

The Clarion

July 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 Friends,

I am so privileged and honored to be selected by Bishop Bard and the Michigan area Cabinet to be the Pastor of FUMC in Mount Clemens. I am hoping to be able to get to know everyone here in the next few months. But in the meantime, I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. My full name is Maureen Vickie Baker, I married my beloved husband 44 years ago in Port Huron. We have three children who are all married. My oldest daughter Kristine and her husband Paul Kimmel, live in Marysville and they have six children, 5 boys and one girl, ranging in age from 20- 9 years old. My second daughter Shelley is married to Brian Lukasak, they also live in Marysville, and they have six children as well, three biological children, 1 girl and 2 boys, and 2 adopted children, 1 boy and 1 girl, and a little girl, who we pray will soon be adopted this summer. They range in age from 2 ½ to 14 years old. Our son Jesse and his wife Cindy, have three children, 2 boys and 1 girl, ranging in age from 20-12 years old and live in Smith Creek. We have a great grandson from our grandson, Tyler and his partner Brianna, a little boy named Matthew, who is 8 months old.

As you can see we have a large and active family and we enjoy being together. Bob and I attend a lot of sporting events, family back yard BBQ's and grandchildren's birthday parties... lol...

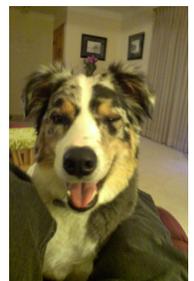
My hobbies are making quilts, reading, traveling and grandchildren. Bob's hobbies are fishing, gardening, traveling, and grandchildren.

Bob retired from New Haven Foundry in 1998 and then opened and operated a janitorial and handyman service for several years. Having to give that up as itineracy in the Methodist system made it difficult to keep in business. Bob still enjoys doing small home repair jobs for many of his older clients.

I am a second career pastor, I went to work when our youngest went into school, and I spent 15 years in various jobs until settling in 1993 as an Environmental Laboratory Supervisor, and eventually an Environmental Scientist for Tetra Tech/McNamee, Porter and Seeley, an environmental design and build, engineering firm out of Ann Arbor, until I was downsized in 2002. I have a BA in Management and Organizational Development from Spring Arbor College, did some work on an MBA before turning my attention to my MDiv which I received in 2007 from the Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio. I have been in active ministry for 15 years, having been Ordained for 10 years.

Mount Clemens is my 4th appointment, I have been actively involved in revitalization of congregations for the last 6 years. I look forward to working together with the leadership of FUMC as we work together to achieve the wonderful vision that God has placed in the hearts of all of you here. I look forward to what God has in store for all of us as we seek together, to go and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Blessed to be your Pastor,
Rev. Maureen



Youth Mission Week

On Sunday, June 18, at 6:00 pm 11 youth and 2 leaders gathered to begin a week of mission work and fun. We began with a short commitment service that included praying for the Holy Spirit to help us assume the correct attitude for our week. During the week we sorted and organized clothes for Second Hand Rose, built the Blessings in a Box container, organized the Warming Center Supply Room, cleaned out the Youth Room, got the Parsonage yard cleaned up, mowed, and weeded, sorted and rolled \$1,729 in coins for Habitat for Humanity, and collected dumped tires to be used for making Mudd Mats for Cass Community Services in Detroit. Along the way we played mini golf, enjoyed fabulous dinners at the church, had a pool party, and ended the week at The Big Ticket Christian Music Festival in Gaylord, MI. Thank you to all the youth for their patience and wonderful attitudes and to all the adults who were with us throughout the week. As you can see from the pictures, it was a fantastic week serving God and having fun!

Rev. Alicea





STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE- is happy to announce that Michael Katopodes will be providing music during the summer months. Michael is currently a student at Wayne State University studying piano/music. His first Sunday playing will be **July 9th**. This assignment will allow Matthew Durham the opportunity to travel home to Washington State to visit family, friends and his dog. Looking forward to welcoming Michael and wishing Matthew a good summer. See you in the fall.

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



Lucas Steven Young



Name Tags:

If you don't have a permanent nametag and would like one, please use the red attendance book to write your name as you would like it on your nametag and indicate if you have a pacemaker. We will order a nametag for you.

In the meantime, use one of the permanent tags with the empty paper space on it and write in your name until your permanent one arrives. These tags are in the drawer of the Welcome Center at the parking lot entrance.



**Small Group Meetings
with Rev. Maureen Baker**

Rev. Maureen is so excited to get to know her new congregation! She has asked if it would be possible to schedule a number of small group meetings in homes or at church in order to get to know us, listen to our hopes and dreams, anxieties and fears as together, we transition into her new ministry. There are sign-up sheets in the multi-purpose room for those wishing to attend a group meeting. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to get acquainted with our new Pastor.

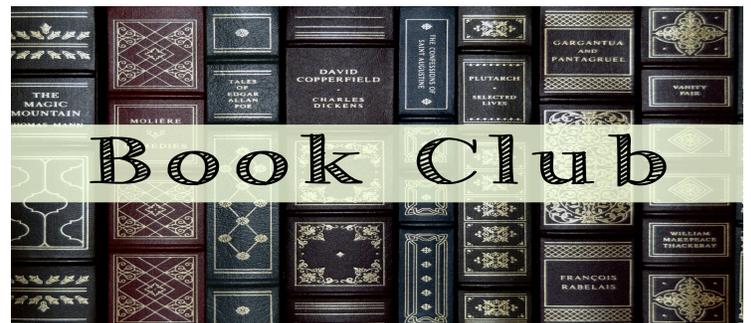
If you are able to host one of these small, informal coffee and dessert meetings, please sign up on the calendar in the multi-purpose room or contact Wendy in the office. Please indicate the location (church or home), the time and number of people you can accommodate.



Do you want to **keep in touch** with the church during the week? There are two ways. First, we have an email list that sends out **announcements and prayer requests**. Secondly, for those without email we have a prayer chain, headed up by Euella Thomas, the people on this list call those who have requested it. If you wish to be placed on either of these lists, please contact the church office Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. 586-468-6464



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!



The book club will read *Dead Wake*, by Erik Larson on **July 11th**.

Father Bob Food Pantry

Our church does not have a Food Bank so we contribute to the Father Bob Food Collection. There are two ways to contribute to this Food Pantry. Money donation at the beginning of the month, we usually send about \$350 each month. Or, non-perishable food items such as can goods, cereal, etc. that are placed in the shelves at the top of the stairs just inside the multi-purpose room.

Joys to Share



July Birthdays

Vito Carollo	07/01
Sydney Olszewski	07/01
Sara Young	07/01
Celeste Duggan	07/03
Madeleine O'Neil	07/03
Kaitlyn French	07/04
Fred Hathaway	07/04
Rick Lyon	07/04
Suzanne Tregembo	07/05
Patsy Weagel	07/05
Ethan Green	07/06
Emma Lucido	07/06
Michael Olszewski Jr	07/06
Steven Paul	07/08
Kyle Plets	07/08
Polly Darling	07/09
James Hunter	07/09
Josh Alger	07/11
Rory Flanigan	07/12
Dennis Lutz	07/12
Ben Wilden	07/12
Irene Cloud	07/13
Tony Lucido	07/14
Jennifer Haxer	07/20
Stephanie Alger	07/21
Bonnie Kaster	07/23
Tim Smith	07/23
JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan	07/24
Patricia Arketa	07/25
Debra Card	07/28
Michael Keller	07/28
Linda Mowatt	07/29
Meribeth Bocker-Querio	07/30
Diane McDougall	07/30
Patricia Yousif	07/30



July Anniversaries

Tom & Sandy Baber	07/02
Jason & Melissa Parker	07/13
James & Jennifer Viggiano	07/24
Aaron & Bethany Gimm	07/31



Thank you for the amazing farewell dinner. I was humbled by all the attention to detail. The food was fabulous, loved the music played, the choir piece made me smile, Alicea's song made me cry, the pink and butterfly details touched me, the quilt was beautiful, the chocolate butterflies were delicious, but the love Offering took our breath away. Thank you for honoring all of us with such an extravagant gift. SPRC you out-did yourselves, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I will miss you dear ones and I leave part of my heart with you. I am so thankful for our time together. I knew I was going to FUMC to help you heal and transform, so proud of you all. You believed that God was still working and you showed up to share your gifts to make your visions and goals come to life. May you continue to believe that God has good things in store for you as a church, may you continue to move outside your comfort zones, and may you continue to welcome all and share God's love with others in extravagant ways.

*Love and Peace In Christ,
Remember always that God loves you and is with you always,*

Rev. Mary, Damon, Eleanor, and Heather



Thank You

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for these last four years of ministry together. I am humbled how God has worked through all of us to bring FUMC to this exciting point in your faith journey. Thank you for allowing me to be your spiritual leader and trusting me with your joyful moments and with those difficult days. You will always have a special place in my heart that makes me smile. Thank you also for embracing and loving my family. You have helped nurture and encourage my girls as they have transformed from girls to young women. You have nurtured and encouraged Damon through bent to straight knees as he discovered how to grow into the role of "a clergy spouse". And we both thank you for loving us through our health transformation.*



Thank You 

Thank you to everyone who has supported me all through my years of school. My church is like my second family and I feel so blessed that you picked me to receive the Wesley Scholarship. It will be put to good use in order to help with my schooling.

Love, Sydney Olszewski

Thank you for giving me the Book Scholarship. I really appreciate the love this church has shown me since I started coming.

From, Kyle Sieben



Thank You 

Dear Quilters,

My quilt is lovely and I thank you all for the love, prayers and concerns you have put into the making of it. I love the color, my favorite is green. The appliqued butterflies are so special. My surgery is scheduled for the first day of summer, all of your prayers will be with me on that day I know. Thank you again and God bless you all.

Sincerely, Kathryn Sommers



Thank You 

Pastor: Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the newsletter and prayers.
Patsy Weagel



Vacation Bible School will be here soon!!!! On Monday **July 24 at 5:30 pm** Hero Central begins. Each night from Monday through Thursday, **July 27** beginning from **5:30-8:00 pm** and on Sunday morning, **July 30 at 10:00 am** our VBS leaders and assistants will teach our children and the children of our community how to be heroes for Christ. There are many Center Assistants and Guides needed. Please sign up on the yellow sign up sheets located on the Library window. Pray for God's Spirit to move among us as we plan for a week of fun as we learn about being God's Heroes! Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend!!

Register your child today at the church office or at www.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcmtclemens



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of June, 2017

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
June 4	\$7,873.00	\$6,500.00	124
June 11	\$5,530.00	\$6,500.00	226
June 18	\$3,294.00	\$6,500.00	91
June 25	\$5,860.00	\$6,500.00	106

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Debbie Tchakerian, Damon McInnes, Toshi Arketa, Kaye Sommers, Karen Clary, Denette Ballard, Doris Breitreuz, Marsha Blakely, Emerson Arntz, Eleanor Shipley

Grieving

The families of: Rodney Ritter, Elaine Van Syckle, Patricia Foy, Shelly Flanigan, Wally Ryan, Wesley Strunk

Our Friends and Family

Richard Clary, Jim Barnes, Geri Williams, Lindsey Wolf, Amber Hagedon, Robert Robbins, John Gibson, Sharon Longstreth, Candy & Dennis Hamilton, Kristy Parowski's family

Our Homebound

Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike 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, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Sam Van Camp, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information

Welcome Rev. Maureen and Bob!!



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