

The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

From Pastor Brian

February 2017

I've been thinking quite a bit about worship recently. We're in the midst of a search process for a new music director to help lead our worship, so we've been discussing the meaning and significance of worship. Plus, we're midway through a sermon series on the subject of Heaven, and worshiping is the primary activity that's described in Heaven!

It has reminded me of a sermon series I did a couple years ago entitled *Becoming a True Worshiper*. It was a real eye-opener for me as I realized that much of what makes worship a powerful experience isn't only about what happens "up front" but rather what each of us as worshipers bring to the worship service. Our preparation makes so much of a difference in how we experience worship. If we begin worship with a sour attitude or expecting that worship will be disappointing until proved otherwise, we probably won't get much out of the service. If we begin with a true sense of anticipation, confident that God will be present and will move in a powerful way throughout worship, we will discover our eyes are opened to new possibilities in the worship experience!

I also know there are two themes about worship that come up again and again throughout the Bible. First, worship is meant to be completely participatory. Rather than being passive observers, we are to be fully engaged in heart, mind, body, and spirit. Second, most of what happens during worship is to be directed toward God. Rather than focusing on each other or talking **about** God, we're called to sing praises to God, pray to God, ask forgiveness of God, give thanks for blessings from God, experience God's love, celebrate the greatness of God, and on and on.

Jesus did teach about worship when he spoke to the Samaritan woman by the well. He said in John 4:23 that true worshipers are to "worship in spirit and in truth." I'll note that many churches lean toward one or the other. Either they focus on things they enjoy or that make them feel good while missing deeper biblical truths. Or they focus on doing worship "properly" by saying the right words or doing the right things but without it truly impacting their hearts. Jesus emphasizes that we need **both** in our worship. We need the heartfelt, emotional aspect that impacts our hearts, **and** we need the theological, liturgical content that teaches God's truths.

I also celebrate how worship is a full-body experience! The Psalms describe worship that includes clapping hands (Psalm 47:1), shouting for joy (Psalm 32:11), lifting up hands (Psalm 134:2), kneeling down (Psalm 95:6), playing a variety of musical instruments (Psalm 150), even dancing! (Psalm 149:3) Sometimes we need to worship God with **all** of us!

Finally, I realize there are things that sometimes prevent us from worshiping God fully. When we begin worship, we sometimes think we need to "put on our happy face," meaning we should set aside things that are stressing us out or ignore

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

the hundred other responsibilities that are pulling us every which way or forget about the tragic events of our lives or in our world. Instead of ignoring these things, I suggested we bring **all** our lives into worship, and that we seek to see things in a new perspective. So we consider the stresses of our lives in the perspective of God's truths. Or we ask ourselves how the tragic events of the world appear when seen through the lens of God's love. When we worship, we seek to look at things big and small from God's perspective.

I also mentioned how often style differences prevent us from worshipping God fully. We tend to mix it up quite a bit in our worship, including a variety of musical styles, prayer styles, preaching topics, etc., so there will always be occasions when you don't personally connect with an element of worship. Maybe you don't like a song choice or you don't feel a prayer speaks to you or you're not interested in the preaching topic. When that happens, I suggested that first you should give it a chance. Try to be open to the possibility that a new musical style or worship element might connect you to God in an unexpected way.

If that doesn't work, at least consider that somebody else may really be blessed by that worship element. It's what I call the Thanksgiving Dinner approach to worship. When you're at Thanksgiving, a family member will pass you that weird casserole that you don't particularly enjoy, but you don't make a fuss or cause a scene or grumble about it, because you know your Aunt Susie really loves that dish! You're grateful that she is going to enjoy it, and you know there are more dishes to pass your way that you'll enjoy more. When there's a song or a worship element that isn't your favorite, just be happy that there's somebody else in the room who will find that song the most meaningful part of their worship experience.

Finally, realize that God is much bigger than our worship. We tend to think too small, forgetting who God is. When we remember that

God created the entire universe and has named every star and who also hears our every prayer and truly loves each one of us, we can't help but worship God. When we struggle to worship God fully, we can simply remind ourselves of the greatness of God and rediscover that sense of awe and wonder for who God is and how God has loved us! Truly worshipping God will be our natural response!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian
Pastor Brian



February 5 Super Soul Sunday

February 19 Pancake Brunch

February 26 Bible Study with Pastor Brian

Pancake Brunch

Mark your calendars!

The youth sponsored Pancake Brunch will be Sunday, February 19th, immediately following the worship service.

Women of West Bloomfield

The next regular meeting of the Women of WBUMC will be held on Sunday, February 26 at Noon. All women are cordially invited to join.

Bingo

Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center on Maple Road has begun again. The February session is on the 6th at 2:15 PM. Bingo is fun and the residents love it. Come

join us. 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. 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 percentage of each total purchase made at a Kroger store is given to the church on a yearly basis.

From the Memorial Committee

We welcome gifts as memorials for those who have been a special part of your life and have now made the journey to the kingdom of God. When possible, memorial gifts will be used according to the wishes of the family. When it is not possible to receive input from the family, the memorial committee will recommend to the Church Council appropriate use of the memorial gifts.

In addition to memorials, we welcome gifts to be made in honor of someone who has touched your life or for any blessing in your life. When you are giving such a gift, please feel free to designate a special area that is in need of additional support (Penzien Parlor, Christian Education, etc).

We invite you to take a look at the Memorial Book. If you find something that needs to be corrected (added, deleted or changed) please contact the church office. They will attempt to make the necessary corrections.

We thank you for your loving support of the West Bloomfield United Methodist Church.

The Memorial Committee

Dinah L. Worley Endowment Fund

For over 40 years the West Bloomfield United Methodist Church has been a central part of my life and my life with Dinah. The WBUMC has been a loving, caring congregation and is a special church. Therefore, I have established the Dinah L. Worley Endowment Fund with the purpose of supporting the ongoing mission of the WBUMC by providing financial support during years when the function of the church is limited by financial support from the congregation.

The endowment fund initially consists of \$50,000 gift from me and \$2,400 of memorial donations in Dinah's memory. Income from the fund is intended to be used only during years when the church is in serious financial stress. Serious financial stress is defined as a time when the church is not paying all apportionments due to a low cash balance. Since its inception, the WBUMC has never failed to pay 100% of

apportionments. My concern is not for the near term. Our church is doing very well, and we are supporting our programs, not with any great excess, but we are doing good works. My concern is for potential issues 10 or 15 years from now when many of those in my age group are gone.

Sometimes an action causes unintended consequences. The last thing I would want to have happen is for anyone to think that support of the church is not critical because the church has this money. This fund is for a time when our membership is low and to help the church bridge that time as it builds membership.

Ralph Worley

2016 Mission Report

The following is the 2016 report of the mission activities and projects. The members of the mission committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support over the past year. Once again, WBUMC can claim a Spotlight Church designation.

Spotlight Church Projects

1. Apportionments: paid in full- \$23,593.14
2. Support DAC Mission & Ministry Projects
 - a. Brightmoor Initiative-\$410.00
 - b. Camping Program Initiative-\$50.00
 - c. Baldwin Center-\$1040.00
 - d. Joy Southfield Community Health Ministry-\$728.50
 - e. NOAH Project-\$540.00
 - f. Methodist Children's Home-\$728.50
3. Support for DAC District Project-IALAC Summer Children's Program-\$144.52
4. Support for Global Missionaries-Chelsea Spyres (DAC) \$500.00
5. Support International General Advance Ministries-Heifer Fill the Ark-\$337.98 (1 water buffalo and unspecified other)
6. Support USA General Advance Ministries-Redbird Mission-\$119.22
7. UMCOR Undesignated-\$625.00

8. UMCOR Emergency Fund to Haiti-\$485.00
9. Conference Covenant Partnership Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic in Haiti-\$183.00

OTHER MISSION GIVING

1. Human Relations Day-\$60.00
2. Native American Sunday-\$55.00
3. Peace with Justice-\$145.00
4. World Communion Sunday-\$118.00
5. CROP Walk-\$2790.00
6. Relay for Life-\$3038.00
7. Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Gloves to Baldwin-138
8. Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse-51 boxes
9. Sandwiches for NOAH-\$600.00+
(Congregation made sandwiches 3 different times in 2016.)
10. # of sandwiches made for NOAH clients-1380
11. Haiti Bibles-\$145.00
12. Women of West Bloomfield UMC Mission Projects:
 - a. Underwear for NOAH clients
 - b. Bingo at WB Nursing and Convalescent Home once a month
 - c. Operation Gratitude-care packages and letters to deployed troops
 - d. Gas and food cards for Help Fund
 - e. Helped to fund Pastor Brian's trip to Haiti
 - f. Food and gifts for family at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter
 - g. Pie Sale for Relay for Life

Once again, thank you for your generosity and prayerful giving throughout the past year.

The Missions Committee



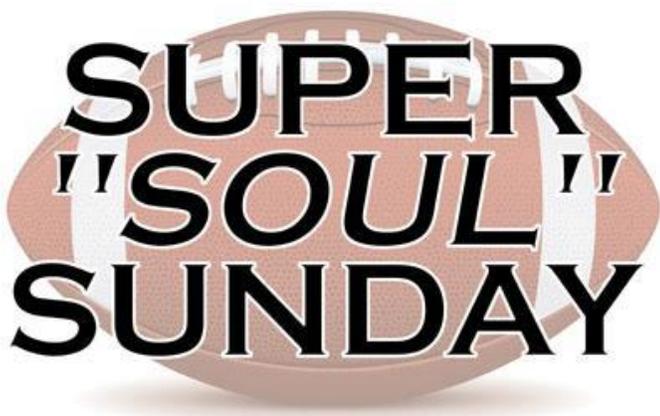
Wednesday, March 8	Holy Spirit Lutheran 4800 Orchard Lake Road
Wednesday, March 15	Pine Hill Congregational 4160 Middlebelt Road
Wednesday, March 22	West Bloomfield United Methodist 4100 Walnut Lake Road
Wednesday, March 29	Spirit of Grace 2399 Figa Avenue
Wednesday, April 5	



- 1 Jeff Risk
- 2 Pat Borns
- 4 Yvonne Mile
- 10 Cooper Maman
- 11 Quinn McLellan
- 17 Mildred Bassman
- 17 Becky Meldrum
Mackenzie (Mickey)
- 19 Joseph
- 24 John Mars, SR
- 24 Darwin Wayne
- 25 Bill Beach
- 25 Marty Mandelbaum
- 26 Christopher Mulligan
- 27 Haven William



12 Jeff & Deborah
Herdman



Are you ready for some football?!
Are you ready for some worship?!

On February 5th, the biggest sporting event of the year takes place. And here at church, we'll be embracing the fun and festivities with Super "SOUL" Sunday. At 10:30 AM, we'll have football-themed worship, finding fun ways to deliver a meaningful and inspirational gospel message while we connect it with a football theme. Then at noon, we'll enjoy tailgating food as well as fun and games for all ages.

So what can you do to make this a fun event? We're hoping you will:

- Bring your favorite tailgating food to share chips & dip, wings, guac, chex mix, carnitas, etc. – whatever your family munches on during the big game!
- Wear your favorite team's apparel – NFL, college, your old jersey from high school – as long as it's football, it's good! (And we'll even let you wear Tigers or Redwings gear if you'd prefer!)
- Bring a friend! This will be a great opportunity to invite somebody to a very special event that's both fun & meaningful.



February

Liturgists

February 5	Brent Webster
February 12	Jackie Beach
February 19	Will Sutherlin
February 26	Simon Kissonergis

Greeters

February 5	Vicki Hernandez
February 12	Pam Kimura
February 19	Levada Geisey
February 26	Di Ahmed

Trustee on Duty

February 5	Ralph Worley
February 12	Dan Ducu
February 19	Wendy Kissonergis
February 26	Glenn Joseph

Counters

February 5	Joe Sutschek & Ralph Worley
February 12	Kathy Chewning & Sulaiman Kamara
February 19	Tim McCabe & Gary Langner
February 26	Vicki Hernandez & Dan Langford

Administrative Meetings

February 12	8:30 AM Board of Trustees
February 14	7:00 PM Finance Meeting
February 14	7:45 PM Church Council

Ushers

February 5	Ralph Worley Mark Borns Melodie Langford Joe Sutschek
February 12	Brent Webster Wisam Jirjis Barbara Shoger Vance Shoger
February 19	Darwin Wayne Gary Langner Butch Johnson Dora Wayne
February 26	Vicki Hernandez Marty Bopp Dorinda McMullen Fritz McMullen

Coffee Hour Hosts

February 5	Levada Geisey & Ilene Herdman Anne Harnden & Bernie Westfall
February 12	Barb & Vance Shoger Dorothy & Bill Maman Gary Langner & Karen Mitchell
February 19	Kathy Chewing Naomi Morgan Di Ahmed & Diane White
February 26	Becky & Jerome Meldrum Mary & Brent Webster Glenda & Jim White

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:

Home Telephone: 248.851.0149
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

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	30 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al 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 10:00 am Music Director Search Team
5 10:30 am Worship – Super "SOUL" Sunday! 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Super "SOUL" Sunday games and food!	6 2:00 pm Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	7 9:00 am Office Hours	8 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	9	10 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	11
12 8:30 am Trustees 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Impact Youth Ministry	13 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	14 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	15 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	16	17 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	18
19 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Impact Youth Ministry	20 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	21 9:00 am Office Hours	22 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	23 3:00 pm Missions Meeting	24 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	25
26 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield 12:00 pm Impact Youth Ministry	27 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	28 9:00 am Office Hours	1 Ash Wednesday 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



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