

Together In Faith

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

**Consider the wild flowers,
how they grow:
they neither toil nor spin,**

**yet I tell you, not even
Solomon in all his splendor
was clothed like one of these.**

Luke 12:27

Devotional
“Who Belongs?” (p.5)

Pastor's Corner

BY REV. RUTH VANDERSANDE

I am so pleased to get the opportunity to serve you all for another year. And this is a special year for me as well, on July 1 this will officially be my longest appointment in my career. I am very excited to see what God has in store for us together over this next year and for as long as I am blessed to serve among you. As a pastor I think the way we perceive time is a little unusual. And it makes me think about the ways that God must view our time as well. Scripture says that a thousand years is like a day to our God.

And yet, for us that encompasses our lives and the lives of over 30 generations of our families (if you assume a generation to be around 30 years). That's a lot of life lived in what feels like simply a day to God. It can feel almost intimidating or make us feel as though our lives aren't significant to our God. This is why the stories of the mythical Gods so often involve treating humans as simple playthings. They couldn't imagine that a divine being could care for humans.

And yet, that is exactly what we have. A God who finds beauty and significance in His creation. (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)*

It's what makes it so meaningful that the God who could see a thousand years as a single day, views each of our lives, our days as important. God even counts us as family. God celebrates with us, weeps with us, is ever present with us. What a gift it is to have a God who loves us so much. God even chose to send His Son to be with us and experience time as one of us. I will never not be in awe of how amazing our God is! And while we may be just a piece of the story, it doesn't make us any less important. In the same way, the people in our lives may move in and out, some are here for a season, others, for life, it doesn't mean that those that are temporary are any less important or loved. It is a reminder too that we should treat each of our days, our moments, with those we love as important and special.

As we turn our focus to the summer, we are going to be focusing on the beatitudes and what it means to be blessed. I encourage you to take some time and read Matthew 5:3-12. Each week we will be focusing on one of the *blesseds* listed in this passage. Consider the blessings God has given you in your life, particularly the ones that have come in unexpected ways. As always, I look forward to worshipping with you this summer.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande



*June/July
Sermons &
Scriptures*

**Sermon Series:
Season of Rest: Both/And**

June 7 Sermon: *What Kind of Rest*
June 14 Sermon: *The Gift of Rest*

Scripture: : Genesis 2:1-3
Scripture: Leviticus 25:1-19

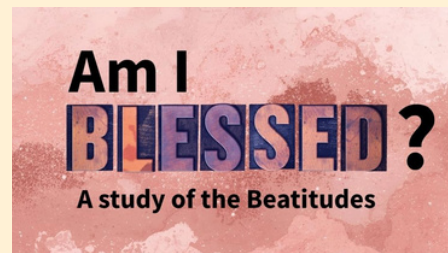
Sermon Series: Am I Blessed: A study of the Beatitudes

June 21 Sermon: Desperate Times
June 28 Sermon: Mourning Blessing
July 5 Sermon: Meek>Weak
July 12 Sermon: Righteous Justice
July 19 Sermon: Mercy Upon Mercy

Scripture: : Matthew 5:3, Daniel 6:6-12
Scripture: : Matthew 5:4, John 11:20-35
Scripture: : Matthew 5:5, Esther 7:1-7
Scripture: : Matthew 5:6, Amos 5:16-27
Scripture: : Matthew 5:7, John 8:1-11

July 26 Sermon: Pure of Heart

Scripture: : Matthew 5:8, Luke 1:26-28



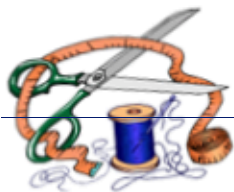
Missions News and Updates

"PILLOWCASES OF LOVE!!"

COME SEW WITH US!!

Wed, June 3

2:00-6:00 PM



NO SEWING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

PLEASE BRING: Material for One Pillowcase (or 2 or 3), according to these measurements...

For each pillowcase, calico like or children prints material (cotton or cotton blends; NO FLANNEL; NO GLITTERED MATERIAL):
3/4 yd (27") for body, 1/4 yd (9") for cuff, & (3") for trim piece.

This mission work benefits...**WOMEN, GIRLS & BOYS** seeking refuge at...
FLINT YWCA SAFE HOUSE Center for Domestic Abuse Victims

If you cannot join us, you can help by donating inexpensive Pillows! Everyone can help!

Meal Provided for \$5.00 donation

If you plan to eat with us,

PLEASE RSVP by Sun., May 31

JUST SIGN UP on UW Faith Bulletin Board!

Or, call or text: Sue Ridge, 810-516-9454

Also, please
bring new &
inexpensive
PILLOWS!

Family Promise News

Family Promise of Mid-Michigan is currently undergoing re-organization. While the number of families experiencing a housing crisis continues to grow, it is necessary to re-think our best way to serve them. The biggest change has been in the amount of funding and grants available for operations, especially after the numerous cuts that have been made at the federal level. A greater number of non-profits such as Family Promise are now competing for fewer dollars. More details to come. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn. Thank you for the many donations of non-perishable food, household supplies and personal care items. Our congregation has helped to fill the needs of the families FP serves. An updated list will be available in early June.

Volunteer opportunities will soon be available in June at the Day Center which is located at St. Paul Episcopal in Flint. It is likely that we will have the opportunity to provide dinner to be shared with a family when they come to do laundry and get stabilization supplies. More details to come soon.

Community Garden Update

The raised bed gardens will happen again this year thanks to several volunteers who have agreed to assist as we provide fresh produce for FCOC. Last year was quite successful as we were able to grow leaf lettuce, beans, onions, green peppers, tomatoes, zucchini and cukes.

We will be planting the week of June 8th. There is still time to join us. No experience is necessary and the schedule is flexible. We just need to have a plan for watering, weeding and harvesting. Contact Carolyn if you wish to be part of the gardening team.

Cash For Kids

Collecting Bueche's receipts for the schools has ended for the year and will begin again next fall. We were able to help them earn around \$60 this year for items not in their budget.

Flushing Christian Outreach Center



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. Pastor Ruth is in the office on Monday-Wednesday from 9-12:30pm.
- Pastor Ruth is hosting an ECC Parents Hot Dog Lunch on June 5th for their year end bash. It will be from 11:45am - 12:30pm. If you are willing to help out, please let her know.

Pastor's Bookshelf

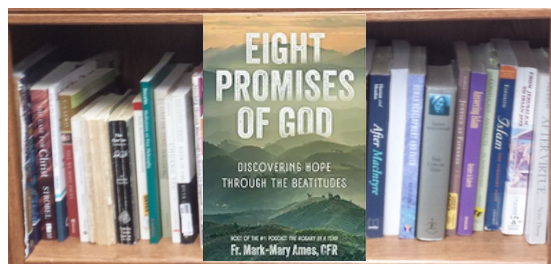
BY RUTH VANDERSANDE

This month I am recommending the book:

Eight Promises of God: Discovering Hope Through the Beatitudes

by Fr. Mark-Mary Ames

This book comes from a little bit of a different perspective, but it offers some good insights into the ways the beatitudes can apply to our lives today. It invites the reader to not view the beatitudes as sacrifices to be made rather as promises from God that He will be present and care for His people. This book will give you the chance to dive deeper into the beatitudes and what they can mean for you. I hope that you get the chance to read this book during the summer may it bring you a new insight on the blessings of God.



Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

- John 13:34-35

I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

- Acts 10:34-35

Who Belongs?

Devotional By Rose Dessinger

Read: James : 2-13

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25

There's something that we don't talk enough about as Christians. I read an article online this morning about how difficult it is to retire and not feel the effects of loneliness afterwards. Their "friends" had been people they spent the most time around. People nearest to them... co-workers would become friends. Encountering a particular person at the coffee shop on the way to work turns into a daily, friendly banter or found someone who worked nearby and started having lunch together. This all stops at retirement. Your coworkers stop calling. No more lunches. No get togethers. Nothing. If they didn't have friends outside of work beforehand, then loneliness happens afterwards. In today's world it's only getting worse. We've all discussed, here and there, regarding how technology has changed our ability to connect and communicate with each other. Especially the younger generation. I'm sure you've heard or even spoken directly about it as well. Or how about this: "the older generation feels more and more lonely and isolated than ever before", "friends are hard to come by these days, it seems" and "once I stopped showing up for church, suddenly the phone calls stopped. No one calls to check up on me". They feel unwanted, neglected, not missed and their hearts break from it. Those same people are now choosing to leave the church.

Yes, it's true. People at church also find their lives outside of church to be lonely. People are friendly with you... at church. People love conversations... at church. Seldom do people invite others to get togethers outside of church. And the few that do? Often it's because they're in the "clique". So once they stop coming to church? The people they thought they were closest to stop calling.

If someone wants to find new friends to get together with... where are they told to go and find them? Hobbies, senior centers, volunteer work... church. But this must be one of the hardest things for them to do. They want to meet new people, hoping to find new friends. Maybe someone to go do fun stuff with, have over for dinner or watch a game. So, they try something new. But when that person enters unfamiliar territory, do you really expect them to be the friendly one and appear welcoming to others? No, right? WE need to open our hearts to new friends and welcome them in. When they join your group, do you make sure they are feeling not just welcomed but *included*? You say you want new members...*until they join your group*. Suddenly they are the outsiders still and *no one talks to them or they're ignored*. So the new people often just leave quietly. The Flushing area has been long been considered cliquey. Problem is, while Flushing UMC is considered welcoming, we fall prey to this as well. But it's not just us. All churches' staff hear, "This person doesn't fit in" (They're not like us), "our group has been together for years", even "we have nothing in common" or "their kids don't behave". We have heard those words...even here. Ask yourself... did Jesus do that? NO!

Likewise, when someone stops coming to church... do you call them to see if they're okay? Do you notice when someone hasn't been to church in a while? Do you even know why they stopped coming? Now they have left their church and feel isolated, not missed or loved by those who they once considered brothers and sisters in Christ. Friends even. Maybe they were sick, moved, retired or they left because they never felt welcomed here. Do we feel their absence? Why aren't we reaching out and telling them?

We need to love like Christ. Jesus reached out to those in the margins and even warned us to not treat some as better than others. He reached out more to those who were on the margins of society than those who were considered acceptable. He told us to care for the widows and orphans, the poor and needy, sick and disabled, women and children... **(Continued next page)**

(Continued)

even enemies, oppressors and the demoniac. Church is not a social club for the “good” people. It’s for sinners who know how desperately they need Jesus’ salvation.

Scripture tells us that Jesus calls for fellowship with other believers. Church is meant for “newborn” Christians to learn from the “mature” Christians. It’s a place to foster mutual encouragement & support, spiritual growth & maturity, and unity as part of the body of Christ. It provides a place to pray for each other, provide accountability, support during hardships, opportunities for service, and a powerful witness of love to the world, ensuring believers do not walk alone in their faith.

We’re not meant to do the Christian walk alone and neither are those who just walked in...or just walked out. Whether they are new to our church or longtime friends, let us not neglect each other. There’s no reason that anyone who ever attended here (or can’t be here) should leave feeling lonely, neglected, unwanted or unneeded. Christ Jesus calls us to love others. Regardless of who they are, their station in life or even if they don’t “fit in”. *For God does not show favoritism* Romans 2:11. He loves all of his children. Please...don’t assume this is pointing to someone else. Please look within yourself and see where you can improve too. We all should love our neighbors as ourselves. Now **THAT** is good news! Amen.

Letter From The Leadership Board

BY AUTUMN CICHOWSKI, CHAIR

Hello church! As we begin to enter the summer season, I wanted to give an update on what the board has been working on. First things first, our new sign has been installed, and if I do say so myself, it looks wonderful! It’s the first step of new physical changes to our church happening this year, and it absolutely brings ease and technology to our ability to share what we’re doing with our community. A big shout-out of thanks to Jamie Kitts for spearheading that project and all the hard work it took to get the variance accepted! Starting June 1, our front step project will commence. You will see some modifications happening before that in order for the construction to begin, including the stairs to the kitchen being taken down in order for a temporary ramp to be installed. There will be clear signs and direction for the temporary change in entrance as those things happen. The biggest disruption of our space will be the blocking off of part of the parking lot, in order to keep our construction crew and us safe. We’re extremely excited to get our steps back in working and safe order, as well as an updated ramp.

Thank you for your patience and faith while this project has been ongoing and edited to make it happen. A second shout-out to our committee and team that’s been working on this project for months and months and months!! As the school year comes to a close, the E.C.C. has an end-of-year bash, and we are looking forward to hosting a parent lunch during their break time. It’s an opportunity for us to reach out into our community, make connections, and provide love in the form of food. Come September, the board will have a town hall so we can hear your voices more directly. Once that has a date/time, more details will be shared. There’s a lot more going on in our church this upcoming sunshine season, and I won’t list them all here for redundancy’s sake, but please keep an eye out for opportunities to serve, to love, to reach out, to worship, or to fellowship. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as our board learns this new system of leadership and we work to support our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

In a world filled with worry and confusion, children need to know there is a God who cares for them. At Emerald Crossing VBS, kids will journey through Ireland's lush landscapes while exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They will discover the life of the shepherd-king David and learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.



Get your passport ready for Ireland and join the adventure!

Ways You Can Help

If you have time and would be interested in helping with this VBS, please let Melissa Whalen know as soon as possible. We would love to have you be part of this exciting week!

Finance Snapshot thru April 2026

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

Total received in April 2026:

General	\$	14,286
Interest	\$	451
Rent	\$	0
Capital Fund:	\$	362

General Fund Expenses
Paid in April: \$ 22,424

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

June Birthdays

Name	Birthday
Cheryl Butts	1
Steve Butts	1
Dorothy Byard	2
Carol Dick	3
Sue Durling	4
Bonnie Farrow	9
Sylvia Hathaway	9
Marcia Henson	10
Nathaniel Kleinedler	13
Tom Lawrence	15
Bob Martin	16
Sue Martin	25
Eric Mason	25
Chris Osterman	25

July Birthdays

Name	Birthday
Alta Parsons	3
Shirlee Peterson	12
Larry Ridge	17
Karen Shovels	19
Alyssa Stamm	20
Barry Trantham	21
Denise Trantham	21
Katie VanPatten	24
Jeff Welch	26
Hunter Whalen	26
Carole Wimmer	28
Mike Workman	29
Tammy Workman	30

Sponsored by UW Faith
All Women Welcome!

JOIN OUR SUMMER POTLUCK DINNER!

Bring your favorite dish to share!
Tableware & Beverages provided

Wed., July 15
5:00 PM

Sue Ridge's Patio & Deck
929 E. Main St.



Watch for the flier & signup on bulletin board

Getting To Know Your Neighbor

THIS MONTH, LET'S GET TO KNOW:

Autumn Cichowski

How did you come to Christ?

I have been raised in the church, and have been attending FUMC since I was a young child. I attended Sunday school and confirmation.

I was part of our youth group and went to several sessions of Springhill, not to mention mission trips every year. My foundation was built early, but my adult journey was reinforced through persistence, grace, and lots of prayers.

Favorite Bible Verse:

Proverbs 3: 5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not upon your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, singing, thrifting, baking, cooking, spending time with family and friends, babying my dog, trying new things and going on adventures.

What's a fun fact about yourself?

This is a hard one; I've been attending this church since I was tiny, so I tend to think everyone knows things. Here's a few: I love Harry Potter and am working on collecting all of the books with different cover art. My husband and I own over 672 books, and are working our way toward 1,000 to have our own library. I am learning how to be a plant 'mom'. I am an avid thrifter, and love a good deal. I also love antiquing and collecting Jadeite or pink depression glass. I used to work in a prison, which is where my husband and I met while working together. It's also where I found and adopted my dog Mila.

What do you do for a living?

I'm a therapist. I work virtually from home, and see clients for mental health services.

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

I have been to several places but most recently to Florida/Universal Studios. I've been to California, Texas, Oregon, Washington DC, Tennessee, Kentucky, Nebraska, Canada, Arizona, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and all around our great Mitten state. The place I'm most looking forward to going is Italy.

Favorite Food: I love chicken papricah, pizza also a variety of soups

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

I am the current chair of our leadership board. I am also on our praise band team and 1Fifty. I love doing trunk or treat every year. Over the years I've been a part of countless events and opportunities, and I'm excited to see what else our church will do going forward.



Ans-a-gram

The initial letters of the answers (in order) will provide an anagram of the final solution, which is an Old Testament book.

- 1. His offering was not favourably viewed (4) [Genesis 4:5]
- 2. God first said, 'Let there be ...' (5) [Genesis 1:3]
- 3. Where Abram's brother, Haran, died (2) [Genesis 11:28]
- 4. Called while ploughing a field (6) [1 Kings 19:19]
- 5. Garment to conceal the face (4) [Exodus 34:33]
- 6. God with us! (O.T. spelling) (8) [Isaiah 7:14]
- 7. First Christian martyr (7) [Acts 7:59]
- 8. What God renamed Jacob (6) [Genesis 35:10]
- 9. Disciple of Jewish mother and Greek father that Paul met at Lystra (7) [Acts 16:1]

(All Bible references from NIV)

C	H	R
I	S	T
O	K	U

Solve as a normal Sudoku except that nine different letters are

used instead of the numbers 1 to 9.

Each letter can only appear once in each row, column and 3 by 3 grid.

When complete, one of the rows or columns will contain a Bible word or phrase - a clue is given to help with this and a reference to where it can be found.

(All Bible references from NIV)

				W				O
					N	L	D	E
	N			L			W	
	U			N		W		
F	R	D				O	E	N
		N		E			U	
	W			D			L	
E	D	O	W					
U				F				

Clue: Amazingly spectacular.
[Psalm 105:2]

(Solutions on next page)

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



Sunday School Humor

Teacher: "Johnny, do you say prayers before eating?"

Johnny: "No sir, I don't have to - my Mom is a good cook!"

Teacher: "Why do we have to be quiet in church?"

Child: "Because people are sleeping!"

3-year-old Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

4-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail, Amen."

Christian One Liners

- When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
- Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set
- The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.
- People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.



Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers for:

- + Marlene, heart cath surgery
- + Rose, surgery on May 26
- + Lisa, with more cancer concerns
- + Trudy, mass on ovary
- + Blair, blockage in heart
- + Josh, heart attack
- + Jeanne, healing from surgery
- + Cathy, healing from health issues
- + Ellen, continued healing

With Heartfelt Sympathy

To Barb Johnston, family and friends on the loss of her husband, Jerry.

To Jan Vaughn, family and friends on the loss of her daughter, Sandra.

The loss is great and they will be greatly missed. May these families be uplifted by our prayers.



God of all comfort, wrap Your loving arms around each of them, comfort their sorrow and ease their pain. Heal their broken hearts and calm their fears, filling the void with Your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

(Puzzle solutions)

- 1. Cain, 2. Light, 3. Ur, 4. Elisha
- 5. Veil, 6. Immanuel, 7. Stephen
- 8. Israel, 9. Timothy
- Anagram: CLUE VISIT
- Solution: LEVITICUS

U	L	R	N	F	E	D	O	W
E	D	O	W	R	L	N	F	U
N	W	F	O	D	U	E	L	R
W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L
F	R	D	L	U	W	O	E	N
L	U	E	F	N	O	W	R	D
O	N	U	E	L	D	R	W	F
R	F	W	U	O	N	L	D	E
D	E	L	R	W	F	U	N	O

Articles for the August 2026 Newsletter is due by: **July 23, 2026**

Talk To Us

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 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

- June 7- Larry Ridge
- June 14- Sue Ridge
- June 21 - Laragene Triplett
- June 28 - Melissa Whalen
- July 5 - Laurel Allyn
- July 12 - Cheryl Butts
- July 19 - Carol Dick
- July 26 - Sue Durling

Usher/Greeters 8:45am

- June 7- Sue Durling, Peggy Yats
- June 14- Carol Dick, M&T Whalen
- June 21 - M.Henson, L&S Ridge
- June 28 - B. Farrow, D. Lewis,
- July 5 - Sue Durling, Peggy Yats
- July 12 - Bob & Linda Baker
- July 19 - C. Dick, B. Farrow,
M. Henson
- July 26 - B. Dessinger, B&S Martin

Computer /Sound Board 8:45am

- June 7- Karen Florida
- June 14- Rose Dessinger
- June 21 - Nancy Elsner
- June 28 - Karen Florida
- July 5 - Rose Dessinger

Hospitality 10:00am

- June 7- Dennis & Amy Kleinedler
- June 14- Lori Yaklin
- June 21 - Bob & Linda Baker
- June 28 - R. Eavy, J. Martz

Worship Leader 11:15am

- June 7- Cathy
- June 14- Kris S., E. Mason
- June 21 - Teresa Casteel
- June 28 - Autumn Cichowski
- July 5 - Cathy Riley
- July 12 - Kris Supernaw