

Lake Harbor UMC Sermon Series

“Old School: Party Time!”

August-September – LIVE STREAMED

- Party Time is Holy Time (Leviticus 23 – prescribed festivals). Keeping It Flowing (John 2 – wedding at Cana). An Open Table (Acts 10 – Cornelius & Peter).
- Sanctuary: Party decorations.

“Old School Can Be Cool: Prophets”

July-August 2020 – LIVE STREAMED

- Amos – Justice for All (Let justice roll..; Plumb line); Hosea – Love without End (God’s love); Micah – Faith-Full Living (What does the Lord require?); Nahum – God Is Judge (God will judge – don’t seek revenge); Habakkuk – Waiting on God’s Time (prayer & waiting); Joel – Change of Heart (repent/change your heart)
- Sanctuary: Altarscape. Word at the base of the altar changes each week.
- Threads: “What Does the Lord Require of You?”; Centering video; background information on each prophet

“Unafraid”

June 2020 – LIVE STREAMED

- Change in plans due to COVID-19: “God’s Vision for Children” would have been based on the VBS series, “Knight of the North Castle.”
- Series based on Unafraid: Living with courage and Hope in Uncertain Times by Adam Hamilton. The first ever Virtual Bible School was also based on this book.
- The Only Thing We Have to Fear Is... (Isaiah 40: 28-31; Psalm 27); Fighting Fear of Other (What the Lord Requires; Love for Enemies); Facing Fear of Failure (Moses’ Call; David and Goliath); Alone Together (Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12; Psalm 139: 1-10); Our Greatest Fear (Dying) and God’s Promises (I Corinthians 15: 5-58; Romans 8: 35-39; Philippians 4: 4-7);
- Threads: “The First Song of Isaiah.” Centering video each week.
- Sanctuary: Altarscape. Pentecost paraments. UNAFRAID at the base of the altar.
- Hands-on item: FEAR card. Drive-thru communion continues.

“The Heart of the Matter”

April/May 2020 – LIVE STREAMED

- Change in plans due to COVID-19: “Restoring Vision” would have examined two post-resurrection stories in which Jesus (literally) opens the eyes of those who would take his story to the world (Walk to Emmaus and Paul’s Conversion). “Shift in Perspective” would have looked at what happened to Jesus’ closest friends and followers (James, Paul, Peter, Stephen, Lydia, Priscilla and Aquila).
- Series by Marcia McFee adapted for live streaming.
- Threads: Acts 2: 42-47; theme song sung to the tune of “Amazing Grace” consistent Affirmation of Faith at the end of each service.
- Again – preached by Bishop Bard (Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Matthew 28: 1-10); With Glad Hearts (Psalm 16; Acts 2: 14a, 22-32); Burning Hearts and Opened Eyes (Road to Emmaus; I Peter 1: 1: 17-23); Hearts and Stars for God – Children’s Sunday (Philippians 2 shine like the stars);

Kept in Our Hearts (John 14: 15-21; I Peter 3: 13-22); Open the Eyes of My Heart (Ascension; Ephesians 1: 15-23); Hearts with the Spirit's Power (Pentecost; first drive-thru communion)

- Recorded for play from the parsonage: Star Words reflections, music by Michael Boersma and Mary Scott, reflections from children.
- Returned to the sanctuary for live streaming the last two weeks.
- Flat Jesus

"A Place at the Table"

Lent and Easter 2020 – mostly LIVE STREAMED

- The sermon series was first sketched out at a pastor camp in 2018 or earlier.
- Isaiah – A Place for the Imperfect (Isaiah's Commission); Zacchaeus – A Place for the Outcast (Luke 19: 1-10); Ethiopian Eunuch – A Place for the Outsider (Acts 8: 26-40); Mephibosheth – A Place for the Broken (II Samuel 9: 1-13); Mary Magdalene – A Place for the Ill (Luke 8: 1-3); Barabbas – A Place for the Loser (Matthew 21: 1-11, 27: 15-26); The Table – A Place of Grace for Everyone (Passover; foot washing; Last Supper); Thomas – A Place for the Skeptic (John 20 – moving from Mary Magdalene to Thomas)
- Move from live worship (first two weeks) to live streaming from the sanctuary (next two weeks) to live streaming from the parsonage (for way too long – using PowerPoint instead of EasyWorship).
- Sanctuary visuals: Large "Last Supper" style artwork below the ledge. Parsonage: Small "altarscape" on a piano bench.

"Faith in Films 2020"

Epiphany/February 2020

- Be with Me! – *Star Wars: Episode IX The Rise of Skywalker* (Armor of God); "Growing the Fruit of the Spirit" – *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (Fruit of the Spirit); Don't Look Back – *Overcomer* (Ephesians 2:1-10; I John 5: 1-5; John 16:33); Same God – *The Best of Enemies* (I John – God's Love; Galatians 3 – Children of God)
- Movie trailers shown in worship. *Overcomer* and *The Best of Enemies* were shown at church.
- Sanctuary: Movie theater setting. Movie memorabilia.

"Star Words: A Spiritual Practice for Epiphany and Beyond"

Epiphany/January 2020

- Hands-on items: Wooden stars with one word written on it (separate set of words for the kids); child of God stones; invitation to follow Jesus
- Follow that Star (Matthew 2: 1-12; Isaiah 60: 1-6); Wonderful Words of Life (Jesus' baptism; Isaiah 42: 1-9); Inviting Words (John 1: 29-42; Psalm 40); Words to Live By (repent & follow me)

"Heaven and Nature Sing: 300 Years of Joy to the World"

Advent and Christmas 2019

- Series from Marcia McFee. Song is based on Psalm 98.
- Theme song: "Joy to the World"
- Prepare Him Room- Hopeful Joy (Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14); Repeat the Sounding Joy – Loving Joy (Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12); Make the Blessings Known – Unabashed Joy (Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1: 46b-55); Blue Christmas – Elusive Joy (Psalm 30; Luke 2: 1-7; John 19:

25b-27); Make the Nations Prove – Peaceful Joy (Isaiah 7: 1-16; Psalm 98; Matthew 1: 18-25); The Lord Is Come – Incarnate Joy (Isaiah 52: 7-10; Psalm 96; Luke 2: 1-20); Wonders of His Love – Compassionate Joy (Isaiah 63: 7-9; Psalm 148; Matthew 2: 12-23)

- Advent candle lighting drama with the same joy characters each week.
- Visuals: Large JOY below the ledge. Manger on the ledge. Christmas trees with birds and animals. Park and pond at the back of the sanctuary.

“Why?”

November 2019

- Series based on Why? Making Sense of God’s Will by Adam Hamilton.
- Suffering (Job); Unanswered Prayers (Psalm 22; Matthew 21: 18-22; John 15:5-8; Luke 22: 39-46); God’s Will (Matthew 6: 7-13; Colossians 1: 9-14; Romans 12: 1-2; Psalm 139: 1-4); Love Wins (Psalm 23; Romans 8; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1; Revelation 21: 1-7)
- Visuals: WHY? on wall. Large concrete block cross. Driftwood candle holder.

“Ask, Thank, Tell”

October 2019

- Discipleship not membership (Great Commission); It all belongs to God (Psalm 24; Deuteronomy 8:11-18; Genesis 1:26-30); Money and Possessions (rich ruler; two master; 1 Timothy 6:6-10); Portrait of a Biblical Giver (don’t worry)

“There Is No ‘Us’ and ‘Them’”

September 2019

- Why Hospitality? (Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Romans 12:9-13); Who’s In? (Jonah 4); When Did We...? (Sheep and goats); Entertaining Angels? (Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16)

“Questions We Ask: Christianity and World Religions”

July-Sept.1 2019

- Hinduism (Ephesians 2:7-10); Buddhism (Romans 8:18-39; Philippians 4:6-7); Islam (Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 30); Spiritual but not religious/Nones (Zaccheus; Mark 5:21-43); Faith vs. Works (James 2:14-19; Ephesians 2:1-10); Judaism (Genesis 12:1-9); Christianity (Nicodemus – born again; greatest commandment)
- Sanctuary: Large world map and timeline of religions. Projected: Cartograms. Bulletin inserts with key information about each religion. Cartograms, definitions, and more projected.
- Media: “Do You Know the Basics of....?” for Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam.
- Apostle’s Creed used at the beginning of each service.

“The Power to Lead”

June-July 2019

- Pentecost/Holy Spirit’s power (Acts 2:1-12); Faith – Daniel (Daniel 6:9-22); Boldness – Esther (Esther 4:1-17); Kindness – Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37); Gratitude – leper (Luke 17:11-19); Hope – Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)
- Ephesians 3:18-21 used as the blessing each week. VOICE translation used with multiple readers.
- VBS set – *To Mars and Beyond*. Sunday’s messages came from the VBS scripture.

“Stop It! In the Name of Love”

May 2019

- Gossip (Philippians 4:4-9; James 1:19-27); Bullying (James 3:13-18; Colossians 3:1-17); Regret (Philippians 3:12-14; James 4:7-12; Isaiah 43:18-21); Holding Grudges (Ephesians 4:25-32; Galatians 5:16-26; James 1:19-20)
- Philippians 2:1-16a used every week with multiple readers.
- Large Stop It banner. Entryway signs. Memorable quotes and message illustrations. More Jesus handout.

“Shadow Savior: Not the Savior You Want but the Savior You Need” Lent & Easter 2019

- Confusion (Paying taxes to Caesar); Anger (Cleansing the Temple); Disappointment (Judas’ betrayal); Being scared (Jesus dies); Being known (Jesus predicts Peter’s denial); Being surprised (Palm Sunday arrival on a donkey); Being told what to do (wash feet; remember Him); Being saved (resurrection); Tells you to keep going (great commission)
- Lumo project videos.
- Dark altarscape for Lent changing to very bright white Easter.
- Theme song: “Shadow Savior” adapted from Blake Sheldon’s “Savior’s Shadow”

“Faith in Films 2019” Epiphany 2019 (4 wks)

- Looking for Light – *Mary Poppins Returns* (Matthew 5:13-16; John 8:12); Be an Encourager – *Green Book* (1 John 4:7-21; Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-31); This Is the Greatest Show – *The Greatest Showman* (1 Corinthians 12:21-27; John 14:12-14); Hoping for Hope – *I Can Only Imagine* (2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Acts 9: 1-31)
- Movie trailers shown in worship. *The Greatest Showman* and *I Can Only Imagine* shown at church.
- Sanctuary: Movie theater setting. Movie memorabilia.

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor? Learning from Mister Rogers” January – February 2019 (5 wks)

- Loving Ourselves, Loving Neighbor (1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 22; Genesis 1); Please Won’t You Be My Neighbor? (mutual caring - Romans 15; Matthew 5); In Some Ways We are Different (Micah 6:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12); Look for the Helpers (Luke 10); Neighborhood of Make-Believe (living together – 1 Corinthians 12; John 14)
- Theme Song: “It’s A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.”
- Sanctuary: Mister Roger’s living room
- Quotes. Clips from Mister Roger’s show. Evening showing of the movie, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

“A Charlie Brown Advent” Advent & Christmas 2018

- Charlie Brown – searching for meaning (Elijah); Lucy – giving up control (John the Baptist); Snoopy – finding joy (Isaiah 12; Philippians 4); Blue Christmas (Isaiah 9; Matthew 1); Sally – seeking peace (Mary’s Song); Charlie Brown Tree (Luke 1; Psalm 96); Linus – not an easy road (Escape to Egypt; Colossian 3)
- Movie clips from “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and “It’s Christmas Time Again”
- Sanctuary: Lots of Snoopy and Peanuts gang memorabilia. Sets from the movie.
- Activity: Making Charlie Brown Christmas trees

“Good Grief?!”

November 2018

- Living in Two Worlds (John 11; Revelation 21); Compassionate Companions (Job 2; Romans 12); Grief and Thanksgiving (1 Thessalonians 5); Grieving with Hope (Lamentations 3; 1 Thessalonians)
- Sanctuary visuals: teardrops, broken heart.
- Handout: What not to say and not to say to someone who is grieving.
- Sharing: Grief in Brief.
- Helpful videos – especially the “squiggly line” video. Projection: Quotes and images.

“Treasure”

October 2018

- Where Is Your Treasure?; Two Masters; Giving Back to God ; Don’t Worry (each week from Matthew 6)
- Treasure by Jacob Armstrong
- Short videos that went along with the book. Sanctuary: Collection of earthly treasures.

“Back to Basics”

September 2018

- God - The Great I AM (Exodus 3, 1 John 4); Jesus - Word Made Flesh (John 1, Philippians 2); Holy Spirit – Breath, Voice, and Power (Genesis 1; John 14, Acts 2; Romans 8); The Church – Christ’s Love Made Real in the World (1 Corinthians 12)
- Handouts: Love is a Verb bookmark, plastic Ichthus, “I Live God” image, “I Am the church” button. Altarscape with symbols for God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

“Psalms for the Soul”

August 2018

- Psalm 1 (teaching/instruction), 34 (praise), 143 lament), 137 (grief/anguish), 81 (covenant)
- VBS waterfall and stream.

“Hot Topics”

July 2018

- Health Care (John 10:10; Luke 10: 25-37); Racism/White Privilege (Mark 7: 24-37); Sexuality (Song of Songs); Creation Care (Genesis 1-2; Psalm 24: 1-2)
- VBS waterfall and stream. Hot Topics banner.

“Through the Eyes of a Child”

May & June 2018

- Children’s Sunday/Generosity (John 6: 1-14); Trust/Mother’s Day (Psalm 131; Isaiah 43: 1-2; Isaiah 66: 12-13); Joy (Psalm 100; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13; Genesis 1:31a; Zechariah 8: 4-5); Honesty (Luke 2: 41-52; Matthew 5:8; James 3: 17); Friendship (John 15: 12-15); Rest (Exodus 20: 1-7; Mark 2: 27-28; Mark 6: 31); Fathers/Father’s Day (Matthew 1: 18-25; Proverbs 22: 6; Deuteronomy 11:19); Living Long Enough (Psalm 90; 2 Cor. 4: 16 – 5: 1)
- Children’s toys and games. Upbeat, touching videos.

“Witness”

April 2018

- 1 John (mostly lectionary): Authenticity, Humility, Integrity, Unity
- Community worship series at Crestwood.

“Gifts of the Dark Wood”

Lent and Easter 2018

- Uncertainty; Emptiness; Being Thunderstruck; Getting Lost; Temptation; Disappearing; Misfits; Where We Go from Here
- Gifts of the Dark Wood by Eric Elnes. Ideas from Marcia McFee.
- Reusing the BLESSED banner. Birch trees. Dark wood setting that brightened up and “bloomed” for Easter. Thread running through the series – “Come and Rest” (music)

“Faith in Films 2019: Living Life to the Fullest in the New Year” Epiphany 2018

- Kindness – *Wonder* (Ephesians 4: 17-32); Holy Spirit – *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (Romans 8); Authenticity – *Ferdinand* (Mark 8: 31-18); Journeying Together – *The Way* (Matt. 6: 25-34); Come & See – *The Case for Christ* (John 1: 43-51)
- Film trailers. Movie theater setting. Two free movie and popcorn nights.

“Angels Among Us” Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2017

- Hope (Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80); Peace (Luke 1: 26-56); Joy (Matt. 1: 18-25); Comfort (John 1: 1-5); Love (Luke 2: 1-20); Worship (Matt. 2: 1-12); Life (Matt. 2: 13-23)
- Advent devotions written by members of the congregation.
- “Angels Among Us” series from Marcia McFee. Thread running through the series – chorus from “Angels Among Us”, “Do not be afraid (4x)”
- Large angels wings

“In the Beginning: (God’s) Family Drama” 12 weeks in Summer 2017

- Genesis (mostly lectionary): Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and sons
- Videos from the “Genesis” series. Garden of Eden tree banner.

“Faith of Our Mothers” 6 weeks in Spring 2017

- *Main stories:* Hebrew midwives (Exodus 1); Miriam (Exodus 1); Esther (Esther); Deborah (Judges 4-5); Rahab (Joshua 2 & 6); Hannah (I Samuel 1); Naaman’s servant (II Kings 5)
- Love Letters from God: Bible Stories for a Girls’ Heart by Glenys Nellist
- Family tree banner & women’s pictures. Playing cards.

“Giving It Up” 7 weeks of Lent & Easter 2017

- Mostly lectionary based (Gen. 2-3, 12; John 3, 4, 11, 20); Luke 19; Ez. 37; Matt. 21; Acts 10)
- Giving up control, expectations, superiority, enemies, our lives, popularity, death
- Give It Up! By Dottie Escobedo-Frank
- Large “Giving Up...” banner and smaller hands banners in purple. Lenten bookmarks.

“Loving Large” 4 weeks in February 2017

- Distractions - Super Bowl (Matt. 22); Love – Valentine’s Day (Song of Songs 8); Giving –Oscars (Matt. 6), Change the World – President’s Day (Mark 12)
- Loving Large by Jacob Armstrong
- Big hearts.

“Faith in Films” 4 weeks in January 2017 (Epiphany)

- Grief - *Collateral Beauty* (Job 2, Ps. 23); Struggle - *Rogue One* (Eph. 6), Change – *Sing* (Isa. 43); Prejudice - *Hidden Figures* (I Sam. 16)
- Film trailers. Big visuals - Movie theater setting.

“The First Christmas Songs” Advent & Christmas 2016, Epiphany 2017

- Mary – Magnificat (Luke 1); Zechariah – Benedictus (Luke 1); Angels – Gloria (Luke 2); Sing a New Song (Psalm 96); Our Song (Psalm 98, Isa. 9); Simeon – Trust (Luke 2)
- Excerpts from “The Promise: Birth of the Messiah” (animated)

“Thanksgiving and Thanks-living” 3 weeks in November 2016

- Saints (Ephesians 1); Interruptions (Mark 5); Generosity (Philippians)
- Kingdom Assignment (\$5/person to invest). Personal testimony. Printed Psalms.

“Defying Gravity” 4 weeks in October 2016

- *Scripture*: Matt. 6, 16, 19; Luke 15; I Timothy 6
- *Main stories*: The pull of money, Wants vs. Needs, Generosity, Intentionality
- Defying Gravity by Tom Berlin and the accompanying videos
- Big visuals - Space station. Astronaut. Space junk.

“Can We Talk: Where Faith and Politics Meet” 3 weeks in September 2017

- Luke 10; Matt. 7, 25, 26; Eph. 4; Romans 12; Isa. 2; Lev. 19
- Politics & Faith; Responding to Extremism; Gun Violence; Immigration
- Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World by Richard Mouw
- Coffee shop setting

“Starting Over and Digging Deeper” 11 weeks in Summer 2016

- Your Story (Genesis 1; I John 3); Temple (I Kings 8; John 1); Depending on God (Deut. 10; Gal. 5); People (Luke 10); Listening Well (I Kings 19; Matt. 3); Sabbath (Genesis 1; Exodus 20); Mission (James 2); Worship (Ps. 100; Isa. 6); The Kingdom (Matt. 13); Scars/Healing (Isaiah 53); Communion (Matt. 9, 1 Corinthians)
- It’s Not What You Think: Why Christianity Is So Much More Than Going to Heaven When You Die by Jefferson Bethke
- Backyard/back porch setting. Short introductory vignettes – I used to think...but now I know...

“Unity”

- Unity in Love (John 17); Holy Spirit (Acts 2, Romans 8, John 14); Faith (Romans 5)
- Prayer partner activity with Lakeside. Updated Serenity Prayer. Olympic rings.

“Hidden in Plain Sight” 4 weeks after Easter 2016

- *Lectionary based series*: Doubt (John 20); Hope (John 21); Heartburn (Luke 24); Ghost Story – Jesus’ return (Luke 24)
- Giant eyeglasses. Eye charts.

“From the Inside Out” 7 weeks of Lent & Easter 2016

- Temptation (Luke 4); Doubt (Genesis 15); Fear (Luke 13); Anger (Luke 15); Devotion (John 12); Hope (Luke 19; Philippians 2); Joy (Luke 24)
- Pallet tomb. Handouts. Short dramas.

“Word of God Speak”

5 weeks of Epiphany 2016

- *Lectionary based series:* Baptism (Luke 3); Miracles (John 2); Prophets (Luke 4); Hard Words to Hear (Luke 4); God Says Listen (Luke 9)
- Reader’s Theater. WORD OF GOD SPEAK on the ledge.

“People and Places of Christmas”

Advent and Christmas 2015

- Mary from Nazareth (Luke 1); Joseph from Bethlehem (Matthew 1); Elizabeth from In Karem - and Zechariah (Luke 1); Blue Christmas – Painful Journey (several); Going to Bethlehem (Luke 2); Angels and Shepherds at the Manger ((Luke 2); Simeon and Anna at the Temple (Luke 2)
- Video: Skit Guy’s “First Christmas” series. The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton. Dramas (Mary, Simeon/Anna). Pallet manger on ledge/Christmas Trees/Painted banners.

November 2015 – no long series

- No More Tears – All Saints (Revelation 21); Committed – Ruth part 1 (Ruth 1); Learning to Love – Ruth part 2 (Ruth 3-4); Your Kingdom Come – Christ the King (John 18)
- Teardrops and Tears from heaven/handout. Pallet fence and grasses.

“Money Matters: Earn, Save, Give”

3 weeks in October 2015

- Earn – Proverbs 31 woman (Proverbs 31); Save – treasure in heaven (Matthew 6); Give – widow’s offering (Mark 12)
- Earn, save, and give jars on ledge. Personal testimony. Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley’s Simple Rules for Money by James A Harnish.

“The ‘E’ Word – Evangelism Means Sharing ‘Good News’”

3 weeks in September 2015

- Come and See – Personal Invitation (John 1; Matthew 9; Luke 10); Personal Testimony (Galatians 1; Philemon 1); God’s Role in Transformation (Luke 19)
- Videos. Handouts.

“Sinning Like a Christian: The Good News”

8 weeks of Summer 2015

- Being honest – we sin (Leviticus 18; Romans 3); Pride or Humility (Philippians 2; Luke 18); Envy or Kindness (Genesis 4; Matthew 20); Anger or Forgiveness (Psalm 137; John 2); Sloth or Diligence (Ecclesiastes 1); Greed or Generosity (I Chronicles 4; Matthew 6); Gluttony or Moderation (Philippians 3; I Corinthians; Matthew 6); Lust or Purity (2 Samuel 11; Matt. 5)
- T-shirts on clothesline. Vignette introducing each week’s sin. Snakes in pew. Hand outs – gummy worms, whatever stickers.

“Marked for Life in Christ”

3 weeks in June 2015

- Faith – Not Fear (Hebrews 11; Luke 17); Hope – Not Despair (I Peter 1); Love – Not Hate (I John 4)

- Faith Hope Love drop cloth banner. Tattoo/stickers.

“Now What?! Walking the Pathway of Discipleship”

After Easter 2015

- The Great Commission (Matthew 28); Better Together (Acts 2); Teaching and Learning (Acts 8); Fruit of the Spirit – Children’s Sunday (Galatians 5); Stranger or Friend (John 15); Don’t Just Stand There – Ascension (Acts 1; Ephesians 1); Helped by the Spirit - Pentecost (Acts 2; Romans 8); Love Like God Loves – Nicodemus (John 3)
- Videos. Labels. Pentecost toilet paper, leaf blowers, dance, and sundaes. Other handouts.

“The God We Can Know”

Lent & Easter 2015

- The Great “I Am” (Exodus 3); Satisfaction - Bread of Life (John 6); Guidance – Light of the World (John 7,8); Care – Good Shepherd (Psalm 23, John 10); Power – True Vine (John 15); Way, Truth, & Life (John 14); Servant (John 13); Possibilities – Resurrection & Life (John 11)
- The God We Can Know: Exploring the “I Am” Sayings of Jesus by Rob Fuquay. “I AM” on ledge. Visuals near the entryway. Paper aisle runner. Drama –Peter & Judas. Giant tomb made from an ice fishing tent.

“God Revealed!”

Epiphany 2015

- *Lectionary series:* God’s Light (Isaiah 60); Baptism (Mark 1, Genesis 1); God Calls Us (1 Samuel, Psalm 139); Sharing Grace (Jonah 3); God’s Authority (Mark 1); God Heals (Mark 1, Psalm 147); God’s Voice – He Leads (2 Corinthians 4, Mark 9)
- Drama - Samuel’s Call. Handout – Swedish fish.

“Christ Comes!”

Advent and Christmas 2014, Epiphany 2015

- *Lectionary series:* Prophet’s Plea (Isaiah 64); Prophet’s Promise (Isaiah 40); Blue Christmas (Psalm 42, 139; Matthew 11); Unexpected Prophets (Luke 1); Unto Us (Luke 2); Salvation Has Come (John 1)
- Video preview. Small hands-on items – star, handmade sheep, angel wing, light. Stars over the congregation. Candle ladder for Blue Christmas.

“Ancestors in Faith”

November 2014

- *Prescribed by VCI:* Transitions – Moses hands his leadership role to Joshua (Deuteronomy 34); Crossing Over (Joshua 3); Choosing Whom to Serve (Joshua 24)
- Managing Transitions by Wm. Bridges. Audio bible. Silhouetted drama on the ledge. Aluminum screen river.

“Extravagant Generosity”

October 2014

- Generosity (1 Timothy 6); Love/Relationships (Deut. 6, Mark 12, Philippians 4); Vision and Hope (Joel 2, Matthew 6, Colossians 3); Sacrificial Giving (John 3)
- Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving by Michael Reeves. Large “stick” heart. Card responses. Using prayer beads. Personal testimony. Skit.

“Our Covenant Life”

September 2014

- Prayer (Matthew 6); Presence (Luke 2, Psalm 46); Gifts (2 Corinthians); Service (John 13); Witness (1 Peter 3)
- Making prayer beads. Handout – ping pong ball. Big visuals: OUR COVENANT LIFE on the ledge and other word below it.

“Life in the Spirit”

late June - August 2014

- *Prescribed by VCI:* Baptism/Calling (Ephesians 4); Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12); Unity (1 Corinthians 12); Love – The Greatest Gift (1 Corinthians 13); Using our Gifts (Romans 12); Serving in Love (Romans 12); Work & Worship (1 Peter)
- Big visuals – Gifts, LHUMC puzzle. Hands-on items: card with spiritual gifts, laminated bookmarks.

Transition Time – no series

May and June 2014

- Depending on God (Acts 17, John 14); Under the Influence – Pentecost (Acts 2); The Great Commission (Matthew 28)
- Signing a Declaration of Dependence. “Spiritualizer” skit.

“Stations of the Resurrection”

Easter – early May 2014

- Probably a lectionary series: Empty Tomb (Mark 16); Locked Room (John 20); Road to Emmaus (Luke 24)
- Lumo Project videos.

“Stations of Holy Week”

Holy Week 2014

- Road to Jerusalem (Mark 11); Upper Room & Garden (Mark 14); Stations of the Cross – borrowed from another VCI pastor (various)
- Palm Sunday drama. Big visuals: Jerusalem gate, palm trees; Tomb, cross.

“Blessed!”

Lent 2014

- *10 Week series inspired by one week in the lectionary - Matthew:* Beatitudes – overview; Poor in Spirit; Mourn; Hungry & thirsty; Merciful; Pure in Heart; Peacemakers; Persecuted/Insulted
- Large brown BLESSED – added blessing week by week to form a cross. Large variety of sermon illustrations.

“Baptism”

January 2014

- *Lectionary series:* Act of Submission (Matthew 3); Act of the Spirit (John 1); Act of God (1 Corinthians 10)
- Large visuals.

“Stations of the Birth”

Advent and Christmas 2013, Epiphany 2014

- Temple – Zechariah (Luke 1); Nazareth – Mary & Gabriel (Luke 1); Hills of Judea – Mary & Elizabeth (Luke 1); Road to Bethlehem – Joseph & Mary (Luke 2); Fields – Shepherds (Luke 2); Manger – Wise Men (Matthew 2); Road to Egypt – Escape (Matthew 2)
- Hand painted banners for each message. Weekly vignettes. Maps.

“Extravagant Generosity”

late October – November Stewardship 2013

- *Lectionary*: Honest Humility (Luke 18); Seeds with Wings – All Saints Day (Luke 8); From Simple to Sacred – sharing our gifts (Philippians 4); Aligned with God’s Purposes (2 Corinthians 8); Power of Pruning (Colossians 3, John 15)
- Practicing Extravagant Generosity by Robert Schnase. Hands-on items – maple seeds, Jenga blocks, dominoes. Skit (Pruning – Skit Guys). Big visuals – violins (sharing) gifts.

“Does Your Church Have a Prayer”

September and October 2014

- *Prescribed by VCI*: Jesus Prayed for Us (John 17); What Reality Do You Choose? (Number 13); Overcoming Giants (Number 13); Asking the Right Questions (Mark 9); Beyond and Within – Looking Outward (Mark 8); Promised Land (Philippians 2)
- Does Your Church Have a Prayer by Marc Brown, Kathy Merry, and John Briggs; Congregation had questions to answer each week; VCI team tabulated the results. Visuals – door on the ledge and words below.

“Are You Ready?”

August 2013

- *Lectionary (Luke 12)*: Rich Toward God; Consider the Lilies – worry; Dressed for Action ; Watching the Weather – distractions; Eternal Work (John 6)
- Continued use of the barn and visuals from VBS.

“In Jesus’ Neighborhood”

July 2013

- *Lectionary (Luke 10-11)*: Sharing Peace; Who Is My Neighbor?; The Better Part – slowing down to listed; Knocking on the Door
- Working with the barn and visuals from VBS. Hands-on items: tattoos, lemonade umbrellas. Skit. Intro video based on *Mr. Roger’ Neighborhood*.

“Freedom”

June 2013

- *Lectionary (Galatians)*: Free from Evil; Free to Change; Free from Boundaries; Free to Serve.
- Visuals – FREEDOM IN CHRIST on the ledge and big chain below ledge.

“God’s Revelation”

May 2013

- *Lectionary (Revelation 13)*: All Things New
- Drama – short vignettes interwoven with scripture and music.

“With Jesus after Easter”

April 2013

- *Lectionary (John 20-21)*: The Locked Room; Casting the Nets; Feeding the Sheep
- Hands-on items – key, fish/net magnet, sheep with printing.

“Prayers of the People”

Lent 2013

- *Lectionary*: Promise of Protection (Psalm 91); Trust in God’s Future (Psalm 27); Thirsting for God (Psalm 63, Isaiah 55); True Repentance (Psalm 32, Luke 15); Restoration (Psalm 126, Isaiah 43); Exaltation (Psalm 118, Luke 19)
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE on the ledge. Quotes below the ledge. Collections of crosses. Prayer stations around the sanctuary perimeter.

Epiphany series – no name

January 2013

- *Lectionary*: Wedding Crasher (John 2); You Can Go Home Again (Luke 4); Glory Upon Glory – Transfiguration (Luke 9)
- Big Book Media videos. Homemade media – glory. Hands-on item: shells.

“The Characters of Christmas”

Advent and Christmas 2012, Epiphany 2013

- *Mostly lectionary*: Prophets (Jeremiah 33); Zechariah (Luke 1); John the Baptist (Luke 3); Mary (Luke 1); Shepherds (Luke 2)
- Slow reveal of stained glass windows. Monologues by each character.

“Giving Thanks”

November Stewardship 2012

- Giving with Joy (Psalm 126; Joel 2); Always Enough (Matthew 6)
- Giant cornucopia.

“Fruitful Living”

October-November 2012

- *Prescribed by VCI*: Radical Hospitality (1 John 4); Passionate Worship (Psalm 100; Luke 10); Intentional Faith Development (Hebrews 10; Philippians 3); Risk-Taking Mission (Matthew 20); Extravagant Generosity (2 Corinthians)
- The Five Practices of Fruitful Living by Robert Schnase. Used various configurations of chairs as visuals. Stewardship videos (Ministry Shares).

“Faith in Action”

September 2012

- *Lectionary based (James 2-3)*: Leading with Our Ears – listening to God and others; Do It! - service; Controlling the Tongue – speaking in love; Real Wisdom – comes from above
- Duct tape on the bulletin cover. Projected message illustrations (Creation of Adam).

“Knitted Together”

August 2012

- *Lectionary based (Ephesians 4)*: One Lord, One Faith, One Foundation; One Body; Before Sunset – reconciliation
- Activity: Wove green paraments and banners.

“God in the Present Tense”

June – July 2012

- *Lectionary based (Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 4, 5, 6, 12)*: A New Creation – God is re-creating us in His image; Living in Tents – life on earth is temporary; Adoption – God’s love for us; Salvation – is now; The Thorn – what can we learn from suffering; The Inheritance – can be lived out today; Peace – Christ breaks down barriers; Abundant Accomplishments – come from God
- Hand-outs (butterflies). Big visuals for the first few weeks – butterfly kit, tent. Skit (humility). Projected message illustrations (comics).

“Acts of the Spirit”

April – May 2012

- *Lectionary based (Acts)*: Community; Testimony; Teaching; No Boundaries; Jailbreak; Baptism – by the Holy Spirit; Speaking Out - Pentecost

- Flame/dove visual on ledge. Ribbons over the congregation. Drama (Philip). Paper chain activity.

“Signed, Sealed, Delivered”

Lent and Easter 2012

- *Lectionary based:* Rainbow – covenant (Genesis 9); Fruitfulness (Genesis 17); The Commandments (Exodus 20); The Light (John 3); Grain of Wheat (John 12); Palms (Mark 11); Empty Tomb (Mark 16)
- *Passbook to Easter* handout and stickers. Holy Thursday – three part drama.

“Meeting Jesus on the Road”

Epiphany 2012

- *Lectionary based:* Philip and Nathanael (John 1); The Fisherman (Mark 1); The Sick (Mark 1; Isaiah 40); The Unclean Spirit (Mark 1); The Leper (Mark 1); On the Mountain – Transfiguration (Mark 9)
- Big visuals – Billboards, Road Signs (directions to each place, hospital sign)