



Tecumseh United Methodist Church

Christ's compassionate community in Tecumseh;
Loving and serving prayerfully and unconditionally

Wednesday 7 October 2020

Return to Indoor Worship

Back in January, several of you expressed interest in a Sunday's outdoor worship in the summer. Who knew that we would spend four months worshipping outside under the pavilion?!? But with the change of seasons comes a change of venue. **We are now back inside the sanctuary Sunday mornings.**

As we are still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we ask that all attendees wear face masks (unless medically unable to do so). Also, please

practice physical distancing, especially in hallways and while sitting in the pews. We will continue to rope off pews leaving every third pew open. And please refrain from singing with gusto as singing is a very effective virus spreader.

Worship podcasts will continue to be produced for any who do not feel comfortable with or cannot risk attending in person.

Important Dates and Events Through the End of 2020

Coming soon – the “Holidays,” and for the church, several important Sundays and celebrations. The following is what’s on the calendar as of today:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 November - Sunday | All Saints Sunday – the day we celebrate the saints who have touched our lives |
| 24 November – Tuesday | Thanksgiving worship – our celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday |
| 29 November – Sunday | 1 st Sunday of Advent |
| 6 December – Sunday | 2 nd Sunday of Advent |
| 13 December – Sunday | 3 rd Sunday of Advent |
| 20 December – Sunday | 4 th Sunday of Advent |
| 24 December – Thursday | Christmas Eve |

Local Missions - Collections for October

The highlight items we are collecting for the Tecumseh Service Club (which provides help to people in need in northeast Lenawee County) this month are:

Shampoo, Conditioner, and Dish washing soap

Please bring these items to church this Sunday.

We are also collecting **feminine hygiene products** for the Women and Children's Shelter operated by Neighbors of Hope.

Tecumseh UMC Online

We offer several online opportunities to stay in touch with Tecumseh UMC:

- **Website:** www.tecumsehumc.org – Our digital front door. Access to information about the church as well as our calendar and links to the services and items listed below.
- **Online Worship Podcasts** – each week, Pastor Mark records a parallel version of Sunday's worship service.
- **Midweek Newsletters** – . . . are available for download from our website (listed above)
- **Breakfast Club Online** – Our weekday morning fellowship through Zoom*. Come as you are and join in from your breakfast table. No agenda other than convivial conversation. It's a great way to begin the day.
- **Zoom-In Sunday School** – You can attend Adult Sunday School class remotely using Zoom* to join the class that meets in-person. Jump in any time.

* About Zoom – **It's safe****. Zoom has tightened its security and we require a proper login to access our Zoom sessions (login access is emailed or texted to everyone). To use Zoom you will need to download a Zoom app from zoom.us.

** Pastor Mark, who was an IT engineer, is both well-informed and very fussy about computer security. If he had any doubts about Zoom, we wouldn't be using it.

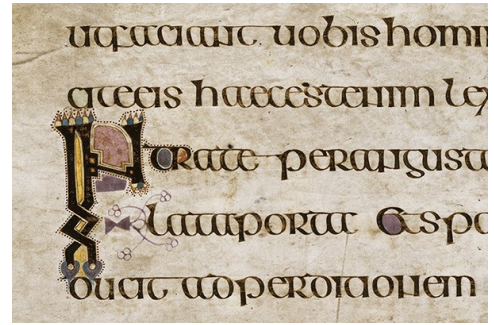
Remember When Bibles Were More Rare Than Steak Tartare?

Bibles are ubiquitous. This best-selling-ever book can be found in homes, hotels, and even churches! It has been printed in almost all the known languages. Biblical scholarship has provided skilled translators with the ability to provide us with a variety of easily readable translations. All of this means that everyone has access to the divinely-inspired, canonical word and self-revelation of God.

But there was a time when the Bible was exceedingly rare and available only to rich clerics, monasteries, and basilicas. Not only was the Bible unavailable to the common people, nearly all village clergy never saw a Bible let alone owned one.

In the first half of the 1st millennia of Christianity, there were plenty of manuscripts of biblical texts because they were scribed onto

papyrus, which was an inexpensive writing surface. But following the fall of the Roman Empire and the onset of the “Dark Ages,” papyrus lost its chic and the preferred writing medium became vellum, also known as parchment, made from the skins of large animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats. Parchment is more durable than papyrus but it is also much more complicated to produce and magnitudes more expensive. One had to skin a slaughtered animal, remove all of the fat and hair, put it through a special tanning process, stretch it and smooth the



surface so it could be written on. It is a lot of work to produce parchment but it is an almost magical writing surface. Ink almost dances three-dimensionally when applied with a quill pen or brush. And it holds that ink without bleeding or smearing. A well penned manuscript on parchment is a thing of beauty, even when it is over a thousand years old. Calligraphers and artists learned early that one could not only write beautifully on parchment but could also create fabulous illustrations called illuminations using exotic colors and gold leaf.



Beautiful books taking months to years to produce were created but they were so expensive almost no one could afford them. And then, in 1455 . . .

In a technological leap that has been called the First Information Revolution, a German goldsmith turned printer produced the first printed Bible in 1455.

His name was Johannes Gutenberg. Within a few decades, the Bible became readily available and reasonably priced (in contrast to hand made manuscripts). Eventually, every church owned a Bible and a while later even the common people had access to it.

Let us thank God that we live in a day when the Word of God is accessible to everyone.