



The LUMinary

October 2016

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"3rd String Practice"

You'd have to imagine that being the backup quarterback to Tom Brady, the starting QB for the New England Patriots and arguably the best QB ever, wouldn't present you with many opportunities to play in many games. Now, imagine being the backup to the backup quarterback to Tom Brady. Needless to say, the 3rd string quarterback usually does some great bench warming.

Well, all of that changed on September 18th when Jacoby Brissett, the 3rd string quarterback for the Patriots was called onto the field after the backup quarterback was pulled from the game with a shoulder injury. As he was taking the field, I have to wonder what it was he must have been thinking. Did he wake up that morning anticipating that he'd play? Had he trained and practiced the week leading up to the game knowing that he'd play on Sunday? Did he expect to play at all this season? I'd have to imagine that taking the field against the Miami Dolphins was nowhere on his radar.

Life is full of surprises, isn't it? I can count on only one hand the number of days that included only the events and interactions I planned on happening. The rest of the days? Surprises! I imagine that this is the case for most, if not all of you reading this. Life is all about surprises. We can't always see things coming – the good and the bad. So, how do we prepare for life if life can't be anticipated?

We prepare for life in the same way that I imagine Jacoby Brissett prepared for what he assumed would be an uneventful game day. He practiced hard. He studied the playbook and met with his coaches. He made pass after pass to his wide receivers and practiced again and again subtle handoffs to his running backs and slant-passes to his tight ends. Preparing for the big game and preparing for life is not about knowing what's coming and when. It's all about making sure we're ready to meet life head on. While this is NOT easy, it is something we are capable of doing, and for one really good reason: God.

In the book of Isaiah, God makes this promise:

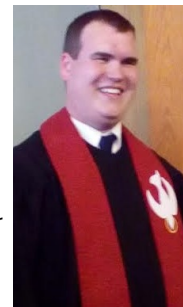
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

–Isaiah 43:1-3

We can do the work of preparing ourselves for life by surrounding ourselves with the Body of Christ – the church – to hold us accountable, to love us and support us. We can prepare ourselves by spending time in the Scriptures, reading and hanging onto the promises within them. We can prepare ourselves through prayer, not only for the things we and others need, but also that God would grant us strength, wisdom, and knowledge. At some point, though, we each have to come to a point where we begin to acknowledge that we can't and don't have to do any of this on our own. God walks with us through life. It is our faith that we practice with such great endurance that drives us through life. As Richard Rohr says, *"Faith is not for overcoming obstacles; it is for experiencing them – all the way through."*

Does this mean that we have to be the best Christians in the world? If it does, then you're welcome to join me as leader of those who aren't. But, thankfully, it doesn't mean that. It means that we are called to strive after a Love that is so unlike other love, a Hope that transcends other sources of hope, and a Peace that overcomes even the greatest storm. In other words, it's not about being the perfect Christian or the flawless follower. It's about being the flawed, scarred, worn and tired recipient of a grace that calls us both worthy and enough.

Yours imperfectly, but practicing,
Pastor Brian



Healthy Habit for October

Write a "Just Thinking of You" card each week this month.



*Hi, I Just Wanted
To Send You A
Little Note To Let
You Know That I Was
Thinking Of You!*





Did you know.....?

Did you know that LUMC has a History Committee that is alive and well? We will be sharing some interesting and amusing facts about our church in the months to come.



Did you know...?

The Care Group was begun in 1994. Our pastor at that time, Rev. Bob Anderson, brought the idea from his previous church. At present, the group consists of Jean Austin, Norma Parker, and Coralie George. They meet together each Monday to register the church attendance and send cards to visitors and others. Extra help would be greatly appreciated. If you enjoy sending cards, please contact one of these three ladies.

October Volunteers:

Coffee Hour:

2: Helen Novak
9: Duane & Glenna Ginther
16: Don & Karen McDonald
23: Deb McKenzie & Marty Divine
30: Clint & Carrie Hawks

Head Usher:

Susan Protas



COMMITTEE CORNER



Trustees:

We have received approval to move forward with the painting and new flooring in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more information on when that will happen. See Carl Hill if you have questions.

SPRC:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has been busy getting our paperwork ready for our Church Conference. Thanks to all the members for the extra time required to do that.

Finance:

David Sebenick is the new chair of the Finance Committee taking over for Don McDonald. Thank you to Don for the many years of service in this capacity! We will be looking at refinancing our mortgage this fall, and in November we will host an estate planning seminar. Each month we will be sharing a graph of the previous completed monthly report of our financial standing for that month.



2: Jerry Wagner
3: Troy & Katrina Hill
4: Duane & Jean Smith
4: Brad Boron
5: Christine Holyfield
12: Michelle Wilgus
13: Glenna Ginther
17: Sybil Curtis
19: Troy Hill
20: Hal & Mary Jane Walters
20: Matthew West
20: Micah West
21: Tori Holyfield
21: Nancy Koerner
25: Jarred Bird
28: Patty Kjolhede
28: Deb McKenzie

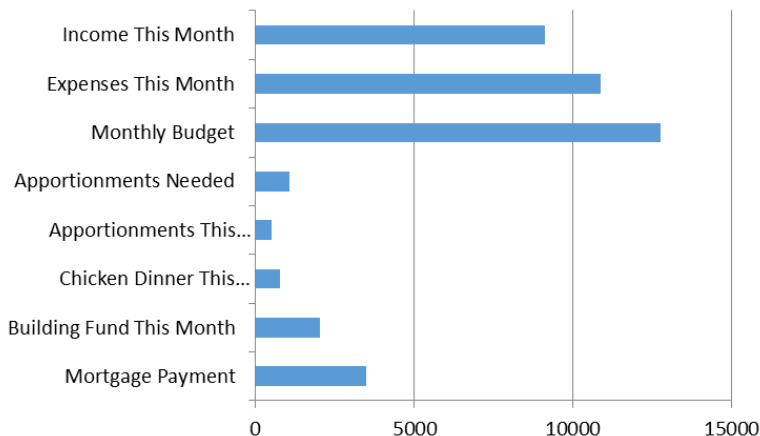
Congratulations to Brad Boron and Jeannine Wilson who were married on September 17.

Congratulations to Jo Reed Hollenbeck who was married in August.

Letters to God from Kids:

It is great the way you always get the stars in the right places.

August Financial Data



TRUNK or Treat

Monday, October 31

6:00 - 8:00 PM



This is such a great outreach to our friends and neighbors. As always, we will need treats and hot chocolate and lots of candy to give out to our guests. Start thinking and planning now!



Crossroads District Annual Conference
Sunday, October 16 at 1:30 pm
Hope UMC in Flint

UMW FALL BAKE SALE

October 1



The UMW will be holding their Fall Bake Sale during the Chicken Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 5-7:00 pm in the narthex area with a variety of baked goods. Donations for the sale are needed and can be dropped off after 3:00 pm on Oct. 1.

Chicken Dinner

October 1

After much prayer and discussion, the Chicken Dinner Committee and Church Council have decided that October 1 will be the last monthly chicken dinner. Our focus will still be to reach out and openly welcome our neighbors, but we will do that in other ways. Thanks to all who have so faithfully helped over the years!

FINANCIAL PLANNING

We spend our lives acquiring things. The Church teaches us that the faithful stewardship of our possessions is important. As Christians, we seek to be good stewards of God's gifts. Many of us manage these possessions well throughout our lives. Yet, we often are not sure of the best methods for overseeing the care of these possessions beyond our own need. We are reluctant to establish *any* estate plan, notwithstanding one that will serve as a testimony to our faith. We even avoid initiating plans that will enable caring for one another easier during times of uncertainty or decreased health. In fact, over 50% of Americans have not established an estate plan.

An estate plan is a significant resource for a faithful Christian steward. It enables individuals to be assured that their personal desires will be followed. It provides a tool to distribute people's assets according to their faithful intent. It may solve some personal financial situations, help provide retirement income, and certainly provide peace of mind throughout your life.

When is it best to sell an asset and contribute the proceeds to the church? When is it best to contribute the asset instead of selling it?

How could I assure retirement income for the remainder of my life and provide a charitable gift to the church at the same time?

How can I give to a charity and still provide a legacy to my grandchildren?

How can I best provide a legacy gift to help carry on the mission and ministry of the church?

Have you ever asked yourself one of these questions? Most people have thought about one, if not several, of these questions. Yet, few of us know the answers to most of them.

You are invited to attend a one-hour seminar, *Grateful Living & Generous Giving: An Introduction to Estate & Life Gift Planning*, to be held on **Tuesday, November 15th 6:30pm** at **Laingsburg United Methodist Church**. Many of your questions about legacy gifts and estate planning basics will be answered. This seminar is for everyone. No product or service will be sold. We are hosting this informative seminar to equip you to be an even better steward of God's gifts in your life.



Helping Faithful People Live Generous Lives



"THE CORE" YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Core has kicked off!

Our middle and senior high students have been together for three gatherings now and are having a great time. They've already brainstormed and voted on their fall service projects, decided to return to Judson Collins for another fall retreat, and will be participating in Trunk-or-Treat once again (theme TBD, but just TRY and out-do them!).



What is particularly exciting is the new faces we're seeing and the parents who are getting involved. Amen! There is always room for more, though, as this growing group has big dreams! Here's a sample of what they've planned for the next few months:

Rake-and-Run: Rake someone's yard "just because" and run off to the next unsuspecting place. If you know of a shut-in or other person who could use help with raking, let us know.

Christmas for the Community: They'll again pick tags from local giving trees, purchase the items requested by area families in need, wrap and deliver them back to the sponsoring organization(s).

Candy for our Troops: The Core will again donate any leftover Trunk-or-Treat candy to Laingsburg Eye Care's collection that's sent to the troops. The \$1/lb. they are paid will be donated back to LEC for help with shipping.

Pizza fundraiser: We'll be taking orders in late October for take-and-bake pizzas. We'll start with a cheese pizza and add the toppings of your choice, package it up and freeze it for pick up at the church on a date TBD. If you'd like to get involved or donate supplies, let us know.

Dream Big Youth Retreat: Set goals. Take action. Trust God. Those are the themes for this year's youth event at Judson Collins in November.

Like we said, they've got big plans! Please support them when they start their fundraising effort so they can continue to pursue God's presence in their lives.

The Core meets every other Sunday night from 5:30-7:30 at the church. We start with a potluck, have devotional and christian ed discussions, then social time. If you know of a youth in grades 6-12, send 'em our way!

PS: Thanks to Cheri Ramirez for the great photos! We're so glad to have you as part of the team of Core leaders!



MOVIE WITH THE PASTOR

Saturday, October 1

11:00 am — 1:00 pm

at LUMC

This month we will be watching
Disney/Pixar “Monsters Inc.”
followed by pizza lunch and discussion.
Grades K-5 are welcome, and the
whole event is free. Invite your friends.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



POSTAGE
STAMP
REQUIRED

What are we up to?

This page will help us share the activities our church families are involved in. If you or your children have something you would like to share, please call or e-mail the church office by the 15th of the month.



Our quilters made a beautiful quilt that will hang in the sanctuary.