

The Clarion

November 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 Friends in Christ,

November is one of those months that we cannot help pausing at some point to reflect and give thanks to God for our blessings. Our Holy Bible is filled with words about giving thanks. Here are a few that I lift up to you today:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 and Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:2-3

What would our Spiritual journey look like this month if we chose to thank God every day for something? Maybe you will make a list each day and pray to God with thanksgiving. Maybe you will post something each day on Facebook that you are thankful for, or maybe you take a picture and put it on Instagram. How it happens is not as important as the action of actually doing it. I encourage us all to take the time to give thanks, not just for one day in November, but for all 30 days! Get out of your comfort zone, be accountable somehow, speak about the things you are thankful for, and live like you are in a thankful state of mind.

I found this prayer I would like to share with you. I am going to use it throughout November to help me focus on thankfulness. I am also going to be digging even deeper into Scripture. I am giving you 3 scriptures, but you might want to open up those Bibles and read some more about thanks and thanksgiving, those two words are used **175** times in our Bible. So look to God's Word for more direction on when and how to give thanks.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all our blessings, source of all life, giver of unending grace: Thank you for this gift of life, for the very breath that sustains life, for the food of this earth that nurtures life, for the love of family and friends without which there would be no life. We thank you for setting us in communities: for families who nurture our becoming, for friends who love us by choice, for companions at work who share our burdens and daily tasks, for strangers who welcome us into their midst, for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding, for children who lighten our moments with delight, for church family that spiritually support us. We thank you for this day: for life and one more day to love, for opportunity and one more day to work for justice and peace, for neighbors and one more person to love and by whom be loved, for your grace and one more experience of your presence. For your promise: to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation. For these, and all blessings, we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 1 Corinthians 1:4-5

Love and Peace in Christ, Rev. Mary



An Advent/Christmas Series based on *Dicken's, A Christmas Carol* and Matt Rawle's book, *The Redemption of Scrooge*.

Join us throughout Advent, starting on **November 27th**, as we will proclaim that living in God's economy of grace and justice is the antitheses of the life-threatening addiction to money, success, exclusion and looking out for ourselves that seems to characterize so much rhetoric these days. Just as God's presence was born anew into this world, we too can be born anew, woken up and redeemed into renewed life, joy, passion, generosity, humility and love. Pull out your favorite movie versions of *A Christmas Carol* and watch them. Come listen, reflect, and be born anew as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. Experience special music, dramas, and redemption.



All hands are needed to help transform the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas! Please stay after church on **November 20th**. Bring a dish to pass to share in a meal. Please contact Kim Evans with any questions.



**ORDER YOUR
Poinsettias**

It's Poinsettia Time! We are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to dedicate in honor and/or in memory of loved ones, while lending beauty to our Sanctuary and holiday worship. Pick up a form at the office and fill it out or we will have the forms available at all three of the Sanctuary's main floor entrances. Each plant will cost **\$10.00** (6 inch pots). They will be presented to the glory of God in our Sanctuary Sunday, December 18th. Please feel free to take your poinsettias home following our Worship Service on Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24th. Completed orders forms may be placed in the collection plates or dropped off at the church office. **We must have all orders in by Monday November 21st.**



Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

By all accounts, Hurricane Matthew is the greatest humanitarian crisis experienced by Haiti since the 2010 earthquake. An estimated 350,000 people are homeless and there are confirmed reports of 900 dead with thousands injured. This tragedy is expected to unfold for months as Cholera spreads and the total loss of the planting season leads to wide-spread food shortages.

The Michigan Area Haiti Task Force is actively working with the United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) and local mission partners in Haiti to offer assistance to our sisters and brothers there. The Haitian people will need our long-term support to recover from this deadly storm. As we remember the miraculous gift of the birth of our Savior, let us share a message of support, hope and love for the people of Haiti through our gifts. Let us bring God's light to those living in darkness.

Yours in Christ, Bishop David Alan Bard



Youth

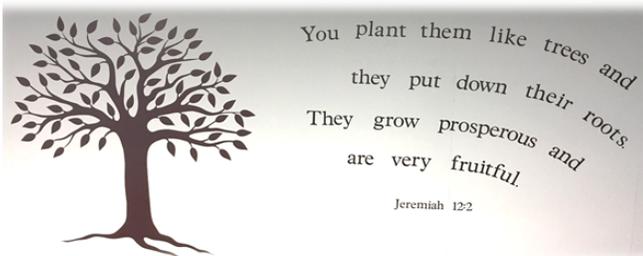
Youth and Families,

A special **thank you** to those that helped with the church clean-up, for Bethany and Aaron Gimm's leadership and all your efforts to make and serve the final Community Meal of the year, and to the Berg family for hosting a fabulous Halloween Party. It was so much fun! We have already had a busy Fall.

Youth Group will gather on **November 6** in the youth lounge. Please bring a favorite photo of yourself (any age). I am still looking for a family to host lunch for us. Pick up is at **1:00 pm**.

On **November 20** we will join the church for the potluck and hanging of the greens. Please come and help your church family transform our sanctuary for the holiday season. They love it when they see you all.

See you Sunday, Rev. Mary



FUMC Cereal Drive

Our church will be conducting a cereal drive on two Sunday's in November. Please purchase a box or two of cereal on a trip to the grocery store and then bring it to church on **November 13th or November 20th**. The cereal we collect will then be donated to Father Bob's Food Pantry in Mount Clemens. It will be amazing to see the amount of cereal that we collect and the generosity that is displayed in our giving!

Thomas Curtis Clark summed it up beautifully when he wrote, "I sought His love in sun and stars, and where the wild seas roll, And found it not. But when I gave to one in need, I found the Lord of Love indeed."

Here are two stories that remind us of the value of helping others unconditionally, and going forth with our very best attitude to provide excellent service every day!

*One day, **Mehdi Fakharzadeh, Metropolitan Life's top agent**, went to see a policyholder who suffered from heart disease and was filing a claim. There was no prospect of selling him more insurance. Most agents (striving for their goals) would have just handed the man a form and left. Not Mehdi, who had "surrendered to the process" of helping people. Mehdi filled out the form for him. When he found out the man also had policies with other insurers, he got forms from them, filled them out, and made sure the refunds came through. The man pressed payment on Mehdi, which Mehdi politely declined. But a few days later, Mehdi received in the mail a list of 21 of the man's friends and relatives: names, dates of birth, number of children - with a personal introduction to each. To those persons Mehdi sold millions of dollars of insurance.*

CHEVY'S TOP SALESMAN, Joe Girard

*Years of service: 1963-77
Where: Merollis Chevrolet in suburban Detroit
Sold: 13,001 Chevrolets, over 15 years. Joe was asked at the Auto Show if he had a special deal with GM where they allowed him to sell cars for less which lead to his record breaking sales, Joe replied, "They may not have always gotten the best deal from me, but they always got the best Joe Girard!" "What made Joe Girard was service, service, service — "I never sold a car in my life," Girard said. "I sold a Girard."*

Wesleyans Activities

The November Meeting for the Wesleyans will be to plan our 2017 activities. We will meet at noon on **Saturday, November 19**, for a sack lunch. Bring your ideas!!

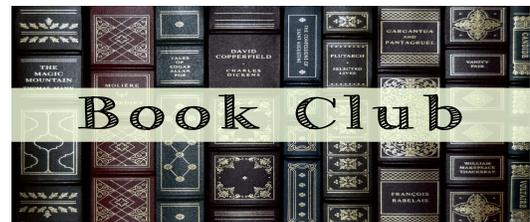


Looking for a unique gift? Check out the Quilter's Corner in the Multi-Purpose Room. One of a kind couch quilts are for sale every Sunday during the month of **November**.

Help the Quilters support Turning Point with handmade quilts for battered women & children.



Women With Faith will meet **November 3rd** in the Multi-Purpose room at **1:00 P.M.** for a hymn sing. We will be learning about the composers and what inspired them to write the lyrics to our favorite hymns and Christmas carols. Please join us - all are welcome!



On **Tuesday, November 8th, at 10:00 am** in the Library, the book club will discuss *Beautiful Ruins*, by *Jess Walter*.



Congratulations!!
3rd Grade Bible Recipients

Shelby Brecker
Jake Lucido
Camden Parker



It's Almost Here!!
Pasty Bake

All are welcome to come and help! 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

Joys to Share



November Birthdays

Barbara Clay	11/01
Chloe Gawthrop	11/01
Evan Maertens	11/01
Judy Spalla	11/02
Philip Arketa	11/03
Shari Capozzoli	11/06
Alexandria Ocelnik	11/06
Nicole Calvert	11/07
Sara Colah	11/07
JJ Eldridge	11/08
Gayle Gregorczyk	11/08
Cynthia Donahue	11/11
Robert Kruse	11/11
Rev. Mary McInnes	11/11
Michael Zdravkovski	11/11
Darrell Miller	11/12
Caiden Parker	11/12
Dean Benson	11/13
Doris Breitzkreuz	11/13
Avery Calvert	11/14
Kenneth Sanborn	11/14
Joyce Wells	11/14
Brook Copeland	11/15
John Ocelnik	11/15
Darcie West	11/15
Lindsey Wolf	11/15
Jenny Ellis	11/16
Melanie Sugierski	11/17
Manda Moore	11/18
Jordan Olszewski	11/18
Stephanie Lovalvo	11/20
Jessica Lefurgey	11/21
Wendy Jones	11/22
Joseph Hiestand	11/22
Nancy Hathaway	11/25



November Birthdays Cont.

Gabriella Broesamle	11/26
Donovan Dix	11/26
Amy Grollimund	11/26
Vivian Powell	11/26
Austin Fletcher	11/27
Dana Keller	11/27
Todd Bean	11/29
Ken Fowler	11/30



November Anniversaries

Jessica & Matthew Rouleau	11/02
Rev. Emerson & Ellen Arntz	11/03
Keith & Mary Philo	11/04
Dan & Karen Zdravkovski	11/04
Jeff & Tracy Beebe	11/06
Robert & Agatha Pingley	11/07
Nicholas & Jessica Lefurgey	11/08
Keith & Susan Rosso	11/08
Jim & Linda Willneff	11/26



Thank you FUMC Family,
Your many cards, condolences
and kind words for our grandson
Philip Gadie. Your kindness made
through our difficult time. We
thank each of you from the
bottom of our heart.
God is good all the time,
Phil & Toshi Arketa

Dear FUMC Family,
Thank you for the many Birthday
and Get Well cards. To the Quilters
for the beautiful quilt. To the many
that attended my 90th Birthday
Party. And last but not least, the
love and prayers from each of you.
With Appreciation,
Shirley Champion

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the East Macomb
County CROP Hunger Walk, it's my
privilege to share with you the
enclosed check for \$877.95.
This contribution to your work
represents the commitment and
compassion of CROP Hunger Walk
volunteers, walkers, and donors, and
is presented in recognition of the
outstanding work you're doing to
help stop hunger and poverty in your
community.

Thank you and God Bless you for all
you are doing in your community to
help those in need.

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO, CWS Global

United Methodist Union 97th Annual Dinner

All of the Trustees, Rev. Mary and Spouses were invited to the annual dinner on October 27, 2016 by the Methodist Union. It's really open to anyone who would like to come. Our mortgage is through the Union and Rev. Mary is a Trustee and currently on the Congregational Growth and Development Committee. The Union "is a metropolitan mission organization established to promote the work of the United Methodist Church, primarily in the Detroit Renaissance District." They do this through loans, grants and investments.

The Rev. Benton R. Heisler was the guest speaker this year. "He is the Director of Connectional Ministries for the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church where he has served for 7 1/2 years. Prior to this he served as Lansing District Superintendent and served a variety of congregations and committees across Michigan."

He talked about the importance of Churches having a vision and what that vision or message means to the community. It's not about "bake sales and chicken dinners", but how it is improving the lives of those around us." We cannot afford to be preference driven. We must be purpose centered, and that purpose is an outward focus toward the making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It's time to learn how to use new tools. It's time to love, as we work side by side. It's time to lead, as we focus on a clear purpose. It's time to leave a legacy, as we live beyond us for the sake of Christ."

We have that presence of a "visionary leader" in Rev. Mary. As I read our 2016 Goals and Five Year Goals and count the check marks, I'm excited for our Church. How many more will be checked in the coming year and how many new purpose centered goals will we have?

Blessings,
Trustee Chair, Bill Wiza

Trustee Report of Completed Projects:

1. Added handicap area to Sanctuary in front of East Parlor.
2. Completed restoration of Freezer-Refrigerator area in April.
3. Realigned all and replaced several cement caps on retaining wall along west side of Church.
4. Church letters powder coated on Gratiot side. Cross and Flame on east and west sides were painted.
5. Replaced Cross and Flame on Cass Ave. sign.
6. Replaced pump/motor to perimeter heating and cooling system.
7. Bob Jenkins of Ricco Securities provided (4) security cameras, DVR, monitor and installation. This was a donation to the Church and in the future we could add several more cameras. We are looking into having the ability to broadcast and record Church functions in our Sanctuary.
8. Replaced utility store room door in Court Yard and window sills.
9. Removed loose rusty threshold plates on Gratiot steps and re-surfaced Cass Ave. steps and risers too. Re-coated both areas with a " fine textured, abrasion-resistant coating".
10. Reset caps and brick on retaining wall, by steps to Court Yard. Sealed seams and cracks on west sidewalk parallel to retaining wall.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their continued support in making First Church welcoming, caring, and safe. Every year you have continued to support First Church with your time and your money.



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of October, 2016

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
October 2	\$5,813.00	\$6,500.00	142
October 9	\$5,865.00	\$6,500.00	112
October 16	\$2,888.00	\$6,500.00	127
October 23	\$6,293.00	\$6,500.00	144
October 30	\$3,870.00	\$6,500.00	152

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Phil Arketa, Paul McCormick, Stella Galovski, Barb Knuth, Betty Keller, Eleanor Shipley, David Kaster, Melissa Machalak, Charlotte Randolph, Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born
Grieving: The family of Judi Fanning, The family of Larry Kruse

Our Friends and Family

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

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 Sword, Theo Miller, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Sam Van Camp, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information



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 **First United
Methodist Church**
OF MOUNT CLEMENS
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