

# The Clarion

December 2021

First UMC is a welcoming, accepting, caring and diverse Christian community committed to teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people through faith-based worship, exciting programs and outreach ministry.

## Ponderings from your Pastor

*“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”  
Matthew 1:23 NRSV*

Brothers and Sisters,

The end of November is both the end of the Christian year and the beginning of a new one. In the traditional liturgical calendar, the last Sunday in November before Advent is Christ the King Sunday. It is a day when we recognize Jesus Christ as having triumphed over death, and in our lives. It is the celebration that God, in Christ, reigns over us with grace, and that we are never separated from the love of God. This year, the last Sunday in November is also the first Sunday of Advent, beginning the Liturgical year anew.

Advent, deriving from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning coming, is the time of year when we anticipate the coming of the Christ child. While Advent was not commonly celebrated in churches until the 9th century, it has been firmly engrained within our tradition for as long as the Methodist Church has existed. We spend the four Sundays leading up to Christmas hearing the stories of the journey of Mary and Joseph, hearing the prophecy of who Jesus will be for the world, and anticipating how the world and our lives will be changed through the birth of the Christ Child.

In a season that is now commonly filled with stress and busyness, it is easy to lose sight of who the Christ child calls us to be. We are called to be in the world, and to be the reflection of the love and grace of God within the world. It is not a bad thing to put up your tree and lights, turn on the Christmas carols, and buy some gifts for friends. That being said, the reason we celebrate is that God is good, and God is coming to be with us. There is very little gained by arguing about “the meaning of Christmas” or a “war on Christmas,” but instead, there is everything to gain by being Christ followers and living out our faith in Christ each day.

As people who recognize Christ as the ruler of our hearts, and as faithful Christians who are anticipating the Good News of Christ’s birth again in this season of Advent, there is much for us to do. We are called to read, pray, worship, share our gifts, serve our neighbors, celebrate, get excited, and to praise God! We are called to the holy purpose of preparing the way of the Lord and preparing our own hearts and minds to be open to all that Jesus, Emmanuel, has in store for us.

We have been celebrating 200 years of ministry in our church and community this fall. For the last 200 years and more, the church has been celebrating the coming of Christ. In fact, this church was formally started just a few years after Silent Night was first performed, and long before it was popular in the United States. This church is 20 years older than the very first Advent wreath. We have a depth of faith and history that has carried us throughout history and helped us claim Christ as the reigning Lord of our lives, and the gift that continues to give meaning to our life.

This Advent I want us to also spend our time in a tangible way, both realizing that God reigns in our hearts, and that we are anticipating all that is to come. In honor of 200 years of ministry, I would like to make an invitation to all of us to live in between what has been and what can and will be. Let us reflect our faith by being a positive example of Christ in the world. Praise God, show love to your neighbor, sing lustily, and show love and grace to all you encounter. Let our anticipation bring realized action of God’s love.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and may this season bring you immeasurable goodness and peace.

In Christ,  
Pastor Dan





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

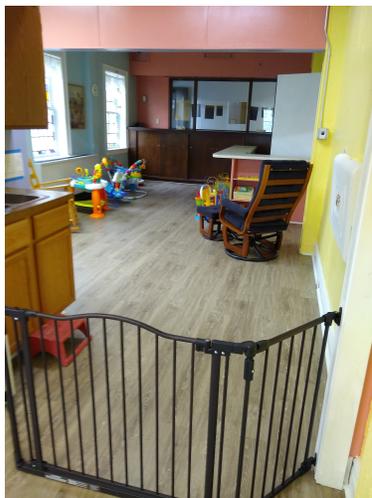
### FAMILY EVENT: ADVENT FUN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

All families with children ages 2-10 will enjoy this day of Advent/Christmas Fun! Join us as we gather in Wesley Hall for holiday crafts (even one for parents), cookie decorating, a Christmas Sing Along, and a special story time aboard the Polar Express! There may even be a visit from the jolly old man himself! The fun begins at **4:00**. Please RSVP with your family name and how many are attending by **November 30**.

---

### NURSERY OPEN

If you haven't had a chance to drop by and see the new and improved Nursery, you are encouraged to stick your head to see the new floors and other updates. Families are welcome to use the nursery during our worship services as long as a parent is present with their child. There are lots of toys, a child-sized bathroom, a changing table for infants, and speakers with volume control so you may still hear the service. We hope you will utilize and enjoy this space for your children.



### CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Youth (6th-12th grades) are invited to join us for a Christmas Gathering on **Saturday, December 18** beginning at **4:00**. There will be food, Christmas games and Activities, a Service project, and best of all a Mystery Trip! Even if you haven't been to a Youth Group event all year, you are always welcome! We hope you will join us! Please let Rev. Alicea know if you are coming by **Dec. 1**.

---

## Confirmation Class

### CONFIRMATION

I am happy to announce there will be a Confirmation Class! Please be in prayer for Sean Brown, Camden Parker, and Caleb Parker and their leaders, mentors, and parents. Confirmation classes will begin in January. Mark your calendars and plan to attend or tune in to **Confirmation Sunday, February 27**. There is always room for more. If you are in the 6th-8th grades and would like information about Confirmation, Rev. Alicea would be happy to chat with you about your participation.



C E L E B R A T E

# CHRISTMAS EVE

*5:00pm Children's Service*

*7:00pm Traditional Service  
with Candlelight*

*11:00pm Contemplative  
Candlelight Service*



### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

If you would like to add a missional/spiritual practice to your advent season, pick up a Reverse Advent Calendar at our Welcome Center. This calendar contains food gathering and other faith practices for you and your family. Bring all food and other items collected to worship on **January 9** to be blessed. All items will be distributed to either Father Bob's or our Homeless Ministry.



The Divine Life Ministry for Homeless Hope will be open on **Thursdays from 11-1pm beginning December 2**. Anyone who is homeless and needs items to keep them warm this winter, is Welcome & Spiritually loved. They will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Rev. Kelly if you are able to volunteer for this important ministry.



### Blessings in a Backpack

Backpacks are ready to be filled and distributed at MLK Academy, 400 Clinton River Dr. in Mount Clemens. First UMC of Mount Clemens volunteers will meet at **3:15pm at MLK Academy** every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Approximately 300 children in need will have nutritious meals for the weekend thanks to this program. The commitment is only about 30 minutes. Please contact Dan or Linda McLatcher if you are interested in helping with this important ministry!  
dmclatcher@comcast.net  
lmclatcher@comcast.net



Women with Faith will be meeting **December 2 at 1pm in Wesley Hall**, for an Advent Program. We will meet again on **January 13th at 1pm** to discuss "Brain Fitness" -Keeping your brain as sharp as you can for as long as you can. *Presenter will be: Marcia Relyea, Gerontologist*



For the 3rd quarter of 2021, the Endowment Fund generated \$2,117.73 for the Trustees to use for building maintenance and improvements. The value of the Fund as of September 30 was \$471,610.06.

# FAMILY OUTING: GEORGE GEORGE PARK

Saturday, October 30, was a chilly rainy day but that didn't dampen the spirits of several families who came to George George Park for fun and, of course, Cider and Doughnuts! As the children ran around and played together, parents enjoyed some time chatting and laughing. Cider and doughnuts were enjoyed by all and there were even Halloween Goody Bags!

Our next Family Activity for Advent is being planned so stay tuned for details coming soon!



# Joys to Share



## December Birthdays

Mason Munn	12/01
Melissa Richardson	12/01
Jeff West	12/01
Herbert Brush III	12/02
Ailey Hart	12/02
Scott Reece	12/04
Aaron Gimm	12/06
Meah Higbee	12/07
Zachary Kinic	12/07
Christopher Miller	12/07
Crosby Lynch	12/10
Camille Moore	12/10
Tina Tinkham	12/10
Nicole Evans	12/11
Thomas Hill	12/11
Scott Lakin	12/11
Thomas Northrop	12/11
Justine Olszewski	12/12
Constance Hall	12/13
Emily Beebe	12/14
Barbara Dodd	12/14
Lorri Petty	12/16
Monica Benson	12/17
Nancy Donahue	12/18
Larry Alger	12/19
Carol Ballard	12/19
Bob Hill	12/20
Wyatt Minarik	12/20
Mary Philo	12/20
Brian West	12/24
Janet Hudock	12/26
Karen Loos	12/26
Junia Querio	12/26
Malina Haxer	12/28
Jennifer Querio	12/29
Sandra Paul	12/31



## December Anniversaries

Rolland & Gayle Bumler	12/21
Pastor Dan & Autumn Hart	12/27
Steven & Claudia Waid	12/29
Thomas & Lois Hill	12/31



Dear Friends of FUMC,

*My mother, Jean Borow, asked that I write to tell you how much she will treasure the special quilt that you have given her. She so enjoyed her visit with Jocelyn, hearing about the church's anniversary, and recalling the many years she was able to be active in the life of the church. The Methodist Church has always been important to her since she was baptized more than 90 years ago in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The lifelong support and kindness of the people of First United Methodist Church of Mt. Clemens is dearly felt. Your thoughtfulness and continued prayers are appreciated by Jean and her family. Thank you.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Lynnea Borow McHenry*

Dear Reverend Hart and Parishioners,

*I am writing to congratulate the First United Methodist Church on celebrating the 200th Anniversary of its founding! It goes without saying that this bicentennial milestone should be complimented and celebrated; however, it is made even more remarkable through your dedication to our community.*

*Your parish is truly a blessing to those in this area and an example to follow.*

*Best,  
Pete Lucido*

*Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney*

# Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

## Our Church Family

Makayla Landrum, Bonnie McCormick, Linda Tinkham, Gus Querio, Nancy Lyon, Jamie Brownlee  
Roger and Carolyn Merlo

## Our Friends and Family

Joe Keppler, Maryon Young, Brian Clor, Landon Morrison, Harry Kosmala, Jim Henning

## Grieving

Joylyn Zembower

## Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Marilyn Jean Borow, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Nancy Donahue, Karen Loos,  
Marilyn Nielsen, Gerald & Barbara Pagett, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Scott Bean, Adam Donahue, Steven C. Kelly, Tami Morgan, Rande Phan

## College Students

Brianna Akers, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Hunter Berg, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan,  
Nathan Clifton, Joshua Collins, Hannah Dion, Jessica Evans, Alison Haskell, Kyle Hill, Jackson Kelly,  
Justin Keppler, Ashley Krynski, Claire Manning, Jack Nielsen, Gabrielle Olszewski, Jordan Olszewski,  
Sydney Olszewski, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jake Williams, Alex Zdravkovski

## Contact Information

### **2021** **First UMC** **Leadership Team**

Linda McLatcher: Chair  
Tim Howlett: Finance Chair  
Harry Kosmala: Business Manager  
Lois Hill: Pastor Parish Chair  
Bethany Gimm: Pastor Parish Co-Chair  
Tom Baber: Chair of Trustees  
Justine Olszewski: Co-Chair of Trustees  
Linda L. Johnston: Lay Leader  
Lois Hill: Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Linda Strait: Secretary  
Rev. Dan Hart: Pastor  
Rev. Alicea Williams: Children and Youth Ministry



57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
Church Phone: 586.468.6464  
[www.mountclemensumc.org](http://www.mountclemensumc.org)

*Senior Pastor, Reverend Dan Hart*  
Email: [pastordan@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:pastordan@mountclemensumc.org)

*Deacon, Reverend Alicea Williams*  
Email: [alwharpist30@gmail.com](mailto:alwharpist30@gmail.com)

*Office Manager, Wendy Jones*  
Email: [office@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:office@mountclemensumc.org)