



## PUMC Connections

From the desk of... Reverend Thomas Davenport

September 2017

How to invite a friend without acting like a “religious fanatic”.

I have a confession to make. As soon as I tell someone I am a pastor, they usually begin to treat me differently. Some will tell me about their church, or their pastor. Some will talk about their uncle who is a pastor. Others might speak about a bad experience they have had at some church.

It changes as soon as I tell them! Sometimes I try and not say anything, until I am asked, so that the conversation will not change.

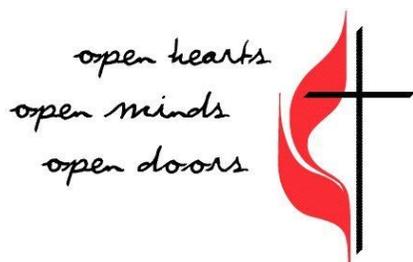
I know that it also happens to church folks as soon as they ask a friend to come to church. Many folks will relate that their friends do not want to be asked, or they already attend another church. But we are afraid that if we invite someone to church, we will be viewed as a religious nut!

So, I have a suggestion. **DO NOT INVITE THEM TO CHURCH!** (That’s right, you heard me!) Instead, talk to your friends about what is meaningful to you about the church community. Share how you have deep and abiding friendships that help you weather any storm. Talk about the fun you have serving a dinner or teaching a class. Share your love of music, or liturgy. Don’t just invite them to church! Instead, act as a witness to how God has changed you. Speak about how being a part of a community of faith has been important. What difference does being a part of Parchment United Methodist Church have on your life?

The reason is this: You will be starting a conversation, which is ongoing. If you invite someone to church, it is not a discussion, but rather a “yes or no” question. And many people find it easy just to say “No, thanks”. It is more interesting to talk about what joy you experience singing in the choir or listening to a good sermon (hopefully!). And it is open ended!

Many other people have said that the best way to grow a church is through the laity who invite friends. I would suggest that we talk about our faith experience! And then our friends will be asking us if they can come to our church also!

Pastor Thom



Church Office:  
269-344-0125

Office Hours:  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday

parchmentumc@tds.net  
OR  
pastorthomm@hotmail.com  
www.parchmentumc.org

Deadline  
For October Issue:  
Monday Sept 18, 2017

# September 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 9:30 Worship	4 Labor Day <b>Office Closed</b>	5 Painting 9am-SH Family Fun Nite 6pm Boy Scouts Comm Mtg 6:30 pm	6 Tai Chi - Gym 6-8 pm  Chimes 6:30 Choir 7:30	7 Tai Chi - Gym 1-3 pm  Cub Scouts Join Nite 5-8 pm SH	8	9
10 10:30 Worship (Sanctuary) 11:30 Luncheon 	11 Boy Scouts 6- 8:30 pm - SH	12 Painting 9am SH Family Fun Nite 6pm	13 Tai Chi - Gym 6-8 pm  Chimes 6:30 Choir 7:30	14 Tai Chi - Gym 1-3 pm  UMW Potluck 6pm	15	16
17 10:30 Worship	18 Boy Scouts 6- 8:30 pm - SH	19 Painting 9am SH  Family Fun Nite 6pm Rummage Sale Set-up - Gym	20 Tai Chi - Gym 6-8 pm Rummage Sale Set-up - Gym Chimes 6:30 Choir 7:30	21 Tai Chi - Gym 1-3 pm  Rummage Sale Set-up - Gym	22 Rummage Sale 1-6 pm - Gym	23 Rummage Sale 9am-2pm Gym
24 10:30 Worship  Blessing of the Bikes/Harvest Ride/Pig Roast	25 Boy Scouts 6- 8:30 pm - SH	26 Painting 9am SH  Family Fun Nite 6pm	27 Tai Chi - Gym 6-8 pm  Chimes 6:30 Choir 7:30	28 Tai Chi - Gym 1-3 pm	29	30 Private Event 2-5 pm SH/Kit

**Head Usher for September:** Doyle Sandefur

**Trustee on Duty for September:** Jim Pierce



- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Barb Hilton      | 19 Joeline Manning |
| 6 Craig Laws       | 20 Marti Poolman   |
| 7 Jillian Cooper   | 20 Donna Sandefur  |
| 9 Dave Carr        | 22 Dean Clark      |
| 9 Nancy Mulder     | 24 David Schmitt   |
| 10 Hunter Born     | 25 Steven Docsa    |
| 11 Chuck Arney     | 25 Howard Potrude  |
| 13 Rosalyn Meyers  | 27 Mary Lou DeGraw |
| 16 Cathy Flamm     | 28 Kay O'Boyle     |
| 16 Aimee Gillespie | 28 Michelle Smith  |
| 16 Ann Hausermann  | 29 Walter Adams    |
| 19 Ryann Docsa     |                    |

**Anniversaries**

- 15 Bob & Barb Hilton ('56)
- 16 Dean & Verda Clark ('56)
- 21 John & Peggy Costello ('07)
- 28 Dave & Carol Schmitt ('56)
- 28 Bob & Pam Scott ('79)

**RALLY DAY LUNCHEON**

*September 10th after worship*  
 Chicken, rolls and dinnerware will be furnished.  
 Please bring a dish or two to share that will serve 10-12 people.



**AUGUST ATTENDANCE**

	<u>WORSHIP</u>
8/6	70
8/13	79
8/20	67
8/27	76



**WE WANT YOUR POP CANS!** You may notice a new cardboard barrel in the Social Hall. Please toss your clean cans and bottles in it for Missions. If you have questions, ask Doyle 355-5966.



**WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASSES**  
 by artist Dean Clark  
 9-11 am Tuesday mornings in the Social Hall  
 Minimal charge to cover supplies  
 One-on-One instruction and guidance  
 Call Dean at 343-2815 with questions.

**Kudos Korner**

As usual, Larry Ballentine has been setting up the Memorial Garden for our worship service all summer. He and the Head Usher collect the Offering every week. Among many other things, he moves the kiosk and altar upstairs before the fall services begin so that everything we need is in its place in the Narthex. Thanks, Larry!

# The Parchment Family...

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Potluck - Thurs, September 14 at 6 pm

Rummage Sale - Friday, September 22 1-6 pm

and Saturday, September 23 9 am-2 pm

## UNITED METHODIST MEN



MEETING: September 17

**Time and place to be announced.**



### UPCOMING PUMC EVENT

**Blessing of the Bikes** - September 24. Harvest ride, followed by a pig roast (outside if weather permits, or in Social Hall), following a ride through Parchment.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

#### PART-TIME TREASURER POSITION

**AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY.** Flexible hours. Please call 344-0125 or drop off your resume' at the church office during office hours (Mon-Thurs 9-1).

**WE CAN MAKE MONEY FOR OUR CHURCH!!** Take our weekly bulletin to **Mancino's on Gull Road** and make a purchase. Every month **Mancino's** will cut us a check representing a 10% donation. It's that easy.

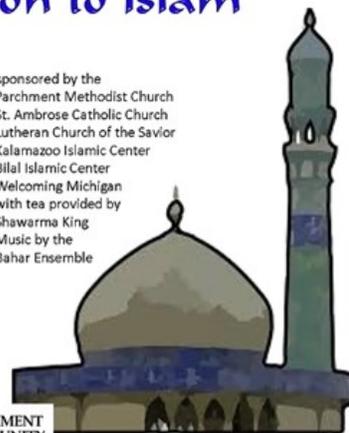
## Meet Your Muslim Neighbors: An Introduction to Islam

Learn about Islam,  
its history in America  
and our common roots

**Tuesday,  
October 3  
6:00 pm**

Save the date:  
Sun. Nov. 5 4:00-6:30 pm  
Meet Your Muslim Neighbors:  
A Celebration of Islamic Cultures

- Co-sponsored by the
- Parchment Methodist Church
  - St. Ambrose Catholic Church
  - Lutheran Church of the Savior
  - Kalamazoo Islamic Center
  - Bilal Islamic Center
  - Welcoming Michigan
  - with tea provided by Shawarma King
  - Music by the Bahar Ensemble



## Why do we Worship?

I was just reading an article on worship, and the context of style. (Revitalizing Worship is More than a Question of Style By Donna Claycomb Sokol And L. Roger Owens). It was comparing and contrasting “Traditional” and “Contemporary”. It suggests that style is the wrong question to be asking. Being concerned or even obsessed with the right “style” can lead us down the path of thinking that there is a silver bullet to help us with decline. If we get the “correct kind of worship” we will have to build a bigger sanctuary.

### What is the purpose of Worship?

The purpose of worship is not to give people ignorant of the faith their first introduction to Christianity. Rather, worship aims to orient our lives — all that we are and do — in the direction of the God in whom we live and move and have our being. This purpose of worship can be fleshed out with three declarations:

- ◆ Worship is the place where we enact our core human purpose, the end for which we exist, to worship and glorify God.
- ◆ Worship is the place where we have our vision trained to see the signs of God’s in-breaking kingdom.
- ◆ Worship is the place where the community remembers its identity as God’s called, gathered, and sent people.

The article goes on, and suggests that we should be asking ourselves these questions:

#### 1. Is our worship deeply contextual?

When we worship, does it connect us with the world that we live in, as we connect with God? Or is it a sanctuary that separates us from the world?

#### 2. Is our worship deeply visual?

During the Protestant Reformation, there was a strong emphasis on the Word (Scripture), so much so that our sanctuaries became sterile. How do we create worship space with visual images that lead us to connect with God?

#### 3. Is our worship highly participatory?

This might be the most important question, one that encompasses the previous two. Does our worship invite people to bring, offer, and engage their whole selves in worship — body, mind, and heart? Or do we sit and observe, while the clergy perform the acts of worship?

Pastor Thom

### REMINDER:

**Worship moves back into the Sanctuary September 10th, which is Rally Day. Service is at 10:30 am.**

**And don’t forget the Rally Day luncheon after worship. Chicken, rolls and dinnerware will be furnished. The congregation is being asked to bring a dish or two to share that will serve 10-12 people.**

Parchment United Methodist Church  
225 Glendale Blvd.  
Parchment, MI 49004



A Purpose-Driven Church Serving Christ in  
the Heart of Parchment



Like us on Facebook!



**2017**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m.—1 p.m.