

# Together In Faith

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

**But the perfect work of faith is to be patient in order to attain to the complete state, and not be lacking in anything. James 1:4**

***Devotional (p.6)***  
***“The Beautiful Roadmap of an Impossible Command”***

## Pastor's Corner

BY REV. RUTH VANDERSANDE

The fall weather seems to have finally hit us. Fall has always been a time that I admittedly do not enjoy, not for what fall brings, but for what comes after it. Because truly I am not a winter person. What's interesting is that even though fall is wholly pleasant and has many things I enjoy, there's always this cloud looming over that says winter is around the corner. It's funny how we do that to ourselves sometimes, when we know something, we don't like is coming up, we spend a longer period of time dreading the thing we don't like. Sometimes worry can feel like it's

consuming us, and yet, in Christ we can find our comfort and our hope.

Jesus takes time to address our worry in Matthew 6 during the sermon on the mount. In Matthew 6:34 Jesus states, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

There is an interesting conversation to be had around this statement, because many have taken this to be a statement that we should not worry or we are doing something wrong. And for years, those teachings looked (Continued next page)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45 am

Traditional Service

11:15 am

Contemporary Worship

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am - All Ages

## YOUTH GROUP

6th - 12<sup>th</sup> 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)*

down on those struggling with worry or anxiety issues. Treating those as the problem, or as an issue of lack of faith, rather than a message of comfort. Jesus is telling His believers that there are things outside of their control, but nothing is outside of God's control. An encouragement to keep your eyes on God, that you can be assured that God will be there with you regardless of your circumstances.

And while that doesn't take away the hardships, worry or anxiety, we have a God who is right there with us in it, comforting us holding us. And so, while I may always give fall a bad name because of its proximity to winter, I do know that spring will come just as assuredly as winter. There is hope and in that hope comfort from our God that the bad times, the times we dread, will eventually pass. The things we worry about or struggle with will eventually be resolved. It is the great comfort that we have, we do not have to walk through this life alone. And praise be to God for His presence with us.

Coming up in worship we are going to be look at the various letters to the churches in the epistles. Each week we will focus on a different letter and an overview of what exactly the letter is trying to tell the churches. I look forward to worshipping with you this month.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande

*From the Desk  
of the Pastor*



## *October Sermons & Scriptures*

**Sermon Series:** *A New Creation*

**October 4** Sermon: *A New Creation*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Hymns: There is a Balm in Gilead #375,  
Rock of Ages #361,  
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing #400

**Sermon Series:** *To the Churches*

**October 11** Sermon: *Romans*

Scripture: Romans 14:10-23

Hymns: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling #348, Sweet Hour of Prayer #496  
Take My Life and Let it Be #399

**October 18** Sermon: *Corinth*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Hymns: Are Ye Able #530, Sanctuary #2164, Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus #462

**October 25** Sermon: *Corinth Part 2*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

Hymns: Come Thou Almighty King #61, Amazing Grace #378, Jesus the Very Thought of Thee #174



# All Saints Sunday

BY ROSE DESSINGER

On Sunday, Nov 1 we will be celebrating the lives of those who have passed since last All Saints' Sunday. If you have a loved one that passed since last All Saints' Sunday and would like to have them remembered, please e-mail or bring in their name, date of birth and death to the office by October 23rd.



## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

BY BECKY STAMM

We want every child to know that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Your shoebox will be an expression of God's love to a child and may be the only gift they receive. These gifts go all over the world to those in need.

By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Each box becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. So, be sure to make them fun, full of supplies and personalized prayers and notes of encouragement...even a picture of you and your family!

Our collection dates will be November 15-22. There will be some supplies in fellowship hall in October. You can contact me at 810-397-5928 for more information.



**Samaritan's Purse**  
**Operation Christmas Child**  
**Shoe Boxes**  
**Bring filled shoe boxes Nov. 15-22.**

Your shoebox will be an expression of God's love to a child and may be the only gift they receive.

These gifts go all over the world to those in need.

There will be boxes/labels in Fellowship Hall in October. Call Becky at 810-397-5928 for more info

# UWF News

BY SUE RIDGE

UWF Women invites All Women & Girls to join us to take part in a Sunday Worship service to perform together on Sunday, Nov 8, one service only at 10:00am. There will be 2-3 practices on Thursday afternoons. Specific dates & times TBD. Watch for details to come soon!

**PILLOW DRIVE**

Needed for  
YWCA  
Safe House  
Center for Domestic  
Abuse Victims

Help us fill  
150 pillowcases!

Bring pillows between  
Sun., Oct. 18 - Sun., Nov. 8  
Place in Mission Collection  
area of Fellowship Hall.

### FULL WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, & MORE!

- Toothbrushes
- Socks
- Combs and hairbrushes
- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and coloring books
- Hair accessories
- Solar calculators
- Flashlights
- Sunglasses



### PERSONALIZED WITH CARE

- Prayer for each child
- A note and photo
- Unique items in every shoebox



### DO NOT INCLUDE

soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans



## Family Promise of Mid Michigan News

BY CAROLYN MALASKI

### Bueche's Receipts

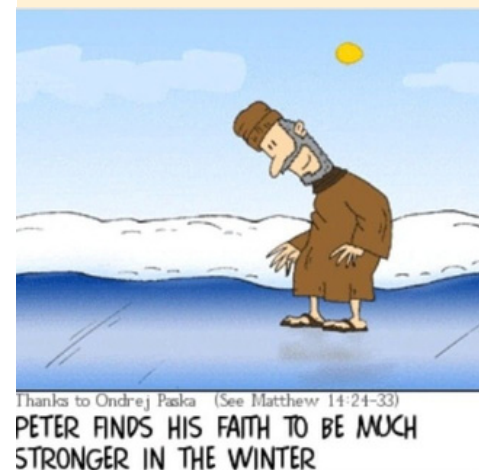
Starting in October, we are collecting receipts that have Kids' Amount on them. The receipts are shared with Flushing Schools and they receive 1% of the total amount spent. The schools use the funds for items and special events that are not covered in their budget. The basket for receipts can be found at the Mission table in Fellowship Hall.

### Ronald McDonald Charities

We continue to collect tabs from pop cans and other canned products with tabs. The funds they receive from the tabs is used to support the Ronald McDonald Houses where families stay free of charge when their kids are receiving medical care. There is a basket at the Mission table for them.

### Family Promise of Mid-Michigan

The Golf Fore Families outing held in August raised just over \$25,000. Because of the golfers, sponsors, volunteers and supporters we exceeded all expectations and raised critical funds that will be used to help families remain in their homes. Look for the list of Flushing area businesses that contributed items for the silent auction at the golf event on the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship. When you shop and use their services be sure to thank them for their support. A special thank you to our congregation for the financial contributions and donations of food, personal care items and household supplies that you continue to provide. Together we are making a difference.



Flushing United Methodist Church

Neighbors ♥ Friends ♥ Community

# Join Us for Our Annual **HARVEST** **TRUNK-or-TREAT!**

Join us for an evening of  
food, family, and fun!



Saturday  
Oct. 31



5:30 –  
8:00 PM



Flushing UMC  
413 E Main St,  
Flushing

CANDY  
FRIENDS  
FAMILY  
FUN!

ALL ARE  
WELCOME!

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We are collecting individually wrapped candy donations to make this event a success for our community.

Please drop off candy bags at the Main Office or in the Donation Bins located in the lobby.

## Decorate a Trunk and Join the Fun!



We're looking for people to decorate their trunks and hand out candy.

... Sign-up sheets are on the  
Welcome Center in the lobby.  
to sign up.

See Dianne Ensign for details.

♥ A Fun & Safe Event for Our Community! ♥

## Greek Word Study

*Teleios* :

"complete,"  
"mature," or  
"whole",  
rather than a  
modern,  
flawless  
standard of  
error-free  
perfection.  
Root word  
connection:

The word  
comes from  
*telos*, meaning  
an "end,"  
"goal," or  
"completion"

*All of us, then,  
who are  
mature should  
take such a  
view of things.*

Philippians 3:15

*There is no fear  
in love. But  
perfect love  
drives out fear,  
because fear  
has to do with  
punishment.  
The one who  
fears is not  
made perfect  
in love.*

1 John 4:18

# *The Beautiful Roadmap of an Impossible Command*

Devotional By Rose Dessinger

Please read  
Matthew 5:43-48

Be perfect, therefore, as your  
heavenly Father is perfect.  
-Matthew 5:48

This passage is hard for us to hear, isn't it? Jesus just told us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and to be perfect—just like our heavenly Father. Wow! That's a tall order! It certainly doesn't fit into our society's attitude today. One look at social media, politics, or even just a walk down the street, and you see that few people hold this view. We act like life is entirely about our own thoughts, views, desires, and opinions. Today, if you even look at a person the wrong way, they may accuse you of hate—when in fact, maybe you were just having a bad day or had received bad news. You weren't even thinking about them! But we need to look deeper. Often, that quick accusation is a reflection of what is happening inside them, not you. If you were to look closer at that person's life, you might find their own hurt, grief or misery, which they are taking out on others. The worst part? Satan uses this misery as a trap. The enemy deceives people into thinking their bad behavior is justified. He whispers thoughts into our minds to think: "I'm miserable, so you should be too." *"If I can make you snap and react in anger, then I've justified my own hatred."*

It's the enemy's trap, and we all fall into it. Jesus knows this. This is the pit of sin and hurt. He knows the Father doesn't tolerate bad behavior, and it is never okay for others to mistreat you. But it's also not okay for you to allow Satan to suck you into that same cycle of hatred.

Instead, Jesus calls us to the exact opposite.

## **What Does "Perfect" Really Mean?**

Thankfully, Jesus is not demanding a flawless, sinless performance that humans can achieve on their own. In the original Greek, the word used for perfect is *teleios*, which means mature, complete, or whole. Specifically, it refers to a complete, impartial love that extends even to our enemies, just as God's love does. Being "perfect" here means having a mature, all-encompassing love that does not play favorites. Even so, Jesus is absolutely not giving a relaxed speech. This standard elevates the Law of Moses. The Old Testament had strict standards for righteousness, and the religious leaders of the day thought they were successfully keeping them. Jesus essentially tells them, *"You're not even close."* Moses gave laws regulating external behavior (e.g., do not murder), but Jesus targets the internal heart (e.g., do not nurse anger). He shows that true righteousness is a matter

of the heart, not just a checklist of rules.

By escalating the demands, Jesus shatters our illusion of self-sufficiency. He raises the bar of the Law to an agonizingly high level, intentionally driving us to the end of our own strength.

## **Driven to Grace**

What this high bar exposes is our deep need for a Savior. These verses are not meant to be achieved by sheer willpower. They describe a life lived under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who changes our desires from the inside out. Jesus is pointing us toward a heavenly direction for lifelong spiritual growth, rather than an instant graduation into sinlessness. Transformation happens through God's power working in us, teaching us to rely daily on His grace. The standard of being "perfect" serves as a direct mirror and teaching tool to show us, and the world around us, exactly what Jesus looks like in action. God's standard for the human heart is absolute goodness, and Jesus's life is the only flawless translation of the Father's character into human history. He perfectly embodied Matthew 5 by loving His enemies, praying for those who crucified Him, and dying for a world that rejected Him.

When we strive toward the same standard, we show others a type of love that makes no logical sense to the world. The Apostle Paul echoes this in Ephesians 5:1, telling believers to *"be imitators of God, as beloved children."* Children naturally learn how to behave by watching and mimicking their parents. We don't mimic the Father perfectly on day one, but the very act of trying trains our spiritual muscles, gradually shaping our desires, thoughts, and reactions to look more like Jesus over time.

## **Good News for Our Failures**

In turn, we also demonstrate grace through our own failures. Because we cannot achieve this perfection perfectly in this lifetime, how we handle our inevitable shortcomings also teaches the world. When we stumble, pick ourselves up, and rely on God's mercy rather than giving up in despair, we witness to the reality of a loving, forgiving Father. It turns Jesus's command from a crushing weight into a beautiful roadmap for discipleship. We look to Jesus to see what the Father is like, and we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us reflect that exact image to a broken world. Only then can we be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

Now **THAT'S** good news!! Amen!

# *Getting To Know Your Neighbor*

THIS MONTH, LET'S GET TO KNOW:

## **Larry Ridge**

**Briefly tell us about yourself:** Not a lot to tell, enjoying life in retirement and continue to be active in church life.

**How did you come to Christ?** Family attended a small rural church in a farming community in Ohio. I was baptised at 12 accepting Christ as my savior.

**What are your hobbies?** I like a variety of activities. These would be fishing, hunting, golf and gardening.

**Favorite Food:** No special foods as I like most anything. But hard to beat a steak and fresh tomatoes.

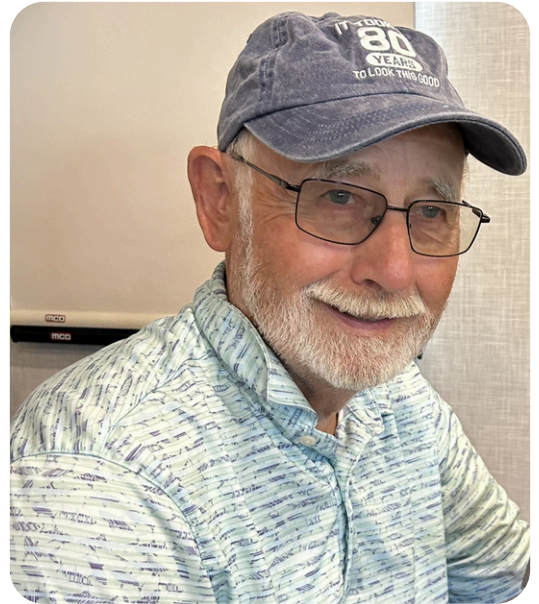
**What do you do for a living?** Retired, owned a business for most of my career, 41 years.

**Favorite Bible Verse:** John 3:16

**What's a fun fact about yourself?** Had a book published for graduation requirements for engineer school. Did graduate with mechanical engineering degree.

**Travels: where have you been and where would you like to go?** Have traveled a lot in states, Europe, United Kingdom, Caribbean & Central America. Some places still to go would be South America and Asia.

**Areas you serve(at church and outside of church):** Active in a lot of service clubs, Kiwinas and Rotary. Served this church on most of the committees. Currently on Endowment, Finance Team chair and Leadership Board.



## *Note From the Office*

BY RUTH VANDERSANDE

I would like to send a loving reminder regarding Sunday mornings and our staff. Sunday is a time that is intentionally set aside for worship. With that in mind, we would like to offer that worship space for our staff as well. While some of our staff do work on Sundays, Melissa, Jinah, Lindsey and Lillie, we also have staff that do not work on Sundays, Marlene and Rose. For all our staff, this is their worship home as well as their place of employment. To honor that, we want to make sure that all our staff can experience a time of worship of God and fellowship with their church family.

As such, I would just like to remind everyone that if you have a question or are looking for help that you would like to be addressed by those members of our staff who do not work on Sundays, Sunday is not the appropriate time to do so. Instead, we have multiple ways of asking those questions while still preserving their time of worship. You can leave a note on Rose's desk, email your question, address it during office hours Mon-Thurs. through a phone call or a visit to the office, or you are welcome to bring the question to me so I can pass it along during their work hours.

Thank you all for your understanding and for continuing to work to create an environment where all our church family can grow spiritually and worship faithfully.

# Pastor's Bookshelf

BY RUTH VANDERSANDE



This month I am inviting you to pick one of the following epistles and read a book study on them: *Romans*, *1 Corinthians* or *2 Corinthians*.

Some of my favorite studies on these come from theologian N.T. Wright, these tend to be theologically heavy. For ones that are a little shorter, and more devotional based you could look at Immersion Bible Studies. Or pick your favorite author and dive into the book. This will help you to get a fuller picture of the context of these epistles and how they relate to us even now. What you will find is there are a vast array of different Bible Studies out there that approach the letters from vastly different perspectives. If you want more help choosing the right one for you, feel free to reach out to me any time.

## Annual Church Conference

**Attention all members:**

**October 18  
@ 2:30 pm**

Our mission zone is meeting in Flint for this year's conference.

Please meet us at:

Bristol UMC  
5285 Van Slyke Rd  
Flint, MI 48507

## Mens Breakfast

Calling all MEN!!  
Come join us for breakfast!!



## 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](http://onrealm.org/FlushingUnitedM/Give)

## Finance Snapshot thru September 2026

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

Total received in Aug. 2026:  
General \$ 14,994  
Interest \$ 363  
Rent \$ 0  
Capital Fund: \$ 1,325

General Fund Expenses  
Paid in Aug.: \$ 25,012

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### October Birthdays

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| John Guynn      | 3  |
| Jack Nettleton  | 9  |
| Win Walker      | 9  |
| Marlene Cooper  | 15 |
| Beth Elliott    | 15 |
| Maggie Elliott  | 15 |
| James Rundell   | 16 |
| Susie Johnson   | 19 |
| Micki Yon       | 20 |
| Larry Launstein | 23 |
| Briar Whalen    | 24 |
| Carrie Guynn    | 26 |
| Bob Halbedel    | 29 |
| Ken Hedges      | 29 |



## Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers for:

- + Jim, broke collar bone, hernia
- + Connie L, recovering now home, also prayers for her cancer
- + Sarah, severe car accident
- + Nan's continued recover, and also unspoken issues
- + Gail, throat cancer
- + Susan, mass on pituitary gland
- + Connie, with eye issues
- + Ellen, continued healing
- + Continued prayers for Katie V.

## With Heartfelt Sympathy

To Karma Common, friends and family on the loss of her mom, Joan.



*God of all comfort, wrap Your loving arms around this family, 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.*

## Rogue

Below are anagrams of some of Jesus' disciples but each has a rogue letter!

The rogue letters, when found, will spell out an instruction from Jesus to his disciples.

[Mark 1:17]

1. WARN FED
2. WHET MOAT
3. MASH LOT
4. NO SLIM
5. SAME JO
6. WET REP
7. LIMP HIP
8. SUE HAD DATE

(All Bible references from NIV)

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## Talk To Us

office@flushingumc.org  
 (810) 659-5172  
 Flushingumc.org  
 413 E Main St.,  
 Flushing, MI 48433  
 Rev. Ruth's email:  
 pastor@flushingumc.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

- Oct 4- Dave Lewis
- Oct 11- Carolyn Malaski
- Oct 18- Larry Ridge
- Oct 25- Sue Ridge

### Usher/Greeters 8:45am

- Oct 4- B & L Baker
- Oct 11- Larry & Sue Ridge
- Oct 18 - B. Dessinger, M. Henson
- Oct 25 - Bill & Sue Martin

### Computer /Sound Board 8:45am

- Oct 4- Rose Dessinger
- Oct 11-Rose Dessinger
- Oct 18 -Karen Florida
- Oct 25 - Travis Whalen

### Hospitality 10:00am

- Oct 4- Jim & Liz Fonger
- Oct 11- Dennis & Amy Kleinedler
- Oct 18 - Dan & Laurie Yaklin
- Oct 25 - Rusty Eavy, Judy Martz

### Worship Leader 11:15am

- Oct 4 - K. Supernaw, E. Mason
- Oct 11-Teresa Casteel
- Oct 18-Autumn Cichowski
- Oct 25-Cathy Riley

1. Andrew, 2. Matthew, 3. Thomas,  
 4. Simon, 5. James, 6. Peter,  
 7. Philip, 8. Thaddaeus  
 Rogue letters:  
 FOLLOW ME

Rogue Solutions

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



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