

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church

February/March 2018

Pastor's Corner By Pastor Alex Stone

Our Lenten season begins in the darkness of winter, and by the end of our nearly seven-week journey, the darkness will have given way to the light of spring. This battle between darkness and light is the theme of the Gospel of John. Chapter 1 begins with the Christmas story; John tells us the Word of God became human and entered our world. But immediately John hints at the struggles our Savior will face: "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

All of us struggle with the power of darkness in our lives, the darkness of fear, doubt, dread, and anxiety. We see it in our health problems, financial struggles, and our strained relationships. We see it in the darkness of our own struggles within.

This Lenten season the Holy Spirit calls you to gather with His people on Sunday mornings in worship where He will shine His glorious light into the darkest corners of our hearts and minds as we start our Lenten series, "Covenants." We will be taking a look at some of the different covenants in the Old Testament and their importance in the life of God's people, and we will end with the New Covenant in Jesus and what that means for us as we strive to have more light than darkness in our world.

You are also called to join together as we continue our Wednesday Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark at 6:00 p.m. at the church. The

only book you need for this study is a Bible. If you don't have one, we can get you one!

To start the Lenten season, you are also called to stop in at the church on Ash Wednesday (February 14) at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., or 7 p.m. for the imposition of ashes. There will be no Ash Wednesday evening service, per se, but you are invited to receive ashes and personal prayer and reflection as Lent begins.

Taking advantage of these and other opportunities offered this Lenten season will prayerfully give you the tools you need to dispel the darkness from your life and allow you to walk in God's glorious light.

Wishing you a holy Lent,



Pastor Alex

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Join Pastor Alex Stone for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. We are looking at the Gospel of Mark – focusing on Jesus' teaching so that we, who call ourselves Christian, can become more aware of what that means to Mark.

Why Mark? Mark is the earliest gospel written of the four gospels in the New Testament – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Join us for a deeper look into the message and meaning of the Gospel of Mark!



Mt. Comfort UMC Scripture and Sermon Titles

Pastor Alex Stone begins a new sermon series, Covenants, on February 18, when the Gospel of Mark series concludes. Pastor Alex brings the messages to life with a blend of scripture, personal experiences, and biblical truths to guide our lives.

- February 4 Life Lived on Purpose
Mark 1:29-39
- February 11 Only Jesus
Mark 9:2-9
- February 14 Ash Wednesday
Church open for imposition of ashes
at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m.
- February 18 God's Covenant with All Creation
Genesis 9:8-17
- February 25 God's Covenant with Abraham
Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16
- March 4 God's Covenant with God's People
Exodus 20:1-17
- March 11 Foreshadowing the New Covenant
Numbers 21:4-9
- March 18 Something New Has Happened
Jeremiah 31:31-34
- March 25 Save Now for God's Sake
(Palm Sunday)
Mark 11:1-11



Holiday Bazaar By Pat Zarse

The MCUMC Christmas Bazaar held December 2 was our most successful in many ways. The Bazaar featured 66 vendors, and new rooms and the hallway were needed to accommodate them. A total of 43 local businesses contributed to the Silent Auction. The Sweet Shop sold out on Saturday, and the kitchen sold a few leftovers from the luncheon on Sunday. We heard many positive comments from attendees and the vendors. Financially, this year's Bazaar netted our highest profit, \$6,117.25. Last year was \$4,867.42. These monies were all donated to the church General Fund.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who assisted – our Boy Scout Troop and everyone who helped with set up, greeting, crafts, food donations, cooking, serving, selling, take down, cleaning, and PRAYERS. It takes everyone for this event to be a success.

District Workshop Coming to Mt. Comfort UMC

Don't miss this upcoming Indiana United Methodist Church district workshop and dinner, "Fresh Expressions: A Model for Missional Outreach," set for Sunday, March 11, from 4- 7 p.m. at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church.

Indiana United Methodist lay and clergy are encouraged to attend a special evening with Rev. Barry Sloan and to hear about Fresh Expressions, a model for missional outreach especially designed to reach folk who are unlikely to ever attend our churches.

When: Sunday, March 11, 2018, 4-7:00 p.m.

Where: Mt. Comfort UM Church

Cost: \$10.00 per person (includes dinner)

Registration: Online at the following link.

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/febarrysloan>

Registration deadline: March 4, 2018

Barry Sloan, the featured speaker, is a Methodist pastor from Northern Ireland who is serving as Director of Evangelism for the German United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Gillian, have helped launch a fresh expression of the church called "Inspire" in Chemnitz, Germany.

Rev. Sloan and staff from the Conference's Church Development team will introduce participants to this primarily lay-led form of outreach and discipleship. Those who attend will also hear about a new Fresh Expressions grant from the conference for up to \$1,000. The number of these grants is limited and only churches who have had people attend this or other Fresh Expressions workshops—being offered this year around the state—will be eligible to apply.

For questions, contact Ed Fenstermacher.

ed.fenstermacher@inumc.org



Card of Thanks

My sister, brother, and myself would like to thank my wonderful church family for all your thoughts, prayers, cards, and the lovely memory cross. Thank you all. Jo Sullivan





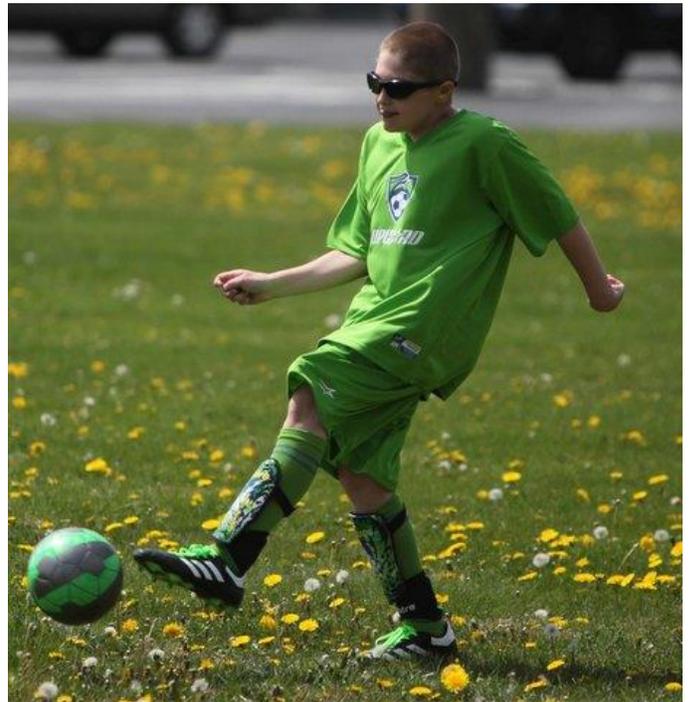
Upward Soccer 2018

The Upward Soccer season is here! Mt. Comfort is currently accepting registrations for children from Kindergarten (age 4/5) through sixth grade. The registration deadline is Friday, March 2. 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 Saturdays: January 20, February 3, and February 17 – any time from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Other important Upward dates include the following. Week of March 5 – practices begin. Saturday game days begin April 7 and run until June 2 (no game Memorial Day weekend). June 3 – Awards Celebration.

Many opportunities exist for church members and volunteers to join in the fun. Player evaluations, coaching, refereeing, concession stand and kitchen help, set-up, and tear down, church member visitors on game days, spectators to cheer on the kids, prayer partners, half-time ministry, helpers to pass out devotions at half-time and lots of shining, happy faces.



*Above, a 2017 Upward Soccer player works the ball on game day on the Mt. Comfort field.
(Photo, courtesy Jason Pope)*

- Register for Upward Soccer 2018 no later than Friday, March 2.
- Practice begins the week of March 5. Come to the first game day, April 7.
- To serve as an Upward volunteer, please contact Teresa Sexton. Call or text 317-716-1282.
- upwardmtcomfort@gmail.com

Club 56

By George Winterstein

The youth of Club 56 completed the year with two special events. The first was the building and designing of their own gingerbread houses. Icing, colored sugar, jimmies and marshmallows filled the youth room while the kids showed off their creative (and very messy) talents. The Christmas season was highlighted with a combined Christmas party with the youth group of MTC, featuring a gift swap (and steal), games and holiday treats. It was fun for all as the two groups had the opportunity to meet for the first time. We look forward to combining for more events in the coming year.

With 2017 behind us, we have begun to form our plans for 2018. Our first special event will be a dinner prepared by the kids for their parents. We will be discussing table manners, etiquette and serving techniques and will demonstrate our new-found skills. Club 56 will be meeting with the members of the MTC youth on February 4 to discuss a youth mission trip. It is a four-day trip to Kentucky to help rehab homes for those in need. The trip is scheduled for June, and you will be hearing more about this as our plans become firm.

Additionally, our plans include a movie night, roller skating, visiting nursing homes, and any other fun and rewarding ideas we can come up with. If you have any ideas where Club 56 can contribute to the church, please let us know. And we are always looking for new members. We meet every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and invite any young people who would like to give us a try.

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

By Staci Wilson

The children have all returned from a wonderful, fun Christmas vacation. They were all very excited to get back in the classroom and begin their learning again. The last few weeks they have been learning all about winter. We were very blessed with lots of real snow, that we were able to bring inside for the kids to enjoy! They will also be making their own, real ice cream in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead to February and March, we will be keeping very busy with learning and parties. February is all about friendship and kindness. The children will talk about caring for others, sharing, and that each of them is special. They will also be celebrating Valentine's Day with classroom parties. March will be a very quick month for us, as we have our Spring Break March 12-23. Everyone will be ready for another break come mid-March, when spring fever sets in.

As always, we invite you to come down and visit our halls. We love sharing all of our artwork with you. We wish everyone a great February and March.

God's Blessings,
Staci Wilson

P.S. I would like to send my sincere appreciation to the congregation for their gift of love. I really appreciate your kindness, and support of the preschool, childcare, and myself. Thank you again.



The banner pictured above decorated MCUMC Fellowship Hall when SonShine Kids celebrated Christmas and presented a Talent Show featuring its students on December 20, prior to winter break.

The after-school ministry resumed January 11, and meets on Thursdays when school is in session, from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m.

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. Thanks to all of the volunteers who make this ministry possible.

Shepherding News

By Cindy Kendall

On December 10 Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church celebrated the arrival of Rick and Kathy Aldrich's great granddaughter with a red carnation on the altar. Marcia Luna Bulgadito was born November 27, 2017, and weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. Congratulations to the entire family!

December also brought the passing of three of our church family's loved ones. Dottie Macy, sister of Jinny Waymire, died December 6. Jinny and Dottie both attended Mt. Comfort Church in their growing up years. Joseph Elikier, father of Jo Sullivan, passed away on December 13. He was blessed with 98 years of life! Roger Hudson's brother, Rick Hudson, died on December 23. Rick was a resident of Riverview, Florida. All were remembered with a white carnation on the sanctuary altar. We extend our sympathy to 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).



The donation baskets were full after the Reverse Advent Calendar event concluded. Mt. Comfort UMC collected many generous donations for local food pantries.

MCUMC supports the C.O.M.E. ministry, which serves Buck Creek, Sugar Creek, and Warren Townships; and also provides support to Hancock Hope House, which serves the Greenfield area. Thanks to all who donated.



The Future Task Force of Mt. Comfort UMC met January 22 to review the Fruitful Congregation Journey (FCJ) Ministry Action Plan. Present at this meeting were Pastor Alex Stone, Roger Hudson, Sandi Hudson, Tom Nigh, Chris Sexton, Kenny Thompson, Tim Waymire, and George Winterstein.

The partnership with MTC has been implemented, and the congregations have found opportunities to work together in community outreach. MTC and Mt. Comfort UMC offer unique worship opportunities with their own identities. It is good to see God's kingdom at work in the Mt. Comfort church facility.

Current topics under consideration by FCJ include communication, vision, and this question: If we were starting a new church what would it look like? Please feel free to share your comments and feedback with members of the committee. The next meeting is February 5 at 6:00 p.m.



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*

At the Worship Committee meeting January 15, we discussed several Mt. Comfort UMC calendar events. February 11 will be the annual Scout Sunday. Saturday, February 24, is the MCUMC Fish Fry from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., followed by Hymn Fest during Worship on Sunday, February 25. February 14 is Ash Wednesday, and while there will be no formal evening service, Pastor Alex will be at the church at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. to administer Imposition of Ashes. Please plan to participate.

The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt is set for March 24 followed by Palm Sunday March 25. The Good Friday service on March 30 at 7 p.m. will include Holy Communion. April 1 is Easter Sunday, with a Sunrise Service (MCUMC/MTC) at 7:15 a.m. followed by a light breakfast, and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

Music Notes **By Shawn Gilliland**

The choir and handbells are back in full swing as the weather kept us out of rehearsals for a small amount of time this January. The handbells are scheduled to play two more services before the summer break. (Remember Summer?)

Starting Sunday, January 28, the congregation can start voting on their favorite hymns. Each Sunday through February 18, vote for your favorite three hymns. Vote for them as #1, #2, and #3. (This will be explained a little more during worship.) We will select the top six, and on Sunday, February 25, sing them in reverse order throughout the service, ending with the congregation's favorite hymn. The choir will also sing a hymn medley that day.

Long range planning – Has it been awhile since you have sung or heard the "Hallelujah" Chorus? On Easter Sunday, April 1, the choir (and anyone who would like to practice and join with us) will sing this at the conclusion of worship that day. We will start practicing in March for this. I am looking forward to having extra bodies in the choir loft for a great finish to our Easter worship.

Stay warm and safe.



Music Ministries Director Shawn Gilliland leads the Mt. Comfort UMC choir during worship. The choir presented its Christmas cantata December 24. On Easter Sunday, the choir will perform Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus; rehearsals begin in March. Choir practices on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Handbells practice on Thursdays at 6 p.m. New members are always welcome.

From the Janitor's Closet By Dave Branson

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, I believe, is truly blessed. You can see Jesus' work through many more people in church. Churches at Mt. Comfort (2) are my hangout at least five to seven days a week. Someone once told me, "What you think and do is what you are." I like to think every day – what does Jesus want me to do today? I ask Jesus through daily prayer, "Lead me in Your will, not mine, and help me distinguish, God, which is your will."

Thank you to the persons who saw things that needed cleaning attention in both church buildings and let me know.

Now, let me mention a few of the many persons doing work in Jesus' name here at church. Dennis Stang on several days with many hours of hard work put new baseboards in the hallways and narthex. Sharon Hensley keeps the altar looking nice for all church services. Jason Pope keeps the parking lot looking good by plowing snow and salting the pavement with his truck. Kenny Thompson and his sons Ben and Matt took down the Christmas tree and wreath in the sanctuary and put them back in the barn. Connie Jones does such a great job on the books and the payroll; she is like the mail person – neither rain, snow, or sleet keeps her away.

The first indoor winter Community Fish Fry is going to be Saturday, February 24, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Please sign up in the narthex/lobby to volunteer. (You know you want to.) This will be another great fundraiser for the church.

The youth challenge the last few months was to memorize the Lord's Prayer. They are doing great on this challenge, which ended Sunday, January 28. The next challenge is to memorize all 66 books of the Bible – not easy, but this youth group can do it. For learning the Lord's Prayer and books of the Bible, the youth get a chance at a huge prize. Sorry, I can't say what the prize is. Only the three youth directors, George, Neetra, and Dale know.

We are looking for two additional wheel chairs for persons needing them in their homes, provided to them at no charge through church ministry. Call 317-626-6226 if you have one or two to donate.

Have a great February and March.

Dave Branson
Church Janitor, Trashman,
Environmental Services

MISSIONS By Rose McKinney

FLETCHER PLACE—The 2018 dates for preparing and serving a meal at Fletcher Place are not yet confirmed. Please stay tuned for more information.

SPREADING JOY—Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church gave 76 Christmas gifts to 23 people, ranging in age from 4 to 62 this year. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Also, thanks to some of the staff at University Loft who provided gifts for some of the families. We appreciate their interest and generosity to those in our community.

SUMMER MISSION PLANS—The Missions team members are still contemplating a summer mission project, but we would like some feedback about what to plan. Under consideration are the following: 1) a trip to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky, 2) a Habitat for Humanity project locally, or 3) other ideas. We are open for suggestions. Please let Rose McKinney know what you think.

DAYTIME MINISTRIES CARDS—Remaining dates for providing greeting cards to the children in our Daytime Ministries Program are as follows: Valentine's Day – Sunday, February 4; Spring Break -- Sunday, March 4; Easter -- Sunday, March 11; and the final one before summer break, Sunday, May 20. Thank you to the volunteers participating in this ministry for being on time and for giving these children this recognition to show we care about them.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Fish Fry Set for February 24

Save the date, and plan to attend the Mt. Comfort UMC Fish Fry, set for Saturday, February 24 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the church. Volunteers are needed for this community event; sign up in the church lobby. How can you help? Donate desserts, do set-up or clean-up, work in the kitchen or work the serving line, be a cashier, or be one of the helpers. Volunteers need to attend a meeting prior to the event – February 21 or 22, at 7 p.m. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Chris Sexton.

Fellowship Dinner after Worship March 11

Save the date, Sunday, March 11 for a Fellowship Dinner after worship service. MTC is hosting the dinner and is inviting the Mt. Comfort UMC congregation to attend as guests. This dinner is a way for MTC to say thank you for the opportunity to move its congregation to the Family Life Center. This will also provide an opportunity for the two congregations to meet and mingle.

Community Easter Egg Hunt March 24

Mark your calendar for the Community Easter Egg Hunt, planned for Saturday, March 24, at Mt. Comfort UMC. Listen for announcements regarding the time of the event and details. If you would like to help, you can donate candy, stuff Easter eggs, and/or work the event.

Easter Sunrise Service & Easter Worship Service April 1

Start Easter Sunday by attending the Sunrise Service at 7:15 a.m. at Mt. Comfort. This will be a joint effort of Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC. A light breakfast will follow. Easter Sunday worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Happy Birthday Happy Anniversary

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 Ron Coffman
Colton Jones
- 14 Marj Hillsman
- 16 Jason Pope
- 18 Jack Abel
Tristin 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 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
- 20 Justin Piercy
- 23 Barbara Olin
- 24 Julia Settlemyre
- 25 Sharon Adams
Judy Fenter
Dave Holloway
- 26 Dylan Piercy
Max Bartel

- 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 Frank & Cheryl Bunten
Dennis & Jeri Stang
- 22 William & Ruth Carder

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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

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

Women's Bible Study – Thursdays, 10 a.m., MCUMC

Pastor's Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6 p.m., MCUMC

February 3 & 17	UPWARD soccer evaluations, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
February 11	Scout Sunday
February 14	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins Imposition of ashes – 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Valentine's Day
February 24	Community Fish Fry, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
March 2	UPWARD soccer registration deadline
March 5	UPWARD soccer practices begin
March 11	Fellowship Dinner after worship (MCUMC/MTC) Church Development event/dinner, 4 – 7 p.m.
March 12-23	Pre-School spring break
March 19-23	Childcare spring break
March 24	Community Easter Egg Hunt
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 30	Good Friday service. 7 p.m.
April 1	Easter Sunday – Sunrise Service (MCUMC/MTC), 7:15 a.m. Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
April 7	UPWARD soccer Saturday game days begin

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