

# The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

September 2017

## From Pastor Brian

With the current cultural conversation, it's worth looking at one of the main examples of confronting racism we find in the Bible. In Galatians 2, Paul rebukes Peter for prejudice he's showing toward persons of other races. Yes, that Peter! The same Peter who experienced God's Spirit enable **all** nationalities to understand his sermon in their own languages on Pentecost. The same Peter who God gave a culinary lesson to when Peter saw a dream with some "clean" foods and some "unclean," but God told him, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." (Acts 10:15) And Peter understood the message, saying "I truly understand that God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34) and began preaching to people "in every nation" that "Jesus Christ is Lord of **all**." (Acts 10:36) The same Peter who defended preaching to persons of other ethnicities by saying that God has "made no distinction between them and us" (Acts 15:9) and that "we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." (Acts 15:11)

Yet in spite of these inclusive statements of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all ethnicities, at some point Peter fell back into prejudicial ways. Paul spells it out quite clearly: "[Peter] used to eat with the Gentiles. But after [certain people from James] came, he drew back and kept himself separate." (Galatians 2:12) We need to understand two things about this. When he says "eat with" Paul means to celebrate Holy Communion together. And when he says "the Gentiles" he's referring to all people who are of a different ethnic group than Peter, because although Peter is a follower of Christ he still considers himself ethnically and racially Jewish. Essentially, **Paul is saying Peter refused to share Communion with fellow Christians because of their ethnicity.**

A few things to point out about this rebuke:

- It's a reminder that even the heroes of the Christian faith can struggle with the sin of racism. In spite of his powerful ministry, Peter had relapsed into old patterns of prejudice and discrimination that he had known before Christ had changed his heart. We all know we struggle with other sins, so it's no surprise that we can struggle with this one as well.
- Leadership matters, since it's clear that Peter's prejudicial attitudes weren't just a matter of private concern, but "others joined him in this hypocrisy." (Galatians 2:13) The discrimination he showed was mimicked by other church leaders.
- We need to be careful who we listen to. Earlier Peter had shown great maturity in bucking his culture's efforts to discriminate. But he was influenced by others, "certain people from James" (Galatians 2:12) we're told. Rather than resisting their influence that led him away from God's desire to offer grace to **all** people, Peter listened to their prejudicial views.

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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  
Mission Trip Report  
June 19 – June 25**

- Paul doesn't condemn Peter or call him a racist or a bigot or anything like that. But he certainly doesn't sweep Peter's prejudice under the rug either! In fact, Paul says that he doesn't need to condemn Peter "because he stood self-condemned." (Galatians 2:11) Peter wasn't living up to the standards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that Peter and Paul both proclaimed.

- Paul is definitely not willing to let Peter's prejudice slide. If it had been a minor squabble, Paul may have been willing to quietly mention it to Peter in a private moment. Instead, he says "I opposed him to his face." (Galatians 2:11) The paragraph heading in my Bible says "Paul Rebukes Peter at Antioch." Paul's intent wasn't to embarrass Peter, but he did publicly correct such an egregious departure from a proper Christian attitude. Racism needs to be directly confronted, and Paul did so.

It's important to note that after rebuking Peter, Paul provided him the opportunity to recover the true message Christ had given to Peter and to Paul and to us all: "We have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ." (Galatians 2:16) It's a faith that's available to **all** people, regardless of skin color or ethnicity or nationality. It's a faith that isn't based on doing certain things or being born into a certain family. It's a faith that's based on the one "Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us." (Galatians 2:20)

The curious thing is we aren't told how Peter responded to Paul's rebuke. The very next verse is "You foolish Galatians!" (Galatians 3:1), so we know Paul wouldn't pull any punches with fellow Christians he disagreed with. So the fact that he didn't do something similar for Peter makes me think Paul was simply being gracious. Paul was recognizing that Peter saw the error of his prejudicial ways and Paul didn't feel the need to rub it in. My prayer is that we Christians will take this same approach to racism today! Yes, confront racism directly! Yes, frame ethnic differences in terms of the unity we have in Christ! Yes, offer graciousness when Christians realize that living in Christ means showing the same love and care for all people that Christ did!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian

This year we joined 2 other churches for our youth mission trip, the Elk Rapids Presbyterian Church and the Jackson Free Methodist Church. There were 40 youth and 11 adults who participated, including Karen Sutherlin's sister and her son and daughter who drove all the way from California to join us. We stayed at the Lighthouse, which is a youth facility that was built by the Presbyterian Church.

We were divided into 5 mixed groups. 3 groups helped with VBS each morning from 9:00 – 12:30. The other 2 went out on a work project each morning. One of those projects was to stand outside of the Village Market in town to collect food for the Community Cupboard. In addition to collecting over 30 bags of food, the groups that were there raised over \$600.00 in monetary donations.

Two groups headed to the Salvation Army in Traverse City to build playground equipment and dig a Gaga Pit for the children who come there each day. This project went so well that the groups continued to dig out the side of a hill and build a deck for families who come there each day for meals. The deck project had been scraped the week before, but with lots of hard work and God's hand, the deck was completed.

Every afternoon all 5 teams went out on a service project. Some teams worked at ACTS (a thrift store/food pantry), some at Samaritas (a Senior Living Center), some at the homes of the 10 families that we helped and some worked at the Kewadin United Methodist Church painting and cleaning up the yard. On Thursday afternoon the whole group went out to the Pleasant Valley Bible Camp. This camp is run

totally with volunteers for children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to enjoy a week

at camp. We spent the afternoon getting the camp ready for the first set of campers.

Our evenings were busy with a trip to Front Street in Traverse City, a Beach Bums Baseball Game, River Street in Elk Rapids and swimming. We ended the week with a trip to the sand dunes and tubing down the Platt River. Every evening ended with singing and devotions.

We have an awesome group of youth and they did a great job of representing our church. The youth who went were: Seth Wayne, Kris and Ben Kissonergis, Mackenzie and Nick Joseph, Paige and Will Sutherlin, Frank Ducu, Caris and Peter Nebb. The adults who went were Butch and Barb Johnson, Melissa Kimura, Karen Sutherlin and Sharon Nebb.

**THANK YOU TO OUR CONGREGATION FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS TRIP AND THE EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE!**

### **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**

The women's evening Bible study group is currently on hiatus. Plans for future meetings are underway, Stay tuned for more information.

### **Women of West Bloomfield**

The women of WBUMC will not be meeting in September, but instead will be having a salad luncheon meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2017 after church to help with CareerDress. The group will be collecting gently used professional clothing for women, as well as new underwear. They will also accept perfume, if the bottle is almost full and new toiletry items as well.



### **SEPTEMBER**

- Jamie Hernandez
- 3 Barbara Shoger
- 4 Vicki Hernandez
- 4 Howard Herbst III
- 5 Prathibha Chindam
- 8 Mark Borns
- 9 Di Ahmed
- 10 Drew Kammerzell
- 10 Jerry Jefferies
- 11 Kaye Lynn Mazurek
- 12 Amy Croft
- 12 Benjamin Kissonergis
- 13 Brielle Wayne
- 15 Will Cantrell
- 20 Jane Johnson
- 21 Warren "Butch" Johnson
- 24 Robert Brewster
- 24 Brynn Hoffman



### **SEPTEMBER**

- 3 Steve & Kaye Lynn Mazurek
- 18 Warren & Barb Johnson
- 23 Brian & Monica William
- 28 Mark & Pat Borns
- 29 Bill & Carol Gesaman

## 2017 Church Conference

Our 2017 Detroit Renaissance District Church Conference is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The District

Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue will be presiding at a meeting with the SPRR Committee at 6:15 pm and with the congregation at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend the Church Conference, however, only those in attendance who are members of the church will be able to vote on items brought before the conference, such as recommendation for pastoral compensation and nominations for leadership positions.

It is a good time to help familiarize Dr. Boayue with the people in our church and the wonderful work being done here for us to learn about out DS and his mission for the Detroit Renaissance District of the UMC.

Please plan on attending our annual church conference!

## Missions

There are no specific mission projects scheduled for the month of September. However, the Missions Committee thought it would be a good time for us to summarize the work this congregation has done to date and the projects we plan to support during the rest of 2017.

January-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering designated for the Haiti Grace Hospital and Pediatric Clinic-\$173.00 was collected and sent.

March-Special Giving Sunday for UMCOR Undesignated fund- \$660.00 was sent.

April- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering designated to the United Methodist Urban Youth Alliance-\$165.00 was sent to the program in Detroit

Easter Offering- \$1,716.00 was collected and sent to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

June- Peace with Justice Sunday -\$40.00

July- a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering designated for the Redbird Missions in Kentucky. &139.18 was collected for that project.

Samaritan Counseling Center and Asbury House are supported out of the Mission Budget as well as support for our missionary, Chelsea Williams.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering designated for the Heifer International Fill the Ark program. In the past, the children of the church have voted on which animal to purchase with this donation.

In November, the Thanksgiving Offering is designated for th NOAH project, which this church has supported for several years. We have completed one donation of 460 sandwiches this year and will likely do one other toward the end of the year.

The Christmas Offering will be divided between the Joy-Southfield Community Health project and clinic and the Methodist Children's Home.

The Missions Committee wishes to thank everyone for your generosity, commitment and support for the programs we select to sponsor. If you would like to help with our work, you are more than welcome to make suggestions or to join us on our committee. We currently meet once every other month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at the church. The next meeting of the missions committee will be on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Hope to see you there.

## Bingo

Don't forget to sign up to help with Bingo at the West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Home. There will be no Bingo in September but the fun resumes on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 2 PM. The residents really enjoy the interaction with visitors from our church.

## Haiti Mission Trip

Our church will embark on a medical mission trip to Jeremie, Haiti, January 17-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. For either 3 or 4 days, we'll offer medical care at two locations - a clinic near Jeremie and a second mobile clinic.

We'll need doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and non-medical folks to enable us to do intake,

provide medical care, fill prescriptions, fill out paperwork, and pray with people in need.

The cost will be approximately \$1,100 per person for all expenses – airfare to/from Haiti, as well as transportation, meals, and lodging in Haiti. Plus, we'll do some additional individual fundraising to cover the costs of the medical supplies and medical staff we'll hire in Haiti. And the church will have several opportunities to contribute medications and medical supplies which will enable us to do effective work in Haiti.

Labor Day is the deadline to commit to go. Certainly, if you're ready to commit to the trip today, go ahead and let us know you'll be going! But I will need to make Labor Day the final deadline, since I know from experience that an international mission trip simply can't have people joining only two or three months before departure.

And whether you're going or not, please be praying that God will work through this effort!

### **Amazon Smile**

West Bloomfield United Methodist Church is now an approved charity for Amazon Smile thanks to Jo Anna registering us. Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features (including Prime) as Amazon. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, .5 % of the purchase price of eligible products to will be donated to our church. You have the same Account and Login information for Amazon Smile as you do for Amazon. The website is very user friendly. Once you go to the website, [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to pick a charity. Just type in West Bloomfield United Methodist Church and make it your charity. You are only required to select the charity the first time and Amazon Smile will remember it, but you always need to purchase through Amazon Smile in order for the donation to be sent to WBUMC. You will also be able to see how much your purchases have contributed and how much the Church has received. Every little bit helps. Please sign up as soon as possible and tell your friends (including social media friends) and family about it. A handout will be given out at church.

Thank you for supporting the church.

### **Counters Luncheon**

There will be a luncheon meeting for all offering counters of the church on Sunday, September 24 after coffee hour. Dan Langford plans to update everyone on counting procedures and encourages all counters to mark their calendars and come to enjoy a wonderful lunch. This meeting is for all regularly scheduled counters, substitutes and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday counters. Clarifying the procedures such as completing the counter sheets will help our new Treasurer keep our financial books up to date.

### **Calling All Musicians**

I am looking for musicians interested in sharing their time and talent with the congregation. Singers, ringers and instrumentalists are encouraged to sign up on the sign-up sheets and connection cards so I can plan music and the rehearsals. I am also willing to accompany soloists. Please know that musical perfection is not required; but a desire to worship and praise God through music is a necessity. Hope to hear from you soon.

### **January 1 to July 31, 2017 Financial Information**

Offering Received	\$84,377
Other Income (Northville Insurance Reimbursement, AA Rent, Kroger)	\$4,768
Total Income	\$89,145
Total Expenses*	\$97,176
Net Income (Deficit)	(\$8,031)

\*Note - Current expenses are below budget



# Fruit of the Spirit Lunch & Church Fun Fest! Kids - Youth - Adults - Older Adults

Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

Invite your family, friends, & neighbors  
to this fun all-church event for all ages!

Games - Crafts - Youth-led Skit - Dinner

- Hear all about the Fruit of the Spirit from our youth actors
  - Frame your own photo
  - Play balance-the-fruit game for prizes
  - Create your own hanging fruit sand art
- Make some fun fun fruit Life Saver Lollipops
  - And Much, Much More!

To let us know you'll be coming,  
either mark your "Connection Card" at worship this Sunday  
or email us at [church@westbloomfieldumc.org](mailto:church@westbloomfieldumc.org)



### **Liturgists**

September 3 Jackie Beach  
September 10 Will Sutherlin  
September 17 Jim White  
September 27 Ralph Worley

### **Greeters**

September 3 John & Tracie Hoover  
September 10 Wendy & Simon Kissonertis  
September 17 Marty & Marcia Bopp  
September 24 Di Ahmed

### **Trustee on Duty**

September 3 Ann Sutschek  
September 10 Fritz McMullen  
September 17 Kay Reese  
September 24 Mark Borns

### **Counters**

September 3 Joe Sutschek &  
Ralph Worley  
September 10 Kathy Chewing &  
Sulaiman Kamara  
September 17 Tim McCabe &  
Gary Langner  
September 24 Vicki Hernandez &  
Dan Langford

### **Administrative Meetings**

September 10 9:00 am Trustees Meeting  
September 12 7:00 pm Finance Meeting  
7:45 pm Church Council

### **Ushers**

September 3 Ralph Worley &  
Mark Borns  
Melodie Langford &  
Joe Sutschek  
September 10 Brent Webster &  
Wisam Jirjis  
Barbara & Vance  
Shoger  
September 17 Dora & Darwin Wayne  
Butch Johnson &  
Gary Langner  
September 24 Vicki Hernandez &  
Marty Bopp  
Fritz & Dorinda McMullen

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

September 3 Barb Carlson  
Butch & Barb Johnson  
Libby Beck  
September 10 Kay Reese  
Mirella & Dan Ducu  
September 17 Margaret Cantrell  
Pam Kimura  
Joanne Herbst  
Jo Anna Risk  
September 24 Kara & Rob Mulligan  
Ralph Worley

## 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](mailto:church@westbloomfieldumc.org)

Website: [westbloomfieldumc.org](http://westbloomfieldumc.org)

Newsletter submissions:

[newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org](mailto:newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org)

### Pastor Brian contact info:

Home Telephone: 248.851.0149

Cell Phone: 248.672.7481

Email: [pastor@westbloomfieldumc.org](mailto: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 Alan Bard, Michigan Area

Rev. Charles Boayue, Detroit Renaissance District

Superintendent

# West Bloomfield UMC

# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>6</b> 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	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Trustees 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	<b>13</b> 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	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 11:45 am Lunch for all and Church Funfest	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>20</b> 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	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Lunch Meeting with Counters	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 6:15 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee 7:00 pm All-Church Conference	<b>27</b> 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	<b>28</b> 6:00 pm Missions Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b>

# SEPTEMBER

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