
MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church

February/March 2019

Pastor's Corner By Pastor Alex Stone

Dear Folk,

By now you have no doubt heard the news that I have been reappointed to the Mt. Comfort UMC as pastor after my medical disability leave. Praise God that everything went well, and healing continues to take place so that I am able to return to my call as your pastor! Additionally, I have been appointed as co-pastor, along with Pastor Ethan Maple, as pastors of not only Mt. Comfort but also of Movie Theater Church. What that means (at the least) is that Pastor Ethan and I are co-pastors of both Mt. Comfort and MTC. This "new" appointment was announced by our District Superintendent to our Staff-Parish Relations Committee on December 17 and to both congregations on Sunday, January 6.

Since the announcement was made, Pastor Ethan and I have been sharing the exciting news with all committees from both congregations as the scheduled meetings occur. We have both been at all meetings that each congregation has had so far (excluding Mt. Comfort Worship Committee) in the month in January as we have begun living into the new reality we all have found ourselves in this new year. Additionally, we have shared with our Cooperative Ministry Executive Team (made up of leaders from both congregations) that their new task is charting a path forward to become one faith community.

While there are differences between the congregations, we share a common goal, to transform lives in the name of Jesus Christ. Over the past year we've been able to recognize some

opportunities before us to cut costs and share resources would make us bad stewards of what God has given us. The majority of the work tasked to our Cooperative Ministry Executive Team will be administrative, as we discover how to align our resources most effectively. As you can imagine, this is no small task. . . which is why the move to co-pastors was an important step. This gives both pastors an opportunity to speak into the leadership of both congregations in an official capacity as we work with leaders to evaluate systems and make decisions that will allow us to be successful in our mission and vision.

There have been a few questions from individuals from both congregations. This is a good thing because it helps us to best clarify the areas we've not communicated well. After conversations around the questions that have been raised, the individuals have felt much better about their concerns. It's interesting that both congregations have the same concerns. We are not sure what to make of that at this time other than change is hard . . . and scary. So, if after reading this article your specific questions aren't answered or more questions are raised, please feel free to reach out.

Both congregations are led by wonderful people who love God but are not so sure about what God is doing in our midst. This uneasiness is not unlike the uneasiness that the Israelites experienced after their salvation from Egypt. They were questioning God, Moses, and themselves as they wandered in unfamiliar, uncharted territory. However, God remained
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Pastor's Corner, *continued from page 1*

faithful when acceptance and obedience were finally reached by the God's people. Read about it in Exodus (esp. 15:22-17:16).

We, as your pastors, also are not so sure about what God is doing in our midst. This new appointment is truly new – not only for all of us but also for the district and the conference. We don't pretend to have all the answers, but we are committed to making sure that we don't lose those important elements that make our churches so special. You will not experience any change on Sunday morning in the foreseeable future. What is happening is below the surface – relationship building and dreaming about a more productive season of ministry for us all.

Please remain dedicated about what God is doing in our midst, but also stay patient. If you have any questions please free to contact me (alcarstone92@yahoo.com) or Pastor Ethan (ethan@indyMTC.com) and we'll get back to you as soon as possible. You can also reach out to the leaders of our Cooperative Ministry Executive Team – their names and emails are listed here. Please pray for the process, the Co-op Team, our churches, and us every single day.

Blessings,
Pastor Alex, Pastor Ethan



Rev. Alex Stone (left) and Rev. Ethan Maple (right) have been appointed co-pastors of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church and Movie Theater Church in a cooperative ministry, but not a merger.

MCUMC/MTC Cooperative Ministry Executive Team

Mike Adkins	Finance (MC)	adkinsmchl69@aol.com
Kalen Baker	Missions (MTC)	klwilkes6@gmail.com
Brett Bobrow	Finance (MTC)	babobrow@sbcglobal.net
John Bundy	Lay Leader (MTC)	r.wayprpty@yahoo.com
Mary Ann Crisman	Family Ministry (MTC)	maryann@indyMTC.com
Ken Croft	Trustees (MTC)	kenc@serviceengineering.com
Megan Jones	SPRC/Personnel (MTC)	meggs04@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Ethan Maple	Co-Pastor	ethan@indyMTC.com
Jack McKinney	Lay Leader (MC)	jlmckinney@att.net
Rose McKinney	Missions (MC)	remckinney6@att.net
Rev. Alex Stone	Co-Pastor	alcarstone92@yahoo.com
Jo Sullivan	Family Ministry (MC)	joellensullivan7@gmail.com
Kenny Thompson	SPRC/Personnel (MC)	kthompson@icleg.org
Tim Waymire	Trustees (MC)	twaymire23@aol.com

Sermon and Scriptures for February/March

Pastor Alex Stone will share the following messages and scripture passages during the months of February and March. Please plan to join us in worship at Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church at 10:30 a.m.

February Sermon Titles

February 3 – “Amazed to Enraged,” Luke 4: 21-30,
Communion Sunday

February 10 – “Amazed and Moved,” Luke 5: 1-11

February 17 – “Words to Live By – Part 1,”
Luke 6: 17-26

February 24 – “Words to Live By – Part 2,”
Luke 6: 27-38

March Sermon Titles

March 3 – “Jesus Only,” Luke 9: 28-36,
Communion Sunday

March 10 – “What Entices You?” Luke 4: 1-13

March 17 – “How Ya Livin’?” Philippians 3: 17-4:1

March 24 – “Dead or Alive?” Luke 13: 6-9

March 31 – “The Prodigal Son’s Family” or “That’s Not Fair!” Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Introducing Christine Sturgis, Interim Director of Joyful Days

Christine Sturgis took the helm of Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare in January. Mrs. Sturgis provided the following responses to our interview questions. We welcome her a part of the Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church's ministry team!

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

My name is Christine Sturgis, and I have been asked to join the team of Joyful Days Preschool and Child Care as the Interim Director. I have 30 years of experience working with children of all ages from infants to young adult, as both a volunteer and on a church staff as the Christian Education Director. I served as the Education Director at the First Christian Church of Wilton Manors, Florida, for 24 years. I am a mother of three, and a grandmother of three. I am recently widowed from my husband of 34 years, and I moved to Indiana to be with our daughter and her family (something both my husband and I planned on doing a week before the Lord called him home).

My faith journey began when I was 26-years-old when my husband and I had our first son. Being raised in the Catholic faith and my husband Baptist, we decided to look for church we could both "agree" upon, and it is there that I learned of the saving grace of God through Jesus. One could say that I jumped in with both feet after I accepted God's gift of salvation through Jesus, soon discovering a gift and a calling to minister to little ones. As stated, I did many hours volunteering within the children's ministry, which led to a hiring as a preschool teacher in our church preschool. Shortly thereafter, I was hired as the assistant Education Director, then years later promoted to the Education Director, when the current youth pastor was called to shepherd an adult congregation elsewhere.

WHY DID YOU APPLY FOR THE JOYFUL DAYS PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR'S POSITION?

I applied for the director position at Mount Comfort United Methodist because I saw this as a unique opportunity to continue to reach another generation with the love of Jesus. By equipping and empowering a faithful and loving staff, we can minister to not only the little ones, but the entire family. This enables us to reach our community in



a Christlike way, becoming the hands and feet of Christ.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR JOYFUL DAYS?

My goals for Joyful Days would be to lay a faith-based foundation upon which the little ones can build throughout their lives – not only to reach the little ones, but to encourage and equip their parents. In doing so we begin to form a partnership, as in Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Thank you all so very much for welcoming me into your wonderful and loving community of believers here in Greenfield, Indiana. Everyone I have met so far has had friendly smiles that have warmed me, and believe me, I've needed the warmth!

Please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to me at any time. I consider it a blessing to be part of an established team of faithful and loving teachers and caregivers here at Joyful Days.

Clear Storage Boxes Requested

Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare is seeking donations of clear storage boxes with lids, all sizes. If you would like to make a donation, please drop off a storage box or two or three at the office of Mrs. Christine Sturgis in the Family Life Center Lobby. The storage boxes will be used to more efficiently and effectively store the multitude of resources.

DAYTIME MINISTRIES

Best wishes to Staci Wilson, who resigned her post as Director of Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare to pursue a new opportunity in the business world. She will be missed, and we thank her for her service. At the same time, we welcome the new Interim Director, Christine Sturgis. (Learn more about her on page 3 of this newsletter.)

On December 19 the sanctuary of Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church hosted a full house as parents and family members gathered for the Joyful Days Preschool Christmas program. The children presented songs and a nativity scene. The children celebrated at Christmas parties on December 19 and 20, and then dismissed for Christmas Break.

The Preschool children continue working their way through the alphabet and numbers. January curriculum included Snow, Winter, Hibernation, and Nursery Rhymes. February will focus on Kindness, Valentine's Day, Health, and Fairytales. Preschool will not be in session on President's Day, February 18. March lessons will focus on Dinosaurs and Wild Animals, with spring break scheduled March 11-22 for Preschool, and March 18-22 for Childcare.

Much cleaning and organizing took place during Christmas break. Mrs. Sturgis has requested donations of clear storage boxes with lids – any size. If you would like to contribute, you can bring your donations to her office in the lobby of the Family Life Center.

The Joyful Days program continues to grow, with some new babies joining infant/toddler childcare in January and February. Please keep our new Interim Director as well as the entire Joyful Days staff and children in your prayers. Clearly, Joyful Days Preschool/Childcare is a vital ministry of MCUMC.



The children in Miss Ally's Pre-K class are pictured here, correlating with the January focus on winter.



Kathy Aldrich (left) and Connie D'Angelo (right) assist the K-2 SonShine Kids with a snowflake project during arts and crafts time.

SonShine Kids

SonShine Kids, the after-school ministry of MCUMC continues to meet on most Thursdays from 2:15 – 5:30 p.m. The children presented a program of Christmas songs on December 20 to their parents/guardians, followed by pizza.

The SSK program resumed in January. Children participate in snack time, devotions, homework time, and planned activities.

Some of the SSK adult volunteers are “snow birds,” so substitutes are needed while they are away. If you can be a helper for one or more of the sessions, please contact Herb Hale (317-703-0495) or Rick Aldrich (317-443-6928).

Fish Fry Set for February 23

Saturday, February 23, MCUMC will again buck the summer fish fry trend by having a winter Fish Fry. 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The menu includes battered cod, fries, coleslaw, and our famous baked beans, as well as a kids' combo meal with hot dog, potato chips, apple slices and a juice box.

Look for sign-up sheets to volunteer. Set up Friday; Saturday – greeters, food prep, servers, cashiers, fry cooks (morning & evening shifts); donations of your favorite desserts. See Chris Sexton for more information.

Trustees

Trustees have put in many hours on the ceiling project, shoring up the old insulation and blowing in additional ceiling insulation. To volunteer your help, contact Tim Waymire. Thanks to the many volunteers who assisted Dave Branson and his cleaning crew, Julian and Bob, with deep cleaning. The Trustees' monthly meeting date will change to the fourth Tuesday, starting February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Worship Committee

By Pat Zarse

Pastor Alex reported he has sermons prepared through March and will begin an Easter series April 7 titled, "Easter Rocks," which will discuss stones in the Bible. MCUMC will host Maundy Thursday services and provide the music; and MTC will host Good Friday services and provide the music.

The choir is now warming up at 10:15, so Dave Goie will be leading the "Gathering Music" ten minutes before worship begins while Janelda practices with the choir. The last Sunday the choir will sing is May 19 before taking summer break.

It was reported that acolytes, liturgists, and greeters have been recruited for worship services. Future Worship Committee meetings may be changed from the regular time slot, so that Pastor Alex can conduct all church meetings on the same day of the week and at the same time.

Holiday Bazaar

The Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar held December 1 was our most successful, exceeding previous years' profits once again!

The Bazaar featured sixty vendors, and sixty local businesses contributed to the Silent Auction. The Sweet Shop and Kitchen did very well. Almost all was sold on Saturday, and a few leftovers were sold on Sunday. We collected food for the local food pantry and shoes for Changing Footprints in Greenfield.

Again, I am happy to say, we received many positive comments from guests and netted our highest profit to date: \$6,481.86. In 2017 our profit was \$6,117.25, and in 2016 profit totaled \$4,867.42. These monies were all donated to the MCUMC General Fund.

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

Pat Zarse

Seen on Facebook

Churches have things for kids to do while in worship; why not adults? This church acknowledges that some people listen better when their hands are active. By allowing worshippers the opportunity to do some knitting in order to pay better attention, they are able to work together and do some good in their community. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of here at Mt. Comfort UMC please call or text Teresa Sexton at 317-716-1282.

Music Notes

By Shawn Gilliland

The handbells are tentatively scheduled to play two more times in church before the summer break (it will get here). We hope to be able to play March 17 during the Lenten season and also on May 12 for Mother's Day.

The choir will be singing some new Lenten music throughout March that I believe the congregation will really like. There has been a switch from our traditional Good Friday service this year. Mt. Comfort will be having a Maundy Thursday service as opposed to a Good Friday service, with MTC invited to join us. (Good Friday will be at MTC, and all are invited to that service as well.) We will be singing what I consider to be one of the best Maundy Thursday Communion anthems available, "The Upper Room." Everything about this anthem fits with the theme of Maundy Thursday.

There will not be an Easter cantata again this year; however, the choir will be singing two well-known and uplifting Easter anthems. Easter is later this year, April 21, and I am looking forward to directing the special music that the Lenten and Easter season brings us.

Shepherding News

By Cindy Kendall

The passing of a beloved sister in Christ, Pat Fentz, was remembered with a white flower on the sanctuary altar on December 2. Pat and her husband, Jerry, have been longtime members of Mt. Comfort UMC. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jerry and his family.

On December 9, a red flower on the altar celebrated the birth of Brynna Elizabeth. Tim Waymire is Brynna's proud grandfather. Great-grandmother is Ginny Waymire. Congratulations to the entire family!

We ask that you continue to keep us informed of the needs of our church family. Please contact Pastor Alex at the church office or Cindy Kendall at 317-326-8193 with any church information. Thank you.



Seen on Facebook
*Worshippers have the opportunity to pick up a knitting basket and knit scarves during church. Finished scarves are donated to people who are in need.
Photo: pixabay.com*

From the Janitor's Closet

By Dave Branson

Hello, fellow Mt. Comfort church people. God is blessing us. Happy New Year to all. We have a new director for Joyful Days Childcare and Preschool, Christine Sturgis, and Joyful Days is back in session after Christmas break.

Thank you, Pat Ringer, George Winterstein, Jo Sullivan, Sandi Hudson, Teresa Sexton, and Chris Sexton, for the assistance in cleaning and sanitizing the pantry, kitchen, and Resource Room #2. These volunteers saved the church over \$2,000 in cleaning costs for the above-named in-house cleaning projects.

The youth had their second annual Christmas party along with MTC's youth. It was fun for all and a great success, put on by five youth leaders from both churches.

Rev. Dr. John Abbott, Jr. has been a great blessing to our church. Welcome back, Pastor Alex Stone and wife Carla. It is great to see Pastor Alex looking great and healthy.

Thank you, Conner Jones and the youth for helping shovel snow on Saturday, January 12, at church and at some of the homes for our church families. Also, thanks to Pastor Ethan Maple for the touch-up shoveling on church sidewalks on Sunday morning. We could hardly move after shoveling snow on Saturday, LOL.

Preschool teachers, thank you for putting in the extra time cleaning and sanitizing your rooms and closets, and putting the rooms back in order for the children's return to classes in January. These are dedicated teachers who put Jesus first.

The second annual winter Fish Fry has been scheduled by Chris Sexton for Saturday, February 23, from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Please volunteer, if you are able.

The church is selling a commercial carpet cleaner (see it in the Fellowship Hall), with an asking price of \$1,500 or best offer. A new machine costs \$3,500. This one has been used only 15 or 16 times.

We have a closet full of wheelchairs, walkers, bedside commodes, crutches, etc. All have been cleaned and sanitized. If you need any of these items, they are free, and I can deliver to your home.

Thank you to Dennis Stang for putting baseboards in the youth room after the painting was completed by Mt. Comfort youth.

May God be with you through the new year.
Dave Branson 317-626-6226, Environmental Services, Trash Man, Custodian, Light Maintenance

VBS Set for July 15 – 16

Vacation Bible School, a joint venture of Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC, is set for July 15-16, 2019, Monday and Tuesday evenings. Children will participate in Yee Haw, Celebrating God's Greatest Gift, with Bible adventures, music, and Projects-with-a-Purpose®.

Missions

By Rose McKinney

FOOD PANTRY – Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church continues to collect for the local food pantries. Donate non-perishables – canned fruits, vegetables, and meats as well as pasta and other boxed products. The pantries always welcome paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, soaps, toothpaste, and other hygiene products. You have been very generous through the years with your donations, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

FLETCHER PLACE—We are still waiting for Fletcher Place to work with us to arrange dates to feed the homeless there. Dates will be announced.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT – The MCUMC congregation was able to assist four families, consisting of 23 individuals, with their Christmas in 2018. Some of the quilters offered to help and also furnished some of the presents that we gave to those families. The gifts were delivered before Christmas Eve. The families were quite appreciative of your generosity. One family, with children who attend SonShine Kids, made cards for us. In addition to saying, "Merry Christmas," they added, "Thank you for all your help; We appreciate everything; Have an amazing New Year." Another family gave us a card saying, "So grateful to you" with this message inside: "Christmas reminds us to slow down and see the world with fresh eyes, breathe in the wonder, and be grateful for what's really important in life—people like you, Merry Christmas." The family added a personal note to the card which reads: "Thank you so much to everyone that played a part in helping my family for the holiday. You will never know how thankful and blessed we are for your generosity. Please don't forget us because we won't forget you all!" Look for these cards on the bulletin board.



Check WISH TV 8 for Church Closures

It was a rare bad weather closure on January 20, when Mt. Comfort UMC and MTC announced that Sunday worship and activities were cancelled due to ice and snow. MCUMC sent emails to notify church families on Sunday morning, citing concern for safety in travel as well as the church parking lot. The Trustees determined in its January meeting that any future closures will be announced on WISH TV 8. In addition to television scrolling, a list of closures can always be found on the network's web site.

<https://www.wishtv.com/closings>

Lent 2019

March 6 – April 20

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. In many other languages, the word used for this season refers to the 40-day length of the season or to the fasting that characterizes it. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Some churches have an Ash Wednesday service where the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship.

This year, you are invited to come to the church on Ash Wednesday (March 6) at 11:00 a.m. or at 6:00 p.m. for the imposition of ashes in a semi-private ceremony that will take place in the MCUMC chapel across from the library. There will be soft, prayerful music and candlelight to help set the mood for a time of silent prayer and meditation. The ceremony will conclude with the imposition of ashes and a concluding prayer by the pastor. If the room is full, please wait quietly in the library until you are called into the prayer chapel.



United Methodist Lent Quiz

Found at UMC.org: “We invite you to take a short quiz to test your knowledge of the season of Lent. Be sure to share the link to this page with friends so you can compare scores later.”

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/the-united-methodist-lent-quiz>

Happy Birthday Happy Anniversary

BIRTHDAYS	MARCH	
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 Tristin Bundy 21 Carrie Smith 22 Connie Branson 27 Janet Kleine 28 David Saxon	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 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 Michael & Joyce Brandenburg William & Ruth Carder <div style="text-align: center;"></div>

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

Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

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

February 3	Valentine cards due, Joyful Days card ministry
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 18	Presidents' Day (no Preschool)
February 23	Community Fish Fry, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
March 6	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins Imposition of ashes – 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., MCUMC chapel
March 11-22	Pre-School spring break
March 18-22	Childcare spring break
April 2-4	Parent/Teacher Conferences, Joyful Days Preschool
April 10	Open House/Spring Registration, Joyful Days Preschool
April 7	Easter cards due, Joyful Days card ministry
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 18	Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m., MCUMC
April 19	Good Friday service. 7 p.m., MTC
April 21	Easter Sunday, Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
July 15-16	VBS, MCUMC & MTC

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

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