

Together In Faith

Preparing servants who make a difference in their community and the world by knowing Christ, following Christ and sharing Christ.



Devotional
“Don’t Go Back” (p.5)

Pastor’s Corner

BY REV. RUTH VANDERSANDE

As we come out of Eastertide, I am reminded again of God’s peace. The peace that was hard earned through our Savior. Peace is something we could all use a little more of in these times, where it feels almost impossible to find a moment of true rest or peace. The world keeps us on our toes, calls us deeper into chaos with every moment. It’s hard to stay steady when the world feels like it’s constantly changing under our feet. And yet, God still sits on the throne.

Peace comes from resting with our God. It is an internal unshakable belief that at the end of the day God is still with us. If we look at scripture, we rarely find a time when everything is going perfectly. The story of God working with humanity is the story of humanity chasing after everything except God and stumbling back to Him when it doesn’t work out quite as well as they hope. And they feel the chaos surrounding them quickly. While chaos may feel overwhelming, it is not unique to our time. The Israelites faced instability at every turn,
 (Continued next page)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45 am

Traditional Service

11:15 am

Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am - All Ages

YOUTH GROUP

6th - 12th Grade

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Cannot attend service in person? Join us online!

Facebook.com/FlushingUMC
 or Youtube/user/flushingumc

*(Continued ...
Pastor's Corner)*

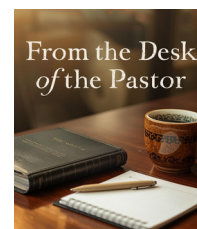
whether it was Abraham trying to understand God's promise for the generations while running from place to place no children in sight, the Israelites wandering the desert awaiting the promised land, the people during the tumultuous turnover of kings from Saul to David, all the way through to the early establishment of the church amidst persecution from all sides. And yet, God's peace was still among them. The steadiness of Stephen in the face of his accusers, the faith of Paul and Peter in prison, the steady encouragement of Barnabas and Timothy to the early churches. Proving that peace doesn't have to depend on circumstances.

One of my favorite hymns of all time is It Is Well. This hymn was famously written after Horatio Spafford lost his family in a shipwreck. These words came to him as he passed over the spot where he had lost them. One of the worst events that anyone could fathom, led to one of the most beautiful tributes to God's presence in the midst of tragedy. The hope that we can find in Christ, that gets us through, that keeps us steady. So the next time you feel overwhelmed by the chaos of this world, remember to find your rest in God and remember that our hope is not of this world, but found in Him.

As always, I look forward to worshipping with you this month.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande



May Sermons, Hymns & Scriptures

Sermon Series:

Season of Rest: Rest. Work. Play.

May 3 Sermon: *What Kind of Rest*

Scripture: : Genesis 2:1-3

Hymns:

May 10 Sermon: *The Gift of Rest*

Scripture: Leviticus 25:1-19

Hymns: TBA

Sermon Series:

Both/And

May 17 Sermon: *Heart & Head*

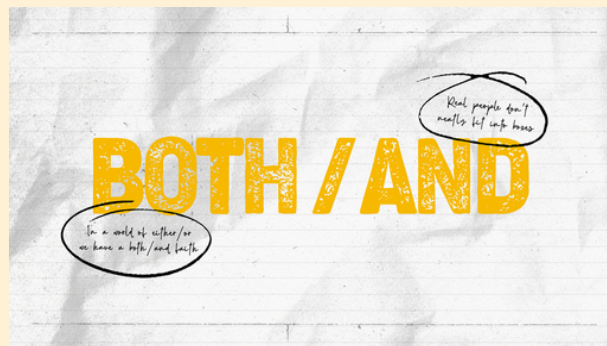
Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Hymns:

May 24 Sermon: *Sacred & Secular - Pentecost & Memorial Day (One Service)*

Scripture: Acts 10:9-16

Hymns:



Missions News and Updates

United Women in Faith Presents: 5th Annual **Walk/Run-a-Thon**



**Saturday
May 16th
10:30 AM**

WALK / RUN-A-THON
Flushing United Methodist Church
Supporting Missions

Registration Fees

Adults: Early Registration ~ \$18 (by May 14)

After May 14 ~ \$20

Kids: 11-17 yr ~ \$12

6-10 yr ~ \$6

5 & Under ~ FREE

Teams: 1 Free Adult Fee (every 5th adult)

Walk/Run Start: 10:30am

Registration: 10:00-10:25am ~ Basket Drawing 12:00pm

Pre-Registration forms are on the Welcome Center in the lobby

Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

Tabs from pop and other canned items are used by McDonalds to generate funds to support Ronald McDonald Houses. There is a basket at the Mission table for your tabs.

Bueche's Receipts for Flushing Schools

If you have any receipts dated before April 22 with Kids Amount at the bottom of the receipts, we are collecting them to give to Flushing Schools to redeem them for earn extra funds to use for unbudgeted items. They can be placed in the basket at the Mission Table in Fellowship Hall. Kids Amount will resume again next fall.

Volunteers Needed for Vegetable Garden

Join us to help grow vegetables to donate to the Flushing Christian Outreach Center this summer. We have four raised beds on the west side of the church and can use help planting, weeding, watering and picking the produce. No experience needed. Contact Carolyn Malaski.

Donating Items You No longer Need or Use

If you are wondering where to donate household items and furniture you no longer need or use, there are several options available. A list has been posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall over the Mission table. Copies are available to take with you. Any questions, contact Carolyn Malaski.



Families are still in need of non-perishable food, household items and personal care products. Family Promise helps families stretch their budgets by making items available to them as needed. Thank you for your generous contributions since we began collecting items. There is a bin for items in Fellowship Hall marked Family Promise.



A Note from The Office

Here are a few updates about the life of our church and what’s going on here in the office:

- The office manager, Rose Dessinger will be out of the office beginning May 26th due to having surgery. She may be gone anywhere from 3-6 weeks. Our Leadership Board is working on getting coverage while she is out. Let them know if you are able to help while she is gone.
- Our new phones were installed this week. New fiber internet: date TBA
- We were notified our new digital sign will be installed before Mother’s Day!
- Have an emergency after hours? If you call our phone # and dial 4, it will be answered by someone on call who can take care of you.

Pastor’s Bookshelf

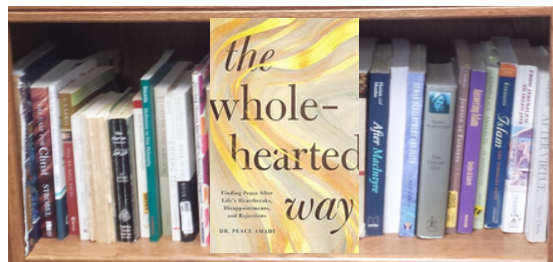
BY RUTH VANDERSANDE

This month I am recommending the book:

The Whole-hearted Way

Finding Peace After Life's Heartbreaks, Disappointments, and Rejections

by Dr. Peace Amadi



Dr. Amadi approaches Whole-heartedness with both a Biblical and Psychological perspective. This book will offer practical explanations to the difficult times in our lives and how Christ has made us whole through them. It talks about the hurts that keep us from moving forward in our lives, and in our walks with God. Essentially, it discusses what shakes our peace, and how we can learn to work through it with in a way that honors God. If you are struggling with moving forward amidst pain, heartbreak, or the overwhelm of everyday life, I hope this book can help you find a way back to peace in God.

Pentecost Sunday is May 24th. Wear Your **RED!**

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

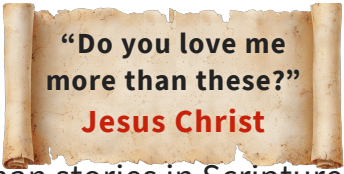
- Exodus 40:34-35

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?
- Corinthians 3:16

Don't Go Back

Devotional By Rose Dessinger

Read: Luke 22: 31-34 & 54-62
John 21: 1-17



“Do you love me
more than these?”

Jesus Christ

The story of Peter's denial of knowing Jesus has to be one of the most human stories in Scripture. I mean...we've all been there. As much as we'd like to, none of us can say that we follow Jesus 100% of the time. Often we are told that Christ followers are hypocrites or “holier-than-thou”. Some say we're just plain crazy, believe in a myth or pray to a “sky daddy”.

Now get in a room full of those people. Do you stand up for Jesus...100% of the time? Or do you make it seem like you follow him...but you know... “I'm not the ‘hard core Bible thumper’ type”? Do you lessen the appearance of your love for God so people don't think you're “too much” or “too... Christian”? We just don't want the looks or the harassment sometimes. So we nervously laugh it off or even joke about the hard core, all-in Christians. We then try to convince them we're not a ‘stick in the mud’ by doing or saying things that border on whether or not it is obedient to God and his will.

Yet we DENY Jesus when we do that. When we get home we feel regret, don't we? Deep down we feel we failed Jesus. We run and hide due to shame. We convince ourselves we don't belong. Some of us even return to our old life. That's how the enemy works. He gets you to deny who you are in Christ, your calling and what God says about you.

You see, Peter thought he was all in. Yet Jesus told him that he would deny him three times. But Peter didn't take the warning seriously. Instead, Peter vehemently declared he would never fall away, even if everyone else did. He even tried to defend him by cutting off a soldier's ear when they grabbed Jesus. Yet what did he do after they took Jesus away? He denied him. Not once. Not twice. But **three times**. The last one was said while **standing by a fire**. The rooster crowed. Peter looked Jesus in the eye. Then he wept bitterly. Personally I think it was due to his own pride. He was so sure of his determination, his faithfulness and what he could or would do for Jesus. After all, he was told, “you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” He was so sure of himself. So when he realized what he did, **Peter grieved**. Jesus looked right at him which prompted immediate repentance, godly sorrow, and a recognition of his weakness. It pierced his ego. That detail is important because this grief wasn't shallow or indifferent. This grief CRUSHED Peter. This is the kind of grief that carried a failure so intensely that it changed the way he viewed his identity. He no longer saw himself as deserving of being Jesus's disciple. He failed publicly. In his mind, he failed so miserably that he gave up his mission and went home. No longer feeling deserving or believing in the identity Jesus declared about him, he retreated to his former life and started fishing again. He thought his past disqualified his calling.

Yet Jesus didn't leave him there. Instead, Jesus goes out to meet him... right where Peter was. Publicly... **by a fire**. He gave Peter a re-do. This is the heart of grace. Jesus didn't interrogate him. He didn't ask, “how could you?” He didn't ask for an explanation, apology or repentance. Jesus simply asked Peter, “do you love me?” **three times** by a fire.

Despite what Peter had done or even felt about himself, Jesus wasn't done with him. Instead, He came after Peter and reminded him of his identity. Peter's failure did not disqualify him; it humbled him. Jesus used that experience to teach him about grace and dependence on God rather than self-confidence. You see, Jesus never treats Peter as damaged goods. Peter's denial did not remove his calling. His identity was not tied to performance. Instead, the denial refined him into a leader who could shepherd others with the same grace he received.

And notice this. Instead of rebuking him Jesus says, “Follow me” and “feed my sheep”. Jesus simply restores him. Not by erasing the past, but by refusing to let the past define the future. Jesus does not restore you by reminding you of your failure. Grace restores you with trust. He restores you by reassigning your purpose. Jesus was gracious enough to trust Peter again. And if He trusted him again, He doesn't hesitate with you. You're not defined by your mistakes. You're still called. Still chosen. Still wanted. You're God's precious child. Now **THAT** is good news! Amen.

Ladies Day Out

Wed. May 20th



Flushing Valley Golf Club

Lunch @ 12 pm

RSVP by Sun. May 17

1124 E Main St., Flushing, MI

All Women Welcome!!

**Carpool after lunch
or join us after
for a tour of:**

**Sign-Up Sheet
on Bulletin
Board in FH!
by May 17th**



Community Resource Center

**Tour the veteran center
and a tiny house @ 2 pm**

RSVP by Sun. May 17

734 E. Stewart Ave, Flint MI

Vacation Bible School is Coming! Save the Date!!

In a world filled with worry, chaos, and confusion, it is essential for kids to know there is a God who cares for them. VBS this year focuses on bringing hope to an anxious generation, as kids learn about the life of David while answering the question, "is there a God who cares?" while exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23.

**VBS
Week
July
13-16**



2026

Finance

Snapshot thru March 2026

Total Budget for 2026
General Fund: \$300,000

Total received in March 2026:

General	\$	19,113
Interest	\$	408
Rent	\$	400
Capital Fund:	\$	22,133

General Fund Expenses
Paid in March: \$ 20,294

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY !
May Babies!!**

Name	Birthday
Ann Waldo	3
Sue Eavy	4
Gerry Byard	7
Nancy Elsner	7
Alysha McCarty	11
Sandra Rundell	12
Travis Whalen	15
Nan Venters	19
Brian VanPatten	21
Ruth LaBerge	24
Charl VandenBosch	24

Do We Have Your Birthday?

Each quarter we celebrate upcoming birthdays. But we do not have birthdays of those who are not yet members. We want to celebrate YOU! Please send your full birthday to Rose Dessinger in the office.

Getting To Know Your Neighbor

THIS MONTH, LET'S GET TO KNOW:

Nancy Kertesz

Briefly tell us about yourself:

I'm a mother of 3 children, 6 grands and 2 great grands. I was married 54 years and then my husband passed during covid.

How did you come to Christ?

I have always believed in God. More so when I married and had children.

Favorite Bible Verse:

Psalms 23

What are your hobbies?

I like to crochet, play chair volleyball & volunteer at McLaren.

What's a fun fact about yourself?

I love people and helping others.

What did/do you for a living?

I was a physical therapist assistant.

Travels: where have you been and where would you like to go?

Not to many places. The usuals-like up north, Branson FL.

Favorite Food:

I love chicken papricah, pizza also a variety of soups

Areas you serve(at church and outside of church):

I volunteer at McLaren Hospital.



Hymns for each Profession:

- The Dentist's Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
- The Contractor's Hymn: *The Church's One Foundation*
- The Golfer's Hymn: *There's a Green Hill Far Away*
- The Tailor's Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy*
- The Politician's Hymn: *Standing on the Promises*
- The Optometrist's Hymn: *Open My Eyes That I Might See*
- The Weatherman's Hymn: *There Shall Be Showers of Blessings*
- The Gossip's Hymn: *Pass It On*
- The Electrician's Hymn: *Send The Light*
- The Shopper's Hymn: *Sweet By and By*
- The Realtor's Hymn: *I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop*
- The Massage Therapists Hymn: *He Touched Me*
- The Doctor's Hymn: *The Great Physician*

Ways To Give

PayPal Giving Fund

has no extra charges to us or you! Click here:

<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/391105>

or scan our QR Code:



Text to give thru Vanco

Text flushingumc to 73256, followed by your gift amount,

For example:

“flushingumc \$100” sent to the number 73256

or go to:

onrealm.org/FlushingUnitedM/Give

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.



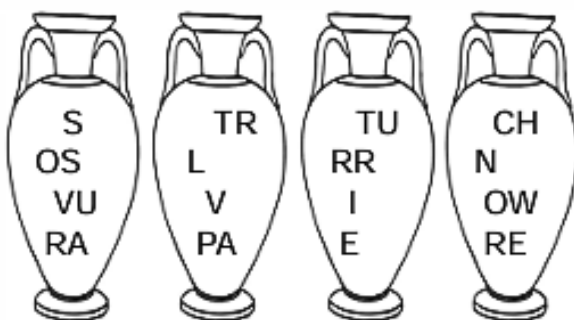
Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers for:

- + Bonnie, healing from surgery
- + Ellen, for healing
- + Lisa, with more cancer concerns
- + Katie, good answers for kidney transplant
- + Jimmy, heart valve surgery
- + Kevin, with stomach surgery
- + Tony, gallbladder surgery and infection
- + Gary, hit by car
- + Cathy, healing from health issues
- +Loren, with unresolved issues
- + Connie, with lung/knee issues

From the Potter's Wheel

The Potter has put the letters of the names of 4 birds into his pots but they have become jumbled up. Taking letters from each pot for each row, can you find out what the birds should be?



You can find these birds at:

Matthew 10:29, Matthew 24:28, Genesis 8:7, Lamentations 4:3

(Solution below)

(All Bible references from NIV)

Articles for the June 2026 Newsletter is due by: **May 20, 2026**

Talk To Us

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 Flushingmc.org
 413 E Main St.,
 Flushing, MI 48433
 Rev. Ruth's email:
 pastor@flushingmc.org
 (734) 436-9099

Church Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ruth VanderSande
 Office Manager: Rose Dessinger
 Christian Ed. Director: Melissa Whalen
 Accompanist: Jinah Chun
 Custodian: Marlene Cooper
 Play Place: Lindsey Wagner,
 LillieAyn Smith

Published the last Wednesday of the month
 Editor: Rose Dessinger

Worship Servants

Scripture Readers 8:45am

- May 3 - Cheryl Butts
- May 10- Carol Dick
- May 17- Sue Durling
- May 24- Dave Lewis
- May 31- Carolyn Malaski

Usher/Greeters 8:45am

- May 3 - Bill & Sue Martin
- May 10- Travis & Melissa Whalen
- May 17- Marcia Henson, Larry & Sue Ridge
- May 24-Bob & Linda Baker, Bill Dessinger
- May 31- Bonnie Farrow, Dave Lewis, Tim Seaman

Computer /Sound Board 8:45am

- May 3 - Karen Florida
- May 10- Travis Whalen
- May 17- Rose Dessinger
- May 24- Nancy Elsner
- May 31- Travis Whalen

Hospitality 10:00am

- May 3 - Rusty Eavy & Judy Martz
- May 10- Kris Sup. & Cathy Riley
- May 17- Jerry & Carol Dick
- May 24-Jim & Liz Fonger
- May 31- Dan Venters

Worship Leader 11:15am

- May 3 - Cathy Riley
- May 10- Kris Supernaw
- May 17- Teresa C. & Eric M.
- May 24- Autumn Cichowski
- May 31- Teresa Casteel

SPARROW [Matthew 10:29]
 VULTURE [Matthew 24:28]
 RAVEN [Genesis 8:7]
 OSTRICH [Lamentations 4:3]

FLUSHING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
413 E MAIN ST
FLUSHING MI 48433-2029



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