

MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church

April/May 2018

Pastor's Ponderings By Reverend Alex Stone MCUMC

There's a myth that says you've got to clean up your act before you can come to God: "I've got to get it all together. There are a few things I've got to get right in my life first, and then I'll come to God."

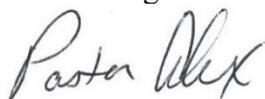
It's like brushing your teeth before going to the dentist to have your teeth cleaned or washing the dishes before you put them in the dishwasher or picking up the house before the maid gets there! Why do we do this?

The truth is, God doesn't expect us to clean up our act before we approach him. The death and Resurrection of Jesus is God's statement on that. Jesus spread out his arms and said, "I love you this much. Now, just come as you are."

In Psalm 57:3, the Bible says, "*He will send down help from heaven to save me because of his love*" (TLB). That's what Jesus did on Easter. And that's why we can bring our messes and failures to God.

There are people you know who think God will never love them because they've made such a mess of their lives. But you know God wants them to come as they are. Help them hear the Good News from Jesus. Invite them to come to church with you. It's such a simple thing to do, but it can make a difference that will last for eternity.

Blessings!



Easter Sunday April 1

A big day is planned for Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church this Easter! Here's what's going on.

- 7:15 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at the outdoor pavilion. Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC will be worshipping together and afterwards sharing a light breakfast together as we await our Easter Worship Service.
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Service in the sanctuary; Holy Communion will be offered, special music presented.

Hope to see you there!

Pentecost Sunday May 20

Ever notice that each season of the Christian Calendar has its own specific color? Advent and Lent are purple, Christmas and Easter are white, and Epiphany and Pentecost are Green. There are other colors mixed throughout the year, but this is the general pattern.

Pentecost Sunday is the only day on the Church Calendar where the color of the day is **RED**. With that in mind, everyone is encouraged to wear red to worship on May 20 as we celebrate the birthday of the church. Find out more by attending worship on Pentecost Sunday when Pastor Alex will be preaching from Acts 2:1-21.

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Dinners with Pastor Alex and Carla

Pastor Alex and his wife, Carla, are inviting dinner groupings of 6-8 people for an evening of fun, fellowship, and food . . . vegan/vegetarian food. Pastor Alex and Carla have been very open about eating an all plant-based diet, which has led to comments and questions such as: “You eat chicken and fish, though, right?!”; “Where do you get your protein from?”; and “You mean you only eat salad and fruit?” Pastor Alex said he and Carla are offering these dinners to help you understand a little more about them and their lifestyle – why they chose vegan/vegetarian diet, what they eat, and other questions you may have. Be sure to check the Narthex for a sign-up sheet or call the church office so we can know how many dinners to host.

Music News

By Shawn Gilliland

Many rehearsals have been going on in both the handbells and the chancel choir. The handbells are scheduled one more time before the summer break and will perform April 29. The chancel choir is very busy with Holy Week. On Palm Sunday a brass quintet played before and during the worship service. At the Good Friday service, the chancel choir will present two wonderful selections – one specifically for communion and another dealing with the death of Jesus. On Easter Sunday the choir will have a special anthem and will end the service with the singing of the “Hallelujah” Chorus. Please plan to attend these special services.

Scripture and Sermon Titles

MCUMC

Pastor Alex Stone begins a new sermon series on Easter Sunday. The series will focus on Jesus’ Resurrection, the aftermath, and how this applies to us today. On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, be sure to wear red as we celebrate the birthday of the church.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 1 | He Is Risen! (Easter),
Matthew 28:1-10 |
| April 8 | Guest Speaker, Bruce Kendall |
| April 15 | Responding to the Resurrection:
Fear, Luke 24:28-35 |
| April 22 | Responding to the Resurrection:
Unbelief, Mark 16:8-13 |
| April 29 | Responding to the Resurrection:
Belief, John 20:19-29 |
| May 6 | Responding to the Resurrection:
Go! Mathew 28:16-20 |
| May 13 | Jesus Ascends to Heaven
(Mother’s Day), Acts 1:11 |
| May 20 | The Birth of the Church
(Pentecost Sunday – wear
RED), Acts 2:1-21 |
| May 27 | Born from Above, John 3:1-17 |



Gathering Music

Each Sunday before worship service begins, David Gioe and the Smooth Stones lead the congregation in praise and worship songs. On occasion, Pastor Alex will accompany the group on electric guitar. Pictured here, (left to right) David Gioe, Pastor Alex Stone, Gail Rush, Pat Shreve, Bodonna Hale, and Dale Dickson provide the music. Thanks go to David and his group for inspiring us each Sunday through music.

Introducing Debbie Hice

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church recently hired Debbie Hice to fill the opening of bookkeeper, after the retirement of Connie Jones. Learn a little about Debbie from the interview questions below, and be sure to introduce yourself to her if you cross paths at church.

You have a close connection with some of the MCUMC members. Tell us about that.

My mom and step-dad, Lois and Sam Neuerman, and my brother and sister in law, Scott and Joyce Ellenberger, have all been members for a long time. Also, Pastor Dave “married” my husband and me in the Cancer Unit at Hancock Hospital so Sam could walk me down the aisle. It was a wonderful moment for all of us!

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born and raised in Indiana. In fact, Jack McKinney was my principal in elementary school, but that was a few moons ago! I moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1985 and recently moved back to be near family and enjoy small town living again. My husband and I have five adult children and six grandkids that we go see as often as we can. I love gardening, especially flowers.

Why did you want to become the MCUMC bookkeeper?

I have many years of accounting experience, so this seemed like a great fit for me. I am happy to be working here and look forward to the opportunity. Also, since my mom lives with us, this part-time job has enabled me to be at home with her and my husband. It is close to home, and I wanted to give Jack McKinney another chance to be in charge of me (ha-ha).

Is there anything you would like to add?

I have a little dog named Lilly who seems to have taken a liking to Pat Nigh. My husband I and enjoy motorcycle riding on his Harley.

CORE VALUES UM Churches of Indiana

Missional - We seek to reach the mission field globally.

Accountable - We strive for fruitfulness.

Called - We are all called.

Connectional - We are stronger than one.
(inumc.org)



Debbie Hice, newly hired bookkeeper for Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, is all smiles holding one of her grandchildren.

Missions By Rose McKinney

Fletcher Place — Sandy Abel, Rick and Cathy Aldrich, Herb Hale, Roger Hudson, Janet Kleine, Rose McKinney, and John Stumph represented our church on March 7 as about 70 people were provided with a hot meal on a cold day. Future dates to provide meals at Fletcher Place are Wednesday, May 2; Wednesday, September 5; and Wednesday, October 31.

Daytime Ministries Cards—Thank you to all who have given cards to the children of Daytime Ministries for the special days throughout the school year. The last one, to wish them a good summer, is due May 6. (NEW DUE DATE)

Making Disciples—If you have participated in the shoebox ministry of Operation Christmas Child, you are part of a huge program to “make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” There were 11 million shoeboxes sent to 114 countries and territories. The book with the story of Jesus, *The Greatest Journey*, is printed in 75 languages, and 1.9 million students made decisions for Christ in 2017, and 2.7 million children graduated from *The Greatest Journey* in 2017. Thank you for your part in this worldwide ministry.

Daytime Ministries

By Staci Wilson

Wow, we have had a very busy winter and have just wrapped up Spring Break. The Preschool enjoyed a great two-week break, and when everyone returned, it was time for the children to celebrate Easter. Thank you for all of the Easter cards; the children and parents love receiving these cards!

Looking ahead to April and May . . . we will be preparing for our final weeks of school. In April, we will be hosting our Preschool Open house on April 11 from 6 – 8:00 p.m., and we are looking forward to meeting and registering several new kids for fall Preschool. In April, we will also be learning about bike safety and fire safety. The week of April 30 – May 4, the children will be participating in a special program, the St. Jude Trike-A-Thon. The children will learn about bike safety and will be raising money to donate to St. Jude Children’s Hospital. If you would like to donate to this wonderful cause, please look for a donation box in the church entry way around the time of our Trike-A-Thon.

May will also be an action-packed month, as we will be learning about butterflies and watching them grow from chrysalis to beautiful butterflies. We will also celebrate Mother’s Day. The children will be preparing for their end-of-year celebration program to be held on Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The children will then celebrate the end of the school year with their class picnics on May 17 and 18, our last days of Preschool for the 2018-19 school year.

The children, parents, and staff would like to thank each of you for your love and support of our ministry. We thank you for the cards, help, and support. As always, we would love for you to come and visit our hallways to see all of our creative artwork. We hope everyone has a wonderful spring season.

God’s blessings,
Staci Wilson

SonShine Kids

When “Snakehead Ed” Ferrer (pictured far right) presented “Snakes Alive & More” at SonShine Kids on March 7, the children lined up to see Melvin, the Albino Burmese Python. Ed also showed Vincent, the Boa Constrictor, and Tigger, the Reticulated Python, and taught the children about snake features and behaviors. (Check out Ed’s website at snakeheaded.net.)

SonShine Kids, an outreach of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church, marked the start of its sixth year last September. The program meets most Thursdays from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. at the church when school is in session.

The program includes a light snack, devotions, homework help (if needed), and enrichment sessions in nature, art, and drama.

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



Upward Soccer

Upward Soccer is a Christian sports ministry serving children from kindergarten through sixth grade. Upward Soccer kicks off the season with its first game day April 7 at 11:00 a.m. The season will run for eight weeks and conclude June 3 with the end-of-season celebration. We encourage you to attend a game this season to greet the families and players. This ministry is so blessed by all of your prayers, donations, and time as volunteers. Let's continue to show the children of Upward God's love through MCUMC. You will be blessed, as you will not only be sharing God's gift of love but receiving it as well.

Proverbs 11:25: The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

To serve as an Upward volunteer, please call or text Teresa Sexton (317-716-1282) or email upwardmtcomfort@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook -- Mt. Comfort UPWARD Soccer.



Fresh Expressions

MCUMC and MTC hosted a Fresh Expressions workshop on February 11. The Reverend Barry Sloan (pictured above), Director of Evangelism for the German UMC and a native of Northern Ireland, shared how he helped launch INSPIRE in Chemnitz, Germany.

Rev. Sloan encouraged everyone to think of places and networks outside the church building that could evolve into FX, ministries to reach, help, and disciple people with no interest in institutional church or in attending a church. Examples included sports leagues, nursing homes, trailer parks, dog walkers, etc.. Sloan explained, "We reach out because we are Christians."

From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

We at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church are fortunate to have so many outstanding volunteers in and out of the church building.

The first annual indoor winter Fish Fry was a great success. I talked to a few other places that have had Fish Fry's throughout the years. One person said, "Next year there will be three times as many persons eating at the Fish Fry. People will start seeing Fish Fry every February and will be watching for it."

A big salute to Mr. and Mrs. Sexton for great planning for the Fish Fry. We had more than half the church congregation turn out to volunteer. A big thank you to Julian Marshall for volunteering until around midnight after the Fish Fry, detail cleaning Building #2 for church services the next day.

SonShine Kids is a great outreach to the children of Mt. Comfort Elementary School. Herb Hale leads this group of fantastic volunteers on Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. He puts in a lot of hours with many adult volunteers each week. Hats off to all. May Jesus bless you all.

The youth directors of Club 56 on Sundays from 4 – 6:00 p.m. care very much that the seed of God is taught to these youngsters. Dale, Neetra, and George just finished having the youth learn the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Alex came to Club 56 on January 28 and explained the Lord's Prayer. Both the youth and the adults had many questions for Pastor Alex. I believe they came away with a better discernment of the Lord's Prayer.

I need one more wheel chair for the handicapped or temporarily handicapped church ministry. If you have one you would like to donate, I will be happy to pick it up at your house.

If anyone sees anything that needs cleaning or light maintenance, let me know so we can try to correct it. God loves you all. Have a joyful Easter.

Dave Branson
Church Janitor, Trashman, Custodian,
& Environmental Services
317-626-6226

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

Worship Committee's February meeting covered the special Sundays in February and all the services and activities with Lent. At the March meeting, again, Lenten services were discussed. Palm Sunday March 25, Good Friday service and Communion at 7:00 p.m. on March 30, Easter Sunrise service with MTC at 7:15 a.m. at the picnic shelter, and Easter Service and Communion at 10:30 a.m. on April 1.

Several new and exciting things will be happening in April. One is ALL announcements will be read by the liturgist. This will help with time and has been done in the past. The Worship Committee voted to re-instate this process effective April 15. All announcements should be turned into the church office by 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday or left as a voice mail on the answering machine. Thursday the secretary will type the list and email it to the liturgist. It will be up to the Pastor's discretion to determine whether announcements turned in to him between Thursday and Sunday will be read by the liturgist.

Here are May's special Sundays. May 6 – Communion Sunday. May 13 – Mother's Day. The choir's last Sunday is May 20, and Memorial Day is May 28.

The Worship Committee's next meeting will be one week later than usual and is scheduled for April 16 at 6:00 p.m.

INVITE SOMEONE TO WORSHIP!!!



Best Wishes

Best wishes to Connie Jones in her retirement as bookkeeper for Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. Connie served the church and Daytime Ministries faithfully for many years. We wish her much happiness, good health, and relaxation as she ventures into the wonderful world of retirement. Thanks to Connie for her many years of service.

Shepherding Committee

By Cindy Kendall

In the month of February, the Shepherding Committee recognized the passing of several members' relatives.

Robert Schutt, the husband of Carole Schutt, died on January 28. On February 11, Margaret Coffee, sister of Elizabeth Hampton, was remembered. Myrna Galbraith's father, Denver Jones, died at the age of 94. Denver passed on February 12. Each life was celebrated with a white carnation on the altar.

Church member Michelle Sheets passed away suddenly on February 22. Michelle will be remembered for her vivacious personality and will be terribly missed by friends and family. She is survived by her husband, Kevin, and sons, Jarred and Craig.

Mt. Comfort's prayers and sympathy are with all those who've lost loved ones recently.

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 info! Thank you.

Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. Isaiah 49:13 [NIV]

Trustees' Corner

By Tim Waymire

During the MTC work day on March 10, volunteers repaired all of the lights and cleaned the all-return vents in the Family Life Center building. Thank you to all who participated.

Door locks have been repaired, and furnace filters have been changed. Ceramic tile is being installed on the floor at the entrances of restrooms, water fountains, and all door entries to complement the new carpet that is been installed in the building.

Spring cleaning is coming soon. We will be able to do exterior work, like cleaning the garage and taking care of the church grounds. Look for announcements, and please plan to help.

Fish Fry Report

By Chris Sexton

On February 24 we sold 100 pounds of fish and over two-hundred desserts on a rainy Saturday afternoon at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church. The premise for having the Fry in February was because no one else is doing one at this time of the year, and it would stand out against what is typically considered a "summer" event. The plan is to have the Fish Fry on the last Saturday in February, just as we schedule the Car Show for the Saturday after Independence Day. I could not have asked anything more of the volunteers and am very grateful for all the hard work put in by everyone and especially those who pulled double shifts in order to make this event a success.

We had great fellowship, and the event brought together folks who normally do not have much interaction with each other outside of seeing each other at worship service. In our wrap-up meeting, committee members shared many comments on the absolutely fantastic tasting baked beans and high quality of the fish as well as ideas for better promotion of the event and notes on some areas of improvement as well. The Fish Fry was not only a fundraising vehicle for the church but was also a way to engage the community. I also appreciate the volunteers and logistical support provided by MTC, which helped in the smooth running of the event. If anyone has any ideas or comments for next year's event, please let me know.

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

BIRTHDAYS



APRIL

- 2 Margaret Harris
- 3 Kenny Thompson
- 4 William Carder
- 9 Megan Stricker
- 12 Austin McClellan
- 14 John Bales
Lisa Gerlach
- 15 Geth Linville
- 18 Hudson Grey
Phillipp
Everett Zarse
- 20 Marty Haymaker
- 24 Heather Meredith
- 27 John Bundy
- 28 Dorthea Smith
- 30 Melody Benson
Hanna Jones
Don Rush
Michael Winterstein

MAY

- 1 John Forcum
Rose McKinney

MAY

- 2 J.W. Bright
- 4 Wade Sellers
- 6 Jerry Fentz
Harold Olin
- 7 Katie Averitt
Tom Nigh
- 11 Hoye Breedlove
- 14 Edward Meek
- 16 Meredith Johnson
- 18 Trinity Bundy
- 21 Pat Ringer
- 22 Jim Farmer
Mark Settlemyre
- 23 Janis Eastes
- 24 Alex Dibartoli
Mike Jones
- 27 Mary Catherine Fry
- 28 Frank Denton
Wendy Weatherford-
Marks
- 29 Caroline Gibson
Carson Gibson
Carol Lillyblade
Nathan Miller
Pat Shreve
Lloyd True
- 30 Bruce Kendall

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

- 4 Drew & Jamie
McClellan
- 12 Doug & Liz Hampton
- 16 Lloyd & Leona True
Dana & Sheila
Voelkel
- 18 Dan & Patty Johnson

MAY

- 8 Ron & Becky
Coffman
Richard & Carrie
Griffin
Kenny & Lori
Thompson
- 9 Larry & Carol
Simmerman
- 13 Daniel & Tiffane
Brown
- 15 Chris & Teresa
Sexton
- 25 Tim & Cathy
Waymire
- 27 John & Christine
Forcum
- 28 Pat & Jerry Fentz

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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Prayer Team, 10:30 a.m., Mondays, MCUMC
Men's Bible Study - 7:30 a.m., Wednesdays, at Bloom Care
Bible Study with Pastor Alex – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., MCUMC
Women's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m., Thursdays, MCUMC

March 30	Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
March 31	Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00 p.m.
April 1	Easter morning, 7:15 Sunrise Service, 8:00 Breakfast, 10:30 worship
April 7	Upward Soccer, first game day, 11:00 a.m.
April 11	Preschool Open House, 7:00 p.m.
May 2	Fletcher Place mission ministry, prepare & serve meal
May 13	Mother's Day
May 16	Preschool Program, 7:00 p.m.
May 28	Memorial Day
June 3	Upward Soccer end-of-season celebration
June 7-9	Annual Conference, Indiana United Methodist Church
June 11-12	Vacation Bible School. MCUMC & MTC, 6:15 – 8:30 p.m.
July 7	Car Show, MCUMC
September 5	Fletcher Place mission ministry, prepare & serve meal
October 31	Fletcher Place mission ministry, prepare & serve meal

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