

# The Clarion

June & July 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,*

*I want to bring to you some very important updates from our conference. I am sure that many of you are aware that there has been a long standing debate over the homosexuality issue in the United Methodist Church. Mainly this lies around the full inclusion of the LGBTQI into the life of the United Methodist Church as fully Ordained Clergy and/or the ability of Clergy to perform same gender wedding ceremonies. Last year, the General Conference 2016 faced a stalemate around this issue with the delegates from around the world.*

*At the request of General Conference 2016, the bishops agreed to try to lead The United Methodist Church toward as much unity as possible, given long-standing division over homosexuality, and the commission has been working with the bishops in that effort for about two years.*

*The bishops called the special General Conference, which will be Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, to focus solely on the church's positions on human sexuality.*

*They have recommended the One Church Model.*

*To find a way forward on the denomination's homosexuality debate, bishops are recommending the church allow more freedom at the conference and local church levels.*

*Under what the Council of Bishops calls the One Church Plan, decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQI clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions would be made closer to the congregational level.*

*The plan would remove the restrictive language against the practice of homosexuality in the Book Discipline, the denomination's policy book. The plan also adds assurances to pastors and conferences who in good conscience cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy that they don't have to do so. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Asia and Europe — could maintain current restrictions.*

*The plan "encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions," said the bishops' press release.*



## *Pastor's Ponderings Continued*

*While the majority of bishops recommend the One Church Plan, the bishops also will submit two additional plans as part of their report to the special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis. All three possibilities had support among some of the bishops.*

*The other two plans on the table are:*

- *The Traditionalist Plan, which would affirm the current language in the denomination's Book of Discipline, the denomination's governing document, and seek to strengthen enforcement.*
- *The Connectional-Conference Plan, which would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQI ministry — be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches. This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination's constitution.*

*Although the Bishops have recommended the One Church Plan, it is unclear how the vote will go. Bishop David Bard has asked all churches to begin a discussion with their congregations on this issue to clarify this issue and to help us all think through this very sensitive topic. So, in the fall, Rev. Alicea and I will be leading a class and discussion around this issue. Please be looking for and signing up for a special 4 week study to help us discern our own **Way Forward**.*

*Please feel free in the meantime to discuss this with Rev. Alicea or myself anytime, as our doors are always open.*

*God Bless you,*

*Rev. Maureen*

## **Coffee, Confections and Conversations on June 6 at 6:00 pm at First UMC**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Do you have a passion for making disciples for Jesus? Then this is for you! We will gather in the Sanctuary for an evening of confections (desserts) and conversations on the future direction of the church. This will be a time of asking questions, open dialogue and conversation about the future plans for helping us to grow and connect with our neighbors in new ways while maintaining the integrity of the present. Come on **June 6** and hear the testimonies of God's great love for our church and the people of Mount Clemens! For more information on this exciting time, talk to Linda or Dan McLatcher or Sue Rosso.



On **June 13** we will begin a new thing: Messy Church! Messy Church is a monthly intergenerational, Christ-centered, hospitable, and creative event that will be an alternative to our traditional VBS. Messy Church begins with a community meal and includes a worship time and creativity time. Messy Church will meet monthly on the **2nd Wednesday night (June 13, July 11, and August 8)**. In order to make Messy Church a reality, we need your prayers and, if you are able bodied, your hands to help. Each month we need food preparers and clean up helpers (talk to Sandy Paul) and folks to help facilitate the creative time (we still need a creativity coordinator). The entire event will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room from **6:00pm until 7:30pm**. We have invited our neighbors, the families of Seminole Academy, to come and be a part of Messy Church. Our goal is to spread God's love through the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are either unchurched, de-churched, or simply looking for a change to the routine of church. Come and join us for Messy Church!! See the sign-up sheet on the Library Window or talk to Rev. Alicea

## Ministry Update

### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BREAD MINISTRY**

Panera Bread Company discarded all of their bread and pastry products at the end of each day but had begun a program of donation to non-profit organizations for distribution to the poor and homeless. In 2003, Dwain Read began picking up these unused products one night a week and distributing them to a worthy organization. What originally began as one man picking up products from Panera one night a week eventually evolved into picking up products from the Shelby Panera six nights and the Lakeside Mall location one night a week. For the past ten to twelve years, Marsha Lynch and Junia Querio have been the coordinators of this mission. What was once one location receiving the breads has, over the years, become the following:

***MCREST churches (1 or 2) countywide – every Sunday throughout the year***

***Warming Center churches countywide – one church Sundays during the months of Oct. – April***

***Salvation Army in Mt. Clemens – 50 pastries and box of sliced bread Tues. and Thursdays all year\*\****

***The Refuge in Mt. Clemens – two bags each of bagels/breads and pastries every Thursday for nine months\*\****

***Community Meals Program at FUMC – as needed during the months of April – October***

***Family Resource Center, Mt. Clemens – two bags each bread/bagels Tues. and Th. all year\*\****

***Food Pantry in Sterling Hgts. – bags of breads, bagels and pastries the first Thursday of each month all year***

***DRIVE, Roseville – two bags of bagels, sliced bread and pastries Sun. and Tues. of school year***

***The Lighthouse in Roseville – breads, bagels and pastries Mon., Tues., Th. all year\*\****

***MSU Extension Program – breads and bagels every Tuesday all year***

***\*\* Products are delivered to the location by First Church bread ministers.***

The people who graciously pick up Panera products at night include Junia Querio, Bonnie Kaster, the Algers, Nancy Burns, Bill Lakin, the Babers, the Mike Millers, Tom Hill, the Clays, Marge Knapp, Kim Evans, the Lynches and others who fill in when needed.

The bread ministers who deliver weekly to the non-profit organizations include the Lynches, Junia Querio, Ralph Brody, Sara Colah, the Sugierskis, and others who fill in when needed.

Wrapping of the products takes place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9am and on Sundays after church. The wrappers include the Sugierskis, Tim Howlett, the Lynches, Junia Querio, Nancy Donahue, Nancy Burns, Nancy Hathaway, the Dumas family, Toshi Arketa, Mike Mowatt, Pat Hill, Ralph Brody, Richard Paul, the Reads, Linda Johnston and others who come in to help as they can.

The costs for the ministry include purchasing two types of plastic bags for bagels and for bread, four sizes of plastic gloves, and boxes of twist ties. We are also constantly bringing in empty boxes in which to crate the Panera products that are too soft to place in plastic bags.

***Note:*** FUMC also uses Panera products for our own members during Pasty Bakes, after-service receptions, fundraising events, special church services, and small group meetings.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

The Bread Ministry is in need of new volunteers and two new coordinators to lead the mission. This is an extremely worthwhile project serving our local community and our county along with our own church. We are already in contact with other local churches to see if we can either get some other congregation to take this over or at least share the responsibilities with us. We are also considering the possibility of cutting back on the number of organizations needing help so that this mission becomes more manageable.

***Please look in your heart and pray. Could you be a new coordinator? Could you be a new volunteer? Do you want to help us make sure this extraordinary ministry continues? Contact Marsha Lynch, Junia Querio or Rev. Maureen as soon as possible if you are willing to take on any of these positions.***



Early Sunday morning on **June 24**, 4 adults and 7 youth will travel to Frakes, KY to participate in Henderson Settlement Missions building a 12x12 shed for a couple. Please keep Bill Cormicle, Justine Olszewski, Bill Wiza, Rev. Alicea, Jessica Evans, Annica Brocker, Jordan Olszewski, Gabi Olszewski, Madelyn Benson, Jenna Zdrakovski, and Alex Zdrakovski in your thoughts and prayers as they work and share God's love in the hills of Kentucky June 24 -30. Come to worship on **July 1** as our Youth and Adult Participants lead us in Worship to tell you about their experience.



As many of you know there is a mission team traveling to Guatemala this October. The Marimba church is growing and we will be working on expanding their building. We are collecting funds to help cover the cost of materials and we are also collecting small items that will be given to the people we will be serving in Guatemala. We are grateful for anything you would be willing to donate but, we do need more of the items that are **bolded** below. Items may be placed in the suitcase in the sanctuary or dropped off in the church office. Thank you again for your prayers and your generosity.

**#2 Pencils, Colored pencils, Crayons, Beanie babies/ stuffed animals, Matchbox cars, Baby Formula, Hotel soaps, Shampoos, Soaps, Washcloth, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Comb, Burp rag, Baby lotion, Baby soap, Baby oil, Baby onesies, Newborn diapers, Receiving Blankets, New born knit hats, Gallon sized Ziplock bags**

### *Family Spotlight of the Month* *Barbara Knuth and Julie Strayer*



Meet Barb and Julie! Barb was raised in Benton Harbor and graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education. She transferred to the Grosse Pointe Schools early in her career and taught for 37 years. Julie was raised in and around Detroit and graduated from Wayne State University. She got her Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Oakland University. She taught for 30 years.

Barb and Julie met at Poupard School in Grosse Pointe in 1974. Both had fifth grade assignments and their teaching styles meshed right away. Their philosophy was "laughter and learning" go together perfectly. Fortunately, their principal agreed and allowed them to team teach for the last 10 years of their careers.

They both retired in 1984 and decided that two could live more cheaply than one so they purchased a condo in Macomb Township. Wanting to earn some pocket money, they opened a small business called "Teachers, Too". They spent the next ten years decorating classrooms for tired teachers all around the area. It wasn't a big money-making business but they did get to take a couple of nice trips to Italy and the South Pacific.

The best thing that happened to them after moving to Macomb County was finding First Church. It has been their greatest blessing these last years. They love their church family!

# Joys to Share



## June Birthdays

Matthew Durham	06/01
Nicholas Lynch	06/02
Addison Maertens	06/03
Jake Williams	06/03
Donna Miller	06/08
Frank Presley	06/09
Keith Rosso	06/09
Kelli Pierce	06/10
Marsha Blakely	06/11
Isabella Broesamle	06/12
Makayla Landrum	06/13
Teri Miela	06/13
Christine Dewey	06/14
JT Tinkham	06/14
Dee Jay Whittam	06/14
Anne Champion	06/21
Kelly Norkiewicz	06/21
Dwain Read	06/21
Jean Borow	06/22
August Querio	06/22
Stephanie Scott	06/22
Lisa Lucido	06/23
Caralee McKay	06/23
Terry Beardslee	06/24
Ron Dewey	06/24
Joey Lynch	06/24
Jude Lynch	06/24
Marjie Eckhout	06/25
Ashley Krynski	06/25
Linda Beardslee	06/26
Jason Machalak	06/26
Reese Hood	06/27
Alyssa Petroni	06/27
Chase Grigsby	06/28
Donald Ballard	06/29
Carol Dorsey	06/29



## July Birthdays

Sydney Olszewski	07/01
Sara Young	07/01
Jaxon Haxer	07/02
Celeste Duggan	07/03
Fred Hathaway	07/04
Rick Lyon	07/04
Sue Tregembo	07/05
Patsy Weagel	07/05
Emma Lucido	07/06
Michael Olszewski Jr	07/06
Kyle Plets	07/08
Emma Granke	07/11
Rory Flanigan	07/12
Dennis Lutz	07/12
Ben Wilden	07/12
Irene Cloud	07/13
Tony Lucido	07/14
Virginia Bockwitz	07/18
Jennifer Haxer	07/20
Bonnie Kaster	07/23
JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan	07/24
Patricia Arketa	07/25
Debra Card	07/28
Michael Keller	07/28
Meribeth Bocker-Querio	07/30
Diane McDougall	07/30
Patricia Yousif	07/30
Melissa Machalak	07/31



## June & July Anniversaries

Judy & Vince Spalla	06/03
Herbert Brush & JoAnn Taylor Brush	06/04
Cameron & Sara Biery	06/05
Kenneth & Lois Sanborn	06/07
Al & Karen Clary	06/09
Tim & Celeste Duggan	06/11
Rev. Mary & Damon McInnes	06/14
Bob & June Hill	06/15
Matt & Linda Tinkham	06/15
Ray & Judy Buchanan	06/16
Michael & Betty Keller	06/19
Ron & Christine Dewey	06/23
Mark & Patricia Yousif	06/23
Andy & Jenny Ellis	06/27
Michael & Micki Schichtel	06/27
Rev. Alicea & Christopher Williams	06/30
Tom & Sandy Baber	07/02
Jason & Melissa Parker	07/13
James & Jennifer Viggiano	07/24
Aaron & Bethany Gimm	07/31



*During a time like this, we realize how much our friends mean to us. Your kind expression of sympathy will always be remembered.*  
*-The Steven Ritter family*  
*The prayers, cards and hugs were a blessing for the entire church family. The flowers were a beautiful expression of God's love for my family.*  
*Melanie Sugierski*



**Women  
with Faith**

Women with Faith will not meet again until September 6th. Have a safe and healthy summer!!



**Change for Change Recap**

This year's Change for Change collection was very successful! Over **\$1,500.00** dollars in coins were donated to help support our Youth programs. Thank you again for your generous donations!!



The book club will meet on **June 12th** to discuss *Some Luck*, by Jane Smiley.

**WESLEYANS**

On Wednesday **June 27th** the Wesleyans will gather at noon at the Harrison Twp. Park for a picnic lunch and fellowship. Bring your lunch and enjoy Lake Saint Clair. All are welcome!! See Ken Fowler for directions to the park.



Another successful Blessings in a Backpack year has been completed. We packed non-perishable weekend meals for students at Seminole Academy and Mount Clemens Middle School. Thanks to this program **and your support** over **400 students** had a nourishing meal each weekend. This amounted to over **15,000** backpacks filled!!



**Pasty  
Bakes!!**

What a great April Pasty Bake we had! We couldn't have done it without all our hard workers. The great friendships we have always draws us all together for a fun experience.

Thanks to Linda Strait for preparing lunches both days of the making and baking.

We made **1,180 chicken, veggie and beef pasties**. So get yours soon before they are all gone!

Mark your calendars for **November 6, 7 and 8** for the next bake.

**New Coordinator Needed:** The November bake will be my last. If anyone wants to take over, please call me. I can help you through the process. We also have a book you can go through to learn what you have to do to make a pastry bake run. I'm hoping someone will take it over or maybe we can divide the coordination between two or more people. Call me for any information you might need.

Thank you all!

Pasty Chair, Sue Tregembo



**Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of May, 2018**

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
May 6	\$6,944.00	\$6,500.00	131
May 13	\$5,801.00	\$6,500.00	134
May 20	\$5,124.00	\$6,500.00	135
May 27	\$2,021.00	\$6,500.00	103

## Our Church Family

Wesley Ballard, Doris Breitzkreuz, Rev. Emerson Arntz, Joyce Wells, Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard, Kelsey & Mike Bridson and Baby Bridson  
Grieving: Charlotte Randolph

## Our Friends and Family

David Rice, Dennis Hill, the Sanfilippo Family, Pam Schultz, Richard Olejnic

## Our Homebound

Rev. Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike Foy, Karen Loos, 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, Emily Beebe, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton, Matthew Durham, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean, Nick Nielsen, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

## Contact Information

***Congratulations  
2018 Confirmands!!  
Chase Grigsby, Jenna Zdravkovski,  
Madelyn Benson, Emma Lucido***



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