

# The Clarion

October 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

### **The Righteous Shall Live by God's Faith**

*And the Lord answered me:*

*"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.*

*For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie.*

*If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." Habakkuk 2:2-3*

October has arrived and with it the final months of 2016. As you look back over this year how are things going? Are you in a better place today than in January? How have you nurtured and cultivated your soul and spiritual disciplines? What about our church? How has First UMC made a difference in the world in 2016 so far? In January we gathered for a visioning session. We prayed, brainstormed, and then created a list of goals for 2016 and a list for 5 years from now. How are we doing on the lists? Is this work making a difference in the life of our church, in our community, in the Kingdom of God? I believe it has been amazing to watch God work through the ministries that we have been working on this year. I am humbled by the sharing of gifts and resources. But, we have items not completed yet for 2016 and we need your help. Will you help...please?

1. Look over the list and pray. Pray for the things that have been completed, for the ministries in motion, and the ones that still need to be started.
2. As you read the list, if God is whispering in your ear to help and share you passion, please reach out. Be bold, give me a call. Big help, little help, of time, talents, and funds all work together with God to do good work.
3. If you see people that you know have given leadership to various projects, tell them thank you for the work and leadership that they have shared.
4. Share the good stories and happenings of our church with your friends when you talk to them, on Facebook, or through other media sources.

We have worked hard together this year, and really hard over these last three years, but we have to keep working together. Keeping the momentum going means that we need to stay connected with God's good work. It some times may feel like slow work and we may not see quick results, but Habakkuk reminds us that the results will surely come, we cannot delay our work. God is part of it, Jesus leads and feeds us, and and the Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need to be the church that we are called to be in 2016! We are a church that lives by Faith, we see God in our vision statement, *"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."*

Blessings to you always,

Honored to be your Pastor, Rev. Mary

# ENOUGH

## Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

### Defined by Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

Join us in worship, starting **October 9th** for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, throughout October, we will be having a churchwide study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and small group study. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.



#### Schedule of Events:

- October 9** Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis
- October 11** Small-Group Study
- October 16** Wisdom and Finance
- October 23** Cultivating Contentment
- October 30** Defined by Generosity \***Celebration Sunday\*** and Consecration of Next Year's Ministry Commitments

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## 2016 GOALS

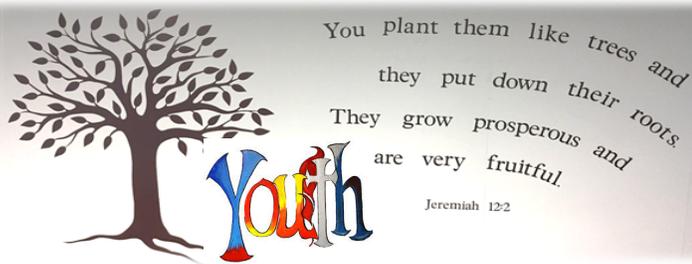
- Welcoming Center for Guests ✓
- Transportation for Shut-Ins \*
- Upgrade to Multimedia Presentations\*
- Encouragement of Young Adult Fellowship
- Addition Modern Elements in Worship \*
- Follow-Up Plan for Absent Church Members \*
- Stronger Social Media Presence ✓
- Adult Study Opportunities ✓
- Quarterly Local Missional Projects\*
- High School Graduate Scholarship Plan \*
- JAM Coordinator ✓
- Quarterly Intergenerational Activities\*
- Visitation Team Developed for our Shut-Ins ✓
- UMCOR Speaker and Coordinator \*
- Offering for Flint Water Issue ✓
- Strategic Plan for Public Relations \*  
- Mailed Printed Materials
- Change for Change Collection ✓
- Debt Retirement Campaign ✓

## FIVE YEAR GOALS

- Pay Off Our Mortgage \*
- Children's Church ✓ **Fall 2016!!**
- Signage Upgraded – Outside and Inside
- Student Tutoring
- Handicap Parking Addressed
- Yearly Adult and Youth Mission Trips\*
- Stephen Ministry Program
- Proactive List of Building Improvements\*
- Community Meals on Saturday
- Crisis Response Team
- Become a Spotlight Church\*
- Two Services – Once Our Attendance Requires It
- Recording of Worship for Our Shut-Ins ✓  
and Website
- Emmaus Weekend Involvement
- Staff Position Added to Help with Our Ministries
- Pay 100% of Apportionments \*

**The \* Indicates Goals Are Already Being Worked On      ✓ Indicates Completion**

## Youth 6th -12th, JAM, and Fellowship Updates



Exciting ministries are unfolding for this next year! We had a good youth group meeting and Crescendo Ringers practice this last Sunday. Warren will be looking forward to seeing everyone this Sunday for Sunday School. Parents, I need a couple of families to help provide a lunch for youth group days and I need a parent to help give leadership for our mission project this month- Cooking and Serving the community meal on October 30. Please contact me ASAP if you are able to help.

Peace, Rev. Mary

**October 2** - 8:30am Sunday School

**October 9** - 8:30 am Crescendo Ringers  
-11:30 am Youth Group - Kingdom Project  
Discussion

**October 16** - 8:30am Sunday School

**October 23** - 8:30 am Crescendo Ringers  
-11:30 am Youth Group - Scavenger Hunt

**October 30** - 8:30am Sunday School  
-Serving Community Meals



***It's Almost Here!!***

### ***Pasty Bake***

We'll cut veggies on **November 8 at 6:00 p.m.** and then on **November 9 and 10**, the making and baking will begin. Sign up sheets are on the Library window. Find a spot to help and sign up today!

See you soon!!

Sue Tregembo, Pasty Chair



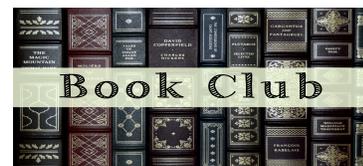
Greetings,

I hope that you are all doing well and enjoying the start of the Fall activities. I know that everyone's schedules start to fill up fast, so please mark your calendars now for JAM. We have changed our program start date to **October 19, 2016** and we will end before Easter in March. We will begin with Dinner at **5:30 pm**, there will also be time for Bible Learning "Sunday School", and Music, Craft, or Mission projects, children can be picked up at 7:30 pm. The Music details will be based on what children are present, so please contact me ASAP. Our Youth Group, (6th—12th grade) have Bells, Sunday School, and Youth Group on Sunday's. But there has been a request to have a 6th – 12th grade option during JAM. If we have youth that will be there, we will gladly put together a mission focused program. So again, please contact the church office and let us know if your youth will be participating in this afterschool activity. We are so excited about this year's program and themes. We are blessed to have many people that believe in our children and their Christian Foundation. Of course we are still in need of lots of adult helpers. Come, get to know great kids, make new adult friends, enjoy a meal, and make a difference in their faith journey.

Peace, Kitty Kinic



**Women With Faith** -will be going on a field trip to Village of East Harbor **October 6th**. We will be having lunch and a tour of the village. We will meet in the parking lot of the Mount Clemens library and car pool from there. Plan on being in the parking lot by 11:30 a.m.



The book club will be reading *The Silent Sister*, by Diane Chamberlain. We will meet in the Library at **10:00 am on Tuesday, October 11th**.



October Birthdays

Logan Biery	10/01
Barb Knuth	10/01
Dorcas Parrott	10/01
Gary Petroni	10/04
Linda Tinkham	10/04
Wesley Ballard	10/05
Fred Golda	10/06
Fred Miller	10/06
Linda McLatcher	10/07
Warren Minarik	10/07
Steven Waid	10/07
Seth Trudel-Pointer	10/09
Cheryl Plets	10/11
Ellen Arntz	10/12
Darrin Deeter	10/12
Ashley Palmer	10/12
Sara Biery	10/14
Jake Lucido	10/15
Keith Blooming	10/17
Bethany Gimm	10/19
Marge Bonner	10/20
Kim Evans	10/20
Stacy Krynski	10/21
Rebecca Johnson	10/22
Stephanie Blooming	10/23
Lois Hill	10/23
Anthony Viggiano	10/23
Nuri Yousif	10/24
JoAnn Taylor Brush	10/27
Barbara Pagett	10/28
Andrew Deeter	10/29



October Anniversaries

Warren & Emily Minarik	10/03
Keith & Stephanie Blooming	10/05
Robert & Andrea Kruse	10/05
Mark & Cheryl French	10/08
Michael & Justine Olszewski	10/11
Jeff & Cheryl Plets	10/15
Gerald & Barbara Pagett	10/16
Nick & Jessica Dumas	10/19
Martin & Marsha Lynch	10/22
Gerald & Jennifer Curts	10/27



Thank you FUMC Family,

Your many cards, condolences and attendance at Charlies' memorial service was heart-warming . I felt overwhelmed.

Your cards and concern for my health issues were also appreciated. I thank each of you from the bottom of my heart. God is good.

Barb Dodd



Dear Friends,  
Em would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt. It was quite a surprise, and very much appreciated.

Ellen and Rev. Em Arntz

Dear FUMC Friends,  
I would like to thank the following people who provided Special Music for our Summer Services:

- Rory Flanigan
- Ken Fowler
- Truman Guard
- Tom Hill
- Wendy Jones
- Dan McLatcher
- Emily Minarik
- Warren Minarik
- Sandy Paul
- Jim Parsons
- Danielle Reece
- Sue Rosso
- Darcie West
- Greg West
- Rick Eldridge (Orlando Prayer Service)

Your musical offerings enriched our Worship experience!

With Appreciation,  
Bonnie Robbins-McCormick





**Church Fall Clean Up, 2016  
October 22, Saturday 9:00 a.m.**

It's time to get First Church ready for winter. There are several areas we will be looking at. We will need to clean flower beds, trim shrubs, paint and do a general Church cleaning. We may do some work on the Gratiot and Cass Ave. steps. The Trustees are hoping to have the window sills and new utility door replaced in the Court Yard before the actual cleanup. There is a sign up sheet outside the Library windows. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thank You, FUMC Trustees

**2016 Garage Sale Recap**

This year's church garage sale was very successful; we had an out pouring of donations. Our church is always very generous in whatever event we have to support! Our garage sale operates on the principle of give the other person the best end of the deal. In a strange roundabout way life will then always give you the best end of the deal.

What made the sale a success was the help of Walt and Melanie who drove the sale preparation and made sure everything was ready for the Saturday event. Without their contributions we would not have made it, they are the heroes.

On the day of sale we had an excellent sales team in place that provided exceptional customer service, and sold most of what had been donated. The proceeds from this year's sale were around \$3,000. Our church once again shined in doing something that benefited our community. We have many things to be thankful for and it is exciting to know that even greater blessings are coming our way!



**New  
Member  
Information**

We are so blessed to have guests visiting with us each week. I want to invite you to join me for Coffee with the Pastor. We will gather on **Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 11:30 am** in the conference room. We'd love to be your church family! Coffee with the Pastor is designed to help you discover the values and beliefs of this church and the United Methodist denomination in a casual setting. We will share drinks and a light meal together, learn more about the church, and one another. I believe in this church and its ministry. When we find the right church family and make a commitment, we grow in our closeness to God, we learn to love our neighbor, and to walk as a child of God. I pray that you find that place of connection that will draw you closer to God. If you have questions, concerns, or plan to attend, please give me a call, text, or email. Child care will be available if that would be helpful for your family, just let me know.

Love and Peace in Christ, Rev. Mary G. McInnes



**Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the  
month of September, 2016**

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
September 4	\$3,945.00	\$6,500.00	117
September 11	\$3,171.00	\$6,500.00	117
September 18	\$3,700.00	\$6,500.00	112
September 25	\$9,780.00	\$6,500.00	124

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

### Our Church Family

Barb Knuth, Greg West, Shirley Champion, Kay Sommers, Betty Keller, Eleanor Shipley, Charlotte Randolph, David Kaster, Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born  
Grieving for: Joe Beaudette's sister, Joan Hesketh, Jerry Fleming

### Our Friends and Family

John Gibson, Ann Dededian, Nick & Jessica Clarke, Mary Ries, June Dion's daughter, Lisa; Bill Stocker, Ernie Byrd, Colin Roose, Robert Robbins, 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



57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

[www.mountclemensumc.org](http://www.mountclemensumc.org)

Email: [office@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:office@mountclemensumc.org)

Church Phone: 586.468.6464

Pastor, Reverend Mary G. McInnes

Email: [revmary@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:revmary@mountclemensumc.org)