

# The Clarion

January 2017

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 Church Family,

I pray that you have had a wonderful Christmas and that this New Year is started well. I can not fully explain how full my heart is during this last week of 2016. This year has been a wonderful year at FUMC. We started the year off strong with a Visioning Session and we have been steadily marking things off our list! Including our *Ministry in the Making* campaign- we will pay off our debt in 5 years! We are increasing our worship attendance. Although it is with a volunteer, we will be adding to our staff in 2017. We developed a Children's Worship. Our youth went on a Missions Trip. There have been several new local adult mission projects. Through it all -we shared God's love with open doors, open hearts, and open minds.

But the end of this year has taken my breath away.

In 20 years of ministry, this was my favorite Advent and Christmas season. Our theme: *The Redemption of Scrooge* created opportunities for beautiful worship. The music was outstanding! So many of you put extra work into worship to produce meaningful worship services, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I have even received several notes from people that have had "God moments" telling me that as they heard the bells ringing, their lives have been transforming! We participated in baptisms and took in new members! We sponsored 2 families and helped make their Christmas's a little brighter. We sent out postcards to our neighbors inviting them to worship and our Community Santa Event. Each week we have had many visitors, I pray that they felt God's love and grace in a special way and will be back.

I loved our Community Santa Event. New people coming together to create a new ministry. So many people doing great work. It was precious to watch kids be so excited to see Santa and to listen to the story of the birth of Christ!! Busy month, but a month filled with opportunities to share God's love and help people believe that there is hope and redemption is possible. I pray that we will continue to be bold in our ministries in 2017. May God continue to guide us in all that we do.

*We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. 1 Thessalonians 1:3*

I give thanks for all of you and your increasing faith.

Love and peace in Christ,  
Rev. Mary





### New Sermon Series begins January 15

**Jesus In the Movies:** Each week you will be invited to watch a movie. That next Sunday the sermon will be based on where we find Jesus in the characters and themes of the movie. Join us as we discover ways to open our eyes and our hearts to see God in the everyday.



This is the new ministry that we added to our Children's Ministry this past fall. Preschool – 3rd graders are invited to go with volunteers after Young Children's Moments. They spend time doing worship –kid style- and learning about why we worship and the different parts of worship. One Sunday, they focused on giving thanks to God. Here are their love notes that they put in the offering plate to God...

*Dear God, thank you for our planet, the sun, bees, books, water, food, animals, and my home.*  
Annica

*Dear God, I am thankful for food, shelter, friends and family, air, frogs, bees and clocks and all of that other stuff! Love, Sean Brown*

*Dear God, I am thankful for my family that you gave me. Sincerely, Desiree*

*Dear God, I am thankful for my school.*

*Dear God, I am thankful for my friends.*  
Sincerely, Desi

*Dear God, thank you for the life you've given us and what you've given us.*

Thank you to Meribeth and AJ Brocker, Junia Querio, Candy Job, Mandy Moore, Kim and Jessica Evans, Emily and Warren Minarik and Jennifer and Fred Miller for stepping forward to help with this important ministry. We are still in need of adding a few more people to the team. Please contact Rev. Mary asap.

### Addition to our Staff - Rev. Alicea Williams

She has been appointed to our FUMC as a Missional Deacon by Bishop David Bard. Rev. Alicea will work half time focusing on Children's and Youth Ministries. While this is a volunteer position, it is our hope that we can "officially" add her to our payroll.



We are thankful for the gifts and graces that she will bring to our Church. She will begin her ministry with us officially on **January 8th.**

- Please plan on being at church on **January 8**, Rev. Alicea will be preaching and we will be hosting a reception in her honor.
- On **January 11 at 7:00 pm**, all parents of infants through 5th graders are invited to come to the church for a meet and greet with Rev. Alicea. This will be a great time for you to get to know her, she will also be asking questions so that she can help us develop the next phase of our Children's ministry. She is looking forward to meeting you all. Childcare will be available.
- On **January 15** the youth will have a chance to meet Rev. Alicea at **11:30** during youth group, but all parents are invited to come at **12:30 pm** for a time of conversation and dreaming about our youth ministry.

Rev. Alicea was born and grew up in Alabama. She and her husband, Chris, met in Alabama and moved to Grand Blanc, MI in 1990 after they were married. Searching for a church home, led them to Court Street in Flint where they quickly became involved in the music ministry as both enjoy singing and playing handbells. Rev. Alicea is also a harpist and graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Music Education. In 1993, Rev. Alicea began working with the youth at Court Street UMC and found her passion. She answered a call to ordained ministry and entered Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2003, graduated in 2007 with a MA in Christian Education, and was ordained as a Deacon in Full Connection at Annual Conference in 2010. In October 2007, Rev. Alicea began working as a Provisional Deacon at Port Huron First United Methodist Church as the Youth Minister. Chris' job took the family to Germany in November 2010 and they have just repatriated back to the United States as of this past June. Rev. Alicea and Chris have one son, Jacob (Jake), who is a sophomore at Michigan State University. They live in Macomb with their 5 year old Bichon Frise. Sparky.

## Youth 6th -12th & Children's Ministry Updates



### Recycling

Did you know our youth have a passion for recycling? We are starting with worship bulletins. There are boxes outside each door for paper items that you are not taking home. Thank you to Sara Colah for helping us make this happen.

Peace, Rev. Mary



Lunch is needed for **January 15th**

### January 15

**11:30 - 1:00 pm** We will be talking about our legacy at this church and meeting with Rev. Alicea.

**January 27** Youth Dinner and Talent Show – we will gather after school to start cooking and preparing!



Children's Ministry is in Transformation Stages

I am marveled by the way that as some doors are closing, other doors are opening widely in surprising ways. On December 14, JAM, our preschool- 5th grade children midweek program, had its final gathering. A midweek program is hard to maintain with the reality of families' schedules and volunteer availability. But if you were here in December, you heard our extraordinary news of an early Christmas gift. On **January 8**, Rev. Alicea Williams will be joining our staff as a volunteer. It is our hope to move her into a paid position in the future, but for now she will be volunteering 25 hours a week to help our ministries, assist your pastor in worship and in her specialty of Christian Education. What a gift from God at a perfect time. She is a fully Ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She will be assisting us as we figure out what is next for your Children's Ministries. We celebrate the Children's Worship Time and how well that is going for us. But, until we figure out what is next, Rev. Alicea and I will be creating some special children's events.

- **On January 22** we will be hosting a children's program after church, **11:30 – 1:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided for the children. We are going to play with water as we talk about the importance of Baptism and talk about just how much God loves them. So all preschool- 5th grader families need to mark their calendars now for this fun event. You can go out to lunch and relax before coming back to pick up your little ones at **1:00 pm**.

I am thankful for how I see the hand of God working at FUMC. We are just in transition to what is next for our Children's ministry. It will be different, but if God is in the design then it will be ok, it will be good, and we will continue the important work for creating meaningful Christian Education opportunities for our children, youth and adults.

Love and peace in Christ, Rev. Mary Mcinnes

## Fellowship Updates

### *Leap of Faith: In Body, Mind, and Spirit*



January is that time of year where we observe our lives and try to make changes for the 'better'. One of the top things people try to commit to is a healthier lifestyle. It is hard to change old habits. REALLY HARD. But, I have discovered that it helps to have a tribe to support you on the journey. On **January 11, 2017** I will be starting a new Leap of Faith class. We will be gathering in my office to start our conversation then go for a walk somewhere in the building. If you know it is time to continue your health journey and a group accountability would help in the process then mark your calendar for **January 11**. I am also open to a day class if there is interest.

There are a few things I have learned along the way and the 7 fundamental keys that our time will be focused on:

1. God is with me always.
2. There is no magic pill, diet, or surgery – no matter which path you take, it all takes hard work. Good nutrition takes effort.
3. I must move my body intentionally 30 minutes a day.
4. I need to have a healthy plan for my career and finances too.
5. I must surround myself with people that will help me reach my goals.
6. Growing my skills and knowledge is a life time journey.
7. I am worthy of the time and effort to have a healthy life style.

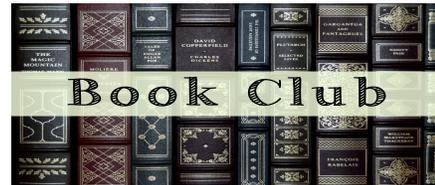
I am going to start an accountability group open to anyone. I dream of a place where people will come, find God, support, and fellowship as they authentically seek health and wholeness for their lives.

Love and peace in Christ,  
Rev. Mary



**Women With Faith** will meet **January 5th at 1:00 P.M.** at the Mt. Clemens Library. In keeping with our January "outside mission", if you wish, we will have a basket for donations made to Macomb County Warming Center. In talking to Kathy Goodrich the statement made in the Macomb Daily about need of paper products is incorrect. Churches supply their own. In her humble way she inferred what is really needed is financial support. State and Federal funds have been cut - they are operating week by week. They pay security people to spend the night which makes it easier for us to host the warming center. If you wish to make out a check make it out to the Macomb County Warming Center. Any little amount will be appreciated!

Also for our program we will have sharing treasures. Bring something or tell about something that has a special meaning to you to share with the group.



Our book for **January 9th** is *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro.



Our Men's Bible Study Group will be starting a **new book on January 16th at 7pm**. See Rick Eldridge for more details.

## Wesleyan Fellowship

The Wesleyans will have a sack lunch and game afternoon on **Saturday January 21 starting at noon**. Do you like board games? – come join us.



January Birthdays

Susan Rosso	01/01
Dawn Brass	01/03
Andrea Kruse	01/03
Faye Brown	01/04
Bobette Dodge	01/04
Glen Gould	01/05
Cynthia Lakes	01/06
Matthew Paul	01/06
Caroline Moore	01/07
Linda Strait	01/07
Lea Alessandrini	01/10
Al Clary	01/10
Lindsay Job	01/10
Bonnie Bober	01/11
Kathy Viviano	01/11
Elaine Walton	01/14
Toshiko Arketa	01/15
Zachary Petroni	01/15
Claudia Waid	01/15
Terri Kimble	01/16
Judith Alger	01/17
Shirley French	01/17
Rolland Bumler	01/19
Megan McCallister	01/19
Greg Artes	01/20
Jonathan Fogarty	01/23
Lindy Alessandrini	01/24
Sean Brown	01/27
Sallie Miller	01/28
Nancy Lyon	01/30
Barbara Matz	01/30
Audrie Miller	01/30



January Anniversaries

Eric & Karen Broesamle	01/02
Greg & Darcie West	01/08
Fred & Nancy Hathaway	01/17



Dear Church Friends,  
 Paul and I would like to thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, hugs, and gifts that you have sent our way. Being surrounded by God's love and YOUR love has truly comforted us in this difficult time. We ask for your continued prayers and wish you all many blessings in the New Year.  
 With Appreciation,  
 The McCormicks

I would like to thank everyone for the get well cards, meals, prayers and phone calls during my recuperation from hand surgery. I'm surely blessed to be a part of First Church.  
 Blessings,  
 Jeri Wiza



Dear Church Family,  
 Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Staff Gift. Your generosity is so appreciated. But my greatest gift is to continue to be in ministry with each of you. Blessings in this New Year.  
 Rev. Mary

Thank you so very much to Darrell Miller and his committee for decorating my apartment for the Christmas season. It was so nice to see everyone and we really had a good time. They also will come back to take everything down. God bless all of you! Also, thank you for all of the get well cards and calls during my recovery.  
 Love and Blessings,  
 Shirley Champion

Dear Reverend McInnes,  
 I'm sure you'll agree: the true spirit of the holiday season is best expressed by remembering those less fortunate. Please accept this contribution toward your efforts to care for those who benefit from your mission of mercy and support. Merry Christmas!  
 Very truly yours,  
 Eric J. Smith  
 Macomb County Prosecuting Attorney

Dear FUMC family,  
 Thank you very much for your generous Christmas staff gift! I feel so blessed to be a part of this church family.  
 Blessings,  
 Wendy Jones

## Ministry Updates

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism this past month, we welcome this dear one into the Body of Christ:

**Brody Dylan  
Richardson**



With the help of God, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that this young one, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.



**WE CARE** for our college students and service men and women!! Thank you to all who donated goods and money for this project! Look for boxes to go out in February for Valentine's Day. Please call the church office 586-468-6464 with names and addresses for these packages. Grandkids are gladly welcomed. It is to show that our church does **CARE**.



Thank you! Thank you to all who donated Box Tops for **Red Bird Missions in Kentucky!** We counted **806 Box Tops** and mailed them. Totally this year, we collected **1,331**, which means the mission has **\$133.10** for school supplies from FUMC! Please keep bringing Box Tops into the church, as this is an ongoing project. We are so grateful for your response. God Bless.  
Del & Euella Thomas

### *Notes From Down the Hall*

Greetings, I am looking forward to being in ministry with Rev. Mary and the members of First United Methodist! This is an exciting time not only for me but for the congregation as well and I am thrilled to be a part of your future plans. There are several dates to put on your calendars for events in January. On **8 January**, I will be sharing with you in worship and will be at coffee hour with my husband and son to meet and greet as many of you as possible, **11 January** will be a meet and greet with the parents of the children in our children's ministry program and child care will be available on request, **15 January** is a meet and greet beginning with the youth of our congregation with parents joining later, and, finally, **22 January** is our first children and family event for the year. Mark your calendars now.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry with you, the good people of Mount Clemens, and I look forward to a year of joy and blessing as we serve God and share the love of Christ with each other and the community.

Blessings to your families during the New Year and may you know God's peace and love.

*Rev. Alicea L. Williams,  
Deacon*



### Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of December, 2016

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
December 4	\$9,375.00	\$6,500.00	154
December 11	\$5,659.00	\$6,500.00	108
December 18	\$9,341.00	\$6,500.00	186
December 24 & 25	\$13,565.00	\$6,500.00	455

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

### Our Church Family

Dwain Read, Emily and baby Wyatt Minarik, Jeri Wiza, Paul McCormick, Tina & Linda Tinkham, Tom Beagan, Terri Brown, Charlotte Randolph, Shirley Champion, Stella Galovski, Eleanor Shipley, Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born  
Grieving: The family of Philip Arketa

### 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 Shelson, 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



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