

The Clarion

September 2016

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 brothers and sisters in Christ,

How many of us truly like change? Somedays I do, but often I do not. Yet those moments of change are when the greatest potential of growth happens for me. In the midst of change, I think it creates a time of vulnerability and it is in those moments that the Holy Spirit seems to slip in and make the greatest impact in my life.

This summer, for the first time in 8 years, my family did not participate in the Clergy Family Camp at Lake Louise. With all that was happening, it was just not an option. It was the right choice but early in the week as I came into the office, I was sad. One of my favorite Clergy Mentors was leading an education piece on preaching, my closest clergy friends were all hanging out, and I was missing seeing all of our kids together. But as the week went on, I found myself being pulled into deep times of devotion with God. I had some time to reflect on my life changes over this last year and to really see God's hand in all that has happened. I also felt some urging to look ahead and make some new plans, to dream the "so what is next" kind of dreams. I do not have all the answers yet but I do know that God is in the midst of all the change.

Fall is a time of year rich with change. The weather becomes cooler, the leaves in the trees seem to turn to the colors of fire, the sun slips away sooner, our children go back to school, baseball season ends and college football season begins, and we move from the relaxing flow of the summer to the crazy over-scheduled reality of the rest of the year. I have a child going into 7th grade and one entering High School, one of our families has a Senior this year – it is at that time as parents we blink and think, "What? Where did the time go?"

I have found myself drawn to Joshua 1:9 over these last three weeks, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Even as a church we are growing and changing. A lot of it is little steps of change here and a little there, but enough to make us uncomfortable sometimes. Who are these new people worshiping with me? Expanding children's ministries that need more adult help. Growing music programs that are developing and changing and seeking new leadership. Even our newsletter is sent out electronically and no longer mailed directly to the home. All good changes, but changes. My prayer is that we remember that all we do at FUMC is for the Kingdom of God, not for ourselves. As change happens we look for God in the midst of what is going on and when we feel uncomfortable may we take a moment and breathe and think of these words from Joshua. God continues to move in great ways at FUMC, may we be courageous enough to move and grow with the Holy Spirit.

I continue to be humbled and honored to be the pastor of this church.

Love and Peace in Christ,
Rev. Mary

Children & Youth Christian Education

At a recent parent meeting, the Nurture Committee made some recommendations for a few changes in how we do Christian Education with our children. At this point the Youth (6th-12th grade) Christian Education will run like last year. Every week they will rotate between Sunday School or Youth Group. We are expanding a gathering time also during JAM for those that are available and that will be Mission and Bible Study focused. For the Children's Ministry (3 year olds – 5th grade) we are moving all the Christian Education portion to Wednesday's JAM program. This will be when they have their "Sunday School" time. On Sunday mornings we will be offering a Children's Church time for them. They will start out in the sanctuary and then leave after the Young Christian Moments for a time of worship designed just for them. Nursery will still be available on Sunday mornings, but will strictly be for babies and toddlers. We are asking for patience as we work through the details for these ministries. Also, in order for them to work well we need people to step forward and volunteer. We need parent involvement, we need grandparent involvement, and we need people in the pews that no longer have children in the program but believe in the baptismal vows that they participate in each time we baptize a child. We are a growing church and we need to not only be meeting the needs of our ministry but to be planning for what is next. What a great problem to have at a church.

Currently we need:

Sundays:

- One youth helper each week for the nursery
- Adult helper when needed in the nursery
- Adult and youth teams to lead Children's Church, once every 6 weeks

(Training event September 7, at 7:15 pm)

- Middle School Sunday School teacher every other wk.
- High School Substitute Sunday School teacher
- Youth Group helpers
- Lunch Coordinator for Youth Group

JAM:

- Preschool teachers
- 1-3 grade teachers
- 4-5 grade teachers
- Youth teacher short term Mission projects
- Youth teacher for short term Bible Study
- Table hosts for meal times, Kitchen help
- Dinner Shopper
- Dessert makers
- Greeters

The Nurture committee is also in need of a chair person that can bring all the people together and give us leadership. Please pray and see if God is whispering (or speaking loudly) to you to help with any of these areas. We take helpers of all ages. Be patient with us as we pull all these details together and create a meaningful Christian Education Ministry for all our children.
Rev. Mary



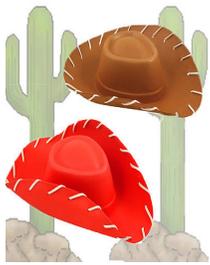
Youth Group Party

September 25th, 11:30 am

All 6th – 12th graders!

Time to kick off another year of fellowship, serving, and having fun together. We ended our year with an awesome workcamp trip to KY and a pool party, I can not wait to see what this year will bring. All incoming 6th graders are invited and welcomed to this event. Our Youth Group is growing and this is exciting. Not only will there be a meal, games, and music, we will also brainstorm and put together our calendar for 2016-2017. Looking forward to finding new ways for you to grow together as young Christian leaders.
RSVP to Rev. Mary

Rally Day Round-Up



September 18th

Fun for all Ages!



Kids, Youth, and Adults are needed.

We will be kicking off our Fall programing with a Western Theme. Everyone is invited to wear their best western apparel, and come with a readiness to connect with God, with one another and to have a great time. **Rally Day Round-Up** will give us an opportunity to all gather, celebrate being back after our busy summer and to find out about all the ministry opportunities for the Fall. After worship there will be a meal, meat will be provided, please bring a dish to pass, and of course there will be games!!! Anybody have a square dancing skirt I could borrow – just kidding (I think).

Yee Haw, see you there!!

Rev. Mary



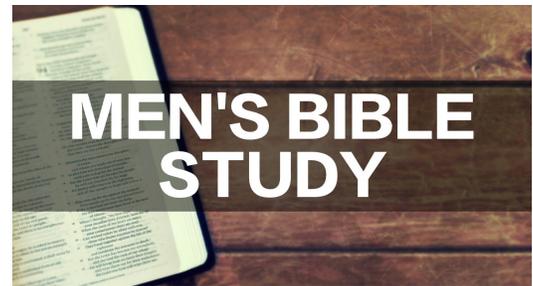
School is starting back and the backpacks are ready to be filled and distributed at Seminole Academy in Mt. Clemens.

We are beginning our second year of this ministry and are excited to say that we are nearly fully funded for the school year! Approximately **300** children in need will have nutritious meals for the weekend thanks to this program.

There is an opportunity for those who wish to help pack the backpacks. We at First Church will pack on the **third Wednesday of each month at Seminole at 4:00 P.M.** The commitment is only about 30 minutes. Please see Dan McLatcher for details.



J.O.Y. will be starting up on **Monday, September 12 at 10 a.m.** We will be reading the book Pew Sisters. The cost of the book is \$11.00 and will be available in the office or from Julie Strayer. Looking forward to many good discussions!



Men's bible study is the **first & third Monday** of the month and begins **September 19th at 7PM** in the Multi-purpose room. This year we will be studying Adam Hamilton's book, "WHEN CHRISTIANS GET IT WRONG". If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rick Eldridge. Hope to see you there!



Women with Faith

Women With Faith will meet **September 8, 2016 at 12:30 P.M.** for our opening pot-luck and fellowship. We will meet at Church in the multi-person room since the elevator at the library is still not operating. All women are welcome and if you are unable to bring a dish to pass come anyway there is always plenty of food!! Come with ideas for programs you would like to have for the 2016 - 2017 season.



Save the dates!

We are pleased to welcome Bishop David Bard as the new Episcopal Leader for the Michigan Area. He will begin serving the Michigan Area on September 1, 2016. Please help us welcome Bishop Bard, his wife Julie and their family by attending one of three welcome events that will be held across the state.

*Waterford Central United Methodist Church
Saturday, September 24, 2016 10:30 AM 3882
Highland Road, Waterford MI 48328*

*Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church
Saturday, October 16, 2016 3:00 PM
212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo MI 49007*

*Indian River United Methodist Church
Saturday, October 23, 2016 3:00 PM
956 Eagles Nest Rd, Indian River, MI 49749*

Each event will include a worship service with Bishop Bard preaching followed by a reception. Further details will be posted at News.MichiganUMC.org.

We hope you will be there!



Blessing of the Backpacks

All students, 3-99 years of age are invited to bring their backpacks to church on **September 11**. Please put them in front of the Altar before the service begins. Going back to school can be scary, a bummer, exciting, wonderful, or This is our opportunity to invite God into this important time in our lives.



Pasty Time

Mark your Calendars!!

The Pasty Bake starts on **November 8** with veggie cutting. **November 9 & 10**, making and baking. We had such a good time in April. You were able to make 1,072 pasties!! The pasties are all gone, so.... get ready to do more. Sign up sheets will be on the Library window in late September. Please sign up for a good time and to make money for the church. See you soon.
Sue Tregembo



There will be Acolyte Training offered at **9:30am on September 18th**. Any child in the church who is in the 3rd grade or older is welcomed to come and learn! See Justine Olszewski if you have any questions.



Let's not forget the Scrip card program is still alive and well. Remember that a certain percentage of your purchase of cards goes directly to help the ministries here at Mount Clemens UMC. Lots of great retail cards are available for that back to school (college or otherwise) shopper. Also remember the cards come in handy for everyday use as well. Any questions please contact Damon.



September Birthdays

Katie Milbourn	09/01
Robert Pingley	09/01
Truman Guard	09/02
Timothy Wilden	09/02
Rev. Emerson Arntz	09/04
Karen Clary	09/04
Keith Philo	09/04
Henry Cusic	09/05
Lyle Weldon	09/05
Lisa Ocelnik	09/10
Gabrielle Olszewski	09/10
Gerald Curts	09/13
Wesley Lutz	09/13
Deborah Tchakerian	09/13
Agatha Pingley	09/17
Carol Cusic	09/18
Jenna Zdravkovski	09/20
Cheryl French	09/21
Ashley Gawthrop	09/21
Shanda Golda	09/21
Jeri Wiza	09/22
Dan Zdravkovski	09/23
Shirley A. Champion	09/24
Martin Lynch	09/24
Jeff Plets	09/24
Tami Grigsby	09/25
Annica Broucker	09/26
Hannah Palmer	09/26
Charlotte Randolph	09/26
Ruth Swistock	09/28



September Anniversaries

Donald & Barbara Clay	09/06
Rick & JJ Eldridge	09/09
Delwyn & Euella Thomas	09/12
Rick & Nancy Lyon	09/14
Roger & Carolyn Merlo	09/15
Darrin & Trisha Deeter	09/17
Tony & Lisa Lucido	09/18
Frank & Mary Ellen Presley	09/20
Ken & Jo Fowler	09/28



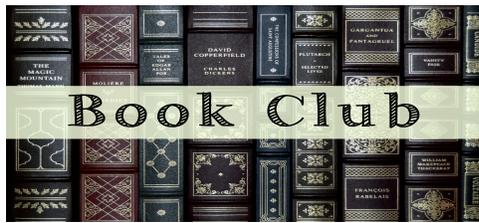
Thank You 

Thank you for all your cards and prayers. I appreciate them all. Also, thank you for coming to visit me at the hospital Rev. Mary. I loved the quilt the ladies made me from the quilter's club. Everyone who came in loved it too. I'm looking forward to coming back to church as soon as I get a little stronger. Thanks again, Betty Keller



Thank You 

Dear Rev. Mary & FUMC family, I want to thank you for my monthly issue of *The Clarion*. I devour every word! It keeps me in touch with my church family whom I dearly miss. My United Methodist church here has 7,300 members of whom I have become acquainted with only a few -those who sit near me. We have four ordained ministers and we hold four separate worship services each Sunday morning: two at a time. I do attend a two hour class each Wednesday where I have gotten acquainted with about a dozen good people. I am glad you will be going to the Holy Land in November. I have been there and now I am able to relate to things in the Bible which otherwise would have been only words. I was there for one week which did not allow enough time to have visited places I would like to have seen. One of our pastors here visited the Holy Land last year and she showed me a picture of the valley of the shadow of death. (Psalm 23:4) I did not know that such a place existed. Rev. Jill stood on a cliff and looked down into a dark narrow road below. It was on that long narrow road that robbers would hide in wait for travelers to pass by and then attack, rob, and at times kill them. I do not recite the 23rd Psalm anymore without thinking about that picture... Best wishes, Lyle Weldon



The reading group will meet **September 13th at 10am** to discuss *The Wind is Not a River*, by Brian Payton. All are welcome to join us!

Wesleyan Group

The September Wesleyan Activity is a visit to the STAHLs automobile museum on **Saturday, September 3rd**. There are also other items at the museum of interest. We will gather in the MP Room at noon for a sacklunch and then car pool to the museum at 1:00. If you wish to skip lunch, join us at 1:00 to car pool. There is no entrance fee, however, there is a donation box. This tour has been highly recommended some members of the congregation. All are Welcome!! For additional information contact Ken Fowler.



Please be advised that the Endowment Fund generated \$1,970.75 for the quarter ending June 30, 2016. These funds will be used by the Trustees for building maintenance and improvements.

Ken Fowler – Endowment Committee Chair



We are meeting from **6:15-6:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. All are Welcome!!**



A Note from our Music Director:

Hello everybody! I've had a great summer and I'm really looking forward to returning. Before I do, I'd like to let everyone know of some upcoming plans. Mark your calendars! Choir practices will resume on **September 1st at our regular time of 7:30pm**. Whether you are a regular member or have never sung with us, I'd love to see you there. Warren Minarik and I are working on getting a praise band together this fall. We are still hoping to find a guitar player, but of course anyone who would like to contribute their talents on another instrument or voice are welcome to join us as well. If you are interested, please meet in the music room immediately after service on **September 4th**. I think this is going to be a great Autumn, and I cannot wait to be back!

Matthew Durham



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the months July & August 2016

	<i>Amount Rec'd</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
July 24	\$7,797.00	\$6,500.00	127
July 31	\$4,541.00	\$6,500.00	131
August 7	\$6,370.00	\$6,500.00	107
August 14	\$4,960.00	\$6,500.00	112
August 21	\$5,084.00	\$6,500.00	121
August 28	\$4,725.00	\$6,500.00	146

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Jerry Lang, Kay Sommers, Barb Matz, Betty Keller, Eleanor Shipley, Jessica Evans, Charlotte Randolph, David Kaster, Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born, Jim Willneff, Linda K. Johnston
Grieving: The family of Charlie Dodd, The son of Patricia Arketa, Philip, (grandson to Toshi & Phil)

Our Friends and Family

Mary Ries, Dan Hill, June Dion's daughter, Lisa; The Kastemo family, Bill Stocker, Ernie Byrd, Geri Williams, Colin Roose, Jim Deneen, Robert Robbins, Jerry Flemming, Louise Lambert's daughter, Amy

Our Homebound

Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike Foy, Patricia Foy, Karen Loos, Katie Milbourn, Charlotte Randolph, Joan Sarns, Mary Schmidt, Murray Shelson, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman, Joyce Yacks

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Adam Donahue, Tami Grigsby, Sean Kiernan, Tony Kiernan, John Trevor Tinkham

College Students

Sarah Akers, Kyle Blaszkowski, Melanie Blaszkowski, Leah Clifton, Matthew Durham, Emily Fowler, Joshua Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Zack Kinic, Ashley Krynski, Megan Kupser, Makayla Landrum, Stephanie Lyskawa, Megan Long, Tighe Maclean, Madeline McInnes, Theo Miller, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Sam Van Camp, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information



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Pastor, Reverend Mary G. McInnes
Email: revmary@mountclemensumc.org

 **First United
Methodist Church**
OF MOUNT CLEMENS
57 Southbound Gratiot Ave.
Mount Clemens, MI 48043



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Kids, Youth, and Adults are needed.**



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