

The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

From Pastor Brian

January 2017

I'm going on 14 and a half years of ministry now. I typically miss preaching a few Sundays in a year, but there are also a few extra sermons for Christmas Eve and Ash Wednesday and weddings, etc., so it probably works out to about 50 sermons per year. It means I'm at somewhere around 700+ sermons, yet I realized I've never done a sermon series on the subject of heaven. Certainly, I celebrate the promise of the resurrection at funerals. I give thanks for the abundant life now and the everlasting life forevermore that God offers. And I've preached individual sermons that reference heaven. But in January and February I'll be doing an entire sermon series on heaven.

The tricky thing about talking about heaven is that nobody living can tell us what it's like! So I'll be relying on two sources to guide my sermons. The first is the Bible itself. The Bible tells us quite a bit about heaven, although I think it's important to remember that any description that is put into words is going to necessarily be limited. At best, it'll offer us a glimpse of the true reality, a pale reflection of what heaven is actually like, since the truth is so much greater than our ability to describe or even comprehend.

The second source will be what we do know of God's nature and our experience of how God loves us. I assume that the characteristics that are intrinsic to God's nature won't change (indeed, cannot change!) between this life and the next, so those characteristics can help illuminate what we may expect in heaven.

Now, I know there are people who have come close to death and have had their own experience that they've described as visiting heaven. I won't be using these sorts of accounts - not because I dismiss the importance for people who have had these types of experiences - but for preaching they kind of fall into the unknowable category and can't really be substantiated with Scripture. Throughout, I'll try my best to differentiate the popular cultural depictions of heaven as a place with little pudgy baby angels strumming harps while sitting on clouds with the Biblical descriptions of heaven as a place where we bask in God's presence, worship Christ as King, are restored to our true nature as God originally created us, and enjoy an abundance of life far beyond what we experience here.

I hope it will be extremely interesting for everybody already connected with our congregation. And I hope it will be something of an outreach effort as members of our community who don't have a church home will be interested in this topic. And I hope you'll invite friends to join us during the sermon series so they may be introduced to our church and learn about the important topic of **Heaven!**

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian

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West Bloomfield United Methodist Church seeks to show the love of God through worship, prayer, discipleship, and commitment.

impact

youth ministry

January 1	Happy New Year
January 8	Remove Christmas Decorations
January 15	Planning for 2017
January 22	TBA
January 29	TBA

Women of West Bloomfield

The next regular meeting of the Women of WBUMC will be held on Sunday, January 22 at Noon. All women are cordially invited to join.

Bingo

Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center on Maple Road will begin again on Monday, January 2, 2016. Bingo is fun and the residents love it. Come join us at 2:15 PM.

Look for the 2017 schedule on the bulletin board soon. Please sign up or contact Pam Melton at 248-676-9243.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study group will meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM at Jackie Beach's home. The first meeting in January is on the 9th. If you enjoy learning about the power and meaning of the scriptures and sharing how they impact your life, please plan to attend. All women are welcome! Contact Jackie for directions.

Needed: Second Sunday Counter

We still need a second Sunday counter. If interested, please contact Kathy Chewing or Dan Langford.

Exercise Class

The women's exercise group is on temporary hiatus. You will be notified when it will resume. The men will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday nights at the church. Bill Beach leads the men's group.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

There is still time to enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. To do this you can go to your nearest Kroger Store and sign up at the customer service desk, or you can visit the website at: www.krogercommunityrewards.com. You will be asked to enter your Kroger Plus card number. If you don't have one, you can get them from the Customer Service desk at any Kroger store. Click on SIGN UP TODAY, and go from there. Our church NPO (non-profit organization) number is 82773. During the last cycle our church received a small contribution from Kroger thanks to the enrollment of two households from our congregation.

A member of the Finance Committee will be available in the church office on the second and third Sunday in January to help people sign up for this program. A percentage of each total purchase made at a Kroger store is given to the church on a yearly basis.



- 2 Joanne Herbst
- 5 Rob Mulligan
- 6 Meg Grossnickle
- 6 George Herbst
- 6 Rachel Kammerzell
- 9 Lukas Mazurek
- 12 Danielle William
- 12 Molly Hughes
- 13 David Herbst
- 16 Analeigh Hack
- 19 Riley Croft
- 20 Laura Louise Hughes
- 21 Howard Herbst II
- 23 Eric Worley
- 28 Steve Miles
- 31 Steve Cantrell

Missions Committee

This month, the Mission Committee will be meeting in early January to plan the mission projects that this church will be supporting throughout the coming year. Our first meeting is on Wednesday, January 4 at 2 PM in the Penzien Parlor. Anyone that wishes to come and participate in the mission work and planning is certainly welcome.

The West Bloomfield United Methodist Church has been a Spotlight Church for years. This means that we support a variety of local, national, and internal mission projects that bring life-changing hope, the love of Jesus and much needed services to families and individuals around the world. The 2016 Missions report will be available for you to review soon. This will provide you with a clear picture of the generosity of this congregation and the number of mission opportunities we have had this past year.

January is a 5th Sunday month. On the 29th the children will collect a noisy offering that will support the Haiti Grace Children’s Hospital and

Pediatric Clinic. This medical center cares for children and families that are suffering from TB, HIV/ AIDS, other chronic illness and assists with the earthquake and storm relief needed to re-build lives in that country.

Please take time to read the mission report for 2016 and prepare to ask God for guidance in helping to plan the support for the ministries of Christ we will be providing to His people in the new year.

The Missions Committee thanks you for the love, generosity and compassion that you have for all of the people we serve.



Liturgists

- January 1 Jackie Beach
- January 8 Joe Sutschek
- January 15 Marty Bopp
- January 22 Joanne Herbst
- January 29 Tim McCabe

Greeters

- January 1 Kay Reese
- January 8 Mirella & Dan Ducu
- January 15 Joanne Herbst
- January 22 Melodie & Dan Langford
- January 29 Pam Melton

Trustee on Duty

- January 1 Ralph Worley
- January 8 Mark Borns
- January 15 Kay Reese
- January 22 Mark Borns
- January 29 Bill Beach

Counters

- January 1 Joe Sutschek & Ralph Worley

January 8	Kathy Chewning & Kamara	Joanne Herbst
January 15	Tim McCabe & Gary Langner	January 15
January 22	Vicki Hernandez & Dan Langford	Kara & Rob Mulligan Ralph Worley
January 29	Di Ahmed & Kara Mulligan	January 22
		Melodie & Dan Langford Karen & Bill Sutherlin

Administrative Meetings

January 8	8:30 AM Board of Trustees
January 10	7:00 PM Finance Meeting
January 10	7:45 PM Church Council

Ushers

January 1	Ralph Worley Mark Borns Melodie Langford Joe Sutschek
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January 8	Brent Webster Wisam Jirjis Barbara Shoger Vance Shoger
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January 15	Darwin Wayne Gary Langner Butch Johnson Dora Wayne
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January 22	Vicki Hernandez Marty Bopp Dorinda McMullen Fritz McMullen
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January 29	Ivy Nuamah Simon Kissonergis Bill Maman
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Coffee Hour Hosts

January 1	Kay Reese Mirella & Dan Ducu
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January 8	Margaret Cantrell Pam Kimura Jo Anna Risk
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January 29	Kelly & Shaun Hoffman Patricia & Tim McCabe
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Ways to Connect

Office hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pastor's office hours:

Tuesday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Or call any time with emergencies or to schedule an appointment.

Church contact info:

Telephone: 248.851.2330
Email: church@westbloomfieldumc.org
Website: westbloomfieldumc.org
Newsletter submissions:
newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org

Pastor Brian contact info:

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Cell Phone: 248.672.7481
Email: pastor@westbloomfieldumc.org

Staff:

Rev. Brian William, Pastor
Jo Anna Risk, Administrative Secretary
Warren Johnson, Youth Director
David Carlson, Custodian

Broader Church Connections:

Bishop David Bard, Michigan Area Bishop
Rev. Charles Boayue, Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent

West Bloomfield UMC

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Worship	2 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	3 9:00 am Office Hours	4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Missions meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	5	6 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	7
8 8:30 am Trustees 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	9 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	10 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	12	13 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	14 9:00 am Music Director Search Team
15 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	16 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	17 9:00 am Office Hours	18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	19	20 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	21
22 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	23 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	24 9:00 am Office Hours	25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	26	27 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	28
29 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	30 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	31 9:00 am Office Hours	1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	2	3 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	4

JANUARY



phillipmartin.info

MARTIN

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Orchard Lake Road)
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