See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Sunday Worship
8:45 am Traditional Service & 11:15 am Contemporary Worship
Join us either online or in-person
Facebook.com/FlushingUMC or Youtube.com/user/flushingumc

Church Staff
Lead Pastor JJ Mannschreck
Director of Music Christie Dover
Christian Ed. Director Melissa Whalen
Play Place Director Lisa Luther
Office Manager Rose Dessinger
Youth Leader Tramell Ferguson
Custodian Marlene Cooper
Play Place Sarah Covert, Hanna Nettleton
Greetings from the desk of the Pastor! What a year we have had and it has only just begun. One thing is very clear – the world will continue to need the witness and work of the church in 2021.

First things first, I did want to say a few words on the COVID-19 numbers and the reopening of our church. I am SO excited to see that, after an unfortunate increase over the holidays, the numbers of cases have been trending downwards, so much so that even restaurants are preparing to open once more. Further, news of the effective vaccine distribution has increased optimism for a lot of people. We are seeing children in person for worship once more, and our nursery is expanding volunteer training as their numbers increase. These are wonderful things, and we should celebrate them. But I have a word of caution. The numbers are still very high, and we do not want to move backwards. I ask for your continued patience as the church leadership evaluates the proper pace for re-opening activities and church functions. We will bring everything back as we are able, but not before it is safe and smart to do so. I’d rather open slowly and stay open, than open too many things too quickly and have to shut down again as a result. You, as a church, have done SO WELL during this pandemic and I am so proud. But I ask for a little more patience – it will all come to pass in time.

On that note, I did want to mention that Ash Wednesday will be on February 17th and there WILL be imposition of ashes offered. The particular method is still being brainstormed, but we are committed to providing a worship experience that is both safe AND in person for those who wish it. (It will also be livestreamed).

Further, I wanted to mention two new collaborations we are working on with other United Methodist Churches in the Flint area.
First, there is going to be an “Anti-racism Book Study” led by Pastor Jeremy Peters (Court Street UMC) and Pastor Greg Timmons (Calvary UMC) on Wednesdays in lent. It will begin February 24th (the first Wednesday after Lent begins), and the time is still to be determined. It will be a 9-10 week study, and they will be reading Latasha Morrison’s book, “Be the Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation.” It will be a digital book study, held over zoom, with members from all 7 Flint area churches welcome to participate. I think this is a fantastic way to open our eyes to new perspectives and participate in the healing work of racial reconciliation, which our world needs so much.

Second, during Lent there will be an inspirational series of messages from the Pastors of the Flint Mission Zone churches. Some of the churches will be using these messages as the sermons on Sunday morning. However, since our church already has a plan in place for Sunday morning sermons – we will post the videos on Monday mornings throughout lent. The series is called Anointed: A sermon series about hearing God’s voice and answering God’s call. During this series you will hear different call stories from different pastors with different backgrounds – but the common thread is God working through each of us. Even though we’re not using these messages on Sunday morning – I didn’t want you to miss out on hearing these amazing stories.

2021 promises to be an interesting year full of challenges, but I am confident that if we keep our focus on the work God is doing in our midst, we will not only weather the storm, but thrive in the midst of it. But until then – I’ll “see” you on Sunday,

By: Pastor JJ Mannschreck
Welcome to my bookshelf!

Each month I will discuss a recent book that I’ve finished.
*disclaimer: I don’t always have time to sit and read physical books, but I do quite a bit of my reading through audiobooks these days.*

This month I’d like to talk about: **Costly Obedience (What We Can Learn From the Celibate Gay Christian Community)**
Mark Yarhouse and Olya Zaporozhets

In our continued desire to better understand the many facets of the LGBTQ conversation – I read this book a while back to fill in some of the stories I had never heard. In the UMC I have heard many anti-LGBTQ things, and I have heard many PRO-LGBTQ things. This book presented me with a position I did not know existed for a long time. There are many people who feel same sex attraction, who continue to live with a biblical sexual ethic. This book asks the question, “what can the church do for LGBTQ people to help them in their flourishing, without throwing away the bible’s teachings on sexual ethics?”

From the Amazon description:
The stories and struggles of gay Christians who are reorienting their lives around the costly obedience required to follow Christ, Mark Yarhouse and Olya Zaporozhets call the church to reorient as well, leaving behind the casual morality that is widespread today to pursue the path of radical discipleship. Unlike any other book on homosexuality and the church, this is a call to examine your life and consider what God is asking you to lay down to take up your cross and follow him.

I’ll admit, some parts of the book are a bit dry – it can read like a statistician’s report in places. However, regardless of your location on the theological spectrum on the issue of LGBTQ sexual ethics – this book is guaranteed to expand your horizons and better help you reach out to LGBTQ individuals and their allies with the love of Jesus Christ.
Feb 14  With A Hint Of Suffering    Jeremiah 25:15-17, 27-29    Matthew 26:36-46
Feb 17  Ashes    Joel 2:1-2, 12-17    Psalm 51:1-17
Feb 21  And That’s No Yoke!    Jeremiah 27:2-8; 28:10-17    Matthew 11:25-30
The Always Winter, Never Christmas Series

February 13th - 3-5pm Date Night @ the Flint Farmer's Market
February 20th - 2-4pm Life Sized Jenga Kid's Painting Party!
February 27th - 2-4pm All Church Outdoor Game Day

Calling All FUMC COUPLES

Saturday, February 13th from 3-5pm
Flint Farmer’s Market
300 East First Street, Flint

Grab your partner and your wallet and join us for a night of fun! The game is simple. You will be given 8 inexpensive items to buy from the vendors at the Market. Items like her favorite salty snack, favorite baked good and so on. You have 90 minutes to shop for each other. When you are done you can head upstairs to the Market Tap and exchange gifts or wherever you are comfortable. One at a time you reveal the items you selected and see what your partner picked for you. Goal is to have fun and enjoy a fun afternoon out. If you want to continue the fun (afterwards) upstairs at the Market Tap, remember that it is an outdoor venue so dress very warm. Blankets are encouraged.

Please arrive promptly at 3pm. Many vendors will begin to close at 4:45pm.

Life Sized Jenga Kid's Painting Party!

Saturday, February 20th ~ 2-4pm

Our Youth Group will be building some life sized Jenga sets, and we are in need of some helpers to paint them all! We will transform our fellowship hall into a socially distant paint studio. Kids of all ages and their friends are invited! (We will even have some take home kits for those who would prefer to do their painting from the comfort and safety of their home).
UM Women News

Baby Shower for Heartbeat

The United Methodist Women are having a baby shower for Heartbeat of Greater Flint. Heartbeat provides services for pregnant women, new mothers, and small children including counseling, maternity clothing, layettes and clothing for infants and toddlers, baby formula, and a baby furniture loan closet.

We would appreciate donations of baby clothes in sizes 0-12 months, baby toys, and other baby supplies. There will be a wicker bassinette in the foyer from February 7-21 for your donated items.

2021 Handbooks

2021 Handbooks are available for E Circle members. They are located on a table in the lobby by the Welcome Center. Included with the book is a Pledge to Mission card and a return envelope to the new UMW Treasurer, Dianne Ensign.
As you may remember, our vision for this year is “Rise Up, to Raise Up!” and we are focusing, not just in improving ourselves, but also on how we can raise others up as well. We know that leadership is not just the ability to do things well, but also the ability to pass on those skills to the next leader as well.

(Understandably, this message has gotten a little overshadowed by all the overwhelming news of an election year and a global pandemic.) However, to refocus on our goal of rising up, in order to raise up others I have a couple of shining stars to point out.

Bill Martin, Chair of Trustee Committee
Bill Martin has been an incredible Chair of the Trustee Committee for many, many years. He takes VERY good care of this church building, and if there’s a problem – he is quick and efficient with a solution. Over the past year, Bill has been walking alongside our new Chair of Trustees – Rusty Eavy. Bill let Rusty take the lead, while still staying available for questions and help as needed. Thank you Bill for your incredible years of service to this church. Your leadership will be missed, but you have left the Trustee Committee in capable, well prepared hands. Great job raising others up!

Ken Hedges, Financial Secretary
As many of you know, Ken Hedges has been the Financial secretary of our church for a very long time. As a Pastor I have met many financial secretaries, and I can honestly say I have never seen the position handled with such thorough and such genuine care. Again and again Ken would go above and beyond the ordinary call of duty to make sure your gifts were allocated in the correct manner. Recently Ken took on the task of training a new Financial Secretary, Dave Lewis. Ken’s immense knowledge and careful attention to detail will be missed – but he has left the management of our finances in the well trained and abundantly capable hands of his successor. Great job raising others up, Ken!
Family Promise- Making a Difference for Families in Genesee County

During these challenging times, Family Promise of Genesee County (FPGC) remains committed to their mission of helping families as they continue to provide support and assistance to families in need.

In 2020 FPGC was able to: prevent evictions for 11 families with 25 kids; provide funds to stabilize homes for 94 families with 308 kids; provide holiday gifts and dinners for 30 families with 65 kids and regular food deliveries to 88 families with 284 kids. The new education lab has been used by 5 families and 5 kids. The total supported includes 228 families with 687 kids! This has been possible with grants and generous donations.

FPGC recently received a $10,000 grant to be used for Basic Needs and other funds to launch Promise for Family, an education program that assigns a mentor to each family.

How can you help?

1. Monetary donations are always appreciated and can be designated for Promise for Home-Eviction Prevention, Prevention Innovation grant focusing on education or the general budget. Check out the web site to donate electronically and more details.
2. Other donations/supplies needed can be found on the website or listed on the mission bulletin board at church located in Fellowship Hall.
3. Volunteer to be a Peer Mentor for the education programs on Zoom.
4. Join the Golf Outing Committee
5. Get a team together for Night Without a Bed or Golf Outing
6. Participate in one or more of the upcoming fundraising events: Family Promise Giving Day-April 21- virtual; Night Without a Bed -June 19- virtual; Golf Outing-July; Give Me Shelter 5K August 14 and Night Without a Bed- virtual and Family Promise Week October 17-24th.

Visit their Facebook page and YouTube channel for the latest information.

Contact Tiffani at FPGC 810-234-9444 to volunteer. Contact Carolyn Malaski at 810-348-0653 if you have questions.
A Note from our Christian Education Director

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your grace as I continue to feel my way through virtual Sunday School. I know it is not perfect, but my hope is that each week your child will understand a little more about how much Jesus loves him/her.

In February, I will begin bringing in simple lessons for our nursery children (ages 0-4). These lessons will be very short. They will not be lessons that go along with Pastor JJ’s sermons (Grades 2-5 are the only ones who have lessons that correlate with his sermons.). These lessons will look like a simple little story, or poem, along with a possible song. A small prayer will be included, too, not only for our little ones, but also our parents:). There will also be lesson for our little ones in K thru 1st grades. Again, these lessons will be much simpler and shorter than our 2-5 grades.

We all look forward to the day when we can meet and teach in person, but until then, thank you for faithfully watching the lessons.

-Melissa Whalen

Nursery Items Needed

As our nursery continues to grow in size, we are in need of gently used indoor jumpers and bouncers, as well as walkers and interactive play centers. If you have any of these items, and you are looking to get rid of them, the nursery will gladly take them off your hands.

Youth Note:

For personal reasons, our beloved friend Tramell Ferguson has chosen to resign from his position as the youth leader of the church. He will remain a good friend of the staff, and a member of this church. We ask that you respect his privacy at this time. We look forward to how God might use him in new ways as a part of this body of Christ.

In the interim, Pastor JJ (who has a background in Youth Ministry) will be stepping in with the help of some volunteers to bring our Youth Program back into action on Sunday evenings, from 4-5pm.
WHO I AM IN CHRIST

I Am Accepted in Christ

JOHN 1:12  I am God's child
JOHN 15:15  I am Christ's friend
ROMANS 5:1  I have been justified
1 CORINTHIANS 6:17  I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit
1 CORINTHIANS 6:20  I have been bought with a price; I belong to God
1 CORINTHIANS 12:27  I am a member of Christ's Body
EPHESIANS 1:1  I am a saint
EPHESIANS 1:5  I have been adopted as God's child
EPHESIANS 2:18  I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit
COLOSSIANS 1:14  I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins
COLOSSIANS 2:10  I am complete in Christ

I Am Secure in Christ

ROMANS 5:1, 2  I am free forever from condemnation
ROMANS 8:28  I am assured that all things work together for good
ROMANS 8:33, 34  I am free from any condemning charges against me
ROMANS 8:35  I cannot be separated from the love of God
2 CORINTHIANS 1:21  I have been established, anointed and sealed by God
COLOSSIANS 3:13  I am hidden with Christ in God
PHILIPPIANS 1:6  I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected
PHILIPPIANS 3:20  I am a citizen of heaven
2 TIMOTHY 1:7  I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind
HEBREWS 4:16  I can find grace and mercy in time of need
1 JOHN 5:18  I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me

I Am Significant in Christ

MATTHEW 5:13, 14  I am the salt and light of the earth
JOHN 15:1, 5  I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life
JOHN 15:16  I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
ACTS 1:8  I am a personal witness of Christ's
1 CORINTHIANS 3:16  I am God's temple
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, 20  I am a minister of reconciliation
2 CORINTHIANS 6:1  I am God's coworker
EPHESIANS 2:6  I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm
EPHESIANS 2:10  I am God's workmanship
EPHESIANS 3:12  I may approach God with freedom and confidence
PHILIPPIANS 4:13  I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

Taken from Living Free in Christ, by Neil Anderson. © 1993, Regal Books.
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<td>Sidney Machir</td>
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Finance Snapshot through December 2020

Amount received 2020 General: $316,585
December 2020:
  General: $22,837
  Capitol: $1,032
2021 Apportionments: $47,397
Paid to date: $3,441

Thank You to everyone who donated to the Flushing Christian Outreach Center for Christmas Memorials and our Christmas Eve offering. In all we collected over $4,400!

Endowment

Have you considered Flushing United Methodist Church Endowment Fund in your estate planning (will, trust, etc.)? Early in the year, as you are doing your financial and tax planning for the year, is an excellent time to consider a gift to the Endowment Fund, either immediately and directly or as designated in a will or trust.

PS Don’t forget that the CARES Act allows donors to use a universal tax deduction for donations made in 2020 of up to $300 for individuals ($600 for couples) on their 2020 tax return if they take the standard deduction. Also, remember that you may rollover up to $100,000 from your IRA to charity without paying any federal income tax on your gift and to satisfy your RMD.
Our Church Family
Aware of a concern or joy in our family? Please notify the church, so we can share them with you. Only first names will be published in prayer concerns.

Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers:

+ Ann, stress with moving to new facility
+ Krissy, needing guidance with life struggles
+ Bobbi, needing good lung cancer scan results
+ Susan, at Hurley with multiple issues
+ Dan, upcoming surgery on Feb 3
+ Daughter-in-laws parents, both with cancer
+ Don, with just a few weeks to live
+ Chris, in critical condition with Covid-19
+ Berneda recovering from breathing issues
+ John health very compromised with Covid-19. Wife also has Covid-19

With Heartfelt Sympathy

To friends and family on the death of member, Norm Looney.

Dear Church family,
Thank you for the lovely Christmas fruit basket. I enjoyed it very much.—Evelyn Johnson

A big “THANK YOU” from the Mission Team to everyone that participated in the Angel Tree project at Christmas. We had 5 families and they got lots of stuff.

A Note from FCOC
"Wow! What a blessing to be able to serve Christmas dinners to our Flushing families in need. Thanks to you, so many deserving people had a great meal this year. Your donations toward this project are greatly appreciated. Our Lord is smiling!" -Terry Bigelow, FCOC

**Together we raised $4,460 to go to the Flushing Christian Outreach Center (FCOC) from our Christmas Eve services and Christmas Memorials. Thank you!
**Due to Covid-19, to ensure proper safe distancing practices we will not be needing greeters, ushers or coffee hosts for the month of February. There will still be no bulletins or passing of the plates.**

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**Articles for March Newsletter:**

Deadline: February 18, 2021