

The Clarion

November 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,

November is upon us, it is a season of falling leaves, crispness in the air and people reminiscing about all the great times they had during the summer. I love this time of year, because I love Thanksgiving! I want to share with you one of the things that is always part of my November.

In November, I put a jar beside my bed, and every night before I go to sleep, I write down those things that I am thankful for and place it in the jar. I call it my **thanks** jar; no creativity there! But, in that jar, will be the names of people, places, gestures, encounters, and moments of grace, that I am thankful for each day. At the end of the month, I relook at my moments of grace that I received throughout the month and I am always more thankful than I was at the beginning.

I am looking forward to my **thanks** jar filling to overflowing with the graces of God this month, as it reminds me to be ever thankful and humble for all God does. So, I challenge you this month to try a "**thanks**" jar, and see for yourself how thanksgiving makes God known in our lives and the lives of others.

I want to take this moment to also say that I am ever so grateful for all of you. I am thankful that I have met some wonderful grace filled people who practice with authenticity, the love of Christ. You have welcomed Bob and I into the church and have welcomed us into your homes, and your life. We are ever so thankful for that and the many kind gestures.

I pray that this month we practice thankfulness in some way.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **Colossians 3:15 | NIV**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4:2 | NIV**

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17 | NIV**

P.S.

I also want to remind you that **Daylight Savings time ends on November 5**, we will turn our clocks back an hour. I sure wouldn't want you to miss church because you forgot.

Blessed to be Your Pastor,
Rev. Maureen

Justice Moment with Rev. Alicea...



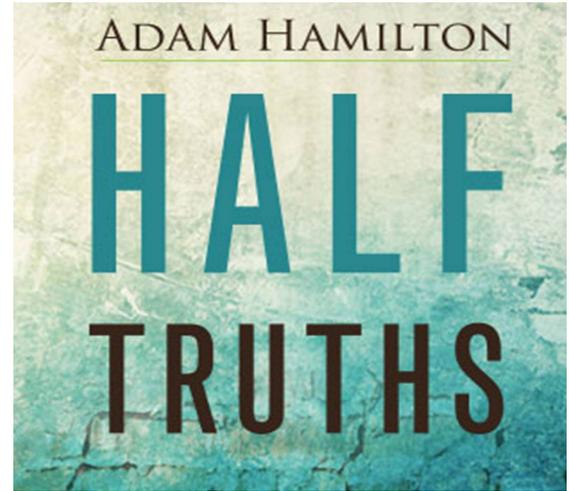
What is the Commission on A Way Forward?

For many years, the most contentious topic in the United Methodist Church, from the local church up to the General Conference, has been the question of ordination of “self-avowed practicing” homosexuals and whether or not the UMC will sanction the marriages of LGBTQ couples. There have been many clergy who have been brought up on charges to the UMC Judicial Committee for officiating weddings for LGBTQ couples. One recent example is the case of a clergy who was defrocked for officiating at his son’s marriage to the son’s partner, now husband. This issue became so contentious at the 2008 General Conference that a Statement of Unity was written, accepted, and published by the General Conference. At the 2016 General Conference in Portland, it became clear to the delegates that as a church we are “stuck” and can’t move forward as a church until a decision around this issue is reached. The point of contention stems from the following statement in the Social Principles contained within The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church:

“The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” ¶161G 2016 *Book of Discipline*

Consequently, clergy are forbidden to officiate at marriages of LGBTQ couples and “self-avowed, practicing” individuals may not seek ordination. Many United Methodists would like to see this policy changed and many would like to see it stay the same; therefore we are “stuck”. During the 2016 General Conference, the delegates implored the Bishops to step in and help out. A Commission on A Way Forward was formed. “The Commission on A Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church” (www.umc.org). The commission is made up of clergy and laity from both sides of the issue and has met several times since their inception. In 2019, a special General Conference has been called to hear the findings of this commission ahead of the 2020 General Conference. In response, Bishop Bard, our Michigan Area Bishop, has been hosting Listening Sessions around our state to hear from us, the clergy and laity of the Michigan Area UMC. There are two sessions remaining this fall: **Monday, November 20 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm at Southfield Hope UMC and Thursday, December 7 from 7:00pm until 9:00pm at the Lansing Area Episcopal Office.** If you would like to attend the November 20 session, carpooling is an option. If you want more information on the Commission on A Way Forward please visit www.umc.org and search for “Commission on A Way Forward”. Please join me in praying for our United Methodist Church, this issue, and those who serve on the Commission as they continue their work to help us move forward.

Peace, Rev. Alicea



Half Truths Study – Rev. Alicea invites you to join her at **6:30pm on Tuesdays, beginning November 7th at her home.** We will dive into Adam Hamilton’s, *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say*. Many of the things we say to comfort or support those in need have very little to no biblical basis and can sometimes be very hurtful theology. Join us as we take a look at 5 of these sayings and see what the Bible has to say about each of them. A sign-up sheet is located on the Library window.



Our Blessing Box is being well utilized! The generous gifts of travel size toiletries provide for a need in the community. Countless items are taken weekly. Please continue with your donations! As winter approaches we will see an increased need for chap stick, tissue packs and hand warmers along with shampoo, lotion etc. Items can be placed directly in the box, or in the basket in the mission center. Thank you for your support of this year round mission project.



Meals on Wheels is in need of Volunteers!

Join the Movement, be a meals on wheels volunteer!! Routes are assigned close to your home or work. Most volunteers deliver twice a month. Meal delivery takes only 60-90 min. It would be about 2-3 hours a month and meals are delivered Monday through Friday at lunchtime. Volunteer today at 586.469.5228 or sign up on their website: AmericaLetsDoLunch.org



Warming Center returns to FUMC!

We will again host the Warming Center for those without shelter or means. The need is even greater this year so we have agreed to take on an extra week. The two weeks are **12-31-17 through 1-6-18 and again on 2-4-18 through 2-10-18.**

There are many opportunities for volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheets in the multi-purpose room or see Sandy Paul or Dan McLatcher for more details. Don't forget to consider donating socks, underwear, hats, scarves, gloves or other winter essentials. Thank you for being a part of this important ministry and for being the great church that we are. We truly do open our hearts, minds and doors!



Rev. Maureen ~Mission to Guatemala!!

"GO" Jesus says, Go, and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the world." So here I go, but I need your help, I am asking for prayer, between **November 8-19, 2017.** I am going into Mission to Guatemala with 15 other missionaries bringing the gospel of love of Jesus Christ, to over 400 Guatemalan children through a Vacation Bible School. It will be a time of travel and fun, but mostly being the **BIBLE** to the children who come.

Every year in November a group of Missionaries go to Guatemala to do a Vacation Bible School and I have made this particular trip twice over the years. I am looking forward to this one especially, as my grandson Draven will be accompanying me. Or should I say, I am going with him! Last year Draven went on a mission trip at the age of 16, with us, and he is in love with mission. So he asked me to go again with him, and so how can you say NO to a grandson, right? Over the days we will be there, we will worship in a mountain church, spend a day one on one with a Guatemalan child, be a part of the leadership of a Vacation Bible School and visit a maternity hospital bringing gifts of baby things to the mothers. So please pray for our team as we venture forth into mission to Guatemala.



WESLEYANS

On **Saturday, November 18th** the Wesleyans will meet **at noon in the MP Room** for a sack lunch and planning session for 2018 activities...not a member, but have ideas for things you would like to do, come join us!! For more info., contact Ken Fowler



**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Sunday, December 10th in the Multi-Purpose Room from 8:00am to 2:00pm**. Volunteers will be needed in several areas. If you can help or have any questions, please contact Jordan Olszewski. If you cannot donate, please spread the word to family and friends.



The book club meets **Tuesday, November 14, at 10:00** in the library. We are reading *A Man Called Ove*, by *Fredrik Backman*.



It's Almost Here!!

Pasty Bake

We'll cut veggies on **November 7 at 6:00 p.m.** and then on **November 8 and 9**, the making and baking will begin. Sign up sheets will be on the Library window soon. Find a spot to help and sign up today! See you soon!!
Sue Tregembo, Pasty Chair



Women with Faith

Women With Faith will meet **November 2nd at 1:00 P.M. at the Mt. Clemens Library**. For those who wish to participate in the *tote bag from plastic shopping bag project* the recommended size crochet hook is 10 1/2 or K and the recommended size knitting needle is 13. If you are unable to crochet or knit come for fellowship and sharing "God Incidents" that may have happened in your life. Inspired by the book by Rev. Dr. Glenn Wagner (Bethany Gimm's father), as it states in his book *"God incidents inspire many to believe in God and to live in faith despite life's challenges."*



Youth Group News

Rained Out Activity – The weather didn't cooperate on Sunday, October 15 when the youth and adults were planning an afternoon in the Corn Maze. Instead, 11 youth, 1 pre-youth, Rev. Alicea, and 5 parents and grandparents went to Alley 59 for an afternoon for bowling. A great day was had by all. Thanks to our parents and grandparents who drove.

Youth Monthly Mission Moment – Each month our youth will participate in a Monthly Mission Moment. In October we prepared and served lunch for Community Meals. **On November 12, weather permitting, our youth are taking to the streets, well, sort of. We are going to spend the afternoon Raking Leaves and cleaning up yards.** If you know of one of our homebound members or someone who isn't homebound but might need some assistance in this area, please contact Rev. Alicea to see how we might help. **Parents and Grandparents, there are no drivers signed up for this event, please sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board.**

Sunday November 19 – Yes, there is Youth Group on this day after Church. Rev. Alicea will be out of town but has a special youth event planned. Aaron and Bethany Gimm will lead the activity. Even though it isn't a "regular" youth group day, please plan to attend from **11:30 – 1:30**.

Joys to Share



November Birthdays

Barbara Clay	11/01
Chloe Gawthrop	11/01
Evan Maertens	11/01
Judy Spalla	11/02
Shari Capozzoli	11/06
Nicole Calvert	11/07
Sara Colah	11/07
JJ Eldridge	11/08
Cynthia Donahue	11/11
Robert Kruse	11/11
Rev. Mary McInnes	11/11
Michael Zdravkovski	11/11
Darrell Miller	11/12
Caiden Parker	11/12
Dean Benson	11/13
Doris Breitreuz	11/13
Avery Calvert	11/14
Kenneth Sanborn	11/14
Joyce Wells	11/14
Darcie West	11/15
Jenny Ellis	11/16
Melanie Sugierski	11/17
Sawyer Lefurgey	11/18
Manda Moore	11/18
Jordan Olszewski	11/18
Jessica Lefurgey	11/21
Joseph Hiestand	11/22
Wendy Jones	11/22
Nancy Hathaway	11/25
Gabriella Broesamle	11/26
Vivian Powell	11/26
Ken Fowler	11/30



November Anniversaries

Rev. Emerson & Ellen Arntz	11/03
Keith & Mary Philo	11/04
Dan & Karen Zdravkovski	11/04
Jeff & Tracy Beebe	11/06
Robert & Agatha Pingley	11/07
Nicholas & Jessica Lefurgey	11/08
Keith & Susan Rosso	11/08
Jim & Linda Willneff	11/26



Thank You

Thank you so much for your lovely cards, prayers and kind words. Still so much for us to deal with. Hope to see you soon.

The family of Lela Blair,
Stacy, Ashley and Kim



A note from the artist, Gary Orrock:
Toshiko inspired me as a person who lives her life as one of God's living Angels, her love for all living things, and she truly makes this world a better place. She knows & lives knowing: "The world was not made for us, we were made for the world, to make this world a better place". She makes the world a better place each and every day. These portraits are made to honor those who give, and I always place on the back of our portraits: *A prayer from Saint Francis: It is by giving that we receive.*"



Thank You

We received many thank you notes and words of appreciation from our college students and those in the service. They are very grateful for the We Care packages that were sent to them with love from their FUMC family!!



It's Poinsettia Time!

We are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to dedicate in honor and/or in memory of loved ones, while lending beauty to our Sanctuary and holiday worship. Pick up a form at the office and fill it out or we will have the forms available at all three of the Sanctuary's main floor entrances. Each plant will cost \$10.00 (6 inch pots). They will be presented to the glory of God in our Sanctuary Sunday, **December 17th**. Please feel free to take your poinsettias home following our Worship Service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. Completed order forms may be placed in the collection plates or dropped off at the church office. We must have all orders in by **Monday, November 27th**.



The Bread Ministry needs people to pick up Panera Bread on Monday nights during the month of November (the store closes at 9:30pm, they will help load your car). Bread needs to be at the church by 9:00am on Tuesday. Please contact Junia if you can help out.

***Endowment
Committee Report***

Income 3rd Quarter 2017. \$2,138.34
 Income 2017 to date. \$7,388.80
 Value of fund 9-30-2017. \$42,2761.98
 The income from the fund is for the Trustees to use for building maintenance and improvements. To make a donation in memory of or in honor of mark the envelope or check Endowment Fund.
 Ken Fowler, Chair Endowment Fund



November 26, 2017! Get this on your calendar NOW!... Back by Popular Demand is **"HANGING OF THE GREENS"**! Help your church get all spruced up for the holidays! We will meet after church for a Brunch Potluck, then begin HANGING OF THE GREENS!.. its always a great time, hope you will stay for a fun afternoon of decorating our church! We will sing Christmas Carols, eat Christmas Cookies and get about the business of preparation for the most exciting time in the life of the church as we prepare a Birthday Party for Jesus!! Brunch Potluck sign up sheets will be upstairs outside the multipurpose room soon! So be looking! If you have any questions give the office a call at 586-468-6464.



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of October 2017

	<i>Amount</i>		
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
October 1	\$6,393.00	\$6,500.00	131
October 8	\$5,683.00	\$6,500.00	126
October 15	\$2,565.00	\$6,500.00	143
October 22	\$5,223.00	\$6,500.00	107
October 29	\$4,205.00	\$6,500.00	127

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Rev. Emerson Arntz, John Bober, Joyce Wells, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard, Doris Breitzkreuz

Our Friends and Family

Emily Hudock, Mike Corcoran, Karla Brocker, 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, 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, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Megan Kupser, Makayla Landrum, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean, Madeline McInnes Sword, Theo Miller, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Sam Van Camp, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information

Everyone had a Wonderful time at Trunk or Treat!!



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Pastor, Reverend Maureen V. Baker

Email: revmaureen@mountclemensumc.org

Deacon, Reverend Alicea L. Williams

Email: alwharpist30@gmail.com