

# MOUNT COMFORT BLESSING

Mount Comfort United Methodist Church

June 2019

## Pastor's Corner By Pastor Alex Stone

Dear Folks,

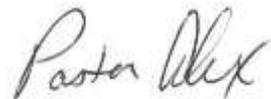
This is my final contribution to the Mt Comfort UMC Newsletter. As you know, I am beginning a new appointment at Speedway United Methodist Church on July 1. Although our time together was brief, I will be forever grateful for the care, nurture, and support that was shown to Carla and me during my illness. Had it not been for your encouragement, well wishes, and prayers, we wouldn't be where we are today. I honestly believe that. That is why leaving you is difficult. There will always be a special place in our hearts for you.

When I look back over my time here, as brief as it was, not only did I go through some life-saving changes, but you did as well. Working together with Pastor Ethan and the MTC congregation, we were able to merge into a new faith community that will be life-changing for both congregations – the new Mt Comfort Church! I hate to leave and miss out on what is coming next for you but will still be close enough to keep tabs on your progress as you grow and continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I am reminded of these words attributed to the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Phillip: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or

defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." – Philippians 1:3-10

You will be remembered fondly,



You Are Invited

Reception for Pastor Alex & Carla Stone

Sunday, June 9, 2019

10:20 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Cake and punch served.

Cards and notes of well wishes welcomed.

## New Sunday Worship Times

The new Sunday worship times took effect May 26. Pastor Alex's last Sunday in the pulpit will be June 16. Effective July 1, Mt. Comfort UMC and Movie Theater Church officially become one church with Pastor Ethan Maple serving as Senior Pastor.

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Gym

10:45 a.m. Sunday School offered



## **Church Office Relocation Work in Progress**

As we continue our journey toward becoming one church, the Mt. Comfort UMC Leadership Team has been evaluating the current church office setup. The decision was made to relocate the church office back to its original location by the main sanctuary entrance. This decision was based on one overwhelming factor – the security and safety of those who occupy our building throughout the week. It is important that our Office Manager have a direct line of sight for anyone approaching the building. It is also important that our entrances for Joyful Days Preschool and Childcare and the church office are as distinct as possible, along with appropriate and clear signage this should allow us to make sure people are at the right place before they even enter the building. The sanctuary entrance will be the dedicated church entrance throughout the week for anyone having business with the church (meetings, deliveries, etc.). The Family Life Center entrance will be the dedicated entrance for Joyful Days.

Moving the church office will also affect our other office spaces. Pastor Ethan's office will relocate to the pastor's office original location on the north side of the church as well (the current library). The library will be moved into the pastor's current office and also will be used as a large meeting room. The current office space will be used for the Trustees and for storage. The current bookkeeper's office will be used as a music ministry office so that Shawn Gilliland (Traditional Worship Director), Janelda Barnett (Accompanist), and Trevor Baker (Contemporary Worship Director) have a dedicated workspace. The workroom will be slightly reorganized so that a variety of ministry leaders can more effectively use it, specifically our Discipleship team (small groups, youth, and kids).

As you can imagine, this is a rather large undertaking, and although the process has already begun, we don't expect it to be finished until the end of June. So please bear with us as we move offices in an effort to increase security and effectiveness for our church



## **Saying Good-Bye**

We would also like to bid farewell to our Bookkeeper Debbie Hice who, along with her husband Tony, will be moving to New Mexico to be closer to their family. And after five years of service, we will also be saying "good-bye" to Carrie Smith who has served as our Administrative Assistant. Both of these wonderful women will remain in their positions through June 15. If you have an opportunity to do so, please swing by and thank them for all they've done for our church and wish them God's blessing in their future endeavors.

## **Missions**

### **By Rose McKinney**

**FLETCHER PLACE**—For 2019 we will continue to serve hot meals at Fletcher Place. The remaining 2019 dates are the following Wednesdays: May 29, August 7, and October 7. Thanks to all who have helped prepare and serve these meals through the years.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**—Keep planning for the collection of shoeboxes during the week of November 10-18. Look for sales of school supplies and other articles you can include in the boxes. Remember, this activity is an opportunity to introduce Jesus to children throughout the world.

**THE PAST & THE FUTURE OF MISSIONS**—Thanks to all of you who have supported the missions of our church through the past years—those of you who contributed to Faith Promise, those who welcomed the missionaries and organizations we have supported, those of you who have taken part in the mission trips—Hindman, Kentucky; Ecuador; Blue Gate area of Shiprock, Arizona; and over ten years to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky--those of you who worked in the Hancock County Fair food tent, those who have given generously when someone was in need. But we are not done; we are just getting started! We will collect items needed for Vacation Bible School during June. We can volunteer to help at the Soup Kitchen in Greenfield on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month. Stay tuned for the upcoming collections. We are open to new opportunities to serve our fellow men, women, and children.

## **Introducing Emily Leonard**

The new position of Office Manager for Mt. Comfort Church took effect May 28. Emily Leonard will serve in this position and will be working Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The position of Office Manager will replace the two previous positions of Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper.

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

I grew up in Hancock County and graduated from Eastern Hancock. In high school I played tennis. I married my high school sweetheart, got married in 2016, and just had our first child in March 2019, a little girl we named Waverly. I love spending time with family and living an active lifestyle. Some of my hobbies are playing tennis, snowboarding, and running.

### **Why did you apply for the position of Mt. Comfort UMC office manager?**

I applied for the office manager position at Mount Comfort United Methodist Church because after having my daughter I wanted a career change. I am in a new season of life and I didn't feel like my prior position met my new needs. I read about the position and thought "wow, this is exactly what I have been praying for." I applied, interviewed, and was ecstatic to get offered the position.

### **Please feel free to provide any additional information.**

My husband and I bought our first home in 2016; the house was a foreclosure, and we have been renovating it ever since. My husband has his commercial pilot's license but works for his family at Leonard Excavating. My husband also just started his videography business, Elevated Media Company, LLC.

## **Final Newsletter**

This will be the final edition of this current format for the *Mt. Comfort Blessing* newsletter. Future church communications will be via email through email blasts, announcements, and digital communication. Information also will be posted in social media. If you received this newsletter in your email inbox, you are good to go. If you need to update your email information, please contact the church office.



*Emily Leonard joins the staff of Mt. Comfort Church in the position of Office Manager. If you happen to be in the building during church office hours, be sure to stop by and say hello and welcome her.*

## **Worship Committee**

As we continue to be one congregation, our worship team is working hard to know how to bridge together both worship experiences. I am looking forward to working with Pastor Ethan. Based on your recent surveys, we will be singing your favorite hymns June – August.

I would like to thank Pastor Alex for his time as our pastor; and wish him and Carla the best in their new appointment at Speedway United Methodist Church. I also want to thank Sandi Hudson for all the years she has put together our church newsletter. Wishing you all the best!

### **Thank You**

I am writing this as it will be our last printed Mt. Comfort newsletter. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve at Mt. Comfort as the Daytime Ministries Director for 27 years and the Worship Chairperson since my retirement.

I have been blessed over and over by YOU, the children and their families, and members of our community. Thank you for your help and support. PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Bless You,  
Pat Zarse

# Joyful Days Preschool & Childcare at Mt. Comfort Church

## By Christine Sturgis

So much has happened since our last report. Many of us attended Mount Comfort Church's Easter Egg Hunt with our families, and we had a blast! Thank you for inviting us; even one of our classmates won a bike! We enjoyed our last few chapels with Pastor Ethan who always made sure that we knew that God Loves Us, God Made Us Special, and that God Can Do Anything! We finished up our alphabet and learned a lot about Wild Animals, Transportation, the Earth and Safety. We even had a special visit from Buck Creek Township Fire Department, which was the highlight of the week.

On May 22 we had our Spring Program which was fun as we celebrated all that we did this year, but sad because we knew that some of our friends were moving on to big kid school and we wouldn't see them next year. Thank you so very much for the cards that you sent home to our families; it is nice to know that you think of us.



*A visit from the Buck Creek Township firefighters was the highlight of the week for Preschoolers.*



*The sanctuary was decorated for the Joyful Days Preschool Spring Program on May 22.*



*Preschoolers opened the Joyful Days Preschool Spring Program with singing to a packed sanctuary as parents and family members watched.*



*Preschool teacher Sandy Kingery (center) recognized Pastor Ethan and Christine Sturgis at the Spring Program, thanking them for their efforts.*

## VBS 2019 -- YeeHaw

### Celebrating God's Greatest Gift

Vacation Bible School is set for Monday and Tuesday, July 15-16, at Mt. Comfort Church. The program for children in Preschool through Grade 6 will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by VBS from 6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

More MCUMC volunteers are needed; please contact Jo Sullivan if you can help. One volunteer role for grandparents -- be available to comfort and provide a little love to children who may need a little extra attention. You may also help with donations. Look during the month of June for donation slips listing specific items to purchase for the program.

VBS will provide an evening of music, crafts, games, and Bible stories. Parents, guardians, and grandparents may register their children online as follows. [www.indyMTC.com/VBS](http://www.indyMTC.com/VBS)



### SonShine Kids Close School Year

SonShine Kids, the after-school ministry of Mt. Comfort Church concluded this school year's program on May 16. Parents and guardians were invited to a closing program, which featured songs led by David Gioe and presentation of certificates to the children. After the program, everyone enjoyed pizza.

Thank you to Herb Hale for leading this year's program. SonShine Kids would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers and your monetary donations. Program leaders Jo Sullivan (Nature) and Connie D'Angelo (Arts/Crafts) provided weekly lessons and activities. In addition, refreshments, homework time, recreation, programs, and check-in/out were provided with help from Kathy and Rick Aldrich, Mindy Barbe, Dave Branson, Mary Ann Chrisman, David Gioe, Pat Grinstead, Roger and Sandi Hudson, Jack and Rose McKinney, Rudy Nylund, Pat Ringer, and Pat Shreve.

## Shepherding Committee News

### By Cindy Kendall

The life of our beloved Marty Haymaker was remembered with a white rose on the sanctuary altar April 28. A longtime member of Mt. Comfort Church, Marty will be terribly missed by her church family. Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to Marty's loved ones.

The April 29 birth of Amelia Grace Winterstein was celebrated with a red rose on the altar, Sunday May 5. She was welcomed home by her parents, Jeff and Kara Winterstein. Amelia's very proud grandparents are church members, George and Cindy Winterstein. Congratulations to the family.

Please continue sharing the news and needs of our church family. Contact the church office, Pastor Ethan, or Cindy Kendall at my number: (317-326-8193).

### A Farewell Note

Dear MCUMC Family,

As I move into a new phase of my life, I want to thank you all for welcoming me into your family. I have thoroughly enjoyed my position as your administrative assistant. Over my five years here, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you face-to-face and others by email or over the phone. Regardless of how we met or interacted, I truly appreciate the patience, kindness, and acceptance I have received from each and every one of you. To say I will miss you is an understatement. I will hold special memories of you deep in my heart. I will continue to pray for Mt. Comfort as you transition, and I hope you continue to keep me and my family in your prayers.

In His love,  
Carrie Smith

### Church Office Closed

**July 8 -12**

The Mt. Comfort Church office will be closed the second week of July for staff vacations, July 8-12. Stay tuned for information on whom to contact in case the need for pastoral care arises during this time.



## Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary

June Birthdays	June Birthdays	June Birthdays	June Anniversaries
1 Dottie Copeland	15 Elizabeth Harris	26 Carole Schutt	21 Kevin & Carrie Smith
2 Draven Grubb Morgan Sellers	16 Shelbie Heckman	27 Jordan Gerlach	23 Brandon & Angie Ludlow
3 Gary Stewart Jim Winter	17 Victoria Hodson Janice Pope Barbara Stewart	28 Jody Lillyblade Vason Ruijiraviriyapingo Jarred Sheets	25 Don & Melinda Waymire
6 Chris Forcum	18 J.D. Cohee	29 Debra Dickson	26 Tony & Debbie Hice
7 Amy Hoepfner Sandra Kaser Lois Neuman Larry Simmerman	20 Leah Batista	<b>June Anniversaries</b>	28 Dave & Myrna Galbraith
8 Carrie Griffin Velma Thomas	21 Neetra Dibartoli	10 Justin & Valerie Do	29 Mike & Darla Gibson
9 Jim Cohee	23 Lisa Yanan	11 Michael & Tena Jones	Wade & Maribeth Sellers
10 Scott Ellenberger	24 Micki Chatman Jack McKinney	12 David & Darlene McNaught	30 Don & Gail Rush
12 James Foddrill Haley Kuzmicz	25 Nora Allen John Bowery David Do Kira Hendrix Gerry Henry Shirley Thompson	13 Ev & Pat Zarse	
13 Elizabeth Bales Dominc Morris	26 Jerri Fry	14 Tom & Pat Nigh	
14 Kevin Sheets Jo Sullivan		15 Jay & Janet Kleine	
		17 Gary & Barbara Stewart	

### “The Holy Bees”

Swarming honey bees in the east parking lot of Mt. Comfort Church greeted those arriving for their church meetings on the evening of May 14. Remembering what the children were taught at SonShine Kids by guest speaker, Bee Lady Erin Wigger of Hoosier Delights Honey Bee Products, we knew not to kill the bees. A call to Erin by Jo Sullivan saved the day as Erin’s father, beekeeper Larry Reeser, soon arrived to gather the swarming bees.

Erin said, “Thanks for raising awareness for the bees. Dad calls them ‘The Holy Bees.’ He enjoyed gathering them at church. He thought about painting a cross on the church’s swarm. I told him to do it!”

Honey bees swarm in the spring and summer when they leave their colony with the queen bee to establish a new colony. They stop to rest while scout bees go out in search of a new, permanent home. Beekeepers can help by capturing the swarm and relocating it to a new home. Meanwhile, the old colony will make a new queen and continue to thrive. The Mt. Comfort honey bees decided to take a rest on the bush at the northeast corner of the church building.

(Bee information from the following website.  
<https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/5746.htm> )



*Beekeeper Larry Reeser came to MCUMC on May 14 to capture a swarm of bees and relocate them.*

## All-Church Conference Report

Mt. Comfort United Methodist Church conducted an All-Church Conference after worship service on May 5 in the gym of the Family Life Center. Presiding was the Reverend Glenn Howell, Director of Development for the Indiana United Methodist Church.

Prior to the business meeting, Rev. Ethan Maple and Rev. Alex Stone administered membership vows to 56 people who were either transferring membership from Movie Theater Church (MTC) to Mt. Comfort United Methodist (MCUCM) or who were affiliating as new members, as MTC had previously voted to dissolve and to merge with MCUMC.

The purpose of the meeting was to vote for acceptance of the MCUMC/MTC Cooperative Ministry Executive Team Report, which had been distributed in April. Rev. Howell explained that a vote would be taken for three proposals for MCUMC, as detailed in the report: 1. A single-board Church governance model; 2. Approval of the persons identified to serve on the single-board leadership team through 2020; 3. MCUMC budget for July 1 – December 31, 2019.

Rev. Howell provided the opportunity for members to make comments or to ask questions. Hearing no questions or comments, Rev. Howell asked members for a voice vote for acceptance of the three proposals. If the voice vote was determined too close to call, he would call for a vote by secret ballot. The member voice vote was unanimous for approval, and Rev. Howell determined that the measures had passed. Rev. Howell then asked for the newly elected members of the Leadership Team to come forward, and he offered a prayer for the team. The All-Church Conference adjourned at 12:22 p.m. A celebration dinner followed the meeting.

### Mark Your Calendars for These Important Dates!

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship in Sanctuary

10:45 a.m. – Sunday School offered

10:45 a.m. – Contemporary Worship in Gym

Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. – Women's Bible Study

June 5	Lifeline Screening, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
June 9	Reception for Pastor Alex & Carla, 10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall
June 12-15	Annual Conference Indiana UMC, Indpls. Convention Center
June 16	Father's Day
July 8 – 12	Church Office closed all week for vacation.
July 15-16	Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m. meal; 6:15 – 8:30 p.m. VBS
August 7	Fletcher Place mission ministry, prepare & serve meal
October 7	Fletcher Place mission ministry, prepare & serve meal

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

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