

# The Clarion

August 2018

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

Dear Friends,

Here we go, July began my 2nd year here in Mount Clemens. I must say that so far my time here has been filled with joy and love. You are and continue to be the Best church I have ever served!

Looking ahead to next year though, we will need to be securely grounded in our faith because there are issues that will be decided, that can bring dynamic change to the church in ways that may or may not be beneficial. One very important issue is the rights of LGBTQI individuals.

The Commission's report outlines three proposals and their variations include:

- **The Traditionalist Plan:** Strengthen the existing language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and create swift and strong punishment of anyone that does not follow the Book of Discipline. It also provides exit plans for churches who no longer feel the United Methodist Church represents their values.

*The Council of Bishops is not recommending this model because it will create disruption, church trials and pain for individuals and congregations that would distract us from our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

- **The Connectional Conference Plan:** Create a Connectional Conference Model for the church which allows congregations to decide to be a part of one of three "branches"/conferences in the United States – progressive, centrist or conservative. Each of these conferences could modify the Book of Discipline and align church practices to their theology and understanding. Present annual conferences and even congregations could choose different "branches"/conferences.

*The Council of Bishops is not recommending this model to the General Conference. A similar model was created in 1939 which separated a majority of African Americans and the rest of the church into distinct conferences. It was finally disbanded in 1968 and caused lasting pain to many in our denomination.*

- **The One Church Plan:** Create a One Church Plan that allows:
  - o Congregations to decide their marriage policies.
  - o Pastors to determine who they will marry.
  - o Boards of Ordained Ministry and clergy executive sessions to determine fit and readiness for ministry.

*The Council of Bishops is recommending this model to the General Conference because it preserves appropriate local decision-making and does not require congregations to think and act alike. It preserves our unity in the midst of differences, allows for contextualization and provides the least disruption to the mission of Jesus Christ.*

It is always an ever changing world we live in and as Christians we must continue to offer grace in the midst of the struggle. If you have any questions or world like to talk, stop by, my office door is always open.

B-blessed,

Rev. Maureen



# GUATEMALA

**Guest Speaker: Nancy Sheldon, Director and Founder of Servant Ministries in Camotan, Guatemala.** On August 19, 2018, Nancy will share her experiences of 26 years in the mission field. This is also an opportunity to learn more about where our Mission Team headed to Guatemala in October will be serving.



**New this year! Mission work for our local community!**

Darryl Miller: Missions Chair is asking that if anyone needs any work done around their home, or knows of someone who does, and either cannot do it themselves or cannot afford to do it themselves, to see him or sign up on the Volunteer Jobs wanted poster in the Wesley Hall. Darryl is coordinating work crews around the community to help in completing small maintenance jobs for our congregation and community. So if you have leaves to be raked, windows to be washed, carpet to be torn up, a house washed or any other home maintenance issue please give him or the church a call so that we can work together for God's glory! (586-468-6464) or (586-202-9361)



Our next Messy Church is **Wednesday August 8 from 6:00-7:30pm.** Bring your friends, neighbors, family, or just yourself to a fun evening filled with family friendly activities and Christ-centered worship. To date, we have had 17 guests attending our Messy Church evenings and it continues to grow as we connect to more people. Keep inviting people and help us grow this new "congregation". The volunteer sign up is on the Library Window, please sign up today.

## Family Spotlight of the Month



**Keith and Sue Rosso**

Keith's parents, John and Dorothy, brought him to FUMC in the 1960's when he was a small child. Being a shy and somewhat strong-willed little boy, Keith would often refuse to come in the building. He would sit on the steps leading up to the sanctuary until his Aunt June and Cousin Judy, who attended the earlier service, came and took him home with them while his parents went to the second service. Keith later learned that it was better to come inside rather than sit on the steps. If he had not come inside he never would have met Sue who showed up many years later in the late 1990's.

Sue was encouraged to attend FUMC by her Aunt Maxine Mumea who had been a long-time member of the Church. On the first Sunday Sue attended with Aunt Maxine, Mrs. Alice Prescott invited her to join the choir. Sue accepted and has enjoyed being a part of music in worship in one capacity or another for many years.

Keith and Sue married in a lovely ceremony at the church in November of 2008. They enjoy serving the church, community and have been involved in many of the church's ministries. Keith and Sue believe in living each day with an attitude of, thankfulness, positivity and kindness. They are blessed beyond measure with wonderful family and friends. Keith is an IT professional and Sue teaches elementary school music.

## Missions Updates

### ***Keep Those Old Eyeglasses coming!***

We are now at **439 pairs of eyeglasses** donated to Lions International. These old glasses are refurbished and given to people who cannot afford or do not have access to healthy eye care. Empty the bedside table, go through the kitchen catch-all drawer and explore the car's glove compartment for those specs that have been forgotten and unusable to you. Someone else will greatly be served by your generosity. Place your donations in the cubby outside Wesley Hall (aka the Multipurpose Room). **THANK YOU!!**

*Marsha Lynch*

### ***Fidget Quilts***

We are now approaching the half-way point of our commitment to provide 700 lap-sized fidget quilts to Macomb County Community Mental Health. These quilts are given to children and adults with autism and other disorders who need something to hold on to, something for their busy hands to fidget, something to calm down with. Please continue to donate textured materials and fabric (used is fine as long as it is not all faded or stained), threads and notions (ribbon, buttons, ZIPPERS, rick rack, etc.) We cannot begin to tell you how much these small quilts are anticipated and appreciated.

*The FUMC Prayer Quilters*

### ***\$1,393,046.47 Or 20,000 Tons***

No, this is not a choice between what we still owe on our church mortgage or what the whole congregation weighs after the holidays! Good guesses, though.

This is the total value of products Panera Bread Company has provided to the First United Methodist Church Bread Ministry over the past 15 years. That is close to one and a half million dollars (retail) of fresh but unsold products given through their Dough-Nation Program. Over the years, we also were able to pick up unsold products from a couple of other companies for a year or two, but Panera has been our most generous and faithful partner in serving "the least of these".

The Lighthouse of Roseville, where we delivered Panera products three days a week, is required by their corporate office to keep track of the donations by weight and they estimated a total of 15,000 tons of loaves of bread, bagels, baguettes and pastries were delivered to their doors over the years by our ministry. No wonder our Bread Ministers developed bad backs!

This does not include the products delivered to the Salvation Army twice a week, the Family Resource Center twice a week, the Refuge on Thursdays, the Food Pantry once a month, the MSU Extension Program once a week and all of the products given to all of the weekly MCREST Churches and Warming Center Churches every week throughout the year, year after year. (Hence, our adding a few extra tons to the total above!) (And, again, think of those backs!!)

All Panera stores have been notified as has been Panera Corporate. All of the organizations we served have also been told of the end of our program.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to all who helped pick up products late at night, wrap products early in the morning, drive products all over Macomb County for the poor and the homeless. May you continue to ***"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."*** (John Wesley) God Bless us all.

*Marsha Lynch and Junia Querio, Bread Ministry Co-Chairs*



### ***Youth Group Begins at a New Time!!***

Our Youth Group year will officially kick-off on **Sunday, September 9, at the church from 4:00 until 6:00pm.**

This time change is to encourage our youth to invite their friends to our activities in an effort to share Christ with our peers as well as grow our youth group. We will still meet only every other Sunday. Invite your friends and bring them to Youth Group!

### ***2018-2019 Parent/Youth Meeting***

We will meet on **Sunday, August 12** for the purpose of distributing the Youth 2018-2019 Calendar, signing up for events, and talking about the upcoming year. The meeting will take place at **11:15am in the Youth Room.** Please plan to attend.

### ***Henderson Settlement***

Many of you were here on July 1 when our youth and leaders described their experiences the previous week at Henderson Settlement. It was a week filled with challenges (digging in clay during the rain), adventures (mountainous journey to Middleboro with Rev. Alicea), and successes (a 12x12 shed was built) and we grew closer together as we worked together, lived together, ate together, and traveled together. I can't even begin to thank Bill Wiza, Justine Olszewski, and Bill Cormicle enough for their participation on this journey nor would my verbal thank you be nearly enough to all of you who donated money or said many prayers for our Youth Group. Thank you for all of these things. I am so grateful for this congregation and their commitment for your desire to see our youth grow in their faith by sending them on these Mission Trips.

### ***Community Meals***

Calling all youth in town on **Sunday, August 5!!!** We have the responsibility for Community Meals after church. The main course is soup donated by a local chef. We need to provide bread, sides, beverages, and dessert. Please plan to be here after church for this service opportunity.

## WESLEYANS

On **Tuesday, August 14th**, the Wesleyans will tour the Webber Wildlife Museum starting at **10 AM**. The museum is located at 44710 Morley Drive which runs along the West side of the Morley Candy Co. There is no charge for the tour. We will go to the Pantry almost next door (on your own) for lunch. The Museum requests a count so please let Marilyn Nielsen or Ken Fowler know if you plan to attend.

ALL ARE WELCOME.



Save the date **Sunday, September 9, for Rally Day!**

It's been a great summer but now it's time to get ready for fall activities so come find out what's new this year and how you can be in ministry to others, grow in your faith, or both. **Blessing of the Backpacks** and a **Pot Luck** will be a part of the celebration!!! More details to follow so keep your eyes on the screen on Sunday mornings and your ears open for announcements.

## STAFF CHANGES

*Your Leadership Committee has approved the following changes to staff members of FUMC:*

- Our church Treasurer, Rick Lyon, has decided to retire from his position to devote more time to family and work.

Our thanks to Rick for a job well done. He is not leaving us so please seek him out and thank him when you see him in the pews.

- We would like to welcome Harry Kosmala to our staff. Harry recently conducted our church financial audit and has agreed to stay on as a part time employee.

Harry comes to us with a wealth of experience. Newly retired from Olympia Entertainment Harry brings with him over 50 years of financial experience. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Detroit College of Business. Stop by the office to say "hello".



August Birthdays

Linda L. Johnston	08/21
Euella Thomas	08/30
Gayle Bumler	08/16
Marilyn Nielsen	08/26
Roger Merlo	08/15
Linda Willneff	08/27
Sheila Strunk	08/11
Tom Baber	08/05
Thomas Artes	08/17
Jim Willneff	08/15
Matt Tinkham	08/27
Damon McInnes	08/03
Jacques Tchakerian	08/28
Denette Ballard	08/27
Rev. Alicea Williams	08/15
Jim Brown	08/19
Heather McCallister	08/30
Michael Brocker	08/08
Jeremy Pointer	08/14
Deborah Evans	08/18
Melissa Parker	08/20
Brandon Gawthrop	08/13
Samuel Silien	08/23
Danielle Reece	08/14
Christine Tchakerian	08/20
Martin Querio	08/17
Maeson Machalak	08/26
Brady Machalak	08/30
Liam Gawthrop	08/06
Ronan Dumas	08/15



August Anniversaries

William & Terri Kimble	08/03
Michael & Sallie Miller	08/06
Steven & Kitty Kinic	08/15
Donald & Carol Ballard	08/17
William & Suzan Littlejohn	08/20
Richard & Sandra Paul	08/20
Nicholas Lynch & Kelli Pierce	08/29
August & Junia Querio	08/29



*~Blessing Box  
Thank you all for the donations of travel size toiletries for our community box. Along with donations from our congregation, we have been given items from folks outside the church who “believe in our cause”. We thank them as well! Hundreds of items have been taken by those who need them. All of these are greatly appreciated. As you are able please continue giving to this year round mission serving the least among us.*



*I would like to thank my church family for all of the cards, flowers, visits and words of sympathy that were sent my way after the death of Emerson. As some of you know, Em was in Hospice care for 16 months. During that time there were several parishioners who made it a point to visit, call and offer support in many ways. Thanks to all of you who attended the memorial service, made donations to the church and continue to be supportive. You are a true example of Christian love.  
Ellen Arntz*

*A special Thank You for your thoughts, prayers, and support from Denette & Caralee. They both loved going to Lake Huron Retreat Center. They had such a wonderful time that they are looking forward to going again next year.  
Thank you again,  
Carol & Don Ballard*

*Dear First Church,  
Thank you for your contribution to the Deacons and Julie Bard Book Drive at this year's Annual Conference. Our goal was to collect 1,000 books for children, and we collected over 2,600!! Your contribution helped us exceed our goal! Thanks and God bless you.*

*-MI Order of Deacons*



## An Update from Rev. Maureen on First UMC Leadership

Lately, I have received some questions concerning our Leadership and the new structure. So I want to answer some of the more common questions. Under our new structure, we no longer have our monthly Council/Administration Board meetings. What we do have however, is a quarterly Leadership Team meeting, interspersed with Issue drive emergency meetings where the Leadership meets either in person or by email, to make a decision about an issue.

Our new leadership board operates like a Board of Directors, the Pastor is accountable to the Leadership and the Leadership is accountable to the Pastor. (Guiding Principles are available upon request). Their primary job, is to make decisions so as to keep the church aligned with the Mission and the Vision of Christ.

The Leadership Team operates with 9-11 members. These members consist of a Chairperson, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Finance Chair, Finance Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Pastor Parish Relations members, and 2 Trustees, Secretary, (Pastor and Deacon). The Pastor and Deacon have voice but no vote. There are no At-Large members. There is a 3 year rotation of Leadership. Trustees, PPRC and/or any of the Ministry Groups may have committees as they see fit.

Presently, we are in need of a Chairperson to organize, create agendas, and lead meetings, and a Trustee who will work with Bill Wiza on coordination of Building Maintenance. If that person is you please contact a Leadership Team Member or the Pastor.

Quarterly, they meet to discuss Vision and Mission, evaluation of our efforts to align with God's call on the church, evaluation of past program efforts, and evaluate current status.

To get items on the agenda for discussion by the Leadership Team, all one has to do is to write the issue on a sheet of paper, sign it, and submit it to one of the Leadership Team and depending on the urgency it will be discussed accordingly. If the team needs additional input from you they will contact you and invite you to our next meeting.

Also, there are biannual, "All Church Meetings" with specific topics to discuss to attain the general church's mind on the issue or subject.

### **Leadership Team Members (2018)**

- Bill Wiza- Trustee
- Linda McLatcher-PPRC
- Julie Strayer-PPRC
- Linda Strait - Secretary
- Tim Howlett-Finance (Chairperson)
- Harry Kosmala -Finance
- Greg West-Lay Leader
- Bethany Gimm- Lay Member



### **Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of *g`W`g`k*, 2018**

	<i>Amount</i>		
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
June 3	\$5,849.00	\$6,500.00	121
June 10	\$5,643.00	\$6,500.00	151
June 17	\$7,256.00	\$6,500.00	102
June 24	\$4,884.00	\$6,500.00	87
July 1	\$6,327.00	\$6,500.00	109
July 8	\$3,573.00	\$6,500.00	98
July 15	\$4,220.00	\$6,500.00	123
July 22	\$7,028.00	\$6,500.00	89
July 29	\$2,795.00	\$6,500.00	79

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

### **Our Church Family**

Greg West, Dwain Read, Cindy Donahue, Wesley Ballard, Doris Breitzkreuz, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard, Carol Ballard  
Grieving: Rev. Emerson Arntz, Glen Gould, Jeremy Hohensee

### **Our Friends and Family**

Bruce Robbins, Dennis Hill, Lorraine Santo, Richard Quigley, Kristy Parowski, Jeff Papsdorf, Billy Coffey, Ronald & Jamie Brownlee

### **Our Homebound**

Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike Foy, Karen Loos, Murray Shelson, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

### **Those Serving in the Armed Forces**

Adam Donahue, Tami Morgan, Sean Kiernan, Tony Kiernan, Brian Hill

### **College Students**

Sarah Akers, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Brocker, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton, Matthew Durham, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean, Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

## Contact Information



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