

The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

March 2016

From Pastor Brian

A few weeks ago, I shared why I trust the account of Jesus found in the Bible. Each of us has quite a bit of knowledge we've amassed over the years. Some of this knowledge we've received from experience, some from our formal education, some by reading books or watching documentaries, and some from experts in the subject. Some knowledge is of dubious value – things we overheard at the grocery store but which may not be accurate. Some knowledge is the sort of thing "everybody knows" because it's become the conventional wisdom. Our knowledge is a mix of all these sources.

So how do we know what the Bible says is trustworthy? Some treat it as simply a matter of faith – we don't know for sure, but we believe it is true. Why? Because we have faith. But I want a bit more than that. Others go to the opposite extreme and say the truth of the Bible is unknowable. We have no way of proving conclusively its validity so while we might find value in its words, we can't really know if it's true or not. But I don't agree with that perspective either!

Others suggest the truth of the Bible is murky. They imply that the writing of the Bible was quite casual – a wide variety of people heard Jesus' words and saw Jesus' acts and passed the stories along to friends, forgetting certain details, embellishing other parts, filling in the gaps as they saw fit, and so on. Eventually they got around to writing the stories down, with the result being kind of a mishmash of fact and fiction. There's probably truth in there somewhere – a few words that Jesus actually said – but then there's a lot of extra stuff as well. I just don't buy it, though.

I don't buy it for several reasons. First, I think our memory is a lot better than we sometimes think. When I was a kid, I remember singing "Little Bunny Fufu," but then I didn't sing it even once in my teens or twenties. When Haven was born, Monica and I would sing it to him. Even though it had been thirty years since I'd sung it, even though Monica and I grew up 2,400 miles apart, and even though I never consulted a book or a website to check the lyrics, Monica and I knew every single word without trouble. If my memory is good enough to flawlessly remember something as frivolous as the words to a kid's song, it indicates our memory can retain details for quite a long time.

Second, when something is important to us, we're sure to get the details correct. If you told me about every member of your extended family, you'd get the details correct. If you came to a family member you couldn't remember, you wouldn't just make something up to fill in the gap. Rather, you'd call a family member and ask, "What's so-and-so's name?" You'd want to get it right. Likewise, even if you'd always really wanted a sister but only had brothers, you'd still consider it preposterous to make something up and pretend that you had a sister when you didn't.

I believe the early Christians considered the stories of Jesus to be much more important than getting a list of family members correct. Because it was so

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

important, I think they would have considered it quite ridiculous to make their own changes to the stories about Jesus. Had they thought to themselves, "I really don't like what Jesus said, so I'm going to change his words to suit me," the thought would have been quickly dismissed.

Third, the biblical record itself suggests how it was written. Luke's Gospel begins by describing his writing process: "Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, so that you may know the truth." (Luke 1:1-4)

Luke wrote "an orderly account," indicating he was careful and thorough in his research. He wrote it "after investigating everything carefully," showing that he wanted to get the facts right. He wrote it by consulting with people who had actually seen the original events: "the events... were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses." And he shared his purpose for writing it: "so that you may know the truth."

Because of all these things, I trust that the Gospels represent as accurate an account of Jesus' words and deeds as we could honestly hope to have. I trust that the Gospel writers did their research diligently, conducting interviews with the original eyewitnesses, carefully checking their facts with the memory of people who knew the importance of remembering the details properly, and then writing an orderly account of the events of Jesus' life.

If they did their work with an appreciation of the importance of their task, I can be confident that Luke and the others have fulfilled their desired purpose: "so that we may know the truth" about Jesus!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian

impact

youth ministry

March 6 , 5:00 PM	Parent/Youth Dialogue Drugs & Alcohol
March 13, Noon	Easter Service Planning
March 20, Noon	Easter Service Planning
March 27	Easter Sunday

Come and join us. We have lots of fun!

Adult Activity

Join us on March 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM for Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall of the church. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board. Bring movie smacks to share. There will be popcorn!!!

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The women's evening Bible study group meets every Monday evening 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.

Women of West Bloomfield

The women of WBUMC will continue to meet for their regular business meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month at 12 Noon, except for Easter Sunday. The Community Outreach Committee has planned bingo with the residents of the West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Center the first Monday of every month. Contact Pam Melton at 248-860-2952.



MARCH

- 1 Scott Kammerzell
- 1 Gary Langner
- 2 Bill Maman
- 5 Bea Scaglione
- 10 William Kozlowski
- 13 Jim White
- 15 Steve Mazurek
- 20 Warren Johnson, Jr
- 23 Paige Sutherlin
- 26 David Carlson
- 26 Raina Pintamo



March

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jim & Glenda White
- 7 Bill & Dorothy Maman
- 30 John & Judy Mars

Missions Committee

There are two very important mission programs that the church will be supporting during the month of March, the One Great Hour of Sharing UMCOR offering, and the Easter offering support for Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Michigan.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports the important work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This offering will be taken on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Watch for the special offering envelopes. If you cannot donate on the 6th, just write UMCOR Offering on the bottom of your check. You can donate at anytime. By helping to fund this organization, the congregation is supporting immediate disaster assistance to people in Michigan and all over the world.

Locally, UMCOR provided a \$10,000 grant to the UMC district serving Flint, Michigan. This money helped to procure badly needed water filters and distribute them to the hardest hit areas of the city.

The Easter Offering will provide support for the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Michigan. This program feeds, clothes, educates and empowers the men, women, and children in that community. They offer more than 25 programs that help to meet basic needs, offer assistance in a crisis, and provide education and other programs for adults and children in that neighborhood. Please prayerfully consider donating to these Mission programs during the month of March.



3/2 - Pine Hill Congregational
4160 Middlebelt Rd.

3/9 - Spirit of Grace
2399 Figa Rd.

3/16 - Orchard Lake Community Church
5171 Commerce Rd.

Holy Week Schedule

Easter Plants

The youth will again be taking orders for Easter plants for the altar on Easter Sunday. This is a fund raiser for the youth to help cover the cost of their summer work project. We are asking that orders be placed by as soon as possible before 20th of March.

Please include the payment with your order. Checks should be made payable to West Bloomfield UMC. Order forms will be available from Barb Johnson early in March. Orders can be given to the Johnson's or placed on Jo Anna's desk.

Maunday Thursday

On Maunday Thursday, March 24, 2016, Orchard Lake Community Church (OLCC) will be presenting **The Living Last Supper** at 7 PM. Maunday Thursday is the night when Jesus gave the new commandment: "love one another, just as I have loved you". When Jesus kneels down to wash his disciples' feet, he demonstrated the fullness of his love. You'll want to be at this special service, as it will make the scripture come alive. And please invite neighbors and friends to this special event.

OLCC is located at 517 Commerce Road in Orchard Lake, Michigan.



Good Friday Service

This year, our church is hosting the Good Friday service at 12 Noon on March 25th in the sanctuary for the churches in the community. A joint choir made up of members of the choirs from our neighboring churches will be performing. Come to spend an hour of quiet reflection and prayer as we remember the Lord's time on the cross.



Easter Sunrise Service

The Easter Sunrise Service will take place at Marshbank Park (East of Hiller Rd., just north of Commerce Rd.), 7 AM, Sunday, March 27th. In John 20:1 says, "It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark when Mary came to the tomb," so we will gather at Marshbank Park at 7 AM when it is "still dark" and will worship and celebrate the resurrection as the sun rises over Cass Lake!

Easter Breakfast

At 9 AM, Sunday, March 27th, 2016, we will enjoy a delicious breakfast provided by the men of the church!

Easter Service

Then at 10:30 we will hold a true Resurrection Celebration as we rejoice once again that death could not defeat life, the grave could not contain Jesus, and God's love for humanity could not be thwarted. We will boldly proclaim "Christ is risen!"



March Madness for Missions

March is almost here and that means the end of winter ... well, maybe not ... but it is time for the college basketball National Tournament. Sixty four of the best teams are selected each year to compete, leading up to one team being crowned National Champions. The tournament is known as 'March Madness' because many of the games are exciting and the tournament has some very unpredictable and unusual outcomes.

2016 is the third year WBUMC has held its "March Madness for Missions." All the money raised goes directly to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. There's no 'gambling' involved since Baldwin receives 100% of the entry fees!

To enter the contest we just ask that you make a contribution. How much is up to you—\$5 or \$500, it all goes to missions! It's all on the honor system, so you can:

- Donate cash (with a note attached 'For March Madness for Missions')
- Write a check (to WBUMC with "March Madness for Missions" on the Memo Line)
- Use the E-Giving option on the website westbloomfieldumc.org and choose "March Madness" from the menu

For the entry contribution you will attempt to pick the winner of each of the 63 games played during the tournament. The week of March 7th Pastor Brian will send the website address where WBUMC has been registered for the tournament. After the announcement of the teams on March 13th visit the web address and make your selections. These selections will need to be

completed by March 16th before the first game. At the time of picking the teams you will be able to register under a 'nickname' of your choice. However, we do have good detectives in our congregation and we will unravel any mystery names.

Throughout the tournament, the website will tally your score and well as all of the others from WBUMC. You can anticipate some good-natured ribbing going in all directions.

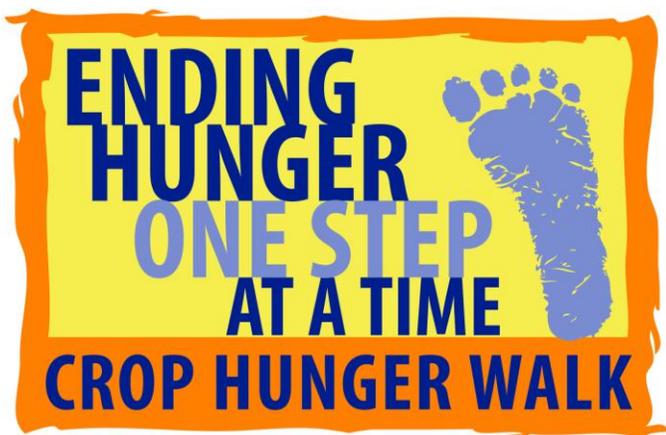
Last year we had about 16 people participate and hope to add to that number this year. Here are some reasons to join the fun:

- 1) It supports our church's missions outreach and goes to a worthy cause.
- 2) It's fun!
- 3) There's a traveling trophy which the winner will be able to proudly keep and display until next year's tournament.
- 4) The winner will have their name permanently engraved on a plaque on the trophy.
- 5) The winner has bragging rights. The trophy is available for viewing on the table at the church's main entrance.

Parsonage Roof

Last fall, the Trustees determined that the parsonage needed a new roof, and the old roof was torn off and the new roof put on in December. After receiving several competitive bids, the total cost was \$6,480. While the church briefly considered financing the amount, the Finance Committee decided to pay for it with cash, drawing down the "Capital Expenditures" reserves in the church's account.

To replenish these important reserves, the *Women of WBUMC* have been quite generous in donating \$1,000 toward paying for the roof. **We would like to replenish as much of the remaining \$5,480 as we possibly can, so if congregation members would like to contribute, please write a check with "Parsonage Roof" on the memo line.**



It's that time again to begin thinking about our annual CROP walk for hunger. The CROP walk will be Sunday, May 1st from 1 - 4 PM in Farmington, beginning and ending at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington. As we join other area churches, we are a vital part of this very important walk. Please put this date on your calendars. We will be sharing more information soon to let you know how to sign up to participate. If you feel you can't walk, there will be plenty of opportunities to sponsor a walker (OR two, OR more!!). You can also go to their website: [https:// www.crophungerwalk.org/farmingtonmi/](https://www.crophungerwalk.org/farmingtonmi/) for additional information. Thanks in advance!!
 -Fritz & Dorinda McMullen

Farmington Community Band



Farmington Community Band is celebrating its 50th season with a concert at Orchestra Hall. If interested, this could be an excellent adult activity in June. Advance notice is needed for this concert. Join the 100 piece concert band, under the direction of Damien Crutcher, in A Life Time Of Music, with guest conductors H. Robert Reynolds and Dr. Ronnie Wooten, and Farmington Hills Harrison High School graduate, Bass Trombonist, George Curran, now a member of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. This is an event not to be missed! It is scheduled for Sunday, June 26 3:00 PM to be held at:

Orchestra Hall
 Detroit Symphony Orchestra
 Fisher Music Center
 3711 Woodward Avenue
 Detroit, MI 48201

Seating section:

Adult
 Box \$50.00
 Main Floor A \$25.00
 Dress Circle \$20.00
 Main Floor A Sides \$20.00
 Main Floor B \$20.00
 Main Floor B Sides \$15.00
 Mid Balcony \$15.00
 Upper Balcony \$10.00
 Box Office
 313.576.5111 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm
 Plus 2 hours prior to concerts *

Patricia McCabe will post a sign up on the bulletin board to see if there is interest in attending this concert. I believe I can get a group rate if we have enough people interested.

Exercise Class

During Lent, the women's exercise group will not be meeting. The men will continue to meet at 7:00 PM on Thursday nights at the church during this time. Bill Beach leads the men's group.



Liturgist

March 6 William Sutherlin
 March 13 Kevin Mulligan
 March 20 Kristofer Kissonergis
 March 27 Kara Mulligan

Greeters

March 6 Mirella & Dan Ducu
 March 13 Vicki Hernandez
 March 20 Vance & Barb Shoger
 March 27 Gary Langner

Trustee on Duty

March 6 Kay Reese
 March 13 Wendy Kissonergis
 March 20 Bill Beach
 March 27 Fritz McMullen

Counters

March 6 Joe Sutschek
 Ralph Worley
 March 13 Kathy Chewing
 Sulaiman Kamara
 March 20 Tim McCabe
 Gary Langner
 March 27 Vicki Hernandez
 Dan Langford

Administrative Meetings

March 6 8:30 AM Board of Trustee Meeting
 March 8 7:00 PM Finance Meeting
 7:45 PM Church Council

Ushers

March 6 Ralph Worley
 Mark Borns
 Sean Hughes
 Joe Sutschek
 March 13 Barb Shoger
 Vance Shoger
 Angela Hernandez
 Brent Webster
 March 20 Darwin Wayne
 Butch Johnson
 Gary Langner
 Dora Wayne
 March 27 Vicki Hernandez
 Marty Bopp
 Dorinda McMullen
 Fritz McMullen

Coffee Hour Hosts

March 6 Levada Geisey
 Ilene Herdman
 Anne Harnden
 Bernie Westfall
 March 13 Barb & Vance Shoger
 Dorothy & Bill Maman
 Gary Langner
 Karen Mitchell
 March 20 Kathy Chewing
 Naomi Morgan
 Di Ahmed
 March 27 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

Marty Mandelbaum, Music Director

David Carlson, Custodian

Broader Church Connections:

Bishop Deborah Kiesey, Michigan

Area Bishop

Rev. Charles Boayue, Detroit Renaissance District

Superintendent

West Bloomfield UMC

March 2016

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	9:15 am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids / Sprout 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper @ Pine Hill Congregational	7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Private Use of Fellowship Hall 11:00 am Adult Fellowship Activity - Movie Night
6	8:30 am Trustees Meeting 9:15 am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship - One Great Hour of Sharing 10:40 am G3 Kids / Sprout 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Youth / Parent Drugs & Alcohol Dialogue	2:00 pm Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing & Convalescent Center 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup & Bread Supper @ Spirit of Grace Church	7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group 7:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	7:00 pm Adult Fellowship Activity - Movie Night
13	9:15 am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids / Sprout 11:45 am Impact Youth Ministry	7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Soup and Bread Supper @ Orchard Lake Congregational	7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours 11:30 am Choir Warm-Up 12:00 pm Good Friday Service 8:30 pm AA Meeting
20	Palm Sunday 9:15 am Adult Class 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids / Sprout 11:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11:45 am Impact Youth Ministry	10:00 am Men's Club 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study	3:00 pm Missions Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	9:00 am Office Hours 11:30 am Choir Warm-Up 12:00 pm Good Friday Service 8:30 pm AA Meeting	
27	Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise Service @ Marshbank Park 9:00 am Pancake Breakfast 9:45 am Bell Choir Warm-Up 10:30 am Worship - Easter Sunday! Special Offering for Baldwin Center in Pontiac 10:40 am G3 Kids / Sprout	7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm AI Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	9:00 am Office Hours	6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Exercise Group 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group		9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	

MARCH

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Orchard Lake Road)
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Web: westbloomfieldumc.org
