

# The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

September

2016

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Brian	1-2
Monday Night Women's Group	2
Impact Youth & Mission Trip Report	2-3
Women of WB	3
Exercise Groups	3
Second Counter	3
Kroger Rewards	3
Women's Bible Study	3
Missions Committee Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Memorial Committee Reports	5
Education Committee	5-6
Worship Assistants	7
Ways to Connect	8
Calendar	9

## From Pastor Brian

There seems to be so much division in our country right now. It's not only the differences of opinion – we've always had that. And of course, we're in an election season, which by its very nature is intended to highlight the different visions each political party and each candidate has. That's simply democracy at work. But this seems to me to be more divisive. People disagree with our fellow Americans, but then go further to lack empathy or respect or even a willingness to hear differing perspectives. And that's troubling.

When I look at the Bible, however, I realize that divisions and differing perspectives and disagreements have always been part of being human. It's nothing new. But I also realize that Jesus and the early church weren't neutral on the subject – again and again and again, they emphasized the importance of being **unified in Christ**. No matter what, the things that we disagreed about were never as important as the things that held us together.

Earlier this summer, I shared some insights from John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. He certainly knew about divisiveness that had spiraled out of control, since his native England had seen grave conflict between Catholics and Protestants for a full century prior to Wesley's lifetime. So he came to the understanding that four things were true:

1. Every single one of us holds a conglomeration of beliefs, opinions, and perspectives on life, faith, family, politics, economics, etc. We hold hundreds, if not thousands of different beliefs.
2. Every single one of us is convinced that our own beliefs are true. After all, if we didn't really think they were true, they wouldn't actually be our beliefs, would they?!
3. Yet every single one of us has the humility to know that our beliefs can't **all** be true. We're not perfect in wisdom or understanding or intelligence, so surely some of our beliefs are mistaken.
4. However, we can't know which of our beliefs are, in fact, mistaken. (Or else we'd fix those mistaken beliefs and be perfect! But we're not perfect, so there would still be mistaken beliefs.)

It's an absolutely brilliant argument. We believe things and we believe those things are true. We know they can't all be true, yet we don't know which beliefs aren't true.

So Wesley saw two extremes. Some people decide they have no way of knowing what is true and what isn't, so they throw up their hands and say, "I give up!" They decide not to have any real beliefs and become quite mushy in their opinions, going along with the crowd and not thinking too deeply about anything of importance. The other extreme is to become extremely rigid in their beliefs, deciding their beliefs really are perfect. They become quite dogmatic and are unwilling to have any of their beliefs challenged or questioned. John

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

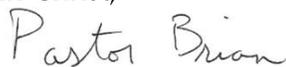
Wesley said both extremes were unhealthy. Rather, he urged people to truly believe what they believe. As he said it, "Everyone must be fully persuaded in his own mind and then act according to the best light he has" and "Hold fast to that which you believe is most acceptable to God, and I will do the same." Believe it! Be convinced of it. And live it out fully. But at the same time, have the humility to know that other people may have different perspectives. Again, as Wesley said, "We must **both** act as each is fully persuaded in his own mind" and "God has given no right to anyone to lord [their rules] over the conscience of his brethren, but every man must judge for himself."

When we do so, two things happen. One, **we learn** from each other. We listen to other perspectives and appreciate their sincerity. We are both blessed as we expand our understanding to include different viewpoints.

And two, we find ourselves **unified**. Wesley believed that love is ultimately what unifies us. He sought to "unite in love" with other Christians so that we may do more effective ministry together. But he never asked if others worshiped in exactly the same style as he did or belonged to the same denomination as he was or believed in the same structure of church government as he did. Rather, he wanted to know only if their hearts matched. He simply asked, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart." He concluded that love is the great unifier: "Though we cannot always think alike, may we not love alike? Though we are not always of one opinion, may we not be of one heart? Without a doubt, we may!"

Throughout September and October, we'll notice the divisions of our society, but then we'll find a better way! We'll discover that Jesus meant when he prayed in John 17:22 that his deepest desire for the church was "**that they may be ONE**"!! We'll agree with Wesley that even when we are not of one mind, **we will be of one heart!!** That will be the focus of the fall sermon series, **ONE**.

Peace in Christ,



Pastor Brian



- September 11 All-Church Picnic
- September 18 Teaching by Pastor Brian
- September 25 Cross Roads for Youth Adventure Center

### Impact Youth Ministry Mission Trip June 19<sup>th</sup> - June 25<sup>th</sup>

This year we joined two 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 AM - 12:30 PM. The other two groups 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 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. The 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 scrapped the week before, but with lots of hard work and God's hand, the deck was completed.

Every afternoon all five teams went out on a service project. Some worked at ACTS (a thrift

store/food pantry). Some at Samaritas (a Senior Living Center), some at the homes of ten 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!**

## **Women of West Bloomfield**

The meeting of the women of WBUMC will be held on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 12 Noon in the church parlor.

Bingo at the West Bloomfield Nursing and Convalescent Home will not be held in September due to the Labor Day Holiday. It will resume on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. We'd love to have you help out! Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pam Melton at 248-676-9243.

## **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.

## **Needed: Second Sunday Counter**

We are looking for someone who would like to count on the second Sunday of the month. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Chewing or Dan Langford.

## **Exercise Class**

The women's exercise group will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM at the church. Vicki Hernandez is the leader of this group. 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 to enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. To do this you can go to your nearest Kroger Store and ask to sign up there, or you can visit the website at: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://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

## **Choir Rehearsals and Performances**

Bell Choir (Joyful Noise) will be rehearsing on Thursday nights 9/8/16 & 9/22/16 at 7:30 pm to 9:00pm. The Bell Choir will perform on Sunday, 9/25/16 during worship. Warm-up is scheduled for 9:30 am.

The Choir/Praise Team will be performing during worship on Sunday, 9/11/16. Warmup is scheduled for 9:30 am. Rehearsal is scheduled for Sunday, 9/18/16, after worship at Noon until 1:00pm.



### SEPTEMBER

- 2 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
- 19 Mirella Ducu
- 20 Jane Kozlowski
- 21 Warren "Butch" Johnson
- 23 Kumba Kamara
- 24 Robert Brewster
- 24 Brynn Hoffman
- 29 Ryan J. Hack Jr.



### SEPTEMBER

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

## Missions Committee

During the month of September your Missions Committee will be hard at work planning the programs for the rest of 2016.

We will be funding camping program development with money from the budget, as well as supporting our US2 Missionary Chelsea

Spyres. Chelsea will be pursuing work in a church closer to her home and eventually plans to enter the ministry. Her work at NOAH was amazing.

On Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM we meet in the kitchen to prepare for another NOAH sandwich project. Our goal is to prepare the food for our 460 sandwiches and be ready to assemble them at 4:00 PM on Tuesday afternoon. The sandwiches will be delivered to NOAH on the morning of Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. We welcome as many willing hands as possible at both times on Tuesday so God's work can be completed in short order!

On Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Noah is throwing a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for their bag lunch program. They have been preparing and serving a bag lunch to the homeless since 1976! They are inviting all of the churches and organizations that help make the NOAH project so successful to an afternoon open house. Everyone from WBUMC is invited to attend. (There will be cake!)

In October, we will be conducting another 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday noisy offering to support the Heifer Project. We would again like the children to choose which animal(s) they wish to purchase to send to communities and villages where they are needed.

Our Holiday offerings will be used to support the NOAH project, Methodist Children's Home Society, and the Joy Southfield Health Clinic. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help participate in ways to serve God's family through worthwhile mission programs locally, in this country, and around the world.

## 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 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.

### **From the Education Committee**

I want to thank all those who worked at, helped set up and take down, donated supplies, donated money, and in many other ways supported the Family Fun Fest in July. Fifteen youth volunteers worked with the adults to bless the families who participated. It was a fun experience for all.

Bridgford bread dough came highly recommended for the kids' project at our Family Fun Fest. We couldn't find the dough anywhere. Before Margaret went shopping near Wyoming, MI for it, I contacted Bridgford Foods. I was told to expect a call from Bill Cherewick of Rizwitsch Sales, LTD, who had some bread for us. Bill and I left his office in Farmington Hills with enough small loaves of bread and individual bread baking pans for each child who attended this program.

They were thrilled to each bake his or her own loaf of bread after seeing the puppet show (written by Butch Johnson and presented by our Youth) about "Feeding the 5000" with five loaves and three fish. We were so touched by the thoughtfulness of the people who represent Bridgford. They went out of their way to solve our problem and to bless all the children who attended. It was suggested that how this came together was a God thing. Amen to that!

It's time to bless the children once again. We'll need some extra hands after church on **September 11<sup>th</sup>** to help with our registration table to sign kids up for G3 Kids (Elementary school

age) and Sprout (pre-school age) at the all-church picnic. And after we eat, the following games and the bounce house / slide will need adult attendants. Please let me know which one you can help supervise:

1. The Bounce House, Slide - for all ages
2. Game for little ones: pick up marbles in water with your toes
3. Fun balloon blow up (kids and youth)
4. Guess number of pieces of candy in jar (kids and youth)
5. Beanbag toss (all ages)
6. Sprout (little kids) - driving cars on track - (Bring your own cars, also.)
7. One game to be announced (all ages)
8. Face painting
9. Organizing the youth volley ball game

Your Education Team always looks forward to bringing the love of Jesus to the children in our church, our neighborhood and abroad. Soon we will have two opportunities to do just that:

1. We have four Sundays to bring in new Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Scarves for children and youth who need them for the winter. Bring them in and hang them from the clothes lines on the back wall of the sanctuary. **October 2<sup>nd</sup>** is the first collection day. And **October 30<sup>th</sup>** is the last. Last year we took 127 winter outerwear items to Baldwin in Pontiac before the cold weather settled in.

2. **October 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the kick-off day of "Operation Christmas Child." We fill Christmas-wrapped shoe boxes with items for children in America and all over the world. These children have never received Christmas gifts. Booklets that tell them about the love of Jesus are also included. This year, our education department is purchasing pre-printed decorative shoe boxes from Operation Christmas Child. The cost is low for 100 shoe boxes (minimal order). This will eliminate the hassle of wrapping boxes with Christmas paper. We'll have these boxes available as soon as they arrive so that you will have a longer period of time to shop and to take in the beginning of school sales. You may still use your own shoe boxes or plastic boxes if you

prefer. The last day to bring your shoe boxes to church is **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. An information table will be set up in the narthex closer to the kick-off date.

Dorothy Maman, Ed. Chair



### **Liturgist**

September 4	Dan Langford
September 11	Joe Sutschek
September 18	Bob Brewster
September 25	Wendy Kissonergis

### **Greeters**

September 4	Jo Anna Risk
September 11	Margaret Cantrell
September 18	Mark & Pat Borns
September 25	Ann & Joe Sutschek

### **Trustee on Duty**

September 4	Fritz McMullen
September 11	Mark Borns
September 18	Glenn Joseph
September 25	Kay Reese

### **Counters**

September 4	Joe Sutschek & Ralph Worley
September 11	Kathy Chewing & Sulaiman Kamara
September 18	Tim McCabe & Gary Langner
September 25	Vicki Hernandez & Dan Langford

### **Administrative Meetings**

September 11	8:30 AM Board of Trustees
September 13	7:00 PM Finance Meeting 7:45 PM Church Council Meeting

## Ushers

September 4	Ralph Worley Mark Borns Melodie Langford Joe Sutschek
September 11	Brent Webster Angela Hernandez Barbara Shoger Vance Shoger
September 18	Darwin Wayne Gary Langner Butch Johnson Dora Wayne
September 25	Vicki Hernandez Marty Bopp Dorinda McMullen Fritz McMullen

## Coffee Hour Hosts

September 4	Kathy Chewning Naomi Morgan Di Ahmed
September 11	Becky & Jerome Meldrum Mary & Brent Webster Jim & Glenda White
September 18	Wendy & Simon Kissonergis Jennifer Joseph Jackie Beach
September 25	Dorinda & Fritz McMullen Pam Melton Dora & Darwin Wayne

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

# West Bloomfield UMC

# September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	<b>29</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>31</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm Women's Exercise Group 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:30 am Worship	<b>5 Labor Day</b> 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:00 am NOAH Sandwiches Prep 9:00 am Office Hours 4:00 pm NOAH Sandwiches Assembly	<b>7</b> 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Deliver NOAH Sandwiches 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Exercise	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:30 am Trustees 9:45 am Choir / Praise Team Warm Up 10:30 am Worship – ONE sermon series begins 12:00 pm All-Church Picnic	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	<b>14</b> 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	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 4:00 pm 40th Birthday Party - NOAH Bag Lunch Program @ Central UMC, Detroit	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Choir / Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Mom's Club 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>21</b> 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	<b>22</b> 3:00 pm Missions Meeting 7:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Welcome Event for Bishop David Bard @ Central UMC, Waterford
<b>25</b> 9:45 am Bell Choir Warm up 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Office Hours	<b>28</b> 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	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Staff-Parish Relations Meeting with Rev. Boayue 7:00 pm Charge Conference	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Office Hours 8:30 pm AA Meeting	<b>1</b>



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