

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



Baptism and Lent

Throughout the season of Lent (the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter) we are focusing on the vows we take at our Baptism (or membership, or every time we have a Baptism in our church). These vows involve supporting the Church (not just our local congregation) with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. In the United Methodist church Baptism is a big deal. Though the practice of infant Baptism causes us to not remember our Baptisms as easily as some other traditions, for us Baptism is the moment in time when we outwardly accept the grace God offers to us, and pledge to be an active and dedicated member of the Church. Each week in Lent we are addressing what it means to dedicate to God our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and our witness.

You may be wondering what this has to do with Lent. Well, it's quite simple. Lent is a time for being aware of our sinful nature and exploring those things within ourselves that separate us from God. Exploring our membership vows allows us a specific area of our spiritual walks that we can examine. As we talk about prayer, slow down and contemplate your personal prayer time. Maybe you're doing really well in that area, I bet your prayer life

could use some improvement, I know mine can. As we talk about being present you may find that though you are often in the room you are not truly present. Each week take time after Sunday to contemplate how well you are living up to each of these vows. Celebrate what you do well, and think about ways you can improve.

The simple fact is that each and every one of us has areas in our spiritual life that we need to improve. As we evaluate ourselves, we can celebrate and rejoice in the fact that when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on Easter morning we can do so with a renewed commitment to Him. God knows that we are not perfect. In fact he knows that we will never be on our own, after all that is the reason we have the Resurrection. We do, however, need to be mindful of improving ourselves for the work God has for us here on earth. May you be blessed as you continue to learn more about yourselves and strengthen your relationship with God!

~Pastor Kristen

Our Giving for February 1- February 22, 2015

	Env. & Loose	Other	Received	For
2/1/2015	\$1,881.00	20.00	7,610.96	Envelopes
2/8/2015	1,922.00	22.00	60.00	Loose
2/15/2015	2,064.00	11.00	2.00	Initial Offering
2/22/2015	1,803.96	15.00	5.00	Human Reltns
			6.00	Poinsettias
			5 5.00	Lily
			1 0.00	Memorials
			5,000.00	From
				Maintenance
				Endowment yo
				Reimburse building
				fund

Budget income this month was \$7,672.96, a weekly average of \$1,918.24, a weekly average of \$1,918.24. This is an average shortage if \$417.76 per week. We require \$2,336.00 weekly to meet budget. Your gifts are appreciated and needed.

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 Untied 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.



March Birthdays

- 1 Lacey Lake, Chad Fisher, Peyton Marks
- 3 Dave Handy
- 6 Brandon Villegas
- 9 Sarah Wilczynski
- 15 Kayla Gorski
- 16 Mike Sheldon
- 18 Jayne Gorski
- 21 Alexa Mapstone, Dan Lake, Xavier Wheeler
- 22 Maria Flores
- 26 Camden Gorski
- 30 Harley Hodges, Lois McCormick

March Anniversaries

- 5 Doug and Heather Marks
- 6 Chris and Autumn Smith
- 16 Jerry and Sandy Villegas
- 25 Jason and Dawn Foshier
- 27 Harley and Lorraine Hodges

**Deadline for the March
Newsletter is February
25th. Thank you!!**

March Meetings

- 19th - Out to Lunch Bunch Lena's 12p.m.
- 25th - Trustees Committee 7 p.m.
- 23rd - Finance Committee - 6 p.m.
- 26th - Worship Committee - 6 p.m.

Ministries on Sunday Mornings in March:

Ushers:

- 1 Eric Mapstone
- 8 Rich Medley
- 15 Bill Reed
- 22 Jay Gilmore

Greeters in Front Entrance:

- 1 The Eric Mapstone Family
- 8 The Medley Family
- 15 The Reed Family
- 22 The Gilmore Family

Greeters in West Entry:

- 1 Judy Mershon
- 8 Ed and Judy Wilkie
- 15 JoAnn Saxton
- 22 Dave and Dorothy Handy
- 29 Darrell and Linda Polter

Acolytes:

- 1 Ashlynn Reed
- 8 Abby Gilmore
- 15 Hailie Medley
- 22 Natalie Fisher
- 29 Alexa Mapstone

AV Room:

- 1 Becca Gorski
- 8 Diana Medley
- 15 Dave Kerekgyarto
- 22 Chris Gorski
- 29 Becca Gorski

Lay Readers:

- 1 Sharon Sauter
- 8 Jayne Gorski
- 15 Linda Polter
- 22 Ken Lake
- 29 Vicky Oliver

Choir:

Practice March 5, 12, 26
Sing March 1, 8, 15, 29

FEBRUARY 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

February: ...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, Kaden Elizardo, Debbie Lake, Emily Alley, Connie Cox, Greg Sell, Mary Gooze, Carolyn Goetz, Emily Nowak and her son Iziah, Cindy Frederick, Gordon McClain, Mike Williams, Brian Betz, Carol Sheldon, Pat Johns. We have also been praying long term for: Elizabeth Stutzman, David Anderson, Lori Spotts, 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.

You are invited to visit, call, or send notes of encouragement to our shut-ins:

<u>Hilda Knoblauch</u>	<u>Bob and Darlene Spotts</u>
650 W. Adrian St.	9953 Treadwell
Blissfield, MI 49228	Blissfield, MI 49228
517-486-2442	517-443-5834

<u>Elizabeth Stutzman</u>	<u>Bill and Barb Dittman</u>
3195 Edgewater Street	2057 N. Wellsville Hwy
Muskegon, MI 49441	Britton, MI 49229
	517-423-2248

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



Remember our local food pantry! They are asking for the following: Hamburger Helper, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Fruit Cocktail, and Cereal.



Easter Lilies

Please sign up if you would like to purchase a lily in honor or in memory of

someone. The are \$5 each.

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.

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.

Blissfield maps

•We are currently looking for help with childcare during our meetings. Our meetings are the 2nd 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 March 10th meeting.

•March 27th the group will have a playdate at The Toledo Museum of Art. We will meet at First United Methodist at 9:15a.m. It is free to get into the museum and parking is \$5. They also have a café if you would like to get lunch.

Memorials

A new wireless hands-free microphone has been purchased with memorials for Edna Peacock. Thank you to Bud and the Peacock family for designating memorials to be given to our church.

Thank you

- We wish to tank our church family for your prayers, cards, and kind words at the time of our loss of Ed's brother. We are blessed to be a part of this church family. Ed & Judy Wilkie
- Dear Church family, I want to say "THANK YOU SO MUCH" for all lovely cards that I received today. You don't know how much that means to me. I was having a little rough morning but to say the least this had made my day. So thank you for all your kind words and prayers. Love in Christ, Debbie.