazaar. Don't miss it – 60+ booths, food, silent auction, and an opportunity to pass out flyers about God's churches at Mt. Comfort.

On December 9, the Indianapolis Optimist Club will host breakfast with Santa from 8 – 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center gym. Cost is \$5.00 per person. On December 17, the church youth groups will have a Christmas party from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. It would be nice to have a community New Year's Eve party with games, an open gym, food, fellowship and maybe fireworks at midnight.

Thank you to the persons who let me know there was a spill in the choir loft. Julian Marshall and Herb Hale cleaned chairs and returned them to the choir loft. Tim Waymire made a two-step-up platform for the choir director to stand high for leading the choir during Sunday worship. Sharon Hensley decorated the sanctuary for the Thanksgiving holiday, and it looked beautiful. Thank you to all who came out and made the Fall Festival a great community outreach. Herb Hale is like the Energizer Bunny; he painted a main hallway by himself in two days. (It was funny when he spilled paint on himself.) Thank you, Roger Hudson for moving sofas and prepping the youth room for Christmas Shoebox arrivals.

Dave Branson,

Janitor, Trashman, Environmental Services

P.S. We need three wheel chairs for the handicapped ministry.

## MISSIONS

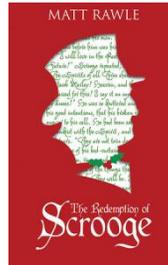
By Rose McKinney

FLOOD HELP – Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church was able to assist UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) help the hurricane victims with two cleaning kit buckets, valued at \$65.00 each, and eleven hygiene kits, valued at \$12.00 each, and cash donations of \$150.00. That is a total of \$412.00, plus the monetary donations sent to UMCOR by others in our church. Thanks to those who helped and to those who continue to help. To learn more about UMCOR or to donate on line, visit the website. <http://www.umcor.org/>

FLETCHER PLACE – On October 30 Mt. Comfort Church served over 100 hot meals to the people in the Fletcher Place neighborhood. Those assisting in this project were Rick and Kathy Aldrich, Janet Kleine, Barbara Olin, Sandy Abel, Dave Branson, Roger Hudson, and Rose McKinney. Our next visit to Fletcher Place to serve meals is Wednesday, December 6.

CHRISTMAS CARDS – The baskets will be out for delivering your Christmas cards to people in our congregation. Save the postage, and donate to a good cause. If you wish to remember Cat Fry, Velma Thomas, and Pat and Jerry Fentz, place the cards in the card box, and your cards will be delivered to them.

SPREADING JOY – Look for the names on the Christmas tree in the church foyer; then pick up a tag, which includes a Christmas gift wish. Purchase the gift, wrap it with the name tag attached, and then place it under the church Christmas tree. By doing so, you will help a family in need.



### Advent Bible Study Wednesdays 3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

November 29  
December 6  
December 13  
December 20

Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark, and sad character? *The Redemption of Scrooge*, from Matt Rawle's The Pop in Culture series, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will "bless us every one" and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.



SHOEBOXES – Thanks to those who packed shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and donated materials for the youth to pack boxes.

Our church collected 119 boxes, 30 of which Club 56 packed. Thank you to those who helped in the packing, sorting, and transporting of the boxes: Roger Hudson, Sandy Abel, Karen and John Stumph, Sharon Hensley, Pat Ringer, Dave Branson, Herb Hale, and Jack McKinney.

We filled 122 cartons with 1,967 shoe boxes. That's a merry Christmas for 1,967 children!

## Reverse Advent Calendar

An Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count the days in anticipation of Christmas Day. Since the date of the first Sunday of Advent varies, falling between November 27 and December 3 inclusive, the Advent calendar typically begins on December 1. Usually, there is a daily scripture reading and a piece of chocolate (or some other goodie) that one receives while counting down the days till Christmas.

A Reverse Advent Calendar is where you add something daily instead of receiving something daily. It works like this: on the Sundays of Advent, you will be given weekly bible verses to be read each day of the month of December. Instead of receiving a piece of chocolate, you are encouraged to place a nonperishable food item, paper products, etc. into a box. As you read your verses and collect items each day, you are encouraged to pray for those who will be receiving your Advent offering. When you come to church on Christmas Eve, you bring in your box. After Christmas morning, the boxes will be loaded up and taken to Hancock Hope House and Community Outreach Ministry Eastside (C.O.M.E.) to help them stock their food pantries. We will be giving you a list of things that the food pantries need most.



*Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church supports local outreach with your contributions of food, paper products, and personal items. C.O.M.E. serves Buck Creek, Sugar Creek, and Warren townships and is supported by ten area churches. Hancock Hope House serves the Greenfield area, and MCUMC collects cleaning and hygiene items to assist its clients.*

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **DECEMBER**

- 1 Clover Boyd
- 2 Tiffane Brown  
Linda Triarsi
- 4 Janet Nylund
- 5 Tracy Henry  
Norietta Miller
- 7 Christina Bundy  
Nancy Holder  
Nash Ziegler
- 8 Terry Beeson
- 11 Amalia Moss
- 12 Hope Bassett
- 13 Ruth Carder
- 14 Jerry Henry  
Madelyn Ludlow
- 16 Tom Hillsman  
Blake Johnson
- 18 John Phillipp
- 20 Bruce Heckman
- 30 Conner Jones
- 31 Sharon Allen

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **JANUARY**

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

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **DECEMBER**

- 15 Dave & Elaine  
Holloway
- 18 Bill & Linda Yates
- 26 John & Maureen  
Bowery

#### **JANUARY**

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



**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., Room 107

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|-------------|--|
| December 2  | Advent begins                                      |
| December 2  | Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.               |
| December 6  | Advent Bible Study, 3 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.             |
| December 7  | Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m., MCUMC          |
| December 6  | Fletcher Place meal, prepare and serve             |
| December 13 | Advent Bible Study, 3 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.             |
| December 17 | MCUMC & MTC Youth Christmas Party                  |
| December 20 | Advent Bible Study, 3 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.             |
| December 20 | Joyful Days Preschool Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m. |
| December 24 | Christmas Cantata, 10:30 a.m.                      |
|             | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 p.m.      |

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