



The Visitor

Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Volume 18, Issue 4

April 2011

Easter's Meaning

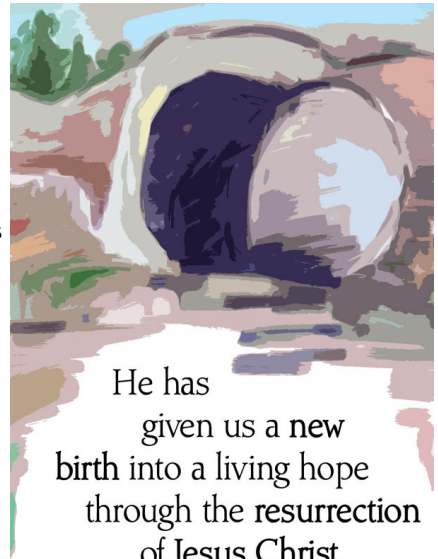
In a 2010 Barna Group survey, two-thirds of Americans knew that Easter is a religious holiday. But, only 42% connected its meaning to Jesus' resurrection. And only 2% of adults said they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.

Not everyone who connects Easter to religion has the facts straight. Two percent of Americans said Easter is about Jesus' birth. Another 2% said it's about Jesus' "rebirth." And 1% said it's a celebration of his second coming. Another 3% described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.

In the same survey, 31% of active churchgoers said they'd definitely invite an unchurched friend to worship with them on Easter weekend.

This Easter, share the truth and joy of the holiday with someone who doesn't know Jesus. News of the resurrection is too good to keep to ourselves!

-The Newsletter Newsletter, April 2011



He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV

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Trusting the Unseen



A gardener planted 2 peony bulbs side by side. In a few weeks, as expected, the first one poked a single stem through the ground. The other would soon follow, the gardener thought. But it didn't. Many more weeks went by with no sign of life.

Then one day, to his surprise, not one but 5 leaf points poked through the soil at once. When the peony bloomed, its flowers were more beautiful and numerous than those of the first bulb.

John Piper said, "In every situation God is doing a thousand things that we cannot see and do not know." When God seems to have forgotten you and hope fails, don't despair. God is at work, and someday you will see.

-The Newsletter Newsletter, April 2011

Pastor's Article

We are now in the midst of Lent, that special season of forty days that Christians observe each year in preparation for Easter. For many years, we in Vicksburg have observed the Lenten season through a series of breakfasts held each Tuesday morning at one of the churches in our community. Customarily, a member of the host church presents a brief devotional message following the meal. Each breakfast begins at 6:45 and ends by 7:25. A freewill offering covers the cost of the meal. Our Lenten breakfasts in April will be held at St. Martin's Catholic Church on April 5, Lord of Life Lutheran Church on April 12, and Lakeland Reformed Church on April 19.

Passion/Palm Sunday falls on April 17 this year. At our worship services that morning, we will tell the story of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus in word and song.

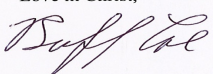
On Thursday, April 21, the UMW will hold their annual White Breakfast at 9:30 in the morning. Our Maundy Thursday service will take place that evening at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

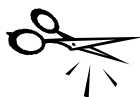
Once again this year, we are honored to host our Community Good Friday service at noon on April 22. Our choir will sing and Wes Bittenbender of Chapman Memorial Church of the Nazarene will bring the message. At 7:00 that evening, the youth of our church will lead us in their annual Good Friday evening service.

Easter morning begins at 7:00 with the Easter Sunrise service, led by our youth. The Easter Breakfast will follow at 8:00. The Chancel Choir will present their annual Easter cantata in its entirety at both the 8:50 and the 11:10 worship services.

Easter is the heart of the Christian year and proclaims the central story of our faith. I hope that you will be with us as often as possible as we experience again the story of Christ's death and resurrection.



Love in Christ,

 Dr. Bufford Coe



Easter Sunday Breakfast 2011

Please sign up to help set up, clean up, or donate food items. The following services/items will be needed. Please circle what you are willing to help with or bring and drop this form in the offering plate. Thank you.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Set up - Saturday P.M. | Mini Muffins | Banana - 2 dozen | Donut Holes - 8 dozen assorted |
| Clean up | | Poppy Seed - dozen | Fruit for Fruit Bowls |
| Coffee - large can | | Blueberry - 2 dozen | Strawberries - 2 quarts, cut up |
| Apple Juice - 1 gallon | Mini Cookies | Chocolate Chip | Oranges - 1 lrg bag, peeled & sectioned |
| Milk Whole - 1 gallon | | Sugar | Apples - 1 lrg bag, sliced |
| Chocolate - 2 gallons | | Oatmeal | Melon - 2 cantaloupe, cut up |
| Grape Juice - 1 gallon | Egg Casseroles - 10 | Peanut Butter | Melon - 2 honeydew, cut up |
| Butter - 1 large tub | Mini Bagels - 6 dozen assorted | | Kiwi - 12, sliced |
| | | | Raspberries - 2 pints |

Prayer

Let Time with God Take the Place of Worrying

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (Luke 12:25)

None of us can add a single moment to our lives by worrying. In fact, the opposite is probably true; we actually *lose* life when we worry. We are wasting the time we spend worrying, and we may be causing health problems that could ultimately shorten our lives.

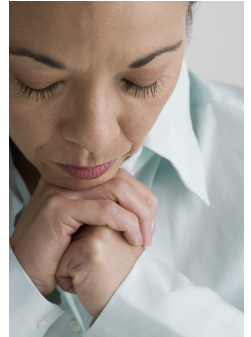
Jesus tells us to refuse to worry because no matter what problems we have, He has already overcome them. “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world!” (John 16:33) We can find freedom from anxiety just by spending time with Him. “When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul” (Psalm 94:19)

When you are anxious, it means you are not trusting God to take care of you. But He will prove His faithfulness if you run to Him. “Do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well” (Luke 12:29-31)

God says we don’t need to be anxious about *anything*; we just need to pray about *everything*. So instead of worrying, actively bring your cares to Him. Prayer is not empty, powerless, wishful thinking. It is a powerful connection with the One who is the source of our comfort, strength, and hope. So take your worries about the future to the One who holds your future in His hands.

Dear God, I pray You would help me to stop worrying about things and start spending more time in Your presence. I know the time I waste by worrying is better used to pray and to hear Your voice speaking to my heart. You are my source of strength, hope, love, peace, and rest, and I want to be connected with You and not the things that worry me.

~Stormie Omartian



South County CROP Walk

CROP Walk Date

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Registration - 1pm

Walk Starts - 2pm



This year the South County CROP Walk will again be in Vicksburg and will originate from the Vicksburg United Methodist Church. We are planning our walk around the beautiful village of Vicksburg.

You are invited to be a walker, rocker, sponsor, volunteer, and/or prayer partner. If your church or organization is not currently participating in the CROP Walk, call Brad Addis, our Coordinator at 269-649-1328 for information and how to get involved with the walk and join the fight against hunger.

CROP is the name given to community fund-raising events sponsored by Church World Service, an inter-national relief agency. Money raised by our CROP Walk will be used to provide food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development efforts for people in need throughout the world. Again, this year, 25% of the funds collected at our walk will stay in our community and be donated to South County Community Services in Vicksburg to help our own neighbors.

Please join us in the South County CROP Walk. Together, partners of all faith, we can make a big difference.

Mission Moment

April is here and that means the chance to get outside and thoroughly enjoy the gifts God has placed in our world. It also means that Spring Break is just around the corner for many of the VUMC family. Opportunities abound to show the world that WE are the hands and feet of Jesus. There are neighbors who need help with cleaning up the yard after all that ice earlier; closets to be cleaned out in time for the UMW's annual Spring Rummage Sale, walls to scrub and paint at a sister church in Kalamazoo who suffered through a fire earlier in the winter. South County Community Services usually has MANY opportunities to serve as does the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Loaves and Fishes and even the Humane Society. If any of this sounds interesting to you please email me at dlpomero-yus2000@yahoo.com or contact the church office.



April 9, a group will be leaving VUMC at 8:00 am to go to Crystal Springs to help with the Spring Clean Up there (check out the announcement on page 12). If you are interested in going, I MUST HAVE a final headcount to them at the camp no later than April 3rd. They will feed us, so you only need to bring a rake and a willing attitude. (For those who remember, this trip usually ends with a stop at Caruso's in Dowagiac for ice cream) :)

IT'S OFFICIAL...the 23rd ANNUAL GREAT GOSPEL SING OUT WILL BE HELD AT THE VICKSBURG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER! At this time 16 churches are planning to participate. Hopefully, that number will be at least 20 by October.

Angel Food will be ending at VUMC in either April or May. The free food initiative from Loaves and Fishes WILL continue however. To that end, we have decided to try and distribute at least one item in addition to the food that cannot be purchased by a Bridge Card. (TP, paper towels, shampoo, laundry soap etc.) Please keep your eyes and ears open for ways you can help with this.

Last, but certainly NOT least...to date we have sent enough money (\$1000.00) to purchase a water purification system to Clean Water For the World, \$1000.00 to Imagine No Malaria, and money to International Child Care, Wesley Foundation, Generous Hands, South County, Haiti Hot Lunch Program and Heifer International this year. We have also sent money to help support our two missionaries: Bob Amundsen and Katie Peterson.



Thanks for all you have done and will continue to do to make CHURCH a verb not a noun.

Diana

Kids Hope

A Kids Hope Story

"I am having fun with my Kids Hope mentor, Ms. Patty. We do lots of crafts like little smelly pillows and bracelets. When we do crafts I don't think about my problems. People are mean to me at home and I don't think about it."



Important Dates:

Friday April 1 - April 10

Spring Break

Sunday May 1

CROP Walk - Students and volunteers will be participating

Thursday May 19, 3:30-5:30

End of Year Party for students and volunteers in the FLC

Friday May 27

Last day of mentoring for this school year

Caring Corner

Tea Party Anyone?

Member care celebrates our seniors by holding ladies' tea parties and gentlemen's gatherings during the spring and summer. Our first tea is being planned right now. If you would like to be invited or would like to help in the planning or in serving, clean up, cooking, etc..., please let Laurie Nic know and we will be happy to include you!



CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: If you will graduate from high school this spring, we would invite you to:

1. Submit 7-10 pictures (all ages) of the graduate for a graduation slide show on graduation Sunday, June 5, 2011 during the month of April to the church office. (At least 2 baby or child pictures please! You could also e-mail them to laurienic7@aol.com)
2. Submit an open house invitation and / or graduation announcement to the office by April 20 (the newsletter deadline) and we will publish your announcement in the newsletter for all to see. (Or attach and e-mail it to laurienic7@aol.com)

CALLING ALL GRADUATES: Member Care committee creates 2 bulletin boards for all of our high school and college graduates in the church lobby. Please bring in a wallet size or 4 X 6 picture of the graduate and their graduation and/ or open house announcement, or a typed summary of where they attended school, degree, graduation date, etc... to Laurie Nic ASAP. (They can go in her mailbox in the church workroom.)

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS: An update of the college student booklet will be created to be distributed at the June 5th service. Contact Laurie Nic with any questions or to add your name to the e-mail request for info list so your student or you will be included in the booklet. (Deadline for submission is April 30.)

News from Laurie:

I have been offered the opportunity to teach three classes at WMU and two at KVCC this next fall as well as the privilege of communicating between the two programs. I am so excited for this new challenge. As college professors generally consider teaching 4 classes full time, I will be pretty busy!

I am sad to say that I will no longer be able to serve as your Director of Caring Ministries. Since I need to prepare for fall, I plan to continue to work here at the church until July 31 unless a replacement can be found before then.

After 9 years of attending VUMC and 6 years employed here, you have all become not only my friends but my family and coworkers for the cause of Christ. Though my job here has been challenging at times, it has also been extraordinarily rewarding. I give my sincere and humblest thanks to so many of you that I can not possibly begin to name you all in this small space. You have supported me, prayed for me and given me your time and shared your service to God with me and with this church. THANK YOU!

David and I do plan to continue to attend VUMC and volunteer by leading Sunday evening short term Disciple Bible Studies in the fall and winter. Since the girls will both be at Alma College, it will be wonderful to have some of our weekends free to visit them!

As always I love you all lots! Laurie

Remember our Church Friends, Easter 2011

These are members of our church and their families who need to know their church remembers and cares for them at special Holy times of the year. The following are lists provided by Caring Ministry. **The folks are either Home-bound, unable to attend, and/or we are honoring their 90+ years of life. (Each will receive a plant.)**

Virginia Caswell 11818 Sprinkle Road Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-2458	Varge Frisbie 115 East South Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-2825	Mildred Kohler Riverview Manor, #120 55378 Wilbur Road Three Rivers, MI 49093	Violet Owen Riverview Manor, #120 55378 Wilbur Road Three Rivers, MI 49093	Alice Stephenson Heritage Community of Kzoo Rm, 353 Director's Hall 2300 Portage St Kalamazoo, MI 49001 269-226-6321
Sue Coffey The Springs 1451 Bronson Way #112 Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269-567-5904	Virlie Gill Borgess Gardens 3057 Gull Rd, Rm T73-B Kalamazoo, MI 49048 269-552-6500	Virginia Maslanik Tender Care Portage 7855 Currier Road Portage, MI 49002	Carmen & Robert Parsons 9597 East T Avenue Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-4137	Al Thomas 211 West Highway St, A-4 Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-1076
Maude & Jake DeHaan 15316 Barton Lake Drive Vicksburg, MI 649-3986	Barb Griner 7532 East W Avenue Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-0758	Nona Mattheis Prairie Meadows, #B2 210 Second Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-1173	Winston & Char Rice 6201 East W Avenue Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-2724	Ray & Marge Vliek 821 Vicker Drive Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-9026
Cinda Dorrance Bickford Cottage 4707 Milham Portage, MI 49024	Louise Haas 246 W. Highway Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-1215	Pat McClelland 12120 Highview Shores Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-2490	Amber Shirah Clare Bridge of Portage 3150 Old Centre Road, D-8 Portage, MI 49024 269-323-1207	Mina Willett 5835 East Z Avenue Vicksburg, MI 49097 649-2653
Ann Felker Tender Care Portage, B-6 7855 Currier Road Portage, MI 49002	June Hill Friendship Village 1400 N Drake Rd, Apt 270 Kalamazoo, MI 49007 269-381-8895	Beverly Nimmo 118 Wayland Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-9837		

Members who have recently lost a close loved one. (Cards or phone call)

James Freeman (grandfather) 163 Carlton Ave, #1D Brooklyn NY 11235	Rachel Freeman (father) 303 S Main Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-3537	Lynne Melvin (brother) 121 North Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-4667	Vera Walker (sister) 9740 Longboat Key Rd Portage, MI 49002 269-327-4869
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Members over 90 years, out-of-town or unable to attend. (Cards only)

Ellen Bailey c/o: Oak Crest Manor 5980 Eastern Ave, SE Kentwood, MI 49508	Genevieve Bowyer 4855 East Milham Apt. L Portage, MI 49002	Joan Bretz 1551 Franklin SE Manor 2017 Grand Rapids, MI 49506	Madeline Dorbin 340 W. Prairie, #9 Vicksburg, MI 49097	Roger Hayward Liberty Village 1836 Western Avenue Chillicothe, OH 45601
Carol Berkey Rosewood 4104 Lake Cook Road North Brooke, IL 60062	David Bretz Shalome House 6311 Polk Street Kalamazoo, MI 49004	Bob Cohrs 118 East Maple Street Vicksburg, MI 49097 269-649-0150	Ashley England 12110 Francesca Grand Blanc, MI 48439	Lucile Miller 202 N. Boulevard Vicksburg, MI 49097
			Ken George 15714 Poplar Lane Vicksburg, MI 49097	George Parsons 318 Cross Oaks Dr #46 Plainwell MI 49080

Easter Flowers

Members and friends of Vicksburg United Methodist Church have an opportunity to remember, to honor or to just express an Easter Wish to some one they hold dear in their hearts.

These sentiments will be collected and printed in a small keepsake booklet. You will receive this booklet on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011.

To be included in this booklet, just fill out the form below. You may include as many loved ones as you wish. Drop the finished form in the offering plate or at the Church office no later than Sunday, April 17th. Include \$6.00 for each name you wish to have in the booklet.

The monies collected will be used to purchase Easter Flowers for those who are home bound, and in care facilities. Any monies left over will be used for other Caring Ministries.

Your Name _____ Phone # _____

_____ Flowers in Honor of _____

_____ Flowers in Honor of _____

_____ Flowers in Memory of _____

_____ Flowers in Memory of _____

_____ Easter Blessing to _____

_____ Easter Blessing to _____

Total Names _____ X \$6.00 = _____



If using a check, make payable to VUMC and mark "Easter Flowers"

Heart & Hands—NOW ENROLLING!

Pass the Word... Heart and Hands is accepting enrollment for 2011-2012! Scholarships are available. Enrollment is open to the community! Visits are welcome. Contact Amber Morris for more information (269)649-2343 ext 106.

4 Year Olds M/W/F (9-12pm)

Co-op 9 Payments of \$105.00

Non Co-op 9 Payments of \$135.00

3 Year Olds T/TH (9-11:30am)

Co-op 9 Payments of \$65.00

Non Co-op 9 Payments of \$90.00

Registration Fee: A non-refundable fee of \$60.00 is due at the time of enrollment.



Sunday School

A reminder that there will not be Sunday School for at least the elementary and youth departments on April 3rd. We resume classes on April 10th. There WILL BE Sunday school on Easter Sunday!

The elementary Sunday school singers will be singing on April 10th during the traditional service.

LOOK...
IT'S A BIRD...
IT'S A PLANE...

NO... IT'S JUST THE EASTER BUTTERFLIES! (Coming soon to a church near you!)



Keep a look out as anytime now the caterpillars will be invading the Sunday School department. Watch as we see how the life cycle of the butterfly relates to the life of Jesus Christ and why they are a symbol of the resurrection.

Butterfly Release date: April 24, 2011

Our short-term Sunday School class, Faith Lessons in the Promise Land, will meet one more Sunday morning—April 17. You need not have attended the other sessions to drop in and join the journey. The class meets in the sanctuary, begins at 10 and ends at 10:45.

Pandamonium???

We here at VUMC are getting wild for another VBS week of action-packed fun and learning!

Be sure the dates of Aug.8-12 are marked on your calendar either to participate or to lend a wild hand. We begin at 9am and end at noon.

All those that would like to help make this year of Pandamania a wild one, contact Lisa Coe, 649-0602 or use the sign-up sheet somewhere near the church office.



Here's a sneak peak of Day 1:

Bible Point - God made you.

Bible Story - God creates the world. (Genesis 1)

Bible Verse - "Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!" (Psalm 139:14)

Youth Ministries

HELIX

In **HELIX** we have finished a five-week study designed to help students understand God's purposes for their life. The first week, "Reaching Out to Your Friends," focused on helping students understand that we are created in God's image and we have the opportunity to share God's love with the world. Week two, "Making Significant Connections," focused on understanding the basic need that humans have to be connected with others on a deeper level. Week three, "Serving in Ministry," focused on the truth that God's unique design provides us with the privilege to serve others. Week four, "Honoring God In All That You Do," and we focused on the truth that God rested on the seventh day to show us the importance of taking time to stop and express our love and worship for God. We wrapped up week five with, "Growing in Your Faith," which focused on the truth that we were created to know God and grow spiritually by spending time with God.

In April we will be working on a series titled "I-Dentity: Discovering Who God Created You to Be". This study will help students understand their identity as followers of Jesus, and how that identity gives them a unique role to play in the world around them. We will examine the freedom of finding our identity in Jesus, while the world expects people to find their identity in a thousand different roles, as well as focusing on the unique gifts and abilities God has given every person and how we discover true significance as we experience God's plan and purposes in our lives.

RAW

In **RAW** this month we tackled a series centered on David, one of the most fascinating characters in the Bible. We looked at just two of the many important moments in David's teenage years for clues to how David maintained his God-ordained identity. This two-week series was designed to give teenagers a clear understanding of how God sees each of them, and how a strong personal relationship with God will provide strength and support. We are currently in the midst of a four week series looking at a portion of the Old Testament, focusing on the Law and the Prophets. It is designed to show how God spoke to the Israelites in the Old Testament and the provisions God made for Christians in the New Testament.

We began with the Law, and looked at how and why God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites and discussed the importance of knowing expectations in advance. We finish up the month looking at the underlying reason for the Law: to expose our sin and need for the Messiah's sacrifice.

Next month we will examine the Prophets. First, we will study how they "coached" the Israelites back to God during their periods of unfaithfulness, and how they also offered the Jews hope for the future with prophecies about the Messiah. We now see those Messianic prophecies as proof that Jesus is who he claimed to be, our Lord and Savior.

YOUTH MISSIONS

As detailed previously, we will be partaking of our Summer Mission Trip with Kentucky Heartland Outreach, in Eubanks, KY from July 10-16. KHO is the same mission organization we went with last year. The price per attendee is very reasonable, and we get a great value for our money. Not only do we get to help families with our week long mission projects, we get a strong Biblical message each day, and are surrounded by a great group of Christians from around the United States and throughout the world.

We had our first "Getting to Know You" training session on Sunday March 20th. At this meeting the youth and their parents were given the outline for our trip as well as what is expected of them while on the trip. We did a few quick and easy team building exercises, and shared a meal together.

In April, we will be setting up the tables and racks for the annual UMW Rummage Sale, and have another training session. At our April training session, students and leaders will receive devotional journals, which we hope will help them prepare spiritually for the journey God has laid before us. We will also go over some basic first aid and tool safety.

ON THE HORIZON

Saturday May 7th the entire Youth Ministry will be going to play paintball at Hole in the Wall in Bangor, MI. Information on transportation and cost will be available no later than Wednesday April 13th.

A Note From Finance!

Hebrews 13:16 a *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Praise the Lord the first Ministry Share has been paid! But remember we need some fund raisers so we can continue to pay them. If you have a good idea, please see the staff. One fundraiser that has been ongoing is the Pie and Ice Cream Social, we are looking for someone to organize this event, if you would like to help please contact the staff.

Don't forget about our AMAZING tile fundraiser. Our mosaic wall has started around a beautiful cross leading and radiating into the Family Life Center. For only a donation of \$50 or more you can remember a person, event or **share your love of God**. We have included an order form for a tile in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity to honor someone for Easter! Pass the form along... ANYONE can order a tile! So far we have raised around \$3000 to pay off the building loan. Imagine what we can do when the wall is filled up!!! Be sure to look for the "Tokens for Tiles" envelopes in the pews. Use these to help contribute any loose "tokens" you have towards tiles to honor those many past members who don't have anyone around to create a tile for them.

We also are continuing the recycling gadget program. Check out the church's web site to see what you can recycle. Last year in 3 months we earned \$70 through recycling and so far this year, in under 3 months, we've earned \$100!!! Each month we will focus on something to bring in to recycle. This month did you know that we can **recycle old music CDs** that you don't listen to anymore for cash????!!! So, as you are doing some spring cleaning and gathering things for the rummage sale and you come across those old CD albums covered in dust that you haven't listened to in years... bring them in to our recycling bucket and help the church raise funds to pay our Ministry Shares!!!



Why not sign up for electronic giving. It is a great way to give and not worry about vacations or the weather. The Church gets your tithes even if you can't be there.

*Let's continue to be a Shinning Example of Christ's Love for the Community thru our Church.
God Bless: The Finance Committee.*

April United Methodist Women

April 1		Church Women United
April 10-14		Rummage Sale Week!
April 14	9am	Merry Martha Circle
April 16		District Spiritual Growth Retreat
April 17		Priscilla Circle Bake Sale
April 21	9:30am	White Breakfast
		Susanna Wesley Circle—Hostesses: Dona Nichols and Chris Bush
April 28	9:30am	Executive Team Meeting
April 28	7pm	Priscilla Circle—at the home of Barb Addis



UMW Reading Program:

Please check out the cart in the library for some very interesting and thought provoking reading materials sponsored by the UMW. YOU DO NOT have to be female to read these books.:

This month's suggested reading is "Like Breath and Water" by Ciona D Rouse. Though this is not a long book the prayers and photos are thoughtful, insightful and very heartfelt. This is a great read and one that really helps to center your thoughts.

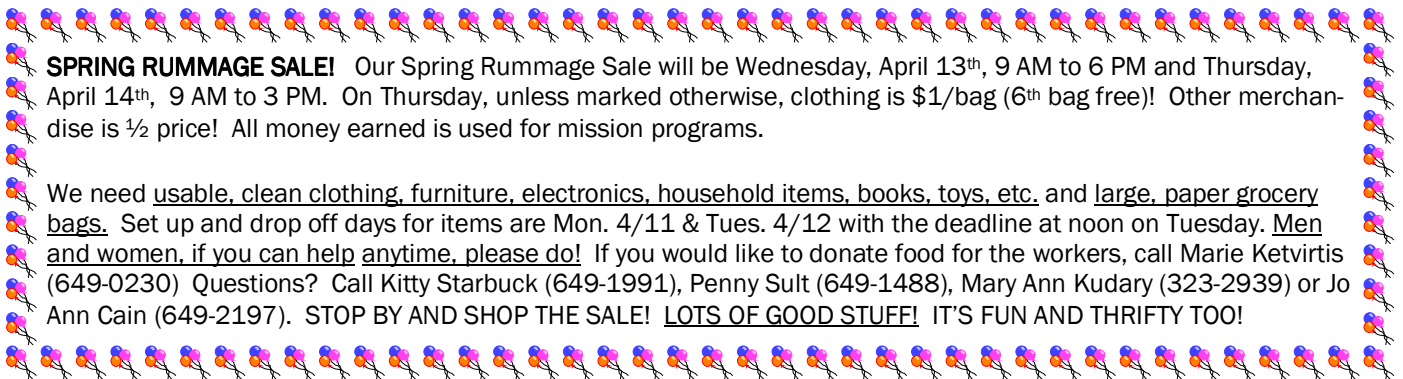
UMW Events

The Vicksburg United Methodist Women (UMW) cordially invite ladies to our annual Maundy Thursday White Breakfast on April 21 at 9:30 am in the Taylor Room. The program will be "The Women Speak" by Marion Fairman. This contemporary drama will feature Mary, mother of Jesus, Pilate's wife, and Anna, prophetess. There will also be special music.

Please RSVP the church office at 649-2343 by Monday April 18 to reserve your place. If children will be accompanying you, please let us know how many and their ages so we can provide the appropriate number of child care providers.

A free will offering will be given to the South County Community Center's assistance programs.

We look forward to seeing you there.



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE! Our Spring Rummage Sale will be Wednesday, April 13th, 9 AM to 6 PM and Thursday, April 14th, 9 AM to 3 PM. On Thursday, unless marked otherwise, clothing is \$1/bag (6th bag free)! Other merchandise is ½ price! All money earned is used for mission programs.

We need usable, clean clothing, furniture, electronics, household items, books, toys, etc. and large, paper grocery bags. Set up and drop off days for items are Mon. 4/11 & Tues. 4/12 with the deadline at noon on Tuesday. Men and women, if you can help anytime, please do! If you would like to donate food for the workers, call Marie Ketvirtis (649-0230) Questions? Call Kitty Starbuck (649-1991), Penny Sult (649-1488), Mary Ann Kudary (323-2939) or Jo Ann Cain (649-2197). **STOP BY AND SHOP THE SALE! LOTS OF GOOD STUFF! IT'S FUN AND THRIFTY TOO!**

Church Women United Ecumenical Register—2009-2011

60 years ago, in 1950, the leaders of Church Women United started a year-long initiative to collect 1 million signatures on an Ecumenical Register of Church Women, in order to show the level of women's leadership and engagement in churches and in the wider public. This register showed that Christian women had come together to work across denominational, theological and cultural lines for the betterment of society and the world. 40 years later, between 1990-1991, CWU was celebrating its 50 year anniversary "Year of Jubilee" and circulated another Ecumenical Register to track and encourage the growth of the movement. During the campaign women were asked to donate \$5 along with signing the register, and funds collected with the signatures were used to support grants and ministries across the country and around the world. As we approach our 70th anniversary (December, 2011), we have decided to once again put forth an Ecumenical Register and collect signatures from every woman across the country. Starting mid-way through 2009 and continuing through our 70th Anniversary in 2011, we will collect \$1 donations with every signature to create a new Ecumenical Register, so that we can continue the work of living out the Gospel message by empowering women and children, and thus all people.

The 2009 May Friendship Day Celebration encouraged us to use opportunities such as the annual celebrations to truly "build on our stories" and find out how many women are working with and supporting the efforts of CWU's historic mission. In an article written in the 1950 June-July issue of The Church Woman by Mrs. Harry Brown (former president of Kansas state CWU), it was stated that the power of women "representing many different denominations, yet united in spirit, purpose and action, is bound to be of inestimable value to a world distressed, distraught and disorganized by numerous and varied divisions." This power so perfectly expressed by Mrs. Brown is still alive today, as is the need for women to "Thanks up and be counted" in a world still divided by hate and violence. The importance of an Ecumenical Register cannot be understated—the power and presence of women working for a better world has historically enabled positive change.

Won't you help us reach our goal and sign your name today?! Take the opportunity to add your name and your \$1 as a sign of your commitment to justice and peace in the world, and then encourage every woman you know to add her name as well. See Laverne Swinehart at church before May 6.

Announcements



Susanna Wesley Circle All Daughter Dinner
Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 6:00 p.m.

UP, UP, AND AWAY
Program by Jerry Pahl
from the Air Zoo

Adults ~ \$5; Child ten and under ~ \$3; In high chair ~ free

Each year, this church awards scholarships to members of our congregation attending institutions of higher education. Applications for scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year are available at the Welcome Center or in the church office. The deadline for returning completed applications to the church office is April 29.

This church regularly provides financial assistance to persons from our congregation attending one of our United Methodist camps each summer. Because registration for the camps is now done online, the church office might not be aware of all the people from our church attending camp unless you tell us. If you are attending one of our United Methodist camps, make sure the church office has your name, the camp you will attend, and the dates you will attend so we can help make camp more affordable for you.

All adults and high school students who are interested in joining Vicksburg United Methodist Church are invited to attend the orientation sessions now being held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning through April 17. These classes will prepare persons to become members of our church family and the global United Methodist Church, but persons may choose at the end of the classes whether or not they wish to join. The classes may also be of interest to persons who are already members but want to learn more about The United Methodist Church or our local congregation. Our new members will be welcomed into the congregation during the worship services on Easter Sunday, April 24. For more information, contact Pastor Buff or Laurie Nic.

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated in the worship services on Easter Sunday, April 24. Parents who wish to present their children for baptism should contact Pastor Buff. On Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a meeting for the parents of children to be baptized. At this session, we will discuss the meaning of baptism and review the baptismal liturgy. The meeting will last about an hour.

Spring Clean Up Day at Crystal Springs Camp... Calling all UM Church Groups!!! Crystal Springs Camp needs your help to clean up and open up camp for the summer. We'll be moving picnic tables, picking up sticks, moving leaves, and turning on water systems. It's a huge job that can be made simple with many hands. Won't you consider joining with others for a rewarding day of work and fellowship?

Where: Crystal Springs Camp, 33774 Crystal Springs St., Dowagiac, MI 49047

When: April 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to ??? (Lunch will be provided)

What to bring: Gloves, rakes, chain saws, gas powered leaf blowers, and tarps for dragging leaves. Other basic tools for light construction and plumbing work. Pick-up trucks and open utility trailers

What else: Please RSVP to Jeff Parsons at 269-683-8918 or crystal@locallink.net so they know how much food to prepare for lunch.

Mail Bag

The power of prayer and the love of a caring church family are a winning combination!

Stand and I wish to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, food and phone calls. It is comforting to be a part of a caring and concerned church.

Thank you all, Georgia Rolfe

Thank you so Very Much for your kindness in our time of need.

God Bless you,
Alma Johnson

Dear Laurie, We want to thank you and your Caring Ministry Committee for sending grief books. They were a big help to us. Elton lost another brother-in-law last Friday. He has lost his sister and 1 brother-in-law in the last year. My brother-in-law died but we realize at our age this is what happens.

Hope you and your family are well and hope you will be having some nice spring weather soon.

Has been beautiful here for the last months but had some really cool weather in Jan & Feb. We'll look forward to seeing you when we get home. Thanks Again.

Elton & Flossie Lang


Thanks for the many prayers, love and hugs during my sisters illness. The rose is a beautiful reminder of my dear Church Family.
~Vera & Chuck

Thanks to Myna and Del Forsythe, several new much needed items have been added to VUMC's kitchen. The church will definitely make good use of them!!!

The Kitchen Fairies
Thank you!

I want to thank you for all the care I have received from my church family during and after the death of my father. Thank you for the rose delivered by Nina, the hugs, the words of love and comfort, the memorials, the cards, but most of all, thank you for your prayers. I felt a blanket of love during my trip to and from Miss. and the whole time I was there. I could feel God's guidance and comfort. The time down there was a time of love and a celebration of a life well lived.
~Rachel Freeman

April Birthdays

4/1	Beth Griner		4/13	Ron Scheff
4/2	Mike Oswalt, Michael Beams		4/14	Pat McClelland
4/3	Virginia Caswell, Rev. Isabell Deppe		4/15	Sue Knapp, Thomas Aitken
4/4	Anna Lynn Pauli		4/16	Joel Smola, Sawyer Barton
4/5	Georgia Rolfe, Paul French, Stephen Phillips		4/17	Clarence Haines, Ronald Wolak
4/7	Karla Stubblefield, John Jukes, Matt Barton, Elizabeth Pauli		4/18	William Swinehart, Becky Berndt, Logan Pauli
4/8	Lynne Melvin, Brian Snyder, Shelly McCauley, Darcy Osborn, Xavier Cleveland		4/20	Lee Philport, Annelore Cannizzaro, Josephine Hosner
4/9	Alex Dailey		4/22	Julie Taylor, June Taylor
4/10	Timothy Melvin, Jim Herson, Lea Johnson		4/24	Bill Gehron, Laura Asher
4/11	Felicia Taylor, Abigail Oswalt		4/25	William Oswalt
4/12	Larry Rolfe, Jessie Westendrop		4/26	Glorraine Bragg
			4/29	Melva Kohler, Robert Bland
			4/30	Mel Zimmerman

April Anniversaries

4/5	Heather & Brad Fenwick
4/8	Georgia & Stanley Rolfe
4/11	Bonnie & Thomas Holmes
4/16	Nancy & J.R. Fulton
4/18	Lorene & Michael Tichvon
4/20	Marilyn & Paul Schutter 55 YEARS!!
4/28	Maxine & Robert Cohrs 65 YEARS!!
4/28	Tamara & Daniel Janer





Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Return Service Requested

217 S Main St
Vicksburg MI 49097
Phone: 269-649-2343
Fax: 269-649-2538
E-mail: reception@vicksburgumc.org

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
VICKSBURG MI
PERMIT NO 41

Sunday Worship:
8:50am - Contemporary Service
10:00am - Sunday School for all ages
11:10am - Traditional Service

Alive in Christ, and it Shows!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.VICKSBURGUMC.ORG

The Visitor

Volume 18, Issue 4

April 2011

Cartoon Corner



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

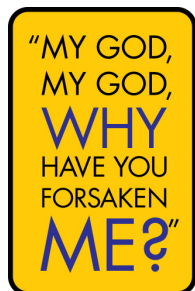
I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,
WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS
SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Bible Quiz

Two places in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and one in the New, feature the following words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The New Testament account is found in Matthew 27:46, when Jesus is hanging on the cross. Where are the words found in the Old Testament?

- A. 1Kings 19:4
- B. Jeremiah 38:9
- C. Psalm 22:1
- D. Lamentations 1:20



Answer: C