



The Clarion

September 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,

It has been a whirlwind of activities as we settle into our new life together. I want to thank you all for attending the listening sessions. They have been very helpful, not only for Bob and I to learn your names and stories, but for me, as your Pastor, to hear your dreams and aspirations for our church.

I have heard you

- We want young people and children!
- We are eager to do what it takes to get there.
- We don't want to lose the sense of tradition.
- We want to connect with the schools and community.
- We want to be debt free.
- We need new ways to do our work.
- We love the church!
- We love the sense of family the church provides!
- We are aware that the world of church, is changing.
- We need help and don't have the answers.
- We recognize the limitations of our building.
- We are open to hearing about new ways to do ministry.
- We feel called to minister to the homeless.
- We are very proud of our work with the warming center and the bread ministry!
- We are tired and not getting any younger.

There were many ideas and insights that helped me to also see your deep faith and abiding love of Jesus here. These ideas and insights have not fallen on deaf ears, but will help drive and prioritize my ministry now and into the future. As we move forward together, we need to go slowly, always discerning God's plan for this church first, and putting our needs and preferences second. In the meantime, we keep moving forward, into this crazy world together, loving God, loving each other, and together serving the world!

1 John 3:18 "Let us not just love in word and speech, but in truth and action."

Blessings,
Rev. Maureen



Have you wanted to join a Bible Study but didn't know where to find one? Do you have an incoming Third Grader in need of a Bible? Have a Youth interested in being Confirmed? or Maybe you just enjoy the fellowship and good food of an All Church Event? Then we've got just the ticket!! Join us for **Rally Day, Sunday September 17**, to find out what's happening this fall at FUMC and enjoy some good food. Families are asked to bring either a side Dish/Salad or a Dessert. Main Dish and Beverages will be provided. Please sign up in the Multi-Purpose Room to let us know how many are coming so we have enough food for all, then plan to stay after church on **Sunday, September 17**, for lots of fellowship, food, and fun!



Crescendo Ringers

The Crescendo Ringers will begin fall practice on **September 17 at 8:30**. All Youth, grades 6 through 12 are invited to come and learn how to play the handbells and be a part of this fun group.



Our first official Youth Group meeting for the year will be **Sunday, September 17th at 11:30** in the Youth Room. 2017-2018 Youth Group Calendars will be available for you to pick up as well as sign up sheets for parents to help prepare lunch or chaperone trips. An exciting year of Youth Group activities including social events, mission outreach, and fundraisers is being planned. The year will culminate in the week long 2018 Mission Trip.



- September 3** "Sunday Dinner" -Communion
- September 10** "It's All About Baptism"
Blessing of the Backpacks
Youth Sunday School Kick Off @ 8:30!!
- September 17** "Being a Part of Something Bigger"
Rally Day, Third Grade Bibles
New Children's Worship Training Session -after worship
- September 24** "Foot Washing"

Children's WORSHIP

Our new Children's Worship Program: *Godly Play* will begin on **September 17** during the Worship Service. Volunteers are needed to lead this program. Parents and Grandparents as well as other adults who enjoy working with children are invited to volunteer for Children's Worship. There will be a training session after worship on **September 10** in the Children's Worship Center (formerly the Children's Sunday School rooms). Please let Rev. Alicea know you are coming to this training by phone or email by September 8.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome these dear ones into the Body of Christ:

*Anthony Joseph L'Esperance
Jaxon David Haxer
Emma Mae Granke*





Ladies, we've got the JOY! JOY! JOY! JOY! down in our hearts. The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) group will begin on **Monday, September 25 at 10:00 am** in the Multi-Purpose room. We will be discussing the book *Some Folks Feel the Rain and Others Just Get Wet.* Books are \$10 and will be available on Sundays after church beginning September 3 or in the office during the week. If you like to learn, listen, laugh, and lunch, this is the group for you.



1st & 3rd Monday of the month starting on September 18th @ 7pm in the MP room. This year we will be using Rob Fuquay's book "Which Way, Lord?", exploring your life's purpose in the journeys of Paul. If you have any questions, contact Rick Eldridge.

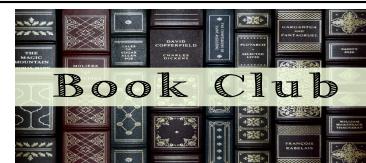


Our newest community outreach/ mission is up and running! Items are being taken by those who need them. We are stocking the box with travel size personal hygiene items. There is a complete list of items on a basket in the mission area of the church, between the buildings. At this time we have a need for hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products , tooth paste and tooth brushes. Feel free to put donations directly in the box or in the basket in the church. Your donations are greatly appreciated.
Sandy Paul



Our church garage sale will be held on Saturday, **September 16, from 9am to 1pm**. Below is a schedule of times when Keith will be available to receive items that people would like to donate for this sale.

Sunday, September 3 after church
 Tuesday, September, 5 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Thursday, September 7 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Saturday, September 9 - 9:00am to noon
 Sunday, September 10 after church
 Monday, September 11 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Tuesday, September 12 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Wednesday, September 13- 6:00 to 8:00pm
 Thursday, September 14 - 6:00 to 8:00pm



The book club will meet on **September 12th**. We will be reading *When Breath Becomes Air*, by Paul Kalanithi.

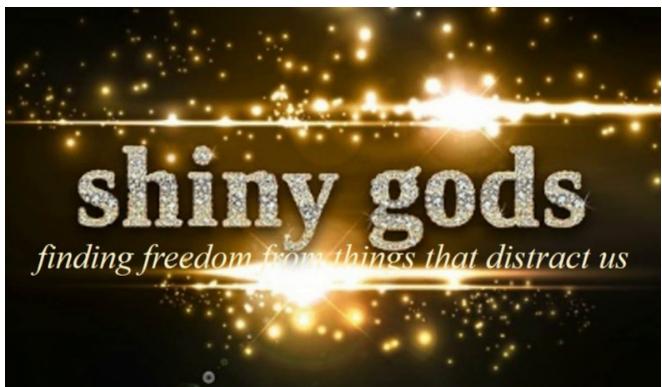


FUMC cares about our college students and those in the services. In October and February we send "goodie packages" to those who have connections to our church, be it children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews etc. Addresses for these folks are needed in the office for the October boxes. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Wells.



Women with Faith

Women With Faith will meet **September 7th** at the church in the multi-purpose room at noon for a pot-luck and fellowship. All women are welcome to attend and if unable to bring a dish to pass please come anyway because there is always plenty of food.



Putting God First in Living and Giving

Do we worship idols? The answer may surprise you.

During the month of October our church will hear about God's generosity and our response as we experience our stewardship program, *first: putting GOD first in living and giving*, developed by author and pastor Mike Slaughter of Ginghamsburg Church.

We are made in God's image and are meant to be creators of life and hope, not the consumers of our culture's shiny gods. We have the ability to change the world and create a legacy that will live forever in the lives of generations to follow. That legacy starts when each of us takes the hard steps of financial discipline and fulfilling the call to generosity that God has placed in all of us.

The goal of this stewardship program is not to make you feel guilty, nor is it to say that you have to be exactly like this or that person. The goal is for all of us to ask questions of ourselves and be open to the possibility that God will lead us in new directions in our lives.

During the four-week program, we'll be challenged in a number of different ways. We'll be asked to look for the idols in our own lives (Hint: Most of them aren't animals made of gold) and name the ways these idols enslave us, holding us back from living in the true freedom that God desires for us.

We'll be challenged to consider the place that money, work, and debt have in our own lives. What are our common understandings of these, and might the witness of Scripture lead us to some different understandings?

We'll be challenged to ask ourselves what it means for us to be faithful, to save, and to give. How do we balance all the competing interests in our lives? What priorities does God want us to have?

Finally, we'll be challenged to give with our hearts, not out of obligation or a sense of duty and not just when we think the recipient deserves our gift. Instead, we'll be challenged to give the way God gives—freely, fully, with no favorites or expectations of repayment.

It is our prayer that, at the end of these four weeks in October, we will have begun to grow into the individuals and the church that God knows we can be. Please join us in *first: putting GOD first in living and giving*.

Blessings,
Rev. Maureen

Joys to Share



August Birthdays

Damon McInnes
Tom Baber
Liam Gawthrop
Michael Brocker
Sheila Strunk
Brandon Gawthrop
Jeremy Pointer
Danielle Reece
Ronan Dumas
Roger Merlo
Rev. Alicea Williams
Jim Willneff
Gayle Bumler
Thomas Artes
Martín Querio
Deborah Evans
Jim Brown
Melissa Parker
Christine Tchakerian
Linda L. Johnston
Sandy Agnello
Samuel Silien
Mark Yousif
Maeson Machalak
Marilyn Nielsen
Denette Ballard
Matt Tinkham
Linda Willneff
Jacques Tchakerian
Daniel Card
Brady Machalak
Heather McCallister
Euella Thomas



September Birthdays

08/03 Katie Milbourn
08/05 Robert Pingley
08/06 Truman Guard
08/08 Colin McCallister
08/11 Rev. Emerson Arntz
08/13 Karen Clary
08/14 Keith Philo
08/14 Dawn Brandt
08/15 Henry Cusic
08/15 Connor Ellis
08/15 Lyle Weldon
08/15 Christopher Williams
08/16 Lillyana Haxer
08/17 Gabrielle Olszewski
08/17 Wesley Lutz
08/18 Deborah Tchakerian
08/19 Timothy Young
08/20 Agatha Pingley
08/20 Carol Cusic
08/21 Jenna Zdravkovski
08/23 Cheryl French
08/23 Ashley Gawthrop
08/24 Michael Bridson
08/26 Mary Jo Greenslade
08/26 Jeri Wiza
08/27 Dan Zdravkovski
08/27 Shirley A. Champion
08/27 Martin Lynch
08/28 Jeff Plets
08/29 Beverly Pressley
08/30 Tami Grigsby
08/30 Annica Brocker
08/30 Hannah Palmer
08/30 Charlotte Randolph
08/30 Ruth Swistock
08/30 Lucas Young



August/Sept. Anniversaries

William & Terri Kimble	08/03
Michael & Sallie Miller	08/06
Lynn & Thomas Artes	08/08
Steven & Kitty Kinic	08/15
Donald & Carol Ballard	08/17
William & Suzan Littlejohn	08/20
Richard & Sandra Paul	08/20
Fred & Jennifer Miller	08/23
Nicholas Lynch & Kelli Pierce	08/29
August & Junia Querio	08/29
Scott & Danielle Reece	09/05
Donald & Barbara Clay	09/06
Michael & Heather	
McCallister	09/08
Rick & JJ Eldridge	09/09
Delwyn & Euella Thomas	09/12
Rick & Nancy Lyon	09/14
Roger & Carolyn Merlo	09/15
Tony & Lisa Lucido	09/18
Frank & Mary Ellen Presley	09/20
Ken & Jo Fowler	09/28
Todd & Tracey Bean	09/30



Thank you notes



Dear church family,

I want to thank each and every one of you for all you have done for me during my surgery and after surgery. I received mountains of get well cards in the mail, many plants and flowers that cheered me up while I was enduring much pain. I truly appreciate all the wonderful and delicious meals brought over that were both heart smart and diabetic. Thank you again for your kindnesses and your love.

Sincerely, Toshiko Arketa

Dear Friends,

It was a joy to have Darrell and Donna visit me for a few days before going to Hopkinsville to view the solar eclipse. FUMC in Mount Clemens has been my home for 53 years and still is. I miss you and want you to know that you are regularly in my heart, thoughts and prayers. It was good to catch up on news that I do not receive from other sources. I give thanks to God for each of you. My wish is that FUMC will be a blessing to you as it has been for me. The card with your brief notes touched my heart and brought back many memories. Thank you for your words of kindness. May God bless each of you according to His plan and may you continue to be faithful to Him.

Lyle Weldon

Dear Rev. Maureen and Bob Baker and all of Mt. Clemens first UMC,
I can't thank you, my church family enough for all the heart felt prayers, cards and words of encouragement. Recover has been slower than I'd like, but finally getting better everyday. I'm no stranger to surgery these last few years and I thank God everyday you were all there to lift me up. Hugs all around and God bless.

Damon McInnes



A Big THANK YOU!

VBS was a rousing success with 21 children registered. There are many people who deserve my thanks and gratitude for all the hard work they did to make this year's VBS a success: Sandy Paul, Greg West, Steve Kinic, Bob Baker, Rev. Maureen Baker, Julie Strayer, Barb Knuth, Linda L. Johnston, Jocelyn Prevost, Candy Job, Linda Straight, Karen Zdrakowski, Victoria Reynolds, Barb Clay, Carol Cusic, Justine Olszewski, Kim Evans, Kathy Vahovick, Sydney Olszewski, Jordan Olszewski, Gabrielle Olszewski, Jessica Evans, Jake Williams, Alex Zdrakowski, and Jenna Zdrakowski. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Your efforts made our VBS!

Rev. Alicea



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of July & August 2017

	Amount Received	Amount Needed	Attendance
July 2	\$7,304.00	\$6,500.00	151
July 9	\$4,530.00	\$6,500.00	124
July 16	\$3,479.00	\$6,500.00	114
July 23	\$4,535.00	\$6,500.00	192
July 30	\$7,459.00	\$6,500.00	143
August 6	\$7,873.00	\$6,500.00	97
August 13	\$4,286.00	\$6,500.00	143
August 20	\$3,196.00	\$6,500.00	106
August 27	\$3,307.50	\$6,500.00	112

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Debbie Tchakerian, Karen Clary, Denette Ballard, Doris Breitkreuz, Marsha Blakely, Rev. Emerson Arntz

Grieving

The families of: Katie Olszewski, Lela Blair, Robert Robbins, Nancy Camp, Wesley Strunk, and Karl Kromer

Our Friends and Family

Karla Brocker, Geri Williams, Candy & Dennis Hamilton, Kristy Parowski

Our Homebound

Rev. Emerson Arntz, 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, Emily Beebe, Melanie Blaszkowski, Leah Clifton, Matthew Durham, Emily Fowler, Joshua Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Megan Kupser, Makayla Landrum, Stephanie Lyskawa, Megan Long, Tighe Maclean, Madeline McInnes Sword, Theo Miller, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry, Martin Quorio, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Sam Van Camp, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information



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