

Pastor: Rev. Kristen Parks

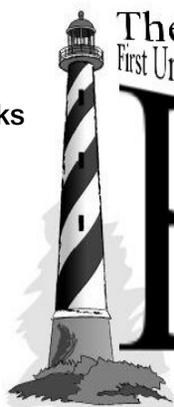
Church Administrator: Heather Marks

Office Phone: 517-486-4040

Pastor's Phone: 517-486-3805

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Fully Handicapped Accessible



The Blissfield
First United Methodist
BEACON



201 W. Adrian Street, Blissfield, MI 49228
blissfumc@gmail.com - www.blissfieldfirstumc.com

Outside of Comfort

I have heard a few times that some of us are not as excited as others about studying the book of John. It so often seems like things can be a waste of our time or energy but we find that when we try, we get a special blessing. The idea behind the season of Lent is that we take the 40 days (Sunday's don't count because they always represent resurrection) and truly reflect on our relationship with God. The question then is why 40 days. These 40 days are symbolic for a couple of reasons. It parallels the time that Jesus spent being tempted in the desert. It also symbolizes the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. Both of these events were times of preparation. During lent we step outside of our comfort zones and prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday. I chose to have us study the Gospel of John because it is filled with a deeper symbolism and has a different structure than the other gospels. This study isn't intended to make you an expert on John's Gospel, but is an opportunity for you to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you by

experiencing God's word in a way you hadn't previously considered. There may be things in the coming weeks that you hear and disagree with. That's great, it means you are thinking enough about what God has to say to disagree. Being challenged to think beyond what we have always thought can be difficult and maybe nothing will come out of it. Or the opposite may be true, there may be a tiny morsel of information that unlocks the door to a characteristic of God you had never noticed before. You may not be excited about talking about John's gospel. It may make you uncomfortable or bore you to tears, but the Israelites weren't very excited about spending time in the wilderness. The truth is that when we are uncomfortable God can move in our midst. You may love studying the Gospel of John, or you may not but either way we know that God can grow us through stepping outside of our comfort zone.

~Pastor Kristen

Our Giving for January 31- February 21, 2016

	Env. & Loose	Other	Received	For
1/31/2016	\$1,838.00	2.00	\$7,165.40	Envelopes
2/7/2016	1,668.00	2.00	102.00	Loose
2/14/2016	1,906.00	0.00	4.00	Initial
2/21/2016	1,855.40	122.00	122.00	Bible Study
			1020.00	Dishwasher
			110.00	Lounge fund

Budget income this 4 weeks was \$7,393.40. This is a weekly average of \$1,848.35. We require \$2,336.00 per week to meet budget.

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 2016. Guideline/requirements are as follows:

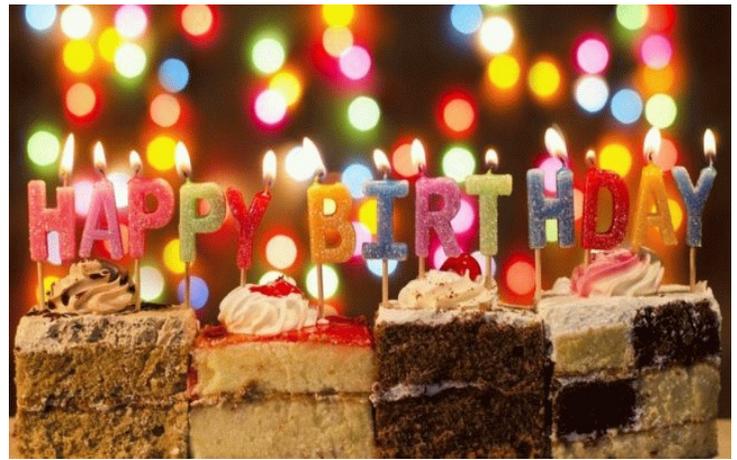
Applicant must be a high school graduate or have a G.E.D., and a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and must be a member of Blissfield First United Methodist Church.

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, 2016.



March Birthdays

- 1 Lacey Lake, Chad Fisher, Peyton Marks, Eloise Terry,
- 3 Dave Handy,
- 6 Branden 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 Heather and Doug Marks
- 6 Chris and Autumn Smith
- 16 Jerry and Sandy Villegas
- 25 Jason and Dawn Fisher
- 27 Harley and Lorraine Hodges

**Deadline for the April
Newsletter is March 30th.
Thank you!!**

Ministries on Sunday

Mornings in March:

Ushers:

- 6 Eric Mapstone
- 13 Mike Sheldon
- 20 Martin Sauter
- 27 Bill Borchardt

Greeters in Front Entrance:

- 6 The Eric Mapstone Family
- 13 Mike and Kathy Sheldon
- 20 Martin and Sharon Sauter
- 27 Bill and Beth Borchardt

Greeters in West Entry:

- 5 TBD
- 13 Carolyn Goetz
- 20 John and Lori Faulkner
- 27 Bonnie Emerson

Acolytes:

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

AV Room:

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

Lay Readers:

- 6 Sharon Sauter
- 13 Mike Frederick
- 20 Jessica Fisher
- 27 Linda Polter

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: ...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, Dave Handy, Ali and Karly, Gianna Sell, David Stucker, Jim Morris, Pearle Barrus, Margaret Goble, Raylan Baney.

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. 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>Barb Dittman</u>
1244 West Southern Ave	2057 N Wellsville Hwy
Muskegon, MI 49441	Britton, MI 49229
	517-423-2248





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



Swim
Night

Saturday,
March 26th

from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Centre.

Eenten breakfasts

All Breakfasts begin at 9:30 a.m.

March 4th - First Presbyterian

March 10th - Trinity Lutheran, Riga

March 17th - Light of Christ, Blissfield

Choir!

Choir rehearsals

*March 3rd, 10th, and 17th
at 7 pm!*

Blissfield MOPS

- The next meeting will be March 8th at 9:30 am. The meetings are the 2nd 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 to the Toledo Art Museum March 22nd. We will meet at the church at 9:30 to car pool.

Egg Dying
Cookie Decorating
Easter Bonnet Making
Foam Craft
Easter Game
Petting Area
Bag Decorating
Easter Cards

Eve Fair
March 26th
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All are Welcome

Blissfield First United Methodist Church

HOG Roast

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

5:00-7:00 P.M.

All are welcome to FUMC's annual hog roast on Saturday, March 12th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church!

Adult tickets are \$8 in advance or \$9 at the door. 5-12 years old are \$6 and 4 years old and younger are free. You can call the church at 517.206.9692 or send an e-mail to BlissFUMC@gmail.com to purchase .

Your ticket gets you roast pork (BBQ or plain), mashed potatoes & gravy, squash, green beans, rolls, salad, dessert and a drink.

Proceeds from the roast will benefit local charities as well as global charities along with the church.



Youth News

- Youth group will be helping with the hog roast on March 12th from 5 to 7 p.m.
- The group is also planning an outing to see the movie Risen on the weekend of March 18-19. Please contact Kelly Jo Gilmore with any questions.
tickets beforehand or get more information.

Maundy-Thursday Service

March 24th 6 p.m.

Good Friday Prayer
Stations March 25th

6 a.m. to 8 p.m.