

The Web News

of West Bloomfield UMC

April 2018

From Pastor Brian

As we come up on our 50th anniversary as a church, it's been a time to recognize where we've been, where we're at, and where we're going. But really, I see this as a time to celebrate **who we are**. In 1967, a small group of Christians came to West Bloomfield and imagined the impact a church might make for the residents of this community. In 1968, they began worship at 4100 Walnut Lake Road, and here we are 50 years later, still living into the vision they imagined for our community.

And while many things have changed in West Bloomfield (can you believe the population of the township was 15,000 when we bought the land vs. 65,000 today?!), our core identity as a church has stayed steady. For many years, our mission statement has been that "we seek to show the love of God through worship, prayer, discipleship, and commitment." That was our identity in 1968 when we started, and it's our identity today! It's who we are!

As we've recognized, while we've kept the same mission over the years, the community around us has changed substantially. The demographics of the township aren't the same as they were in 1968 when we started. The ethnic heritage of our neighbors isn't the same as in 1981 when we built our building or 1991 when we added the expansion. But our mission stays the same – show the love of God through worship, prayer, discipleship, and commitment. It remains to follow Jesus' instructions to "love God" and "love your neighbor".

That's why I'm so gratified to know about our past and why I'm so excited about our future. **Because we know who we are**. And because we're following the footsteps of those dedicated folks 50 years ago, living into their vision to make an impact for God in our community.

We're fully aware that making an impact in a multi-ethnic community means embracing multi-ethnic ministry, and I've preached on how thoroughly Biblical the principles of multi-ethnic ministry are. And recently, I've discovered how thoroughly Biblical the **term** multi-ethnic ministry is! Some people refer to it as multi-racial ministry, which is a perfectly acceptable term. However, I've come to believe that there's truly only one race – the human race! It's what the Bible says when it describes "God, who made the world and everything in it... has made from one blood every nation of people to dwell on all the face of the earth." (Acts 17:24, 26) We're all from "one blood", one race.

But my surprise has been the way Jesus and the Bible uses the Greek word "ethnos", which we translate as ethnic. When Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem, this is how he described it: "Jesus began to teach '...My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the **nations (ethnesin)**.'" (Mark 11:17) The connection is really strong – we've said for many years we will show the love of God through worship and prayer, and Jesus says we are to be a house of prayer for **all** the nations, meaning all the ethnic groups.

When Jesus provides his final instructions for his followers (and for us!!), he

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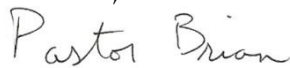
West Bloomfield United Methodist Church seeks to show the love of God through worship, prayer, discipleship, and commitment.

tells us: "Go and make disciples of all **nations** (*ethne*), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:19) When it's translated as 'nations', I assumed that meant missionaries travelling overseas to go to other nations. When I realize the word is actually *ethne*, Jesus' words take on new significance. Our church has been committed to show the love of God through discipleship, and Jesus instructs us to make disciples of all *ethne*, again all ethnic groups!

And when John describes what Heaven is like, the Bible tells us, "I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every **nation** (*ethnos*) and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." (Revelation 7:9) We are committed to showing the love of God through commitment, and when we pray "Let your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven," we're offering our commitment to make our church look a little more like the church in Heaven, made up of every *ethnos*, every ethnic group.

You can see my excitement that we're doing just what we're supposed to be doing. We're living into the vision those dedicated Christians had in the 1960's when they began our church. We're seeking to faithfully fulfill Jesus instructions to us to be a church for all people. And we're making an impact for God in our community. That is cause for celebration! Celebration of 50 years of ministry in West Bloomfield, and celebration of 50 more years of faithful ministry to come!

Peace in Christ,



Pastor Brian



50th Anniversary Celebration

West Bloomfield United Methodist Church
Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2018

Please join us
as we celebrate 50 years of Christian service,
renew old friendships, and worship together.

**Please remember to send
or hand in your RSVP cards
by April 1st**

Our 50th anniversary celebration is right around the corner. Volunteers will be needed on Sunday May 6th for a number of tasks such as issuing name tags, issuing boutonnieres and corsages, hosts and hostesses (super greeters), table hosts and hostesses at the dinner celebration, parking director for overflow parking, extra ushers, etc. Please contact one of the committee members if you can help out. However, Butch and Joe remember the army volunteer system: YOU, YOU, AND YOU!

Your friendly committee members are:
Butch Johnson, Pam Melton, Jackie Beach,
Joanne Herbst and Joe Sutschek.



April 1	Easter Sunday
April 8	Spring Break
April 15	Sunday School at 9:30 am
April 22	Activity
April 29	Sunday School at 9:30 am

Come and join us. We have lots of fun!

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The women's evening Bible study group will resume on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm at Jackie Beach's home. The start date will be announced shortly. 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. The next regular business meeting will be Sunday, April 22nd, 2018.

Bingo

Bingo at the West Bloomfield Nursing & Convalescent Home continues at 2:15 pm on Monday, April 2nd, 2018. Please let Pam Melton know if you wish to participate. The residents in the facility really enjoy this activity.

2018 CROP HUNGER WALK

It's time again for the CROP Hunger Walk. This year will be much different, as since it is being held on the same weekend as our special 50th church anniversary, we will not be able to participate in the actual walk. The church still wants to be an important part of this much needed mission. So, this year we will be accepting donations, just as we have in the past even though we are not actually walking in the event. We will have a table set up in the Narthex starting the second Sunday in April where you will be able to get the information on how to do that. You'll be able to sign up online to join the WBUMC team and also be able to connect with your family and friends, either online through the sight or by your personal email and/or Facebook, giving them the opportunity to be a part of the CROP Walk. We hope you will join us in supporting the 2018 CROP Hunger Walk. Fritz and Dorinda McMullen at 248-363-8030.

All Church Clean-Up Day

Please reserve April 21st to come help clean and polish the inside of the church and the outside grounds. This is not only for preparation for our 50th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for May 5th and 6th but for a general spring cleaning after a LONG and drawn out winter. Bring cleaning supplies, yard tools, and lots of energy.



APRIL

- 1 Ross Worley
- 1 James "Alex"ander Land
- 4 Blair Maman
- 14 Maya McLellan
- 21 Jason Wayne
- 23 Owen McLellan
- 24 Glenn Joseph
- 27 Glenda White
- 28 Jeffrey Guenther
- 30 Saidu Kamara



APRIL

- 12 Vance & Barb Shoger

Missions Committee

There are two very important mission programs that the church will be supporting during the month of April, the Easter offering on APRIL 1st which supports the Baldwin Center in Pontiac, Michigan and our 5th Sunday Loose Change Offering on 29th which will be sent to the IALAC Synner Program at the People’s UMC in Detroit.

The Baldwin Center program feeds via a Family Soup Kitchen, breakfast and a shower for homeless men and women, dinner and a snack during their after school youth program, food distribution including holiday baskets, food recovery of day old bread, fresh food and baked goods for distribution, and an urban garden,

emergency food boxes, and monthly delivery of food to senior citizens.

The program assists with clothing through a clothes closet program, distribution of clean clothing, sheets, blankets and small household items, laundry facilities for people to have clean clothing, the distribution of hats and gloves (our church participates in this as well), a holiday store program where clothing and gifts are provided during Christmas, a baby7 food and diaper program, feminine hygiene products for women, and a back to school progam where school clothing and and filled back packs arfe provided.

In addition, Baldwin helps to meet education needs through the after school progam where children receive a hot meal, tutoring, enrichment and recreation activities, the summer enrichment program where reading and math tutoring occur and summer trips are offered, GED assistance, and English as a Second Language programs; case Management, Justice for Our Neighbors, AA, health classes, flu shots and health screening and other onglong programs (whew!!!) Please prayerfully consider donating to these Mission programs during the month of April.

IALAC Summer Program

The People’s UMC runs a vacation school on Monday afternoons and a summer program which runs Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm each day for ages 5-17. The last week of the program features a residential camping experience at Judson Collins Camp in Onsted for the participants in 6th grade and up. The younger children end the program with a cookout at Lake Erie Metropark.

The IALAC (I am Loveable and Capable) Summer Program provides youth with not only fun but with life-changing experiences, new friendships, and personal faith explorations.

The 5th Sunday loose change (noisy offering) will be given to the Peoples United Methodist Church for their children’s summer program. At the end of each day put your extra change in a special place and bring it to church on April 29th.

Holy Week Schedule

Maunday Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, March 29th, there will be a service here at 7:00 pm. Come and spend time reflecting Jesus's last supper with his disciples and the hours afterwards in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Good Friday Service

This year, Orchard United Methodist Church will be hosting the Good Friday service at 12:15 pm on Friday, March 30th. Pastor Brian William will be preaching at this service. 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, April 1st. 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, April 1st, we will enjoy a delicious breakfast provided by the men of the church! Coffee Hour after church will be coffee only.

Easter Service

Then at 10:30 am 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!"



Liturgist

April 1 Dan Langford
April 8 Kevin Mulligan
April 15 Tim McCabe
April 22 Bill Maman
April 29 Vance Shoger

Greeters

April 1 Gary Langner
April 8 Dan & Mirella Ducu
April 15 Tim & Trika McCabe
April 22 Jo Anna Risk
April 29 Di Ahmed

Trustee on Duty

April 1 Ralph Worley
April 8 Glenn Joseph
April 15 Fritz McMullen
April 22 Bill Beach
April 29 Wendy Kissonergis

Counters

April 1 Mark Borns
Ralph Worley
April 8 Joe Sutschek
Sulaiman Kamara
April 15 Tim McCabe
Gary Langner
April 22 Vicki Hernandez
Dan Langford
April 29 Di Ahmed
Kara Mulligan

Administrative Meetings

April 8 8:30 AM Trustees Meeting
April 10 7:00 PM Finance Meeting
7:45 PM Church Council

Ushers

April 1 Ralph Worley
Mark Borns
Melodie Langford
Joe Sutschek

April 8 Barb Shoger
Vance Shoger
John Hoover
Brent Webster

April 15 Darwin Wayne
Butch Johnson
Gary Langner
Dora Wayne

April 22 Vicki Hernandez
Marty Bopp
Dorinda McMullen
Fritz McMullen

April 29 Ivy Nuamah
Simon Kissonergis
Bill Maman
Diane White

Coffee Hour Hosts

April 1 Barb & Vance Shoger
Dorothy & Bill Maman
Gary Langner

April 8 Di Ahmed
Diane White

April 15 Becky & Jerome Meldrum
Mary & Brent Webster
Glenda & Jim White

April 22 Wendy & Simon Kissonergis
Jennifer Joseph
Jackie & Bill Beach

April 29 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
Cheri Whalen, Music Director
Warren & Barb Johnson, Youth Directors
David Carlson, Custodian

Broader Church Connections:

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

West Bloomfield UMC

April 2018

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service at Marshbank Park 9:00 am Breakfast 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	2 12:00 pm AA Meeting 2:00 pm Bingo at West Bloomfield Nursing & Convalescent Center 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	3 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting	4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	5 12:00 pm AA Meeting	6 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	7
8	Youth Spring Break 9:00 am Trustees 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Choir Practice	9 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	10 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:45 pm Church Council	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	12 12:00 pm AA Meeting	13 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Bridge 8:30 pm AA Meeting	14
15	9:30 am Youth Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	16 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	17 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting	18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	19 12:00 pm AA Meeting	20 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	21 9:00 am All-Church Clean Up Day
22	10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes 12:00 pm Women of West Bloomfield	23 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	24 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting	25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	26 12:00 pm AA Meeting	27 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	28
29	9:30 am Youth Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 10:40 am G3 Kids & Sprout classes	30 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Al Anon Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	1 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting	2 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Prayer Team 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Men's Exercise Group	3 12:00 pm AA Meeting	4 9:00 am Office Hours 12:00 pm AA Meeting 8:30 pm AA Meeting	5 4:00 pm 50th Anniversary Ice Cream Social



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