

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



## Christmas, New Years, and a New Day

It's a New Year. My social media is full of comments about leaving the past behind, turning over a new leaf, and starting with a clean slate. My friends who are into sports are taking all of the Big 10 bowl victories as a good omen toward all that 2015 has to offer. We really like the idea of being able to start over with a whole new batch of hope. I have to admit that I have never really understood the "big deal" about new years celebrations. As a kid we would stay up, watch the ball drop, go to bed, and wake up on New Years Day without anything really having changed. It has always amazed me however how quickly we seem to forget about Christmas. Christmas is one of those things that we build up to and then it suddenly seems to be over. In the church calendar, Christmas actually begins on December 25<sup>th</sup> and goes until January 6<sup>th</sup>, the 12 days of Christmas. While we seem to have switched from Christmas to New Years, the attitude we

have toward New Years actually applies to Christmas. The reason I have never really understood New Years is that the promise of Christmas makes every day New Years. The entrance of Christ into the world gives us a hope of better things yet to come. It gives us the promise that something better is waiting for us. It gives us the promise that though we lead often broken lives with Christ we have the opportunity to hit restart and "restore the factory settings". The joy of Christmas is that we can escape the burdens of this world because Christ came to make all things new, including each day. Every year we make resolutions that 99% of us will not be able to keep, but the beauty is that we don't have to wait until Jan. 1 2016 to try again. With the promise that Christ brings in coming to our world we will never be without an opportunity to do things right. Each day is a New day.

~Pastor Kristen

# Our Giving for November 30- December 31, 2014 & Year End

	Env. & Loose	Other	Received	For
11/30/2014	\$2,163.00	68.02	11,218.40	Envelopes
12/7/2014	1,884.00	12.00	262.50	Loose
12/14/2014	2,060.00	24.00	7.02	Upper Room
12/21/2014	2,537.90	12.00	4.00	Initial Offering
12/28/2014	2,836.00	0.00	10.00	Building Upkeep
			35.00	U.M. Student Day
			6 0.00	Poinsettias
			3,025.00	Memorials

Budget income this 5 weeks was \$11,501.92. This is a weekly average of \$2,300.38. We require \$2,386.00 per week to meet budget.

Our 2014 budget was \$124,058.00

Our 2014 budget income to meet budget was \$105,273.75.

The following is a summary of 2014 income.

## Budget Income

\$101,067.67	Envelopes		
1,475.30	Loose	\$105,273.75	Budget Income
73.00	Initial Offering	<u>1,682.00</u>	Designated
315.00	Building Use	\$106,955.75	Total Income
1,183.41	Mud Hens Income		
20.00	Office Expense		
115.35	Ricoh Refund		
14.02	Upper Room		
1,000.00	From Building Fund		
<u>10.00</u>	<u>Building Upkeep</u>		
\$105,273.75	Total Budget Income		

## Designated Income

		Super Now Account Income	
\$ 184.00	Poinsettias	\$6,095.00	Memorials
250.00	Bibles	3,073.00	Building Fund
38.00	Human Relations	<u>1,140.00</u>	Mud Hens
- 100.00	Redman Family	\$10,308.00	Total
100.00	Cancer Pt. To Mayo Clinic		
120.00	Lilies		
62.00	One Hr. Sharing		
210.00	Roses		
54.00	Bible Study Books		
128.00	Native Amer. Ministries		
20.00	World Order		
204.00	U.M.C.O.R.-Detroit		
125.00	No Malaria		
42.00	World Communion		
<u>45.00</u>	<u>U.M. Student Day</u>		
\$ 1,682.00	Total Designated		



## January Birthdays

3	Ben Barrus
4	Barb Cambal
9	Jason Higgins, Kevin Wilson, Tyler Villegas
10	Harrison Mapstone
11	Alexis Crist
12	Carolyn Goetz, Iain Gilmore
13	Connie Mapstone
15	Wayne Hess
16	Amy Higgins
17	Diana Medley, Brian Betz, Julie Mapstone
19	Liam Wilkie, Becky Downing
22	Dawn Fisher
23	Lori Faulkner
26	Zander Wheeler
27	Mary Miller
29	Reed Mapstone
30	Hallie Medley
31	Bob Spotts, Anne Jones

## January Anniversaries

15	Brock and Erin Sinclair
28	Tom and Phyllis Mallory

# Ministries on Sunday Mornings in January:

## Ushers:

- 4 Brian Barrus
- 11 Brad Emerson
- 18 Chad Fisher
- 25 Chris Gorski

## Greeters in Front Entrance:

- 4 The Barrus Family
- 11 The Emerson Family
- 18 The Chad Fisher Family
- 25 The Chris Gorski Family

## Greeters in West Entry:

- 4 Don Hoffman and Margaret Goble
- 11 The Marks Family
- 18 Ken and Debbie Lake
- 25 Peggy LaFollette

## Acolytes:

- 4 Jessica Fisher
- 11 Ashlynn Reed
- 18 Abby Gilmore
- 25 Hailie Medley

## AV Room:

- 4 Becca Gorski
- 11 Diana Medley
- 18 Dave Kerekgyarto
- 25 Chris Gorski

## Lay Readers:

- 4 Sharon Sauter
- 11 Jessica Fisher
- 18 Bonnie Emerson
- 25 Linda Polter

## Choir:

- Practice January 8, 15, 29
- Sing January 4, 11, 18

# DECEMBER 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

**December:** ...all the global conflicts, persons in the military, the economy, Jack Sinclair, Carl Anderson, Virgil Klump, Myla Novak, Darlene and Bob Spotts, Bertha Grimes, Ann Lemley, Kevin and family, Ellen Smith, Kevin Wilson, Kathy, Emily Hepker, Larry Greenwald, Robin Raines, Sandy Villegas, Kaden Elizardo, Debbie Lake, Emily Alley, Connie Cox, Greg Sell, Mary Gooze, Carolyn Goetz. Sharon Sauter, Jerry Villegas, Emily Nowak and her son Iziah, Cindy Frederick, Gordon McClain, Mike Williams. We have also been praying long term for: Elizabeth Stutzman, David Anderson, Lori Spotts, Kathy Goetz, Edie Holmes, Susie DeSue.

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

3195 Edgewater Street  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Jack Sinclair

2601 Packard Road  
Sand Creek, MI 49279





Remember our local food pantry! They are asking for the following:  
Assorted Canned Soup, Cookie/Cake Mix, and Canned Peaches.

# Youth News

• *T-Shirts!! Please support our youth. We still have shirts! Please contact the office if you are interested in purchasing one. Each shirt sold helps the youth program. The price starts at \$11 and goes up \$1 for every size over XL.*

• *Our youth will once again be selling hoagies. Your choice of either Ham, Turkey, Italian.*



*Plus your choice of Provolone, American, Cheddar, or Swiss!!! They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The sale starts January 6th and ends January 21st. If you have any questions please contact the church office at 486-4040.*

• *Don't forget there is a new Facebook page for the group. Just let us know if you would like to be added. All of our events will be posted on here to remind everyone.*



## FLOWERS

Just a reminder that anyone can give flowers in honor or in memory of someone

or for any reason. Please sign up on the flower chart located at the West side/elevator entrance or contact Connie Mapstone.

## 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 Emanuel United Methodist Church.**

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

Reminder we have a prayer group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome to join.

## January Meetings

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Committee 7 p.m.
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Worship Committee - 6 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Out to Lunch Bunch Lena's 12p.m.
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Trustees Committee 7 p.m.

# Blissfield MOPS

- We are currently looking for help with childcare during our meetings. Our meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and are from 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please contact the church office if you are able to help. We need one or two more for the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- January 20<sup>th</sup> The group will have a playdate to Sylvania Playland. We will meet there at 10 a.m.

Dear Church Family,  
We are so blessed to have such a caring church. We really enjoyed all the nice cards we received. Bob and I are doing pretty much the same. Miss coming to church. May God bless each and everyone of you.  
Thanks again for caring.  
Love,  
Bob and Darlene Spotts



Our church will be delivering meals February 9<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets will be posted soon.

## Endowments

Our Scholarship Endowment has increased in value steadily this year. January is the month we announce the availability of a scholarship. We are able to offer two (2) \$500 scholarships in 2015. Guideline/requirements are as follows: Applicant must be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D., and a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and must be a member of Blissfield First United Methodist Church. Scholarships may be used for tuition, fees or expenses while attending a college, university, or trade school. Scholarships will be given on an annual basis, providing funds are available. Recipients may not be eligible to receive a second scholarship. Decision is at the discretion of the Endowment Committee and their decision is final. Endowment Committee will make scholarship offer known each year in January, in Church Newsletter and by other announcements (bulletin, worship). Deadline for submission of application is May 1 of each year. Should a member of the Endowment Committee disqualify him/herself from judging the applications, assistance may be requested from member(s) of the Administrative Council. Applications are available in the church office, and again must be submitted by May 1, 2015.

## Out-To-Lunch-Bunch

The Out-To-Lunch-Bunch meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 12 noon, usually at Lena's. We donate \$1.00 each to be used for something needed or worthwhile for our church. Most recently we have provided four card showers for members and friends who have not been able to be with us in Worship. Cards have been showered on Bill and Barb Dittman, Elizabeth Stutzman, Jack Sinclair, and Bob and Darlene Spotts. We hope we put a bright spot in their day, and that they know we miss them and we are thinking of them. We thank the congregation for your participation and cooperation in this project and invite you all to participate in our lunch fellowship. Next Out-To-Lunch is January 15<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon at Lena's.