

# The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

October 2017

## From Pastor Brian

On October 1st, I celebrated the amazing things God has done in our church in the past couple years. 2015 was a pivotal year for us as four important things happened to create a powerful synergy:

1) An understanding of Jesus' instructions to "love the Lord" and "love your neighbor" (Mark 12:30-31). We realized that in West Bloomfield, "our neighbor" is Asian, Hispanic, Black, White, Middle Eastern, Jewish, and Indian, so loving our neighbors means loving persons of many ethnicities. Likewise, the Bible describes Heaven as "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages" (Revelation 7:9) and every Sunday we pray, "Thy Kingdom come, on earth as it is in Heaven." If we really mean what we pray, we should be working to make our church become a better reflection of Heaven!

2) A friendship that formed with Pastor Chris White and myself. Over 15 years of hospice chaplaincy, the nature of his ministry has remained the same - to care for families going through the dying process. But when there's a cross-racial relationship, the form of his ministry adapts somewhat. Even while he cares for families going through the dying process, the way he does so is culturally appropriate.

3) Likewise, in our church, I recognized in 2015 that our church's core identity is we are a "loving church that cares for our community." That's not meant to be exclusive at all - other churches also care for their communities of course. And it certainly doesn't mean we're perfect. We still say the wrong thing from time to time, we still get our feelings hurt occasionally - we're human, so that'll happen. Yet at our core, we truly are a loving church that cares for our community. And that core value hasn't changed over our nearly 50-year history. However, our community has changed. Our neighbors aren't the same skin color as in 1968 when we began. The ethnic groups represented in our community aren't the same as in 1980 when we first moved into our church building. So while our love for our community remains the same, the way we love our community adapts as our community changes.

4) I shared two examples of how I saw this overwhelming love. One was when we learned that 19-year old Zachary McKay died. With tremendous graciousness, Ann Sutschek and a group of the women of the church provided a memorial service and luncheon for the McKay family as if they had been 30-year members of the church as opposed to a family we'd met 30 minutes before. Then Kumba Kamara shared how she'd shared Holy Communion with Dinah for the very last time, only a few days before Dinah's passing. Both were extraordinary moments of great love and kindness, not based on race or ethnicity or place of birth - they showed how powerful love can be.

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

(From Pastor Brian, cont.)

Wow! Let's celebrate the ways God has been working! We can look back and see those accomplishments and be satisfied with how far we've already come. Or we could ask, "What is the next step of faithfulness for our church?" Here are the next steps I imagine for our church:

1) **Become a multi-ethnic family.**

Monica and I recently celebrated our 17th anniversary. At first, it felt like I was a guest in her family. Everybody was very nice to me and they tried their best to include me in things, but I still felt like a bit of an outsider. After some years, however, it started feeling more and more like I was truly integrated into Monica's family. There isn't an artificial process that can force this to happen, as it simply happens naturally over time. But this is my deepest hope for our church - that we may feel so inclusive for persons of all ethnicities that **everyone** feels we're fully incorporated into a multi-ethnic family together.

2) **Embrace multi-ethnic ministry as a vision for the entire congregation.**

After I'd been running for about six months, my brother-in-law said, "Now that you're a runner..." and I stopped him. "Oh, no," I said, "I'm not a runner. I'm just a guy who runs." Running as an activity I do vs. running as an essential part of who I am. My sense is that's where our church is at. We're excited about the presence of persons of different ethnicities. We're thrilled how church ministries have been enhanced by multi-ethnic voices and contributions. I imagine embracing multi-ethnic ministry as part of our shared vision as a church. I imagine a time when we embrace our identity as a "loving church that cares for our community" **and** we specifically include all ethnicities of our community in that description.

These are big next steps! I recognize that. And it's exciting to be able to even dream of these next steps, since they indicate that we've accomplished so much already. Now that God has brought us this far, we're ready to live into the next phase of what God has in store for us! For "God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished." (Phil. 1:6) God isn't done with us yet!

Peace in Christ,

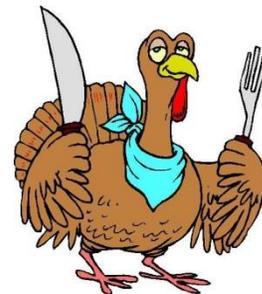
Pastor Brian

# impact

## youth ministry

**October 8** Pastor Brian Teaching at 9:30 AM

**October 28** Church Clean-up



### HARVEST DINNER

The youth will be sponsoring the Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will be held immediately after church. Everyone and guests are invited! Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy will be supplied. If you would like to bring a dish to pass, it can be either a vegetable dish or a dessert. This dinner is one of the youth fund raisers for their mission trip next summer.

### Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The women's evening Bible study group will begin again on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Jackie Beach's home.

### Bingo

Don't forget to sign up to help with Bingo at the West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Home. The fun resumes on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 2 PM. The residents really enjoy the interaction with visitors from our church.

## Women of West Bloomfield Career Dress Luncheon

The women of WBUMC will be having a salad luncheon meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2017 after church to help with CareerDress. CareerDress is a non-profit organization that helps women who are actively seeking employment and are in need of appropriate attire to wear to a job interview. The boutique is self-funded and assists clients that are referred from 40 different agencies including State of Michigan Welfare to Work program, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Department of Human Services, Homeless, Domestic Abuse and Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation programs. Currently the program serves about 30 women each month.

At the luncheon, Gently used professional clothing for women will be collected. Jewelry, accessories and new toiletries are also welcomed and perfume of the bottle is almost full. Women are provided with a complete outfit for the interview and if the job is secured, women can return to Career Dress for two additional outfits. Appropriate outfits are provided for a variety of industries including scrubs for health and medical work, uniforms for restaurant workers, and work boots, etc.

The program is designed to promote economic independence of low/moderate income women of Southeastern Michigan, equip them for success in the workplace and provide encouragement to women who are seeking to better their lives and the lives of their families.

### FINANCE REPORT

#### West Bloomfield United Methodist Church January 1 to August 31, 2017 Financial Information

Offering Received	\$ 96,020
Other Income (Northville Insurance Reimbursement, AA Rent, Kroger)	\$5,353
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$101,373</b>
<b>Total Expenses*</b>	<b>\$106,953</b>

Net Income (Deficit) (\$5,580)

\*Note- Current expenses are below budget  
As you can see, we currently are operating in a deficit. Please prayerfully consider keeping your pledge and giving up-to-date so we can continue to do God's work in His world.



#### OCTOBER

- 2 Dorothy Maman
- 2 Bentley Wayne
- 9 Jo Anna Risk
- 9 Evalyn Hughes
- 10 Kady Hoffman
- 12 Junior Kamara
- 12 Abigail Wayne
- 13 William Sutherland
- 15 Gerry Cochran
- 16 Ann Sutschek
- 17 Simon Kissonergis
- 20 Barb Johnson
- 23 Bernie Westfall
- 25 Pam Kimura



#### OCTOBER

- 2 Joe & Ann Sutschek



**Friday, October 20**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Rapids**  
**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

We're headed to this opportunity designed to help us discover the potential of multiethnic ministries. On Friday, Oct. 20, a conference will be offered to explore how ethnic and cultural diversity can transform existing churches and plant brand new ones. On Friday morning In-Yong Lee will be speaking on Transforming Homogenous Churches into Multiethnic Churches, and later in the afternoon Rodrigo Cruz will be speaking on Planting Multiethnic Churches. There will be plenty of time for Q&A throughout the day as well as breakout sessions for additional discussion on the topics presented.

Pastor Brian has pulled some strings to get this event **free of charge** for our church! We're hoping to have two or three cars of church members to carpool to the event to take advantage of this great opportunity.

## **2017 Church Conference**

Our 2017 Detroit Renaissance District Church Conference was held scheduled Tuesday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue presided over the meetings of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and members of the congregation. Items that were voted on included nominations for church leadership, recommendations for pastoral compensation, and acceptance of the membership audit report.

Dr. Boayue encouraged those in attendance to continue the good work of this Church, especially the work being done to become a multi-ethnic congregation that reflects

the community in which we are located. He urged the church to be patient in these efforts, to love the way we are now and love the way it may yet become.

## **Missions**

Heifer International is the mission program that will be funded by our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Noisy Offering on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. It's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough. And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?

That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires our work to end world hunger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

## **How it Works**

The organization empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity by an approach that is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. The animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.

When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

The core of their model is Passing on the Gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities. The

goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. This is done by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves.

Please consider giving generously to this offering. The children will choose which animal(s) they wish to purchase for a family or a community.

In November, the Thanksgiving Offering is designated for the 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.

## **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.

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 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.

## **Calling All Musicians**

Our new Music Director is still welcoming 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.



### Liturgists

October 1 Kris Kissonergus  
October 8 Sulaiman Kamara  
October 15 Darwin Wayne  
October 22 Frank Ducu  
October 29 Jerry Jefferies

### Greeters

October 1 Gary Langner  
October 8 Mark & Pat Borns  
October 15 Doris & Jerry Jefferies  
October 22 Jo Anna Risk  
October 29 Fritz & Dorinda McMullen

### Trustee on Duty

October 1 Ralph Worley  
October 8 Bill Beach  
October 15 Dan Ducu  
October 22 Wendy Kissonergis  
October 29 Glenn Joseph

### Counters

October 1 Joe Sutschek & Ralph Worley  
October 8 Kathy Chewing & Sulaiman Kamara  
October 15 Tim McCabe & Gary Langner  
October 22 Vicki Hernandez & Dan Langford  
October 29 Di Ahmed & Kara Mulligan

### Administrative Meetings

October 8 9:00 am Trustees Meeting  
October 11 7:00 pm Finance Meeting  
7:45 pm Church Council

### Ushers

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

### Coffee Hour Hosts

October 1 Melodie & Dan Langford  
Karen & Bill Sutherlin  
October 8 Kelly & Shaun Hoffman  
Tim & Trika McCabe  
October 15 Levada Geisey  
Ilene Hedman  
Anne Harnden  
Bernie Westfall  
October 22 Barb & Vance Shoger  
Dorothy & Bill Maman  
Gary Langner  
October 29 Kathy Chewing  
Naomi Morgan  
Di Ahmed  
Diane 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](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

# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	<b>2</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>4</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>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 am Trustees 9:30 am Impact Youth Ministry 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Women's Luncheon and Career Dress Intake	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	<b>11</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>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:30 am Worship – Laily Sunday, Ralph Worley preaching 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	<b>16</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>18</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>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>21</b> Reach Summit Conference
<b>22</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>25</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>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 9:00 am NOAH Sandwich Making
<b>29</b> 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	<b>30</b> 10:00 am NOAH Sandwich Making 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>31</b> 9:00 am NOAH Sandwich Delivery Office Hours	<b>1</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>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>4</b>



West Bloomfield United Methodist Church  
4100 Walnut Lake Road (just west of Orchard Lake Road)  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
248.851.2330  
[newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org](mailto:newsletter@westbloomfieldumc.org)  
Web: westbloomfieldumc.org