

Grand Avenue

United Methodist Church

JULY 2019
MESSENGER

INVITE
TRANSFORM
SERVE

Summer Artistic Adventures

by Pastor Tom Buratovich

God instructs Moses to empower the artists to make beautiful things for corporate worship. The God of the universe wanted something important done, so God called artists to do it. God wanted the work done right and artists were able to deliver.

Most artists live for opportunities to use their gifts in God-honoring ways. Non-artists may struggle more with specifically how to do that, but find other ways to glorify God through either vocation, avocation, hobbies or ministries.

I have always struggled with how to live like that. It's easy to have moments or specific events that give me such assurance. But is it realistic to think I can do that regularly?

In their book *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King suggest a way to finding blessing that seems counter-intuitive. They suggest we find out where God is working and then adjust our lives to join Him in that work.

That is a shift in thinking for me. Rather than sitting around waiting for God to drop something on your head you find yourself anticipating every move. In one state of mind you are driving to a meeting with someone and you wonder, "I hope God will do

something in this meeting," as opposed to praying, "Help me God see where You are leading. I can't wait to see what you will do. Help me to follow you where you lead." One acts out of desperation, the other out of anticipation, one out of anxiety, and the other out of hope. I like this perspective. It seems so much more helpful, hopeful, and optimistic.

I definitely hope and pray that we can bring this kind of thinking forward as we move to a period of discernment. What does our future hold? What kind of form will joint ministry with first church take? There's lots of ways to be together. What will our future together look like? What kind of structure will it have? How do we include *Vida Nueva* in our discussion?

I'm so encouraged by the developments in our at-risk ministries. I'm encouraged to discover what first church is doing with the children, homeless, working poor, and the elderly. I'm encouraged about the possibility of having newsletters and worship bulletins that include information from both churches. I am excited about doing holiday services, outreaches, community events as a single charge.

You shall make sacred vestments for the glorious adornment of your brother Aaron. And you shall speak to all who have ability, whom I have endowed with skill, that they make Aaron's vestments to consecrate him for my priesthood.
Exodus 28:2-3

We have much to look forward to. I hope we can do so as people who are asking God to help us see where God is working and then follow that path.

VBS • Mega Sports Camp

I hope you're able to give us a hand with our Vacation Bible School. Mega sports Camp is Monday, July 22 until Thursday, July 25. Camp sessions are from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There is no charge. Kids will come ready for sports, singing, learning, praying, running, jumping, finding their God groove!

I also hope we can help *First Church* with their VBS, Yee Haw! Wednesday, July 10 and Thursday, July 11. Sessions are 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is no charge.

The summer is filled with many other activities that help us in the fall: *Porterville Strings* will run their camp and concert series, the *Global Leadership Summit* will run their training, and we

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This year our youth, Amanda, and I attended Christian summer camp at Hume Lake. This is the fourth year we had the blessing of going to this camp. All of us began our exciting journey on June 9 and came home on June 15. We had nine students go to camp with us this year, two boys and seven girls, and we also brought Katie Stailey as our girl counselor. We had an amazing time at camp and I want to share some of my favorite memories and thoughts about our camp week with you.

When I think back to the week of camp that the youth, Amanda, and I shared together, it fills my heart with overwhelming joy. Each day I was blessed to spend quality time with each of our youth and it meant so much to me. Jason really enjoyed getting pizookies, which has become a tradition between us. We would hang out by the Hume coffee shop and talk about his week while he enjoyed the sweet treat. The highlight of the week for Jason was when he performed some awesome dance moves at open mic night. Without a shy bone in his body, Jason stood in front of hundreds of youth and adults and when the music started he danced his heart out. I also spent a lot of time each day with Josh. He really enjoyed kayaking the lake, which he did twice. He also loved taking his annual long hike on the Hume lake route. Both our boys really enjoyed their time at camp and I enjoyed spending my time with them.

I also had a great time with our female students during camp week. I wasn't sure how well our girls would get along with there being seven of them all together in one cabin. I was extremely pleased to see our girls each day spending time



together, laughing and joking and including everyone in their activities. You could find our girls each day on the stretch of lawn by the lake playing volleyball and having a good time. Their laughter was contagious as they would hit the ball that seldom seemed to go in the direction they intended. The girls also enjoyed the apparel shop where they purchased some trendy clothes to remember their time at Hume. This time they spent together was precious because for two of our girls this was their last time being able to attend camp as a student. One important point that stood out to me about our girls was their willingness to include people into their circle of friendship, which also included me. I never wanted to impede on their time together, but they always asked me to join in on the fun. I can never tell them how much that meant to me. It shows a lot about a person's character when they are willing to include others into their fun. Our youth girls are quite amazing!

Camp also proved to be effective in reaching into our students' hearts and clarifying within them the love that Jesus has for each one of them. We had students who dedicated their lives to Christ during camp week and some that learned valuable lessons about their faith that will change their lives forever. One student shared with me that they now realize how important church is. Another student told me that they will trust God with their life. Hearing this from our youth showed me once again that all the work to go to camp is well worth it. Thank you for being part of our journey.

God is Love,
Ryan Ridenour
559-920-6879

Youth Sunday School

Each Sunday our youth meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday Night Youth

Youth are invited to the Fellowship Hall on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

Taking Heed of the Warning Signs

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be men of strong courage; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV

Our youngest grandson, Elliot, became interested in the RMS Titanic after checking out a library book full of information about the mighty passenger ship. The book captivated him and led to further reading. He seemed to soak in details like a sponge. For his eighth birthday in March, he received several gifts related to his new interest, one of which was a Lego model of the Titanic.

We were delighted when a friend recently told us about an eighteen-foot-long replica of the Titanic displayed in a museum in Marine City. It sounded like a fun field trip and both boys were enthusiastic about going. The idea of having ice cream afterward at a confection shop recommended by the same friend added to the excitement!

One day when school was dismissed at 11:15, we picked them up and drove directly to Marine City, about an hour away. After a little exploring, also known as getting lost, we pulled up in front of a quaint theater along a main street that bordered the St. Clair River. The marquee on the front of the theater advertised the "Titanic Exhibit...and more."

It was disappointing to find a note on the door saying that the exhibit would be closed for an hour due to an emergency. That seemed like a long time to wait with two young, energetic boys, especially since we could only stay in the town about two hours before heading home.

After we knocked loudly on the door, a young lady appeared and explained that the place was closed

while her mom was away. However, when we told her our predicament, she was kind enough to let us in. While we were talking with her, Elliot disappeared, drawn like a magnet to the large glass case holding the amazing model.

The building, once a theater, had been transformed into a unique museum with a walkway down the center leading to an open room that housed the exhibit. However, several side rooms also contained other models of vessels and vehicles and many unique antiques.

Al, Nate, Elliot and I spent a great deal of time reading the informative boards that covered the walls of the main room. They dealt with every aspect of the vessel, the crew, passengers and the fateful voyage. There was also a short video clip that presented more details along with a timeline leading up to the disaster on the night of April 15, 1912. The video contained no drama but was still powerful to watch.

Prior to our field trip, I didn't realize that the large ship was carrying only half the number of lifeboats originally intended. There were supposed to be twelve in all; however, because some of them might have blocked the view of the first-class passengers, only six were put on the Titanic, woefully inadequate for the number of people on board.

When the unexpected collision with the iceberg occurred during the voyage from Southampton,

England to New York City, just one third of the people on board survived. Many men, women and children died needlessly due to the lack of lifeboats.

Several years ago, Al and I visited the Fairview Lawn Cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where over one hundred of the passengers were buried after their bodies were recovered from the ocean. Rows of simple markers placed side by side were arranged to form the curved hull of a ship. Many of them were engraved with the words "unidentified victim."

What a tragedy...one that perhaps could have been avoided if people had only been attentive to the many warnings given ahead of time: sightings of sea ice; traveling at excessive speed; a possible coal fire burning out of control in the furnace room; and too few life boats on hand.

Our trip to the Mariner Theater ended on a happy note with ice cream, popcorn and memories of a nice day spent together. Hopefully we can all learn a lesson from the Titanic, perhaps to pay attention to warning signals, take appropriate action and make sure that we are living in a way that is pleasing to God. It does take courage!

Submitted by Judy Lowery



July 2019 Prayer Calendar

Monday, July 1 - Pray for Pastor Tom as he starts a new schedule at GAUMC and FUMC. Pray for an ease of transition for both churches.

Tuesday, July 2 - Pray for our community.

Wednesday, July 3 - Pray for Ryan Ridenour, Director of Youth Ministries. Pray for him as he plans lessons and activities for our church and community.

Thursday, July 4 - Pray for our church family as we celebrate Independence Day safely.

Friday, July 5 - Pray for those of us who are struggling with health, finances and/or relationships. Pray that we can find hope in the Holy Spirit.

Saturday, July 6 - Pray for the Greeters' of our church who will welcome all to Worship Service tomorrow.

Sunday, July 7 - Pray for Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Group and Worship Service. Pray for the Pregnancy Resource Center's "Change for Life" as the bottles with change are collected today.

Monday, July 8 - Pray for Monday Night Youth Group at 6:30 p.m. Pray for the kids of our community that attend.

Tuesday, July 9 - Pray for the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. this evening. Pray for them as they make important decisions for our church.

Wednesday, July 10 - Pray for the Praise Team as they prepare music for the Worship Service on Sunday.

Thursday, July 11 - Pray for the Women's Bible Study at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 12 - Pray for the Children's Church teachers as they prepare lessons and activities for the kids.

Saturday, July 13 - Pray for healing and strength for those in our church who are unable to attend Worship Service due to sickness or rehabilitation.

Sunday, July 14 - Pray for Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Group and Worship Service as we all come together in Christ's name.

Monday, July 15 - Pray for all of our church family as we start the week. Pray that we know that God is with us.

Tuesday, July 16 - Pray for the Governing Board meeting today at 9:00 a.m. Pray for them as they make important decisions for our church. Pray for the ladies of Linda Circle who take the summer months off.

Wednesday, July 17 - Pray for the finances of our church.

Thursday, July 18 - Pray for the Trustees Committee meeting this evening at 6pm. Pray for them as they make important decisions for our church.

Friday, July 19 - Pray for Judy Buratovich, Interim Worship Administrator of our church.

Saturday, July 20 - Pray that we can invite a family member, friend, neighbor, co-worker or stranger to Worship Service tomorrow.

Sunday, July 21 - Pray for Sunday School, Children's Church, Youth Group and Worship Service as we gather together for worship in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday, July 22 - Pray for the "Mega Sports Camp" Vacation Bible School. Pray for all the kids who attend and all the ones volunteering their time.



Tuesday, July 23 - Pray for the SPRC meeting at 5:00 p.m. Pray for them as they make important decisions for our church.

Wednesday, July 24 - Pray for the kids at vacation bible school. Pray that they will have a closer relationship with God.

Thursday, July 25 - Pray for the Women's Bible Study that will begin at 5:00 p.m. this evening.

Friday, July 26 - Pray for Pastor Tom as he completes his sermon for Sunday Worship Service.

Saturday, July 27 - Pray that we can reflect on Bible Verse in Romans 5:3-5. *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

Sunday, July 28 - Pray for Rodel Lipumano, Treasurer of our church.

Monday, July 29 - Pray for the Monday Night Youth Group at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30 - Pray that our church exists to invite all peoples into a transforming relationship with Jesus allowing them to serve God and our community.

Wednesday, July 31 - Pray for safe travels for our church family.

GAUMC Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Sunday School—Fireside Room
9:30 a.m. Worship Service—Sanctuary

Mondays

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesdays

9:00 a.m. All Church Yard Sale Pricing

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Prayer Group
5:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

July Calendar

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 9

6:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

Tuesday, July 16

9:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Mon-Thurs, July 22-25

9:00 a.m. VBS—Mega Sports Camp

Tuesday, July 23

5:00p.m. SPRC Meeting

Thursday, July 18

6:00p.m. Trustees Meeting

GAUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE May 2019

Total Revenue Received- May 2019

General Fund	11,063.00
Designated Funds	<u>2,041.27</u>
Total Revenue Received	\$13,104.27

Actual Budget Transactions

Budget/ General Funds Received	11,063.00
Expenditures	<u>16,370.32</u>
Total Monthly Budget Excess/(Deficit)	\$ (5,307.32)
YTD Budget Excess/ (Deficit)	\$ (8,781.15)
YTD Tithe Paid	\$ 2,900.00
YTD Tithe Owed	<u>\$ (4,974.47)</u>

2018 Budget Income Over (Under) Expenditures
\$ (13,755.62)

Grand Avenue Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Tom Buratovich

Director of Youth Ministries

Ryan Ridenour

Worship Administrator

Judy Buratovich

Treasurer

Rodel Lipumano

Custodian

The Congregation

Summer Artistic Adventures

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will prepare for fall at-risk classes. The Adult Sunday school class will start a new series.

Continue to pray for our church and invite those whom you know to join you. Pray for our young people that they can be fruitful witnesses. Pray that God will open a door of opportunity for you to be a fruitful witness. Pray for confidence and boldness in the moment. The Lord is faithful and will not disappoint.

Let us apply all that we have learned to our life, our worship, our prayers, and our community. Let us anticipate our gathering in a way that helps us lean into what God is doing. Let us find where God is working. Let us search for traces of his grace relentlessly. Let us pray without ceasing and act with mercy and search for justice everywhere.

Let us work mightily to make Grand Avenue a shining light to our community and the nations!

Happy Birthday!

<i>Helen Gilbert</i>	<i>7-3</i>		
<i>Linda Brown</i>	<i>7-6</i>		
<i>Lynn Egorov</i>	<i>7-9</i>		
<i>Steve Bartlett</i>	<i>7-11</i>		
<i>Donna Schmutz</i>	<i>7-12</i>		
<i>Barbara Smith</i>	<i>7-13</i>	<i>Frances DePaoli</i>	<i>7-24</i>
<i>Erlinda Lipumano</i>	<i>7-15</i>	<i>Megan Geiling</i>	<i>7-27</i>
<i>Robin Galloway</i>	<i>7-21</i>	<i>Sue Wright</i>	<i>7-29</i>
<i>Marjorie Carey</i>	<i>7-24</i>	<i>Brooke Borges</i>	<i>7-30</i>

“Mega Sports Camp” VBS, July 22 – 25

We invite all seasoned people to share their talent and experience with the children coming to our VBS. Our hope is to fill the halls and rooms of our church with young people to hear the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus is our Rescuer. Contact Ryan Ridenour for more information.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday– Thursday

9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Phone: 559-784-3791

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July 2019 Messenger

Grand Avenue

United Methodist Church

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