

# MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mount Comfort United Methodist Church

October/November 2018

## Pastor's Corner Rev. Dr. John D. Abbott, Jr.

### Isaiah 29:13-14

*New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

<sup>13</sup> The Lord said: Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;

<sup>14</sup> so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing. The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

The prophet Isaiah is telling the people, and by extension telling us, what God sees in us who claim to worship Him.

1. We talk a good game, but since God sees our hearts, He knows that we are far away from Him.
2. Through the prophet, God is telling us that our worship is learned activity taught to us by men, learned by doing it over and over, and thus it is not a thing of the heart.
3. God is going to try again to remind us of the amazing things he had done for His people, and by extension for us. He is going to show us shocking and amazing things.
4. Those people who think that they are so wise in the ways of the Lord will perish, and what they thought they understood will be hidden.

So, the message to us, at Mount Comfort UMC, is rather simple: Worship God in truth and love. Everything we do should bring honor to God and not reproach. So, as we develop our daily worship

practices, start simple and grow in your ability to worship Him.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Daily Bible reading may include the use of a devotional.
2. Daily prayer to include prayers for family, friends, coworkers, government leaders (whether you support them or not), Pastor, staff, Sunday School teachers, etc. Remember to give God thanks for your meals no matter where you are.
3. Allow Christian music to brighten your day to and from work.
4. Do your job to the absolute best of your ability.
5. Be an encourager to others.

Remember that worshiping God is not just giving lip service, but it is from your heart.

*Pastor John*

## Upcoming Sermons

Join us for worship service, where you will be sure to hear a compelling sermon from Rev. Dr. John D. Abbott, Jr. His inimitable style of scripture lesson, personal experience, life application, and call to repentance will inspire you to be a better Christian.

- October 7 (Communion Sunday): We are Worshipers by Nature
- October 14: Casual Christianity
- October 21: Absorbed in the Miracle; Neglecting the Miracle Worker
- October 28: Doing Wrong to Do Right Is Wrong. Right?

(Continued page 2)



## Meet Our New Accompanist

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church welcomes a new accompanist, Janelda Barnett, whose joined the music ministry team September 30. Learn a little bit about her below, and be sure to say hi and give her a warm welcome to our church.

**What is your background in music?** I began playing piano at about the age of three because my father used to give piano lessons (even though he was actually a violinist), and I would sit on his lap while he taught. So, I guess you could say I learned to read music before I learned to read words. I played clarinet in school, and I started taking voice lessons when I was a teenager. I started playing piano for church when I was 12 years old, and sometimes would slip over to the organ.

**What is your educational background?** I got my bachelor's degree from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. My B.A. was actually in three areas: Biblical studies, music, and business administration. I got my master's degree (Master of Music Education in Choral Conducting) and teaching certification from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas.

**What has been your career path?** As to career, I actually started out as a secretary, then an insurance agent (life and health). In the 1980's I became a minister and have pastored several churches. I have taught music in public and private schools for seven years and at North Central University in Minneapolis. At present, I own a business, Janelda's Music, in which I give music lessons to people of all ages and all levels and hold sing-a-longs for residents of nursing homes. I also serve as a nursing home chaplain at Bickford Senior Assisted Living in Greenwood.

**Feel free to add any biographical information you would feel comfortable sharing.** I have four grown children: Rachel (married to Joseph, with three children), David (married to Sara, with two children), Timothy, and Alletha. Rachel is a physician practicing in Bloomington, Indiana; David is a software manager for Google in San Jose, California (in the Googleplex); Timothy is a professional violinist here in Indianapolis; and Alletha is a science and music teacher at an international school in Tokyo, Japan. I also have five wonderful grandchildren - three girls and two boys, ranging in age from 10 years-old to 10 months – that I absolutely adore!



*Janelda Barnett, music accompanist, joined the MCUMC ministry team September 30.*

### Upcoming Sermons (continued)

- November 4 (Communion Sunday): Thanksgiving Inventory
- November 11: He Received Grace
- November 18: Thanksgiving Daily
- November 25: Singing & Making Melody to the Lord

### Upcoming Activities

- Wed. Oct. Bible Study w/ Pastor John – 6:30 p.m. Bring study Bibles and pen or pencil.
- Fall Family Festival, Oct. 20, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Free food, fun, games, hayride, bounce house, and more!)
- Harvest Dinner, October 28 at 5:30 p.m. – Pitch-in, MTC and MCUMC
- Give Thanks Bible Study – First three weeks of November – details to be announced.
- Charge Conference, Nov. 11 at 3:00 p.m., MCUMC/MTC
- Advent Message Series – The 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Gift Guide – Some Presents Just Can't Be Wrapped.
- Advent Bible Study – Details to be announced
- Holiday Bazaar, December 1

### Card of Thanks

To My Mt. Comfort UMC Family,

Thank you for all the cards, thoughts, prayers, and support during my recent surgery and continued recovery. Still waiting for doctors to release me to return to ministry. I hope to see you all soon! Blessings!

*Pastor Alex*

*In a recent SonShine Kids' nature outing, a child captured a beautiful Buckeye butterfly, which was later released unharmed.*



## **From the Janitor's Closet**

**By Dave Branson**

Hello, brothers and sisters in Christ. The past two months have been great at Mount Comfort United Methodist Church.

Our congregation is so loving to others using our church building. Many outside users of the church are taking very good care of the two buildings. They let me or the church office if they see a maintenance or cleaning problem that needs to be addressed. Thank you to the Hancock County Children's Choir, the Speech & Debate Club, SonShine Kids, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Joyful Days Preschool & Childcare, Mt. Comfort Youth Group, ladies Bible Study group, and any other group I forgot to mention.

We finally got the garage outside walls painted. Thank you, Julian, for helping me with this task.

Car Show #2 was a great success. Thanks to Jesus, first. Thanks to Chris and Teresa Sexton, David Gioe, and to all others who donated their time.

Trustee members cleaned out the garage and reorganized the contents. It seems like Connie DeAngelo pulls weeds and trims every day.

Building #2 (Family Life Center) needs work on bushes and weeds. Dennis Stang has been helping with trimming bushes. The canopy drive-through needs power-washed and painted. Are there any more volunteers out there?

Inside windows and screens need cleaned. I will volunteer myself and Mr. Julian Marshall to clean all outside windows.

Dave Branson  
Custodian, Trashman, Environmental  
Services, Light Maintenance  
317-626-6226

### **MCUMC Mission Statement**

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

## **SonShine Kids – Year Seven**

Thursday, September 13, marked the start of the 2018-19 SonShine Kids program at Mt. Comfort UMC. The program is off to a good start. Currently, 21 children in Kindergarten – Grade 5 participate in this ministry.

The program meets most Thursdays when school is in session, from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. at the church. Children are escorted by adults from Mt. Comfort Elementary School to the church. In addition, we have a few children from other schools who have joined the program. The program includes a light snack, devotions, homework help (if needed), and enrichment sessions.

Devotions include a video lesson from the *Deep Blue* Cokesbury curriculum, discussion, prayer requests, and prayer time. Prayer requests from the children have included remembering sick family members and friends, the people who were in the path of Hurricane Florence, and a pet dog who frequently strays from home.

Nature, led by Jo Sullivan, includes outside field trips to the MCUMC nature trail. During the first week, children learned to identify poison ivy and to stay away from it and looked at various trees. Next time, they learned about bugs with the opportunity to capture and identify bugs that the teacher later released. Most recently, they examined and learned to identify various plants specimens, including pokeweed, milk weed, cocklebur, mullein, and others. Then they went to the church yard with the challenge to look for and pick three common ground leaves – dandelion, violet, and plantain.

In Arts & Crafts, led by Connie DeAngelo, the children have created bugs, bracelets, bookmarks and most recently, treasure boxes. Connie stated, "We encourage patience, courtesy, cooperation and kindness, as well as creativity, while brushing up on crafting skills and learning new skills." SonShine Kids also decorated and personalized their photo page – look for those on the bulletin board by the northeast entryway.

Thanks to Mt. Comfort UMC for sponsoring this program, for Herb Hale's leadership of the program, and to the many volunteers who make the program possible. If you 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.

# Joyful Days Ministries

By Staci Wilson

Hello Church Family,

We have been very busy the last couple of months in Joyful Days. We had a terrific start to our preschool year by welcoming several new kids to our program. We have eighty children in attendance this year. The children have been very busy learning their colors, shapes, and alphabet. The children spent the month of September learning about how special they are. They shared all about their families, pets, and finished up learning about their five senses. The children have also had a few chapel services and are learning they are special in God's family. The last week of September, the children had their school pictures taken, and then they began their fall break. The preschool will be on Fall Break October 1-12. We hope that the children are able to do some fun things with their families over this break.

We have several fun things coming up in the month of October and would love to have some of you volunteer to help make the events special. First, we will be having our annual Trick or Treat around the church on Wednesday, October 31, at 10:45 a.m. If you would like to come and see some cute kiddos and hand out some sweet treats, we would love to see you. Please just come to the church office that morning a little before 10:45 a.m., bring some treats, and the children will come to you on our parade around the church building and our school building! So much fun for all who are able to attend.

Second, we will be having our second annual Read-a-Thon fundraiser. This is a two-week program in which the children collect donations in support of their growth in reading. The children will be learning about authors and fun books during this fundraiser. We will also be asking for volunteers to come in and read to the children for about fifteen minutes each day from 9:15 – 9:30 a.m. The fundraiser will be October 29 – November 9. I will be sending volunteer sign-up information very soon. You could also support the fundraiser with a monetary donation. The children love having visitors, so please consider volunteering to read with them.

Joyful Days Childcare is very excited to have opened the infant room. If you have not seen the room yet, please stop by and check it out, room 201. We have welcomed a few babies at this point and will be at full capacity in January. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help get our room ready to welcome these new infants. Many hands came together to paint, decorate, assemble beds, and organize this room. This is fun year of growth and excitement in our childcare area.

We hope each of you will enjoy the fall season. We would also like to invite each of you to come down and visit our hallways to enjoy all of the children's artwork.

Blessings,  
Staci Wilson



*The new Joyful Days Infant & Toddler childcare room opened for business in September. It will be at full capacity in January. (Photo courtesy Staci Wilson)*

●  
*Support the Joyful Days Preschool Read-a-thon, October 29 – November 9. Watch your email for more information and for the opportunity to sign up to be a reader!*

## **Trustees Corner** **By Tim Waymire**

Thanks to Chris Sexton, who led another excellent Car Show. We look forward to future shows and plan for more expansion. The Trustees are working on cleaning the garage, installing shelving to optimize storage space and the designated location of items.

On the maintenance side, we had a furnace motor failure in the Family Life Center, and the motor and squirrel cage were replaced. Work is still needed on the air control of the ventilation system. Three roof leaks are being investigated and repaired.

Normal building maintenance is ongoing and included lights, furnace filter, and building inspection. Trustees are investigating going to a keyless entry system for the church buildings to increase security. Trimming the church shrubbery is always a growing problem, and help is always appreciated.

If you would like to lend a hand in church projects, please see Tim Waymire or any Trustee. If you would like to make a monetary donation for church upkeep and projects, please donate to MCUMC, and note General Fund.

### ■ **Grounds Beautification Day**

Plan to help beautify our church grounds on Saturday, October 13, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. With the community MCUMC/MTC Fall Family Festival October 20, it's time to get everything spruced up, looking good, and ready for Old Man Winter. If you can't work for the entire time, drop in when you can. Please bring your lawn trimmers, clippers, chain saw, rake, or tarp, if you are able.

### ■ **Cooperative Ministry Teams**

The Cooperative Ministry Teams for MCUMC and MTC have been meeting monthly. At the Executive team meetings, the leaders from each ministry team reports to the group. In addition, the Executive team pursues the Vision pathway for this cooperative ministry. Hopes and dreams for the churches and the partnership were identified at the September meeting and include the involvement of more members of each congregation in cooperative programs; increased community engagement; growth for each church family and the level of outreach; and diversity by achieving growth and participation of the eclectic groups that make up each congregation.

## **Shepherding Committee News** **By Cindy Kendall**

On September 23 a white flower was placed on the sanctuary altar in memory of Shirley Hale-Grigdesby, mother of Saran Westcott. Saran served Mt. Comfort this summer as our pianist. Our condolences go out to Saran and her family.

Please contact Pastor John at the church office or Cindy Kendall at 317-326-8193 with information concerning our church family's needs. Your information is vital in meeting those needs. Thank you!

### ■ **Missions**

#### **By Rose McKinney**

**CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES**—November is the month for packing and collecting shoe boxes for children around the world. Look for the Operation Christmas Child brochures and boxes for the collection. Please plan to have your box(es) at church on Sunday, November 11. Mount Comfort United Methodist Church will be a local collection center for other churches in the area throughout the week until final delivery on Monday, November 19. Our weekday collection hours beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> are 1 – 6:00 p.m.; then on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4:00 p.m.; and Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 11:00 a.m. We cannot put toothpaste or candy in the boxes this year. You have always responded well for our church's collection through the ten years we have previously supported Operation Christmas Child. Thank you.

**FOOD PANTRY**—The grocery carts are always available in the foyer for any donations of food for the local food pantries. Donate canned fruits, vegetables, and meats as well as pasta products and other boxed products. Food Pantries always welcome paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, soaps, and toothpaste. You have been very generous through the years with your donations, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

**OCTOBER PROJECT**—David Nolen, associate director of Hope Center spoke to our congregation on Sunday, September 30. The Center works to help those who have been caught in human trafficking to adjust to a new kind of life and find direction for their future. Look for a list of their needs in the bulletin.



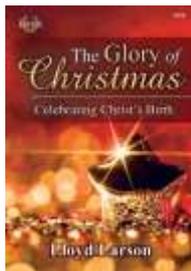
The second annual Mount Comfort United Methodist Car Show featured 38 vehicles on display on the front lawn of the church. (Photos courtesy Kenny Thompson)

## Music Notes

### By Shawn Gilliland

The choir is back from a long summer break. We welcomed our new organist/accompanist on Sunday, September 30. If you have ever thought about joining the choir, now would be a great time. Choir practice is on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We are usually finished by 8:15 p.m.

The choir will start rehearsing soon for the annual Christmas cantata. The title of this year's cantata is *The Glory of Christmas – Celebrating Christ's Birth*. During Sunday worship on December 23 the choir will be singing many well-known songs as well as reading familiar scripture passages for this cantata performance. This will be a wonderful way to start celebrating Christ's birth. This cantata is a brand-new work by one of today's top arrangers, Lloyd Larson. Be sure to mark your calendars now. The handbell choir is also back in action. Plan on hearing them perform in October and December.



## Car Show – Year Two

The Mount Comfort Car Show – Year Two, held September 15 on the front lawn of Mount Comfort United Methodist Church, was a success. The event included the display of thirty-eight vehicles, ranging from vintage tractors, trucks, and cars to a motorcycle. A pulled pork dinner with choices of baked beans, Doug's mac 'n cheese, chips, and dessert was a big hit. Rounding out the fun was music, provided by David Gioe and friends. A bevy of folks turned out on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to look at the vehicles, browse some vendor booths, grab a bite to eat, and listen to some good music. Thanks to Chris Sexton and the many volunteers who made the event possible. See below for a list of winners in the various categories.

Best Paint – Dana Voelkel

Best Interior – Frank and Donna Wyant

Best Engine – Don Kehrt ('30 Model A Ford)

Best Tractor – Harold and Barb Olin, & Jay and Janet Kleine ('52 Ford tractor)

Best Cycle – James Salmon (2016 Indian Roadmaster)

Best Truck – Randy Pritt ('49 Chevy truck)

Best of Show – Bill Roene ('46 Chevy truck)

People's Choice – Richard Jagers ('40 Ford)

## Christian Education

### By Pat Ringer

Happy Fall! It's hard to believe that we are nearing the last quarter of the year, and Thanksgiving and the Christmas season will soon be upon us.

The Sunday School classes have plenty of room for new members and would welcome you with open arms. Tom Nigh's class meets in Room 107 and studies Cokesbury's *Adult Bible Studies*. Rose McKinney leads the Seekers in Room 108 and is currently studying *That the World May Know* by Ray Vander Laan. Bruce Kendall's class meets in Room 109 and is studying *Influencing Like Jesus* by Michael Zigarelli. The youth are led by Dale Dickson and meet in Room 106. They are currently studying *Bible Lessons for Youth*. Our children's class meets in Room 110, is led by Kira Hendrix and studies from the *Deep Blue* children's curriculum published by Cokesbury.

Some ladies got together recently and cleaned out the Christian Education materials. We have quite a variety of supplies that are available for use by people leading children's projects, craft classes, etc. Please see Jo Sullivan or Pat Ringer for information on materials that you may need and might be able to use.

Please pray for our children and youth! Thank a Sunday School leader! Thank a Bible study leader! Thank the leaders of the SonShine Kids program! Above all, give praise to God for our daily blessings!



## Holiday Bazaar Set for December 1

### By Pat Zarse



The seventh annual Holiday Bazaar takes place Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mount Comfort United Methodist Church. Several vendors have already contacted me, and I have emailed all of our vendors from last year. I plan to send out registration forms by e-mail in October. Please give my name and number to anyone interested in participating. I will be contacting businesses in October and November for donations for our Silent Auction.

Hopefully, you are making crafts and art to sell at the church booth. Everything will be the same as last year – vendors, silent auction, luncheon, and sweet shop.

The first of November I will put out sign-up sheets in the narthex seeking your assistance with set-up, luncheon, sweet shop, workers, and clean-up. It requires a lot of help that day, so please mark your calendars, and reserve the first Saturday in December. Also, anyone wishing to help prior to that day, please contact me.

Remember, all proceeds go to Mount Comfort United Methodist Church, so you will be supporting a good cause with your donations and your participation.

• Pat Zarse • 317-496-1009 •

#### October Birthdays

- 3 Cheryl Bunten  
Daniel Neer
- 4 Carla Stone  
John Yanan
- 5 Becky Gibson
- 6 Justin Pope
- 7 Irene Beeson  
Kevin Heckman  
Kylie Meredith
- 8 Laurel Hoepfner  
Wilson Hoepfner  
Linda Neer  
Donna Weiler
- 11 LeAnn Abbott
- 12 Morgan Phillipp  
Linda Yates
- 14 Kathy Aldrich
- 16 David Morton
- 19 Brandon Ludlow
- 23 Richard Griffin
- 26 Bob Ewing  
Jay Kleine
- 27 Morgan Deno  
Debby Dunn  
Angie Ludlow
- 28 Dana Voelkel
- 30 Max Marsh

#### November Birthdays

- 3 Casie Copeland  
Amber Branson Dixon  
Tom Seng

#### November Birthdays

- 5 Joe Byers  
Carol Seng
- 6 Susan Parry
- 7 Daniel Brown  
Dan Johnson  
Teresa Sexton
- 8 Myrna Galbraith
- 10 Barbara Gioe
- 11 Marcy Green
- 13 Tom Dickson  
Gene Springer
- 14 Seth Lee Rujiraviriyapingo
- 15 Bradley Gibson  
Lucas Gibson  
Jessica Vadas
- 16 Dave Branson  
Alan White
- 17 Leona True
- 19 Ben Parry
- 20 Mel Branson
- 22 Michael Adkins  
Sherry Hutchens
- 23 Darla Gibson
- 24 Mary Springer
- 26 Bill Yates



#### November Birthdays

- 27 Becky Coffman  
Larry Hodson
- 28 Gary Johnson  
Linda Perry  
Craig Sheets
- 29 Mark Piercy
- 30 Megan Benson



#### October Anniversaries

- 1 Chip & Wendy  
(Weatherford) Marks
- 8 Bob & Julie Ewing
- 15 Rudy & Janet Nylund
- 16 Jim & Sharon Farmer
- 26 Jarrod & Janet Beeson
- 28 Wayne & Sherry  
Hutchens  
Max & Thelma Marsh

#### November Anniversaries

- 1 Mark & Julia Settlemire
- 19 Maurice & Jane Jarrett
- 20 David & Barbara Gioe
- 21 Scott & Joyce Ellenberger
- 22 John & Karen Stumph
- 23 Mel & Connie Branson
- 25 Austin & Shelbie  
Heckman

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

**Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!**

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – October Bible Study w/Pastor John  
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study  
Most Thursdays, 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. SonShine Kids

October 7	Worldwide Communion Sunday
October 1-12	No Preschool, Fall Vacation
October 13	Grounds Beautification Work Day, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
October 20	Fall Family Festival, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Free food & fun)
October 28	Harvest Meal Pitch-in, MTC & MCUMC, 5:30 p.m.
October 29	Read-a-thon Fundraiser begins, Joyful Days Preschool
October 31	Fletcher Place Meal, Prepare/Serve, 1 – 5:30 p.m.
November 11	District Charge Conference, MCUMC/MTC, 3:00 p.m.
November 22	Thanksgiving
December 1	Holiday Bazaar, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
December 2	Advent begins
December 6	Infant Memorial Service, 7:00 p.m.
December 23	Christmas cantata, worship service
December 24	Christmas Eve service
December 25	Merry Christmas!

Visit our website: <http://mcmethodist.com/>