

The Clarion

October 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,

On September 5, 2018 we began a four week study on a book called, "Living Faithfully, Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church." This book is a centrist viewpoint of the discussion around Ordination and inclusion of LGBT+ individuals as fully practicing clergy in our denomination. Both classes have been well attended with commitment and grace as we dove deep into the discussion of Human Sexuality and the pending possible outcomes from the February 2019, General Conference. I want to thank all of you for your personal reflection, candor, and prayerful grace. I also want to thank those who purchased a book but didn't attend the sessions. Your attention to this important matter will bear fruit as we move into the coming year.

In the November Clarion, we will be including a special section called, "**Living Faithfully, Our Response.**" Here we will publish gracious commentary of support for or against the inclusion of the LGBT+. We will try to balance the article submissions from you in a prayerful manner. We will not accept counter discussion of any article. We hope you will submit thoughtful and gracious reflections on the work of our General Conference in the coming weeks. *They must be in electronic format, no handwritten submissions will be accepted as retyping them for publication is difficult.* Thank you, and we look forward to hearing your faithful and prayerful responses to Living Faithfully.

Living Faithfully – Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church

The conversations continue..... Comments from our church members:

"Throughout its existence organized religion has had an unfortunate tendency to become legalistic, judgmental and condemning. These periods of self-righteous fervor have been some of the darkest blots in church history. When people think of Christ-followers, they should think of mercy, compassion and generosity – not hatred, harshness and finger pointing."

B-blessed,
Rev. Maureen



Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor

On **Sunday, October 7, 2018** we begin a three-week program called *Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor*. Our theme verse is from Ephesians 6:7: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you are serving the Lord, not men.” We serve wholeheartedly when we give wholeheartedly in service to the Lord. In our resolve to serve wholeheartedly in Christ’s name, we put our faith and trust in the Lord into action. Through this program, we all will grow to understand a little more clearly what it means to be a Christian whose purpose is to serve, not to be served.

God has created, forgiven, and redeemed us, his instruments of love and compassion in the world. God blesses us so we can serve him by serving others. He honors us with the privilege of being the channels through which he works. We are blessed to be a blessing. God wants us to be his channels to live in total devotion to him, and to be his faithful stewards. He empowers us to do the “good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 3:20). The same strength that was available to Paul is available to us. As the Apostle Paul wrote the people in Philippi, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). Through the reading of his Word and participation in the Sacraments, we are strengthened and equipped so that we can fulfill his purpose for our lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can give it all we’ve got in service and commitment to the Lord.

It is our prayer that the Lord will truly bless this program and that God will reveal the true riches of his peace and joy as we give it all we’ve got in serving and glorifying him. Plan to be present at all three Sunday services and to attend the Bible sessions, which also address the theme of being Graced by the Fruits of Our Labor!

Family Spotlight of the Month



My mother, my daughter Gretchen, my granddaughter Meah and I are all only children. So, our family is not very big. My mom and I were from New Hampshire and my dad was from New York. They met on a blind date when they were both in the Army and married a week later. A year later I was born.

My dad served 24 years in the service and we moved from New Hampshire to Okinawa to Boston to El Paso to Detroit to Mt. Clemens. In all those moves I learned how to make friends, to adjust to new places and I developed a heart for the new person. In 1964 I was a freshman at Mount Clemens High School and my dad retired. This year we are planning my 50th Class Reunion. The years have flown.

A Methodist all my life, this church and the members have been very dear to me. I met my best friend Candy when we were confirmed at age 11. I was involved in choir, youth group, women’s group, fellowship and worked with senior high Sunday School and MYF. It has always been a constant for me – even through the times I wasn’t quite as constant.

I retired in June of 2017 from Marketing at McLaren Macomb Hospital after 28 years. In June of this year I returned to work at the Information Desk.

Retirement is great – I highly recommend it. But I missed the interaction with my work family and the patients and their families. Time that is my own is best spent with my family, friends, curled up with a good book, favorite show or movie and the cat. My life is good and I try and remember to count my blessings and be aware of those who don’t have so many to count.

Bobbi Dodge

Rev. Alicea's Notes from Down the Hall

Our Grace Space has been available since July 2017 and it has been a huge success. I have heard from many people about how their children enjoy coming to church because they don't have to be confined to the pews. I have also heard from a few folks that it is a distraction to their worship experience. Both are valid and equally important comments. I thought I would take a few moments to remind all of the origins and purpose of the Grace Space. At Annual Conference 2016, a Grace Space was introduced at a morning worship service. I didn't think much about the Grace Space until I noticed that Bishop Bard was sitting on the floor playing with the children. Our Own Bishop, a grown man, playing with the children, during worship, no less! This made me think about welcoming the children of our congregation and the idea for creating our own Grace Space was born. The purpose of the Grace Space is for those times when children are a bit wiggly and would like to spend time in quiet play. It is a space where children may multi-task; playing while listening and absorbing all the acts of worship going on around them. At our Grace Space are coloring books, crayons, books for reading, foam blocks, and other "quiet" toys and our children are invited and welcomed to come and play.

Parents are welcome to bring other quiet toys from home for their children to be more comfortable in our sanctuary. We welcome and encourage our children to come and engage in quiet play in our Grace Space.

Another space in our sanctuary where children may play, is our "Cry Room". Children who may be feeling a bit more rambunctious and needing more active play are invited and welcomed to enter our "Cry Room" where there are more toys and more room for them to play. The window provides a view of the sanctuary so parents still feel a part of the service. The sound is piped into the room so parents may continue to participate in the worship service. There is a crib and a changing space for babies with a bathroom at the bottom of the stairs where you may take older children or wash your hands after changing your baby. If you just need a place to rock your child there is a rocking chair in the "Cry Room" as well as one in the sanctuary. As Rev. Maureen has said several times, "there isn't a child making noise that Rev. Alicea and I can't preach over" and while this is true, it is also important to teach our children that there are spaces for quiet play and spaces for noisy play and the Grace Space and Cry Room provide ample opportunity for both while allowing our children to be children. Jesus instructed us to, "let the little children come to me," and with our Grace Space and Cry Room, we are seeking to do just that.

Conference Protection Policy Training

Rev. Alicea will lead a Conference Protection Policy training on **Saturday October 13 from 9:00 – 1:00pm** in Wesley Hall. This training is for anyone who might chaperone a District or Conference event with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. All youth parents are encouraged to take this training as our youth group will be participating in upcoming district events. All chaperones to any district or conference event with children, youth, and vulnerable adults are required to have this training in order to chaperone.

Also, if you participate in this training, your authorization will be accepted for our Mt. Clemens Protection Policy and you will not have to attend another training session.

Sign up is located on the Library window or see Rev. Alicea.



Youth Ministry Youth Ministry

YOUTH GROUP OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October Service Day – Saturday October 6 Hands with Detroit. Be at the church at 8:00. See details about Hands for Detroit in this Clarion and sign up on the window.

No Youth Group on October 7.

October 21 Youth Group will be a combined youth group with Eastpointe Immanuel UMC, Roseville Trinity UMC, and Warren First UMC. We will meet at the church at 5:30 and carpool to Warren First UMC for a fun evening of activities, devotion, and meeting new youth (you might be surprised to see someone you might already know). Parents will be needed to carpool. We will return by 8:00.



Calling all thespians or want-to-be thespians to participation in our Christmas Pageant! All ages and abilities are welcome. Our first rehearsal is **October 20 at 9:00am** in the Sanctuary. There are speaking parts and non-speaking parts. We need shepherds, wise persons, sheep (lots of sheep) as well as the usual characters of the Holy Family. Sign up to participate on the Library window. Parts will be assigned at the first rehearsal. Let's get in the Christmas spirit as we prepare to bring the Christmas story to life. **See you on October 20 at 9:00am!!!**

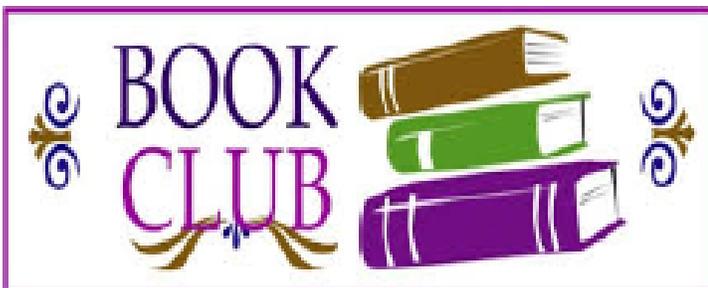


YOUNG ADULT OUTING

There is a Young Adult outing to the Westview Apple Orchard on **Sunday, October 14 beginning at 3:00 pm.** We will meet at the orchard located at 65075 Van Dyke, Washington, MI 48095. All young adults (single and married) are invited to come and enjoy the day with us!

Check out www.westvieworchards.com for details on admission and activities.

See you all there!



Our group will be reading *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. We will meet **October 9th at 10am in the Library.**

All are welcome!!



October Birthdays

Barb Knuth	10/01
Linda Tinkham	10/04
Wesley Ballard	10/05
Fred Golda	10/06
Linda McLatcher	10/07
Warren Minarik	10/07
Steven Waid	10/07
Seth Trudel-Pointer	10/09
Jack Machalak	10/11
Ellen Arntz	10/12
Ashley Palmer	10/12
Sara Biery	10/14
Jake Lucido	10/15
Bethany Gimm	10/19
Calan Parker	10/19
Bob Baker	10/20
Noah Calvert	10/20
Kim Evans	10/20
Matthew Gregory West	10/20
Micah Robert West	10/20
Stacy Krynski	10/21
Lois Hill	10/23
Blake Miller	10/26
JoAnn Taylor Brush	10/27
Barbara Pagett	10/28



October Anniversaries

Michael & Kelsey Bridson	10/01
John & Bonnie Bober	10/02
Warren & Emily Minarik	10/03
Robert & Andrea Kruse	10/05
Mark & Cheryl French	10/08
Michael & Justine Olszewski	10/11
Gerald & Barbara Pagett	10/16
Nicholas & Jessica Dumas	10/19
Martin & Marsha Lynch	10/22
Robert & Melissa Richardson	10/25



Do you know someone who doesn't go to church? Do you need a break from your messy, hectic, struggle-to-get-dinner on the table or just make ends meet life? Messy Church is a family fun night filled with time to renew your spirit and reconnect to God's love. ALL are invited to join us beginning at **6:00pm**, for a light meal then moving to a time of worship and celebration ending promptly at 7:30. Volunteers are needed each month to help with food, craft/activity, and greeting/registration. This is a fun Family-Oriented and Christ-Centered time full of food, friendship, and faith. Come, bring your friends, and reconnect with God's love. Join us, **October 10, November 14 and /or December 12.**



To our amazing church family, Thank you with my whole heart for all of your prayers, support, loving words, cards, and miscellaneous acts of kindness showered on our family when Greg died unexpectedly. Our church family means the world to us and we cherish your amazing compassion and thoughtfulness shown to us during this incredibly difficult time. Your continued prayers and support are also greatly appreciated. Love to you all, Darcie and the family of Greg West



Once again we will participate in The Optimists Club Trunk or Treat Event. This event is **Saturday, October 27, from noon until 3:00 in the Mt. Clemens Downtown Parking Structure.** You may participate in one of three ways: (1) donate large bags of candy or small non-candy items like pencils, erasers, or stickers, (2) sign up to bring your decorated car to the event to help pass out candy. The cost is \$25/car, OR (3) donate \$25 to help buy candy or sponsor someone else's car. A Sign Up sheet is posted on the Library Window.



It's Pasty Bake Time!!

On **Tuesday, November 6 at 6 pm**, we will be cutting vegetables for the upcoming Pasty Bake. On **November 7 and 8**, we will be making and baking around 1100 pasties, so we need all hands on deck to help this fundraiser. The sign-up sheets are on the window across from the Library.

I am happy to announce that MARGE KNAPP and JIM and LINDA WILLNEFF will be taking over this mission starting in April, 2019. We all appreciate them stepping up to run the Pasty Bake. If you have any questions, just call me. Pasty Chair, Sue Tregembo



We Care Packages- Packing Boxes on Sunday, October 21st!!
 First UMC cares about our college students and those in the services. You will find We Care collection boxes at any of our sanctuary entrances. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Wells.



Reminder:
Daylight Savings Time Ends on Sunday, November 4



HANDS WITH DETROIT

All those who are joining to work at Hands with Detroit meet at the church at **8:00am on Saturday, October 6** to carpool down to Metropolitan United Methodist Church to check-in and join the opening worship. After we will go to our work site for a day of service. We will plan to return when our work is completed. Please be in prayer for those who are giving their time to serve others in the Detroit Area.



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of September, 2018

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
September 2	\$6,438.00	\$6,500.00	
September 9	\$6,338.00	\$6,500.00	126
September 16	\$4,052.00	\$6,500.00	112
September 23	\$5,755.00	\$6,500.00	121
September 30	\$6,185.00	\$6,500.00	114

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Dwain Read, Joe Hiestand, Jeri Wiza, Kelsey & Mike and Baby Jack Bridson, Nancy Donahue, Wesley Ballard, Doris Breitreuz, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard, LeAnn Knapp
Grieving: Terry Beardslee, Jean McDougall

Our Friends and Family

Jim Barnes, Ruth Schutt, Andrea Hart, Betty Fridley, Jane Tralka, Lorraine Santo, Betty Fridley

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

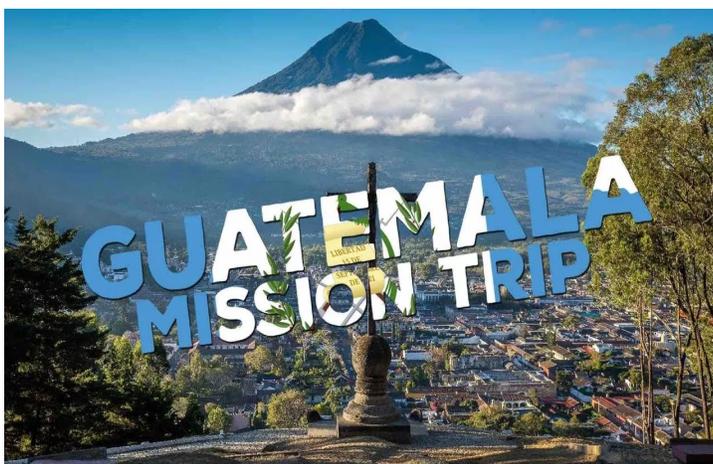
College Students

Brianna Akers, Sarah Akers, Michaela Baker, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Brocker, Nathan Buchanan, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton, Matthew Durham, Draven Forbes, Jaryd Forbes, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean, Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Hope Reyna, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information

*Please be in prayer for our
Guatemala Mission Team!!
October 17-26, 2018*

Eric Munn, Bethany & Aaron Gimm, Linda Johnston,
Rev. Maureen & Bob Baker, Aedan Forbes
and the others joining our First UMC group!!



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