



The Clarion



December 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

Seasons Greetings Church Family!!

What comes to mind when you think of Advent and Christmas? Maybe it's a tree decorated with ornaments, or oversized socks hanging from the mantle? Maybe you've recently come from Bible study, so you picture a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger? One of the first things that come to my mind when thinking about Christmas is the stories and the music.

This year we are using one of those Christmas stories to walk us through Advent and Christmas. *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens is a timeless story. In it we hear about Scrooge's past, present, and future. Just as a new artist interprets a two-hundred-year-old carol in a new key, *A Christmas Carol* has seen many adaptations through the years. From community theater stage to silent films, from Mickey Mouse to 3-D computer animated motion capture, *A Christmas Carol*, is a tale of redemption that will be with us for a long time to come! It is a story that has embedded itself into our culture and, for many of us, has become a routine fixture in our holiday traditions.

Scripture says that all things were made through Christ (John 1:3), and through Christ all things were reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20). In other words, everything and everyone in our world contains a spark of the divine -everything is sacred, and whether or not we choose to live in that truth depends on our perspective.

Through the birth of Jesus, God put on flesh and walked among us, in our world, in order to re-shape what it means to be a child of God. God assumed culture and transformed it. So now all is sacred, and in everything we are to see and proclaim His glory. I truly believe we are called not to reject the culture we live in, but to re-shape its meaning, to tell God's story in the midst of it. Jesus didn't reject the cross; rather, Jesus accepted it and transformed it from a death instrument into a symbol of life and reconciliation.

As we relive the story of the birth of Christ, we discover the divine all around us, and in turn, the world invites us into a deeper picture of its Creator. Through this lens of God's redemption story, we are invited to look at culture in a new and inviting way. We are invited to dive into the realms of literature, art and entertainment to explore and discover how God is working in and through us and in the world around us to tell His great story of redemption. And if Scrooge can be redeemed, then so can we!

May you and your families find ways to invite God into your holiday plans, to listen to the birth story of Jesus, and to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you each day.

God Bless us Everyone! Rev. Mary

First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens
“KEEPING CHRISTMAS WELL”

God Bless Us Every One
THE REDEMPTION OF
S C R O O G E

The chimes of the clock tower bells in Dicken's classic “A Christmas Carol” provide a wake-up call for Ebenezer Scrooge and turn him from his resentment, fear and isolation. 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.

**10:00 AM CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SERVICES
DECEMBER 4, 11, 18, AND 25TH**

**Community Christmas Santa Event
on December 18th
from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Storytime and pictures with Santa,
decorating cookies, coffee bar for parents,
games, crafts, and a gift for every child!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**

586.468.6464

www.mountclemensumc.org



December Activities

Youth Group

**December 4 Recycling Plans and Mission Projects
11:45 – 1:00 p.m.**

December 16 Christmas Party from 6-9pm

The gift to exchange idea for this year is socks. Bring a wrapped fun pair of socks to exchange. The meal will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a drink, appetizer, or dessert to share. This year's party will be at the Berg's Home at 24669 Regal Place, Harrison Township, 48045.

December 18 Community Santa Party from 2-4pm

All hands are needed to make this a fun event. You are welcome to stay after church, lunch will be provided. We have some decorating and set up that needs to happen before Santa and all the kids arrive. Please wear a Santa Hat. We should be done and cleaned up by about 4:30 pm. Any time that you have available to help would be appreciated. Helpers will also be needed with Santa, games, crafts, and cookie decorating.

Sunday School

December 11 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Crescendo Ringers Practice

December 4 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

December 18 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.



You plant them like trees and
they put down their roots
They grow prosperous and
are very fruitful
Jeremiah 12:2



Christmas, December 25 Is on a Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

If you are worshiping with little ones, or even for yourself, pajamas and favorite gifts from the morning are welcomed. We will celebrate the birth of the Christ child through Scripture and music. This is a rare opportunity for us to actually gather on Jesus' birthday. So in the midst of your crazy Christmas morning, I invite you and your family to pause, come as you are, and worship with us at First United Methodist Church.



Macomb County Warming Center 2017

We will once again host the Warming Center here starting Sunday, January 1st through Sunday, January 8th. It is an opportunity to live the scripture which teaches us to feed and give shelter to those in need. We will be opening up our church doors each night to 75-90 men and women and providing a meal and a warm and safe place to spend the cold night. It is our opportunity to start the year by signing up for one of the many volunteer positions. We also welcome any donations of socks, underwear or warm clothing. Please see Dan McLatcher or Sandy Paul if you can help. Thank you good and faithful church!



Holy Land Classic Tour

November 7-16, 2017

I would like you to join me on a faith tour of the Holy Land. I have never been to Israel and walked in places that Jesus might have been when he walked on this Earth. This has been a dream of mine for a while. I read scripture every day, I study it, sing about it, apply it to my life, I preach about it every week, and I completely believe in it....but imagine how much more it could come to life if I went to those places that were written about so long ago. So, as I have thought about this trip over the years, I realized that I did not want to go just as a vacation on my own. I wanted it to be a faith tour, and I wanted people of faith to go with me and share in this experience. I am inviting you, pray about it, think about it, and invite your favorite travel companion to consider going too. I have registered for a Holy Land Tour in November of 2017 with EO – Educational Opportunities Tours. This trip includes:

- *10 Days / 7 Nights Fully Escorted Christian Group Tour of Israel*
- *Christian Travel Tour Package*
- *5 Star Deluxe or 4 Star First Class Hotel Accommodations*
- *Plus 1 Night Stay in Dead Sea Resort area*
- *Breakfast Buffet and Dinner Daily*
- *Professional English speaking Tour Guide*
- *Tour Guide Certified by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism*

I will be having an information meeting on **January 22nd at 11:30 am** to answer any questions and see if the time is right for you to walk this pilgrimage of the Holy Land that we read so much about in our Bible. Let me know if you have any questions.
Rev. Mary – revmary@mountclemensumc.org

Community Santa Event

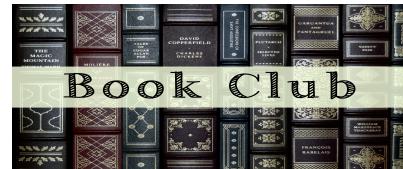
December 18th at First United Methodist Church

**57 S.B. Gratiot, Mount Clemens
from 2-4 p.m.**

**Storytime and pictures with Santa,
decorating cookies,
coffee bar for the parents,
games, crafts, and a gift for every child!**



Women With Faith will meet at the Crocker House - 15 Union St. **December 1st at 1:00 P.M.** The admission fee is \$4.00. Please let Jocelyn Prevost know if you plan to attend. They would like an approximate number. All women are welcome to join us to experience a old fashion Christmas!



Book club will meet in the library at **10:00 am** on **December 13th**. We are reading ***Little Mercies***, by **Heather Gudenau**.

Greetings to all my FUMC family and friends. Don't forget the **Scrip Card program** is still alive and well. You don't really have to have a holiday reason to use or give Scrip cards. Remember 3-15% of the purchase price of the cards will go directly into the church's general fund. It's a win-win! Christmas is right around the corner! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you so much and have a safe and happy holiday season! Damon McInnes

Joys to Share



December Birthdays

Melissa Richardson	12/01
Herbert Brush III	12/02
Robert Keller	12/02
Scott Reece	12/04
Aiden Viggiano	12/04
Jonathan Andersen	12/05
Jennifer Pointer	12/05
Nancy Burns	12/06
Aaron Gimm	12/06
Jason Miller	12/06
Dan Burns	12/07
Ann Herdman	12/07
Meah Higbee	12/07
Zachary Kinic	12/07
Christopher Miller	12/07
Crosby Lynch	12/10
Camille Moore	12/10
Tina Tinkham	12/10
Nicole Evans	12/11
Thomas Hill	12/11
Thomas Northrop	12/11
Justine Olszewski	12/12
Constance Hall	12/13
Emily Beebe	12/14
Barbara Dodd	12/14
Jazmin Schutt-Pointer	12/14
Cristy Wilcutt	12/14
Tyler Plets	12/15
Lorri Petty	12/16
Monica Benson	12/17
Emma Blooming	12/17
Nancy Donahue	12/18
Larry Alger	12/19
Carol Ballard	12/19
Linda Pillow	12/19



December Birthdays Cont.

Bob Hill	12/20
Crystal Johnson	12/20
Mary Philo	12/20
Brian West	12/24
Janet Hudock	12/26
Junia Querio	12/26
Malina Haxer	12/28
Sydney Ocelnik	12/28
Murray Shelson	12/29
Frank Alessandrini	12/30
Sandra Paul	12/31



December Anniversaries

Rolland & Gayle Bumler	12/21
Wesley & Loretta Ballard	12/26
Philip & Toshiko Arketa	12/29
Fred & Shanda Golda	12/29
Steven & Claudia Waid	12/29
Thomas & Lois Hill	12/31
Paul McCormick &	
Bonnie Robbins-McCormick	12/31



Dear FUMC,

We would like to express our thanks for your generous donation to Father Bob's Food Shelf of over 200 boxes of cereal.

Sincerely,
Gay Gillespie
Food Pantry Coordinator

Dear friends,

Thank you for your love and support during this difficult time.

The Fleming Family

To my church family,

All of the love and support you have given me has helped me through the past many months more than I can put into words. Jack Prescott used to say "what would we do without our church friends?" How true it is! Thank you dear friends, thank you.

Jan Hudock
XOXO

Many Thank You's from our college students and those in the service for their We Care Packages!!

**A Holiday Note from
First United Methodist Church
of Mount Clemens'
Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

Dear Church Friends,

Thanksgiving has come and gone, as has “Black Friday.” This means we are officially in the Christmas season. It is in this spirit, we the members of the church Staff-Parish Relations Committee invite each of you to show your appreciation to our church staff for all that they do.

For those of you who would like to express your appreciation to the staff during this Christmas season, please place your contribution in a sealed envelope and bring it or send it to the Church Office by Wednesday, **December 14th**. Please mark your mailed or dropped envelopes “Staff Parish Committee ~ Staff Gifts.” You may also use a pew envelope to place your gifts in the offering plate on Sundays. Your gift will not appear on your giving statement and is not tax deductible. If you are giving with a check, please make the check out to First UMC and indicate on the memo line that it is meant for the Staff Gift.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will divide your gifts among the following staff members:
Pastor Rev. Mary McInnes, Wendy Jones, Kim Evans, Tony Lucido, Bonnie Robbins-McCormick and Matthew Durham. Your Christmas gifts will be presented to them during the worship service on **Sunday, December 18th**.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee thanks you in advance for expressing your appreciation to our staff at the Christmas season through your gift. We are truly blessed to have such faithful folks working with us at Mount Clemens First UMC.

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

Thank you,
Linda J. McLatcher
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

**Welcome
New Members!!**

So wonderful to take into membership 5 new people over the past couple of months! God continues to grow our church. God continues to move among us. Let us all welcome these people by name, invite them to our small groups, ministries, and service projects. Together we are the CHURCH!

Samuel Silien

Thomas Beagan

Judy Spalla

Tim & Celeste Duggan

Welcoming and Care Team Request

We have a couple who will need transportation to church beginning with the cold weather. They live in the vicinity of the Gibraltar Trade Center. If you could provide transportation for them, please contact Judy Buchanan. Even 1 or 2 Sundays a month would help. Thank you.



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

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
November 6	\$8,469.00	\$6,500.00	172
November 13	\$4,218.00	\$6,500.00	138
November 20	\$13,857.00	\$6,500.00	141
November 27	\$4,151.00	\$6,500.00	129

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Phil Arketa, Paul McCormick, Terri Brown, Joyce Wells, Tina & Linda Tinkham, Charlotte Randolph, Shirley Champion, Stella Galovski, Eleanor Shipley, Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born
Grieving: The family of Joyce Yacks, Kristy Trombley's mom, Carol, Mike Brocker's grandfather, Leon Steenbergh

Our Friends and Family

John Gibson, Keith Murphy, Geri Williams, Bev Morrison, Hanna Loudemilk, James Brown Sr.
Al Gittner, June Dion's daughter, Lisa

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 Shelton, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

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

Community Santa Event

December 18th at First United Methodist Church
57 S.B. Gratiot, Mount Clemens
from 2-4 p.m.

Storytime and pictures with Santa,
decorating cookies,
coffee bar for the parents,
games, crafts, and a gift for every child!



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Pastor, Reverend Mary G. McInnes
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