



The Clarion

January 2018

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,

Happy New Year!!!! I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas. I know that both Bob and I did, and we got everything we could dream for; family, friends and a wonderful church full of faithful people. I want to thank all of you for such a wonderful and generous monetary gift. Your generosity is only succeeded by your love and caring, you are all so kind to both Bob and I and it means the world to us.

There are some new things on the horizon for our church in this New Year that I want to tell you about. Your Leadership and I have been working hard for the past several months, on shaping our new Governance Model. The Governance Model is going to help us streamline our work, making it more efficient and keep us all focused on the Mission of “making new disciples for Jesus Christ.”

We have finished our Guiding Principles and many of our Policies that will direct the work day to day, we will roll this all out for all of you in late February or early March. The Leadership Team will be made up of a Chairperson, Lay Leader, Lay member to Annual Conference, (2) Trustees, (2) PPRC, and (3) Finance, our Deacon Rev. Alicea and myself. It will operate like a Board of Directors and will replace our Church Council.

There will be five Missional areas based on the five practices of a Fruitful Congregation; Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Extravagant Generosity, Risk Taking Mission and Service and Intentional Faith Development. These Missional areas will replace the N.O.W. Structure, (Nurture, Outreach, Witness). My job will be to oversee the work of these areas keeping it all directed toward the Mission and Vision of our church. Rev. Alicea will continue to oversee the Children’s and Youth Ministry. The Leadership Team will assume the Administrative Roles as needed and we presently have four of our five Missional Director/Coordinator Positions filled.

Tim Howlett – Extravagant Generosity (Finance), Marge Knapp – Radical Hospitality, Marsha Lynch-Risk Taking Mission and Service, and myself, Rev. Maureen (Pastor)- Passionate Worship, we are still looking for a leader for our Intentional Faith Development, (small group study).

So, why are we doing this? Well, before Rev. Mary left she had been working on helping the Council understand that there is always a struggle to find gifted leadership for areas of ministry; and she felt, as I do, that it will help us in other areas. The first, is that our work will be more organized and directed towards the Mission of the church. Secondly, it will help relieve the stress of trying to fill committee positions every year. Thirdly, it will develop more defined rolls and accountability for all levels of leadership within our church as well as create a more focused and intentional approach for growing our church. The Leadership will meet four times a year; to vision, to plan, to review and to evaluate the work of the church. Also, every year there will be a full church Town Hall to hear from all of you, your vision, dreams, insights and possible ways to help our church to grow. The Leadership will be able to evaluate and yet be flexible to make changes as we progress forward into the year. Please know that I have had much experience as a Directive Coach, through Vital Church Initiative, (VCI) which I have been a part of since 2011 to lead congregations, larger than ours through a process such as this, so I am confident that this will be good for us too. (Continued on next page)

Now, the other exciting thing I want to tell you about, is I am part of a small group made up of many of our musicians, sound, tech and support people who are interested in relooking at beginning a new service to reach new people. An excellent training opportunity was offered to the group and Warren Minarik and Eric Munn who represented the group, along with myself, went to an all day conference called the "Reach Summit." We learned about resistance to change, leadership, starting new services and ways to grow churches in the 21st century. With our Vision from 2016/2017 in mind, the team decided to join a year long process to help us learn ways to restart a new service. This focus of the new service will be to reach a demographic that we are not reaching presently. The Lead Team will begin that work in earnest in January.

My dear friends, It is an exciting time in the life of our church, as we position ourselves for growth opportunities in new ways. I know that change is hard, but to not change means we may risk decline, and I love Jesus, all of you and our community, too much to let that happen. Please feel free to speak to any of the leadership that has been working on these projects.

Governance Structure:

Linda McLatcher, Julie Strayer, Bill Wiza, Tim Howlett, Glen Gould, Rick Lyon, Rev. Alicea, or myself. We are looking for leadership for the Chair position, as well as another Trustee representative, but we are confident to fill those positions soon.

In addition, if you are curious about our New Service group: Warren Minarik, Eric Munn, Susan Rosso, Mike Miller, Darcie West and myself.

My door is always open to answer any of your questions or concerns, concerning the projects being worked on by our leadership. So feel free to stop by for a chat as we move forward in new ways in the life of our church.

B-blessed,
Rev. Maureen



Winter Retreat, 2018

On **February 2-4, 2018** our youth and a few adults will depart for Bay Shore Camp in Sebewing, MI for a much needed winter retreat. We will stay in a lodge with a full kitchen and make our own meals. Our theme will be Who Am I, What Are My Gifts, and How Can I Use Them? A male adult is needed, preferably a Youth Father but other Adults are welcome, to chaperone since there will be male youth attending. Also, one more Adult Female or Male would be nice to have in order to help our other Female chaperone preparing the meals and making sure we are fed.

If you have time in your schedule to attend this retreat and chaperone our awesome youth, please contact Rev. Alicea. We are looking forward to a fun weekend spent in having fun, learning about ourselves, and planning for our Youth Sunday Service.

Please be in prayer for this group of youth and adults as we prepare and embark on our Winter Retreat.



Save the Dates ~ 2018

Camp Beloved (HS)	June 17-23, 2018
Holy Ground Camp (HS)	June 24-30, 2018
Choir Camp (EM*MS*HS)	July 1-7, 2018
As We Are Camp (HS)	July 8-14, 2018
Middle School Camp (MS)	July 8-14, 2018
THRIVE (HS by appointment) (Youth Leadership Aca)	July 15-19, 2018
L.I.F.E. Camp (HS) (Living in Full Effect)	July 22-28, 2018
Lake Louise Family Camp	July 29-Aug 1, 2018
Teddy Bear Camp (PS*EM*AD)	August 5-7, 2018
Black Bear Camp (EM* AD)	August 5-8, 2018
Polar Bear Camp (EM)	August 5-11, 2018
Clergy & Ministry Prof. Family Camp	August 12-17, 2018



New Sermon Series beginning **January 7, 2018!!**
Join us each Sunday at **10am** in January for our series "Hey God! I've Got Questions!" Inspired by some hard questions that have literally come to us "out of the mouths of babes". As we travel this journey together, let us take some time to reflect on who we are, where we have been, and where God is calling us to go, as individuals and as a faith community.

Family Spotlight of the Month



Judy and Ray Buchanan both have been Methodist since birth. Judy remembers being in the nursery at East Grand Boulevard Methodist Church at age 3. They had a cool sandbox in the kindergarten Sunday School room which she played in every Sunday. Ray and Judy met at that church; our families knew each other, but we were married at Christ UMC on Detroit's east side because it was close to our home and we were members there until moving to Macomb County a few years ago.

There are 3 Buchanan kids – Mark married to Barbara with 4 kids living in Rochester, Jeff married to Jennifer living in Ohio with 3 rescued Greyhounds, and Jill married to Mike Salisbury with 2 kids and living in Wayland, MI. Between them there is an automotive engineer, a lawyer, a businesswoman, a university English Dept. chair, a teacher's aide and an insurance business owner. Of the 6 grandkids, 2 boys are off to college this fall and the other 4 are younger.

The most influential minister in our lives was the Reverend Frank Leineke whom we met and became friends with at Christ UMC. He was the best example of Christianity for all of the kids and they remember him fondly to this day. He gets the credit for all of them growing up to be honest, responsible, caring adults. Our family had never found a better example.

Leaving the Detroit church was hard. It will always be our favorite church but now that we are a part of FUMC, you have welcomed us and loved us and we love all of you too. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your church which we now call "our church" too.

family FUN night

Save the Date!

Family Fun Night

Saturday February 3, 2018

6-8 pm - Multipurpose Room
Everyone is invited to attend!

All proceeds go towards the cost of the Building Project in Guatemala Sponsored by the Guatemala Mission Team

A Message from Bishop David Bard



The Joyful Journey

As I write this, the office is officially closed, but I am here finishing up some of the work that I want to get done before the New Year begins. In the quiet, I pause for a few moments, tracing the path on my desktop labyrinth. I take time to reflect, the peacefulness feeling a bit like the quiet at the center of a storm. 2017 has been quite a year, a whirlwind in so many ways. It has been my first full year as your bishop. I presided at my first annual conference with you, ordained and commissioned the first persons I will ever ordain or commission. I preached at licensing school graduation.

I worked with others to make staffing decisions, decisions that challenged me not because we lacked good candidates but because we are blessed with so many good leaders, and not all could be offered the positions being considered. I have met with committees, groups and design teams. I have preached at churches across the state, spoken to groups of clergy and laity in locations far and near, celebrated with you, pondered and prayed with you. It has been a whirlwind, and I am grateful for every moment. I have experienced this whirlwind often as the creative winds of the Spirit. I also appreciate moments such as these of finding the quiet center, also a gift of the Spirit.

In this moment of reflection, I think of words that crossed my desk earlier in the week. Love is the soul of leadership. Love is what sustains people along the arduous journey to the summit of any mountain. Love is the source of the leader's courage. Leaders are in love: in love with leading, in love with their organization's products and services, and in love with people. (James Kouzes and Barry Posner, *The Truth About Leadership*, 138-139) This past year has been a year of deepening love – love for the Michigan Area, our churches and our people; love for our identified vision as a conference: to be Christ-centered, engaging in mission and ministry, developing and encouraging bold and effective leaders, and nurturing and growing vibrant congregations. I love that our vision serves an even larger vision, the vision God has for a newer world.

God's creating, redeeming and sustaining work, as we understand it in Jesus Christ, is the transformation of human lives and the world in love. The Psalmist glimpsed this newer world when he wrote, "Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10). The word for righteousness includes, and could even be translated, "justice," and the word translated "peace" is "shalom," that wonderfully encompassing word with its deep echoes of well-being, joy, and delight. John Wesley glimpsed this newer world in his sermon "Scriptural Christianity." What will the world look like when God's transformative work is complete? All is peace.... Here is no din of arms... wars are ceased from the earth... Civil discord is at an end forever.... Here is no oppression... no extortion to grind the face of the poor; no robbery or wrong... or injustice.... No unkind word can ever be heard among them, no strife of tongues, no contention of any kind.

Such a world seems so distant, yet in God's grace we in our work contribute to this newer world. The theologian Nicholas Wolterstorff put it beautifully: In the eschatological image of the city, we have the assurance that our efforts to make these present cities of ours humane places in which to live – efforts which are so often frustrated, efforts which so often lead to despair – will, by way of the mysterious patterns of history, eventually provide tiles and timbers for a city of delight. (Until Justice and Peace Embrace, 140) What we are about together here in the Michigan Area is this transforming work of God, this work of new lives and a new world. It is the work of love, and I love it, and I am privileged to do it with people I love.

Thank you for the year gone by. Thank you for the work ahead.

With You on an Amazing Adventure and This Joyful Journey,
David Alan Bard,
Michigan Area Bishop

Joys to Share and Thank you Notes



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
Caroline Moore	01/07
Linda Strait	01/07
Al Clary	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
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
Rev. Maureen & Bob Baker	01/12
Fred & Nancy Hathaway	01/17



Thanks to Rev. Alicea and her great crew of students for decorating my Christmas tree. I really appreciated it. Thank you to those who help me all of the time. God is good and so are His faithful servants.
Love and Blessings,
Shirley Champion



To all of you,

Thank you for your sweet kindnesses during the Christmas Season. Thank you for all the ways in which you thought of Bob and I, whether it was through the sweet treats of Panera Bread that always shows up on my desk, or your kind words in the many Christmas cards we received. Your generosity through your Christmas gift to me, will be helping me pay for my mission trip in October of 2018, where several of you have already committed to going with me. So thank you!

I also want to thank you for all the many ways you showed your love and caring, I want you to know that I love you back even more than you know. I have such optimism for our church in so many ways, and I look forward to the many more ways God is going to show goodness to us. So may God Bless each and everyone of you.

B-blessed,
Rev. Maureen





Dear Church and Staff Parish,
Thank you very much for the generous Christmas gift. It was very thoughtful and I am grateful for the many ways that my family and I have been blessed by this congregation. God is indeed alive and working in this place. I am blessed to be here among you and I am looking forward to a ministry-filled 2018.
Peace, Rev. Alicea

THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

NEW LIFE

*By Lyle Weldon (Kentucky) in the Upper Room,
 Monday, January 8, 2018*

Four years ago I moved to a newly developed subdivision. In front of each house was a maple tree. I noticed that the tree in front of my house was infested with insects. One day during a windstorm, the tree broke at the damaged spot. I cleaned up the branches and cut the remaining trunk to the ground. A few weeks later I noticed a green shoot coming from the stump. Before fall arrived, the shoot was more than three feet tall. Today the tree has beautifully formed branches and is at least 18 feet tall. At times our lives may seem broken beyond repair. Troubles may leave us devastated and hopeless. But we have a God who loves us through our brokenness. God's grace can remove the debris in our lives and help us grow into something even better than before. It may take time, but we can trust that God will help us transform our lives into something strong and beautiful.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for healing the brokenness in our lives. Forgive us and transform each of us into the beautiful person you intend us to be.
 Amen*

Thought For The Day – When all seems lost, God can help me rebuild my life.

Lyle Weldon (Kentucky)



Dear Church Family,
Thanks so much for your generous Christmas gift!! My family and I are very grateful. I feel blessed to be a part of the FUMC family.
Love and Blessings,
Wendy Jones



EASTER CARNIVAL
Save The Date!!
Easter Carnival
Saturday, March 24
More Details to Come...



**Firstfruits
Offering**

Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of December 2017

	Amount		
	Received	Needed	Attendance
December 3	\$7,822.00	\$6,500.00	203
December 10	\$8,376.00	\$6,500.00	149
December 17	\$6,451.00	\$6,500.00	151
December 24	\$13,723.00	\$6,500.00	298
December 31	\$10,125.00	\$6,500.00	98

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Carol Dorsey, John Bober, Jean Guard, Ray Buchanan, Rev. Emerson Arntz, Joyce Wells, Tracy Beebe, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard
Grieving: Rick Lyon's mother, Barb Lyon

Our Friends and Family

Ken Flowers, Dan Campbell, Herbert Williams, Laurie Peterson, 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

The Quilters of First United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens offered to make Fidget Quilts for Macomb County Community Mental Health. They asked for 700 quilts! We were determined to get 200 done by the end of 2017 and WE DID IT! We combined our celebration with our Christmas Luncheon. These women are amazing!



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