

Pastor: Rev. Kristen Parks

Church Administrator: Heather Marks

Office Phone: 517-486-4040

Pastor's Phone: 517-486-3805

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fully Handicapped Accessible



## NATIVITY PRAYER-MARY

Throughout Advent this year we are studying the prayers of selected members of the nativity. We kicked off the first week with the donkey and will hear from the angel, a shepherd, Joseph, the Christ Child, and all three wise men before we are completed. One of the challenges of this chosen theme is that we did not have enough services for all of the members of the nativity to get their turn. It pained me greatly to leave out Mary so I thought we could hear from her here. Mary's prayer goes as follows:

*My heart's filled with peace. I know  
there's a plan,*

*We'll find our way home as soon as we can.*

*For now I'm content to follow His lead  
to Bethlehem's door, God's voice I will heed.*

*When my child is born, the world will know  
Earth is His calling, but Heaven's His home.*

Mary's prayer is full of her uncertainty. She doesn't know why they are traveling. She is unaware of God's true purpose. Her prayer however also holds a great deal of peace. You see there is so much that Mary doesn't know, but the one thing she does know is that God has a plan. She knows that no matter

what, God is doing something magnificent and she is willing to follow where He leads.

We often find ourselves in situations similar to Mary's. Illnesses or job changes that don't make sense, relationships that struggle, and needs that we don't know how to meet are all part of our human struggles. What we can learn from Mary is how to trust in God's plan. We may not have a plan for meeting our needs or solving our problems, but God does. We didn't know how to save ourselves from our sinful desires but God did. He sent His Son so that our sin and death could forever be defeated.

The holidays seem to be a difficult time for us as human beings. Struggles become even more real, depression and loneliness seep in, and grief tends to rear its ugly head. It can be overwhelming. When it seems all consuming we need simply remember Mary's prayer and seek the peace that comes from the assurance of God's plan. When the "season" gets overwhelming, we need simply remember the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas, God Bless,  
Pastor Kristen

## Our Giving for November 1- November 29, 2015

	Env. & Loose	Other	Received	For
11/1/2015	\$3,369.00	0.00	\$11,723.01	Envelopes
11/8/2015	2,012.00	6.00	100.00	Loose
11/15/2015	1298.00	42.00	114.00	Poinsettias
11/22/2015	2,959.01	105.00	45.00	Building Use
11/29/2015	2,185.00	27.77	15.00	UMC Stud. Day
			2.00	Initial
			4.77	Upper Room

Budget income this 5 weeks was \$12,003.78. This is a weekly average of \$2,400.75. We require \$2,336.00 per week to meet budget.

### December Meetings

- 2 Ad Council 7 p.m.
- 17 Out to Lunch Bunch 12 p.m.
- 23 Trustees 7p.m.

Please watch for updates for the Christmas program. If you signed up your child, you will be contacted. This year's Christmas program is on December 20<sup>th</sup> during worship time.

**Choir!**  
Choir rehearsals  
December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at  
7 pm!



## December Birthdays

- 1 Elyse Jones
- 2 Bud Peacock
- 3 Mike Zander
- 7 Dylan Anderson
- 8 Joe Gust
- 10 Mike Wilkie
- 12 Judy Wilkie, JR Iffland, Kelly Jo Gilmore
- 13 Shelby Baney
- 15 Lauren Swiggum
- 17 Shelly Hlavka
- 18 Elizabeth Stutzman
- 20 Katie Fisher
- 25 Lorraine Hodges
- 26 Eric Frederick
- 28 Jackie Southward, Beth Borchardt

## December Anniversaries

- 1 Don Hoffman & Margaret Goble
- 23 Kevin & Debbi Wilson
- 29 Eric & Chris Mapstone
- 31 Mike & Melante Wilkie

Deadline for the January  
Newsletter is December  
28th. Thank you!!

# Ministries on Sunday

## Mornings in December:

### Ushers:

- 6 Mike Sheldon
- 13 Bill Borchardt
- 20 Ed Wilkie
- 27 Mike Frederick

### Greeters in Front Entrance:

- 6 Nancy Seeburger
- 13 Bill and Beth Borchardt
- 20 Ed and Judy Wilkie
- 27 Mike and Cindy Frederick

### Greeters in West Entry:

- 6 Janet Flores
- 13 Terry Family
- 20 Sheila Filter
- 27 Jerry and Sandy Villegas

### Acolytes:

- 6 Ashlynn Reed
- 13 Abby Gilmore
- 20 Hailie Medley
- 27 Natalie Fisher

### AV Room:

- 6 Becca Gorski
- 13 Diana Medley
- 20 Dave Kerekgyarto
- 27 Chris Gorski

### Lay Readers:

- 6 Judy Mershon
- 13 Linda Polter

# NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST

The prayer chain was used several times over the last month. Please let the church office know when it may be appropriate for us to remove a prayer request from our list, otherwise it will be removed within a reasonable amount of time. You may also place your prayers in the prayer basket located at the back of the church. Please include name and (optional) reason for prayer.

### The following were prayed for during

**November:** ...For all the global conflicts and our troops, the economy, Carl Anderson, Myla Novak, Darlene and Bob Spotts, Bertha Grimes, Kevin and family, Ellen Smith, Kevin Wilson, Emily Hepker, Larry Greenwald, Robin Raines, Kaden Elizardo, Debbie Lake, Emily Alley, Connie Cox, Mary Gooze, Carolyn Goetz, Emily Nowak and her son Iziah, Gordon McClain, Brian Betz, Carol Sheldon, Melanie and Eric, Annaliese Marks, Emma Phenicie, Laura Fisher, Dave Handy, Ali and Karly, Gianna Sell, David Stucker.

We have also been praying long term for: Elizabeth Stutzman, David Anderson, Lori Spotts, Edie Holmes, Susie DeSue, Al VanLoocke.

If you have prayer concerns or joys to add, or know of names that could be removed, please contact the church office at 486-4040 or [blissfumc@gmail.com](mailto:blissfumc@gmail.com). You are invited to visit, call, or send notes of encouragement to our shut-ins:

Hilda Knoblauch

650 W. Adrian St.  
Blissfield, MI 49228  
517-486-2442

Elizabeth Stutzman

1244 West Southern Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Bob and Darlene Spotts

9953 Treadwell  
Blissfield, MI 49228  
517-443-5834

Barb Dittman

2057 N Wellsville Hwy  
Britton, MI 49229  
517-423-2248





Remember our local food pantry! They are asking for the following:  
 Hamburger Helper,  
 Cond. Chicken  
 Noddle Soup, and  
 Crackers.

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## pub theology

### Beer, Conversation, and God.

**This group gathers on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 8 p.m. Meetings are held at The Main Street Stable here in Blissfield. Everyone is welcome! If you would like more info, please contact Emmanuel United Methodist.**

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## Blissfield MOPS

- The next meeting will be December 8th at 9:30 a.m. The meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and are from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We are also looking for volunteers to watch the children during the meeting. Please contact the church office if you are able to help.
- The MOPS group will also have a play date at the home of Heather Marks December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. RSVP and join in the fun!

## Youth News

• Youth group will be meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> as well as December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for more info regarding both dates.



**American  
Red Cross**

*Together, we can save a life*

Blood Drive December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am to 5pm, here at the church. Please consider donating!



Please join us for a special Blue Christmas Service on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

