March 2021

**the Visitor**

*a publication of Flushing United Methodist Church*

**Our Vision Statement**

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

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**Lent** 2021

**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  
**Office Manager**  Rose Dessinger  
**Custodian**  Marlene Cooper  
**Play Place**  Sarah Covert, Chloe Covert
Greetings from the desk of the Pastor! Once again I come before you absolutely baffled at how quickly time seems to fly. It’s hard to believe we are already coming up on the one year anniversary of the original COVID 19 shut down! We have done so much since then, and even though it has been incredibly difficult and often sad – there is so much hope in what this community has been able to do.

To start, let me once again urge patience with all of our church events and policies. I promise we in the leadership are just as anxious to get back to normal life of the church – I am so excited for that day! However, in our eagerness we don’t want to trip ourselves up so close to the finish line. While the numbers of cases have been very encouraging, and the vaccine roll-out has been even faster than we’d first hoped – there is still a very real problem out there. It’s not gone yet, and so my advice is simple, “hang in there, we’re almost done, but not yet.”

In the meantime, I’m thrilled to announce a few new projects we have coming up. First, there will be a New Member Class on Tuesday evenings from 7-8pm, beginning on March 9th! This class is available for people who have been joining us in person, but ALSO for those who are in our midst digitally as well. If you are not yet a member, I welcome you to check out this no-obligation opportunity. Come, learn all about it, and then see if you are ready to make a decision to join this church! The class will be offered in hybrid format – both in person AND through ZOOM. So contact the church office if you’d like to receive the ZOOM link, or join us on March 9th.

Second, I wanted to report the results of a special Charge Conference we had at the end of January, 2021. We examined a proposal and voted overwhelmingly to support the launch of our Main Entry Remodel Capital Project! There is now officially a designated account set aside for this project. If you would like to give to this very worthy cause, please make sure to write “Main Entry Remodel” or “Capital PROJECT” in the memo line of your gift. We also nominated and commissioned our Building Committee to begin their
work. Please join me in celebrating Cathy Metz, Dave Lewis, Daren Hawley and Jim Belanger to our Building Committee. These folks are committed, talented and ready to get to work! We have already had our first meeting and set the monumental goal of saving up $100,000 for this project by the end of 2021! (WOW.) This is a huge goal, but the Building Committee is confident we will be able to pull together and make it happen.

Finally, I wanted to highlight and celebrate a few collaborative efforts from the Flint Area UM Churches.
1. **BTB101**
   Be the Bridge 101 is an anti-racism class held over ZOOM on Wednesdays at 1pm or 6pm. It’s a book study that discusses the book by the same name. This class is a combination of many area churches together, so if you have a chance to join them, you might see some new faces!

2. **ANOINTED: Hearing God’s Call**
   The Pastors of the United Methodist Churches in the Flint Area are all getting together to support this collaborative sermon series. Each week we will drop a video of a Pastor’s sermon – which will include their personal story of God’s calling in their life. It will be posted to Facebook and Youtube every Monday. We will also have a showing of the video on Wednesday afternoons in our sanctuary at 2pm for those who do not prefer the computer.

3. **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**
   We are also in the planning stages of a combined digital Tenebrae service that will utilize musicians, singers and other volunteers from all the Flint Area churches. It’s a chance for us to worship together in a new and unique way to make this new and unique world we are doing ministry in. If you would like to volunteer – please let us know in the church office.

WHEW! That was a lot. As a church we continue to live into our vision statement: to Rise Up in order to Raise Up. But until then, I’ll “see” you on Sunday,
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:

**Talking Back to Purity Culture**

By: Rachel Joy Welcher

I cannot recommend this book highly enough! I’ve known Rachel and her husband Evan (a fellow pastor) for a few years now through social media, and I was very excited when she began this project. When it first came out, it was my privilege to join the launch team, and I bought five copies personally. It is a phenomenal and much needed resource in this time of confusion regarding teachings on sexual ethics.

For those who may not know, “purity culture” refers to a movement in the 1990’s and early 2000’s that started with a desire to teach youth about sexual purity. It started with good intentions, but quickly became a toxic teaching that led countless young people into lives steeped in shame. As the description in the book writes, “many still struggle with purity culture’s complicated legacy – it’s idolization of virginity, its mixed messages about modesty and lust, and its promise of a healthy marriage and great sex for those who follow the rules.”

Now those students who were simply taught “no sex before marriage and nothing else” are all grown up and we have some questions. Rachel does a phenomenal job of calling out the problems with the way sex has been handled as a topic in the past, and yet she is careful not to “throw the baby out with the bathwater” – to use the old expression. She presents a view of sexual ethics that rejects legalism AND license. It is not all about the rules, but neither do we want to say “just do whatever you want.” Instead, Rachel charts a new course that steers us back to the good news of Jesus Christ. I loved reading it, and I hope it blesses you as it blessed me.
Vote on Capital Project Campaign PASSED!

On Jan 31st, we voted/approved to move forward on the project to redo the front entry and lobby area. If you would like to donate to this campaign, please designate in the memo line of your check or envelope “Capital Project Main Entrance Remodel” (not Capital Improvement).

- Redesigned steps & ramp - fully enclosed
- Solves our weather related problems
- New entrance at sidewalk level (Vestibule)
- Larger Lobby all at one level - no ramp
- Improved Entrance Appearance

Total Construction Project Budget $471,620

March Sermon Series

Overcoming Obstacles
(and other extreme sports)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
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<td>Luke 17:20-26</td>
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<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>Talking to God</td>
<td>Luke 18:9-17</td>
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<td>Luke 18:31-43</td>
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<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>Luke 19:1-10</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Luke 19:11-23</td>
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During Lent, there will be an inspirational series of messages from the Pastors of the Flint Mission Zone churches.

For those who lack internet capabilities, you can watch them here in the sanctuary on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 pm throughout lent, beginning February 24th.

We will also continue to post the videos on Facebook and Youtube 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 like other churches – we didn’t want you to miss out on hearing these amazing stories.
Remember someone special this Lenten season by giving an Easter Donation. A few flowers will adorn our Easter services and serve as a reminder of the donations to missions, given in honor of or in memory of friends and family members.

A suggested donation is $10, but all donations are welcome. A listing of Memorials will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Donations given will support:

**Did you know?** The bulbs that are left over after the plants die off are planted in our gardens as a living memorial for those donate in behalf of each year. It’s a beautiful memorial gift that keeps on giving!

**The South Flint Soup Kitchen**

Located on Fenton Road at the former Lincoln Park United Methodist Church, they provide over 30,000 meals per year to the homeless and food insecure families of South Flint. In addition to nutritious meals, children receive a healthy snack and free books to take with them. Clients also receive access to a food pantry and to personal hygiene products, diapers, and toilet paper.

The South Flint Soup Kitchen acts as a resource center to direct people to community partners for additional services. Pastor Horne provides pastoral care and ensures that everyone who comes in the doors feels the love of Jesus Christ. The South Flint Soup Kitchen is an EngageMI East Winds District Christ Centered Mission.

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**Easter Memorial Gifts**

*(Tear off & return to the church office by Sunday, March 28)*

Attached is a gift in the amount of:

$________________________

Given in loving HONOR/MEMORY of *(Please circle one):*

______________________________________________________________________________

Given by: ______________________________________________________________________
Hello, Families! I am hoping that all of you are finding our virtual Sunday School lessons easily, as well as beneficial. I also hope that you have found some time in your busy schedules to do some of the Lenten activities as a family. If your child(ren) does not have packets, you are always welcome to contact the church office and set up a time for you to pick up the monthly packets, or you can go to the church's homepage and print off the packets.

With February ending and March beginning, I would like to remind everyone that we will continue with March is Bible Reading Month, just like we did last year. I know it is customary in schools to have a March is Reading Month, so with Easter around the corner, I believe that it is equally customary to have a March is Bible Reading Month for our children. It strengthens reading skills and teaches our children lessons from the Bible. This March, however, I am certain we will be able to finish it, as COVID will not shut us down! More information will be provided in our Christian Education newsletter.

Again, I encourage those families who do not have packets to please contact the church and set a time that is good for you to pick up your packets or visit the church's homepage where you print them off. You can also pick them up on Sundays, after the service of your choosing.

-Melissa Whalen

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**Finance Snapshot through January 2021**

**Budget for 2021 General:** $324,361

**January 2021:**
- **General:** $29,021
- **Capitol:** $2,452

**2021 Apportionments:** $41,297
Care and Nurturing Ministries

The Ministries reach out to members of the congregation in a variety of ways including both groups and individuals. We will be highlighting at least one of the ministries each month.

Did you know... that the CarePartners Ministry provides at least a monthly outreach to those who are no longer able to attend church? Currently our caregivers are in contact with 17 care receivers through phone calls, cards and notes. Prayer concerns and celebrations are shared with the office and pastor and may be shared with the congregation. If the care receivers have a need that the church can help with, we work with them to get assistance or sometimes make a referral. If requested, The Visitor and copies of sermons are sent by mail and phone calls are made by Pastor JJ. We look forward to being able to visit in person again when it is safe to do so.

Thank you to Bill Dessinger, Liz Fonger, Lois Griffin, Carolyn Malaski, Mary Lou Martin, Sue Ridge, Kris Supernaw and Laragene Triplett who serve as caregivers.

If you would like more information about CarePartners, contact Carolyn @ 348-0653, Laragene @659-2081 or the church office.

Share the Love
Brown Bag Sunday
April 11th, 2021

On Sunday, March 28th, we will be distributing brown bags after both services. Please take them home and fill each bag with pantry items to be donated to Flushing Christian Outreach Center’s pantry. Please return on/by Sunday, April 11th.

Possible items to include:
### March Babies!

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Day of Birth</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luke Everett</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alexis Falin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lydia Goodale</td>
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<td>Dianne Buell</td>
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<td>Tyler Casteel</td>
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<td>Jamie Kitts</td>
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<td>Jaylen Wildman</td>
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<td>Sheila Reid Hall</td>
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<td>Abigail McCarty</td>
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<td>Barry Pratt</td>
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<td>Beth Hill</td>
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<td>Sue Ridge</td>
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<td>Abram Belanger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becky Stamm</td>
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<td>Nancy Duby</td>
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<td>Laurel Allyn</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Berneda Reed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane Hiller</td>
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<td>Bill Dessinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Arthurs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sandra Kitts</td>
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<td>Kevin Meredith</td>
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<td>Rhonda Arthurs</td>
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<td>Brodye Buning</td>
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<td>Melissa Whalen</td>
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<td>Laragene Triplett</td>
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<td>Megan Allyn</td>
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<td>Bill Weber</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ezra Mannschreck</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Diane Halbedel</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kim Brown</td>
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News From the Endowment Committee

Do you have a project or activity in mind and need funds? The Endowment Committee considers grant requests for items that are not included in the church budget. Each year, 5% of the value of the fund is available for grants. In 2021 $2,285 is available to be used for approved requests. A grant in the amount of $350 was recently approved for the All Church Outdoor Game Day.

In 2020 the Fund supported three grants: a project to increase the WiFi signal in the church; outdoor storage for the community garden and start-up funds for The Forge.

Donations to the Fund are invested with the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. Only the interest that is earned can be used. The principle continues to generate income that is used for grants. A gift to the fund keeps on giving. Consider making a donation to the Fund.

Notes from the Membership Secretary

Baptism:
Briar Daniel Whalen
On February 14, 2021

Address Changes:

Ann Waldo
4495 Calkins Rd., Apt 201
Flint, MI 48532
810-422-9705

Wayne Nixon
Pines of Burton
5310 Davison Rd
Burton, MI 48509
Rise Up To Raise Up!

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.

As such, we want to celebrate and lift up several opportunities for you to RISE UP in your personal walk with Christ AND in the life of the Church.

Nursery Volunteers!
If you can believe it, as families begin to come back to our church for in-person worship, some weeks our nursery is simply overflowing with babies! We have had several new births in our church family this past year, and infants require more care and attention than your average toddler. If you are looking for a place to RISE UP, what better option than holding babies and helping our nursery staff care for our littlest ones.

Media Production Team!
With the advent of COVID our church sprang into action and did some significant upgrades to our audio/visual technology. We now run a high quality multi-camera, multi-platform livestreamed production every single Sunday. Our volunteers have discovered that even though it seems intimidating, with a little training – it can actually be a lot of fun! Over half of our church is still joining us exclusively through our digital options, and it is such an incredibly valuable ministry to be a part of. Our team is looking to RAISE UP some new people by providing training, even if you have no experience.

Soup Kitchen/Forge Garage!
We also partner with several community groups outside of our church on a weekly basis. The North End Soup Kitchen team volunteers every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4pm, and the Forge Garage fixes cars for low income folks with flexible volunteer hours. If you are looking to RAISE UP our community – these are great places to start!
Protocol Update

There have been some recent questions surrounding the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation and I wanted to give you a quick update. We’ve been so busy adapting the amazing work of the church in our community perhaps you forgot that it was even a thing!

You might remember that last year there was SUPPOSED to be a General Conference meeting in 2020 to vote on the Protocol – possibly splitting our denomination into two – into the Post-Separation United Methodist Church and the new Traditionalist Methodist Church. (official names to be determined afterwards). However, because of COVID the General Conference was cancelled! The vote was postponed.

IF the Protocol passes at General Conference (the worldwide gathering), then the decision of which denomination to be a part of will fall to the Annual Conferences (the state of Michigan) before ultimately coming to the local church (just our Flushing area community) for a vote.

General Conference has been rescheduled for August 29-September 7, 2021. They are still working out the logistics of people attending virtually and what items will be up for a vote – but I know that the Protocol is a high priority.

Annual Conference (for just the state of Michigan) usually meets in June, and so the planning team decided this year that there would be TWO Annual Conferences. First, a fully digital conference from June 3-6, where they will handle the normal annual business of the church. THEN, after General Conference there will be ANOTHER Annual Conference in October. It may be fully virtual, or a hybrid of in-person AND virtual depending on how COVID is working in our world at that time.

The Bishop was quoted in the announcement, “I look forward with delight to coming together again in the fall. It will be a joyous celebration. It will also allow us to care for the necessary business that was not cared for in June and consider the business relevant following General Conference.”

All of this is to say that while there’s not much to be done right now, our leadership is keeping on eye on things and we will keep you informed as more information comes out.
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:

+ Carl, going thru radiation therapy
+ Paula, put service dog down, also found out she has cancer
+ Linda, blood clot in lung
+ Continued prayers for Denise
+ Bob’s friend who passed away
+ Prayers for mom who lost brother
+ Gary, in hospital with covid

+ Cassie, recovering from surgeries
+ Harry, healing from heart surgery
+ Continued prayers for Daren
+ Tramell, going through stuff
+ Tyler, incarcerated, needs God to work on his heart
+ Charles and Liz with Covid
+ 3 siblings with families needing jobs

With Heartfelt Sympathy

To friends and family on the death of Don and Helen Hodges.
To Ruth Jones, friends and family on the death of her husband, Don Jones.

May these families be uplifted by our prayers.

baptism

Congratulations! Briar Daniel Whalen was baptized on Sunday, February 14, 2021. Welcome to our church family Briar!

Thank You

The CarePartners thank Cadence Anderson, Adalyn and Nathan Kleinedler, Chase and Hayden Hopkins, Liam and Amos Mannshreck and Hunter Whalen and their parents for making Valentine cards for our care receivers.

Published the last Wednesday of the month
(810)659-5172 Editor: Rose Dessinger
413 E Main St, Flushing MI 48433
www.flushingumc.org e-mail: flumc@sbcglobal.net
Pastor JJ’s email: pastor@flushingumc.org cell #: (248) 219-8598
**Worship Servants**

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<th>Scripture Readers 8:45 am</th>
<th>Greeters 11:15 am</th>
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<td>Mar 14 – Carolyn Malaski</td>
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<td>Mar 21 – Mary Lou Martin</td>
<td>Mar 21 – ** See Note</td>
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<td>Mar 28 – Cathy Metz</td>
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**Due to Covid-19, to ensure proper safe distancing practices we will not be needing greeters, ushers or coffee hosts for the month of March. There will still be no bulletins or passing of the plates.**

**Articles for April Newsletter:**

**Deadline:** March 25, 2021