

# The Clarion

April 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,

We have been on our Lent journey. That time where we reflect and prepare for Easter. Our Christian tradition was that Lent was the preparation time used to lead up to baptisms during the Easter season. This year we have embraced that tradition and reexamined our lives. Our theme has been Roll Down Justice. Our journey has been based on Amos' words from chapter 5, ***“Let Justice Roll Down like waters, and righteousness like and ever-flowing stream”***.

How has this year's Lent theme come alive in your life? Have you found ways to recognize yourself as a child of God? Have you opened your eyes wide to the evils in this world and been Brave enough to renounce them? Have you been bold enough to dream of what the church could really look like if we live our Jesus call in our lives? Have you discovered ways to choose LOVE? Are you working on ways to be Faithful Disciples? And do you believe that we can be One? These are all questions that rise up from our baptismal vows. They are questions I continue to put in front of myself as I let the Holy Spirit work inside of me. Easter is coming, are we prepared?

I choose to love Jesus enough to walk through the scriptures with Him. I will not go from the Palm Sunday parade and skip to the Joyous Easter morning. I will prepare my heart to walk with Jesus through the week in between. Knowing that I will never deserve the sacrifices made for me, humanity will never deserve the sacrifices made for us, but I am thankful and I will not forget. I will honor the gift given and read through Luke, I will gather around the table with all of you and remember Jesus' last meal, I will gather with my other clergy friends and their congregations on Good Friday at Grace Episcopal and remember and honor Jesus' final breath. His human life set aside for the forgiveness of my sins. I will wake up too early on Sunday morning and in the darkness walk to church like the women walked to Jesus' grave side so long ago, and standing outside we will watch the sunrise over our city and remember that the resurrection happened! For you and for me. I will celebrate with all of you at the 10:00 am service and give thanks for the gift of grace and remember my baptism vows, remember Jesus' commands to love others, and remember that I am not alone in my Christian walk, we do this together. The light of Christ breaks into this world and guides us, warms us, and we remember that we are never alone.

I share this prayer for Easter with you from the Board of Disciples of the UMC.:

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light. Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.

Praying that you too will walk with Jesus, remembering, celebrating, and allowing the light of Christ to transform you.

In Christ name, Rev. Mary McInnes

# Holy Week and Easter Celebration

**Easter Sunday Services**  
**April 16th at 6:30 a.m.**  
**SonRise Service**

A short service of readings, prayers and songs outside, bring a lawn chair, as we journey together to the tomb.



**Easter Sunday**  
**Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Come, walk in the garden and discover the gift, He is Risen!

**Holy Thursday**  
**April 13th at 7:00 p.m.**  
All are welcome to gather around the table.

**Community Good Friday Service**  
**April 14th at Grace Episcopal Church at Noon**

Let us come together with our neighbors in the community and remember the suffering of Jesus and the gift offered to us.

# He Is Risen!!

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

**Calen  
Garyt  
Parker**



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.



## COME TO THE TABLE

Children and Parents are invited to "Come to the Table" an afternoon of exploring the sacrament of Holy Communion. On **Sunday, April 23 at 11:30am** we will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning with a light lunch. Rev. Mary will meet with parents while Rev. Alicea meets with our children.

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## 2017 GOALS

Young Adult Programs

Retreats\*

Mid-week Fun Activities for Kids

Tutoring/Mentoring

Member Follow-Up

Address Community Needs

Outside Community Use

Strategic Welcoming Plan

Music Program Development

Lay Speaker Program

Memorial Garden\*

Blessings in a Box\*

Local Quarterly Mission Projects\*

UMCOR Coordination

Diaper Drive\*

Alternative Revenue Opportunities

Staff Funding ✓

Strengthened Finance Communication

## FIVE YEAR GOALS

Strategic Youth Ministry Plans

Marriage Encounters Weekends

Softball Team

Signage Out Front

Community Outreach and Involvement

Hospitality Training

Christian Mentoring For All Ages

Church-Wide Retreat

Main Entrance/Patio Ramp/Handicap Parking

Alternative Worship Service Developed

International Mission (Youth and Adult)

Clothes Closet

Become a Spotlight Church

Youth Mission/Camp Fund Established

Community Outreach Fund

Transportation Vehicle Options

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



### Pasties Are Back!!

Mark your Calendars...April 25, 26, 27!! There are Sign Up Sheets in the Multi Purpose Room or see Sue Tregembo. The more helpers we get the easier the task. Please sign up if you can possibly make it.



### COMMUNITYMEALS

Community Meals are back! **Each Sunday** between April and October we open our Fellowship Hall to those less fortunate who are seeking a meal and some friendly faces. You can be a part of this ministry. If you have a group who might like to prepare and serve a meal for approximately 50 folks on a **Sunday between 12:30 and 2 P.M.** please see either Sue Rosso or Dan McLatcher for details. Your group can be a club, a study group, a Bible study, a group of neighbors or most anything that can gather 5 or 6 folks with an open heart and open mind. Choose a Sunday, and sign up today in the Multi-Purpose Room. Blessings!

### Wesleyan's

The Wesleyans will be attending a concert by the **Motor City Chorale** at the American Lutheran Church on **April 23rd at 3:00 PM**. Also, the Wesleyans will be attending a performance by the Macomers (a singing and dancing group) on **Sat. May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts**. All are welcome! Nancy Hathaway is taking reservations at this time.

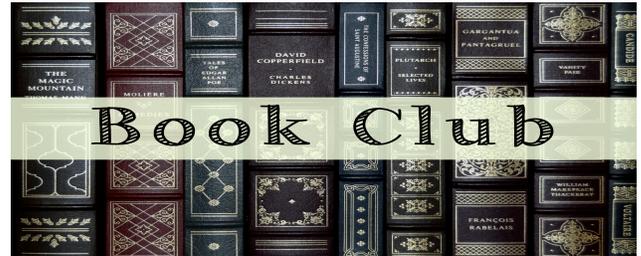


### ELDERCARE

#### Eldercare Luncheon

On **May 8** all our Homebound and active 80 - 90 year olds are invited to a luncheon. There will be great food, Tom Hill will lead us in some singing, and Wendy Jones has a special piece of music she will bless us with after lunch.

Please call Linda K. Johnston to let us know whether to set a place for you. She can answer any questions, and can help coordinate a ride if that would be helpful. If someone from your family is driving you, they are more than welcome to stay and enjoy, just let us know when you RSVP.



On **April 11th at 10am** we will be reading *The Luckiest Girl Alive*, by Jessica Knoll.



Women With Faith will meet **April 6th at 1:00 P.M.** at the Mt. Clemens Library. Darrell Miller and Bill Wiza have agreed to tell us about their "work mission trip" with the youth which they went on last summer. All are welcome to join us and learn more about Henderson Settlement.

## Joys to Share



### April Birthdays

Lloyd Job	04/02
Camden Parker	04/02
Patrick Young	04/02
Emily Minarik	04/04
Kathryn Sommers	04/04
Desiree Grigsby	04/06
Patricia Hill	04/06
Marge Knapp	04/07
Gerald Pagett	04/10
Robert Prevost	04/10
Christopher French	04/11
Mike Mowatt	04/11
Shawn Maertens	04/12
Sarah Steinman	04/12
Madelyn Benson	04/13
Alyssa Semrau	04/13
Patrick Butterworth	04/15
Susan Galatioto	04/15
Jason Parker	04/16
Eleanor Shipley	04/16
Ray Buchanan	04/17
Willliam Kimble	04/17
Olivia Miller	04/17
David Knapp	04/18
Christopher Trombley	04/19
Everest Lefurgey	04/21
Greg West	04/21
Terra Lafreniere	04/22
Jackie Sage-Phillips	04/23
Myrna Born	04/24
Mike Evans	04/24
Richard Paul	04/24
Marsha Lynch	04/25
Gary Palmer	04/25
Delwyn Thomas	04/26
Derald Van Camp	04/29
Bill Wiza	04/29
Michael Evans	04/30



### April Anniversaries

Mike & Kim Evans 04/29



*Thank You*

*Dear F.U.M.C. Quilters,  
Michael would like to say, "Thank You" for the awesome I-Spy Quilt! He loves it! His favorite square is the Mickey Mouse square. He loves to play I-Spy then he lays the quilt out and jumps over it! Your thoughtfulness warms our hearts. Thank you for thinking of us!  
Lots of Love,  
The Zdravkovski's*

*Sometimes our Bread ministry seems ordinary until one puts a date on a box of plastic bags. Out of curiosity on Feb. 9 a 1,000 count box of 10 by 14 inch bags was opened. We put 6 bagels in a bag. On March 9 a new box was opened. In a month's time we had packaged 1,000 bags of bagels. It only took 3 months to do 1,000 loaves of bread. Thanks to our volunteers who pick up the bread 6 nights a week, our wrappers who wrap 3 times a week and to our delivery drivers, our bread ministry is a vital community service. Our thanks go out to the Panera Bread Company for giving us the opportunity to help people in need.  
Junia Querio*



*Donate Life Day is April 12  
"I wondered why someone didn't do something. Then I realized, I am someone." - Unknown  
You have the power to "donate life". Be an organ, eye, and tissue donor. You can register at any Secretary of State office. BUT... Why wait in line? Take action and register **Sunday April 9th and 16th** in the Multipurpose room during Coffee Hour. Junia will be there to answer questions and to register you.*



*Thank You*

*I want to thank all of those who came to the Fish Fries and to Llyod Job, Dean Benson, and Don Clay for all they did.  
See you all next year!  
Sue Tregembo*

*Thank you for allowing us to use your church kitchen to work on our cooking badges!!  
Girl Scout Troop 71544*

*Thank you for your letters and prayers.  
Patsy Weagel*

*SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON THANK YOU! Thank you to all who attended our Spaghetti Luncheon and Bake Auction! We collected \$1,120.10 for our Mission Trip. We appreciate all your prayers and support.*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MINISTRY IN THE MAKING

The goal of the Ministry in the Making Campaign was to pay the mortgage off in five years and become debt free. Our current mortgage payments are \$63,072 annually, which is approximately 18% of our total budget. Our goal was to raise \$320,000 and keep making our monthly mortgage payments, which would permit us to be debt free on our 200th Anniversary in 2021. In our Campaign, we received pledges in excess of \$200,000 and the church was included in at least 11 estate plans. To date, we have paid an extra \$105,000 in principal. This has reduced our monthly interest payments by more than \$500 already, which means that we are paying that amount in additional principal monthly. Since December 31, 2015, we have reduced the principal from \$647,521 to \$494,783. We are optimistic that we will reach our goal of \$320,000 through additional gifts by 2021 and pay the mortgage by then.

### ROOF REPAIR

We need to repair the Multipurpose Room roof. The Finance Committee is committed to not increasing debt for projects like this. As a result, we budgeted \$55,000 over a 2 year period to complete the roof repair in 2018. The good news is that we will be able to do the roof repair in 2017. We allocated \$20,000 from our budget surplus in 2016 to the roof repair. The Trustees were able to contribute another \$20,000 from their funds and the surplus from the freezer fund. Through the efforts of Keith Rosso, Bill Wiza, and Rev. Mary the church was able to obtain a matching grant of \$13,500 from the Blue Water District for the roof repair. As a result, we will be able to complete the project this year, and, just as importantly, we will not need to allocate \$27,500 from the 2018 budget for roof repair.

The Finance Committee is deeply grateful for your support.

Thank you.

The Finance Committee



### Vacation Bible School is coming!!!!

Mark your calendars because VBS is coming and we need volunteers. VBS will be **July 24-27 from 5:30 to 8:00** and **Sunday, July 30** during worship. Sign up sheets are posted in the Multi-Purpose Room, please sign up to serve VBS and our children.



Dear Church Family,

As you know the scrip card program is an ongoing non-profit fundraising program that can be used anytime, year around. We basically can purchase these retail cards at face value and receive and 3-15% rebate that goes directly to the church's general fund. I will be looking for someone that may be interested in taking over this ministry in the coming months. If you're a bit computer savvy, it's very easy to do and takes very little time. Remember, the program is always alive and well all the time. If interested contact me.

Damon McInnes



### Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of March, 2017

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
March 5	\$8,926.00	\$6,500.00	157
March 12	\$4,370.00	\$6,500.00	157
March 19	\$4,647.00	\$6,500.00	148
March 26	\$4,374.00	\$6,500.00	142

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

### Our Church Family

Darrell Miller, Karen Clary, Denette Ballard, Linda Strait, Doris Breitzkreuz, Dwain Read, Charlotte Randolph, Eleanor Shipley, Emerson Arntz

### Grieving

Eleanor & Heather Shipley's grandfather, Ed Shipley

### Our Friends and Family

Jude Thomas, Jonathan Adams, John Gibson, Eloise Johnston, Jennifer Kelly Brocker, Geri Williams, Donald Ballard, Marlene Trost, Kristy Paroveski; Hugh, friend of Darrel and Donna Miller, Lynn Archambault

### 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, 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, Brian Hill

### 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, John T. Tinkham, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Sam Van Camp, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

## Contact Information



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