

The Clarion

May 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

Happy Spring Everyone,

I love spring, it means the end of the winter for the most part and the beginning of the two weeks of summer!.. lol.... I am particularly excited this spring as we are beginning some wonderful new opportunities for study. **May 20, 2018** at Rev. Alicea's home, "[Spend the Summer with Matthew](#)", will kick off, there is no book required, just a Bible in your favorite translation and access to Facebook. This new format will allow busy people to follow along with those that meet every other week in our homes. Also, everyone can follow updates, reminders, and what to bring to our Theme pot luck dinners. It is going to be a fun adventure into this new realm of media study for us. Please go to Facebook to join or message either Rev. Alicea or I to invite you to the page.

Now, beginning this month, I want to challenge you to get those Bibles out, bring them to church. I also challenge you to read "Galatians 5: 22-25". If you can memorize Gal. 5: 22-23 and recite it to me, *any Sunday through May*, I will reward your efforts with a small gift! So, get those Bibles open and let me hear you!

I also want to encourage you to let me know if you want to help develop our New Service for New People. I am always looking to add more people to a great ministry that will grow our church!

Blessed to be your Pastor,
Rev. Maureen



Sunday Supper and Scriptures

Spend the Summer with Matthew

Our newest small group Bible study begins on **May 20** and will focus on the Gospel according to Matthew. Our study will take place in homes beginning with Rev. Alicea and Rev. Maureen and will include a shared meal before diving into the scriptures. **Sunday, May 20, at 5:30** we begin at Rev. Alicea's home with Matthew 1 and 2. Join our Facebook page "*Sunday Supper and Scriptures*" to find out all the details of this study. Not on Facebook? No problem, simply let Rev. Alicea know and you may receive updates by email. Can't commit to coming to the classes? No problem, join the Facebook page where the weekly readings and discussion questions will be posted. Discussion and questions about the readings will be welcome on the Facebook group page. Come to all or some of the sessions, this is your opportunity to dive into and become more grounded in scriptures.

Summer Camp Registration

Need something to do this summer? Tired of just sitting around? Why not try a United Methodist Summer Camp! There are many camps to choose from and registration is online and easy. Pick up a brochure in the lobby or visit the camp's websites to check out the camps and register. Summer Camping is fun and faith-filled! Register online today! Michigan Area Camps – www.umcamping.org
Lake Louise Christian – www.lakelouisecommunity.org
Bay Shore Camp – www.bayshorecamp.org



Graduation Sunday is June 10. If you are graduating this year from High School, College, Graduate School, or another program please call the church office to make sure we include you in the Bulletin and recognize you in our Worship service. If possible, you are invited to wear your Cap and Gown.



Confirmation Class 2018:

May 6 – Our final class together. We will meet after church from 11:30 – 1:30. Please bring your lunch and your stole. We will have one final lesson together and work on our stoles before the May 20 service.

May 12 – Shabbat Service. Please meet at First UMC at 9:45 to drive or walk to Congregation Beth Tephilath Moses. We will meet with the congregation leader, Michelle, at 10:00 for an introduction to the service. The worship service begins at 10:30 then we will stay for the coffee time after the service. We will return to First UMC between noon and 12:30. Parents, you are invited to attend but please let Rev. Alicea know if you plan to join us so an accurate number may be given to the Congregation.

May 20 – Confirmation Sunday. Sunday May 20 is Confirmation Sunday. Our Confirmands will take this important step to claim Christianity for their own and become full members of our congregation. It is a joyous celebration. Parents and Confirmands should be at church by 9:30 for instructions before the service. Confirmands should have their completed stoles and their Confirmation Bibles with them. There will be a reception following the Worship Service to welcome our newest members. Youth Group

May 20 – Sunday School Breakfast and Youth Group End of Year Party! Come to Sunday School at 8:30 for a breakfast to celebrate our year of learning about our faith! The End of Year Party for Youth group is a work in process, please check your text messages and/or email for updates about this special event! We hope all our youth whether you've participated all the time or not to come and celebrate our past year together. We will celebrate our Confirmands and our Seniors!

Flower Bed Appointments



We finished cleaning the flower beds and shrub areas of First Church back in April. It has been a very demanding job to keep up with all the different planting areas over the years. Several people have helped keep these areas clean and beautiful. With the addition of the Memorial Garden we really need to think differently about the time and work that goes into the care of these areas. I need several individuals to step up and share this responsibility. I would like to divide the different planting areas into **3 Zones**.

1. **Zone one** would include the area along the west or SVS side of the church. 2. **Zone two** would include the east or Gratiot Ave. side. 3. **Zone three** would include the south or Cass Ave side. Responsibilities would include planting, thinning, trimming and watering your particular zone.

Secondly, I am still in need of a Co-Chair for Trustees. Please take the time to pray and think how you can be part of the continuing mission at First Church. There is still a need for people to help with the Bread Ministry, Community Meals and Welcoming Center. First Church has been such a blessing to me and my family, I hope you can say the same.

Blessings, Bill Wiza, Trustee Chair

WESLEYANS

The Macomb Cultural Center has been doing a program on *MAKING MACOMB*. The Wesleyans have scheduled attendance at the last presentation called *LOST VILLAGES* on **May 3rd at 11AM**. We are not going as a group so anyone can join us.

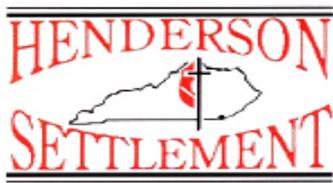
Women With Faith will meet **May 3rd at noon at the Mt. Clemens Library**. We will meet for a potluck lunch and fellowship. If you cannot bring a dish to pass, come anyway. There is always plenty of food. Come with ideas for possible programs for next year.

A Ministry Moment: Wednesday evening March 7, Greg West, Sandy Paul, and Rev. Alicea traveled to Warren First UMC to observe and participate in Messy Church, an Intergenerational Christ-centered program. **What is Messy Church?** It began in 2004 in a small Anglican Church in Hampshire, England that “wanted to give families more opportunities to come to church and stay in church together” (Messy Church pg 1 by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter). The idea was born out of a realization that the traditional church service was fine for established Christians but wasn’t doing much to attract new people to the church. It is a simple format consisting of a warm welcome, a meal shared around a table, a short gathered time (worship time), an hour of hands-on activities around a Bible theme, and a goodbye/Sending forth time. Messy Church is founded on five values: “it is Christ-centered and using every moment to invite people to come closer to Jesus; it is hospitable with the challenge of being God’s guests and welcoming hosts; it allows for creativity, for the God-spark in each of us to come to life as we get our hands into the stuff of the earth and play together; it is celebrating and expressing the joy of life-giving love of Jesus; and it is intergenerational, a community where the old feel as treasured as the young, where children and teenagers feel as valued as the adults.” (Messy Church pg 2). After participating in this once a month program, we were very excited to explore how we could implement Messy Church at First UMC. After several conversations with Rev. Maureen about this possibility and a follow-up meeting, we have decided to go ahead with Messy Church. You will hear more about Messy Church in May as we seek to begin with a once a month summer program in place of a regular VBS beginning in June. The dates for Messy Church are **June 13, July 11, and August 8 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm**. Following the August evening, there will be a short survey from participants and the results of this survey will be discussed by the Messy Church Team to evaluate the effectiveness of Messy Church and determine whether to continue through the Christmas Season. Our community is in need of Christ and Messy Church has been reaching families for Christ both in the U.K. and now in the U.S. since 2004. We are very excited to offer this program to you our community of the faithful and to our surrounding community as a way to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Please pray for this program and for those who will volunteer and lead Messy Church at First UMC.



Cinco De Mayo Dinner Fundraiser for Guatemala Mission Trip!!

Join us on **Saturday, May 5th, at 6:00pm** at First UMC for an All You Can Eat Taco and Nacho Bar!! We will also have some guest musicians playing wonderful tunes!! There will be tons of fun for the whole family and all ages!! All money that is raised will benefit the project costs for the Mission Team that is going to Guatemala in October. The fundraising goal is \$4,000.00. So, come and help us reach our goal and have some fun too!! For more information, contact the church office or check us out on Facebook. The cost for this event is by donation.



Henderson Settlement Update

7 Youth and 4 Adults will travel to Frakes, KY to participate in mission work with Henderson Settlement **June 24 – 30**. We have been assigned a project. We will build a 12x12 storage shed with a gabled roof for a couple across the KY/TN border in Eagan, TN. Thanks to your generosity we have all the funds needed for our trip. Now we ask for your prayers as we prepare to make this trip together to share Christ's love with those we will encounter during this week. Participants for Henderson Settlement 2018 are: Rev. Alicea, Bill Wiza, Justine Olszewski, Bill Cormicle, Annica Brocker, Jordan Olszewski, Gabrielle Olszewski, Jessica Evans, Alex Zdravkovski, Jenna Zdravkovski, and Madelyn Benson

Family Spotlight of the Month



Meet the Zdravkovski Family! Dan and Karen were married right here at First United Methodist Church in 2000. Dan studied computer engineering at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. He is currently an engineer at Ford Motor Company. Karen studied environmental science at Central Michigan University and is currently earning her masters in elementary education at Oakland University.

The Zdravkovski household is a busy one with three kids all running in different directions. Alex is the oldest at 15 and is a freshman at Dakota High School. He is working hard in Boy Scouts and enjoys spending time with the FUMC youth group. Alex loves science and would like to study biochemistry. Jenna is 12 years old and is in 7th grade at Seneca Middle School. She has been in gymnastics since she was five years old and is now joining a competitive cheer team. Jenna is also working on her confirmation here at FUMC. Jenna enjoys spending time with her friends and practicing her tumbling skills. Michael is 5 years old and growing fast. He is currently in preschool and will be starting kindergarten in the fall. He loves to run, play, and wrestle with his big brother. The Zdravkovski Family loves to travel and tent camp. They are currently planning a road trip to Yellowstone National Park for summer 2019.

Dan and Karen come from different religious backgrounds. Karen grew up in the Methodist church while Dan divided his attention between the Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches. Regardless of their backgrounds, they believe that raising their children with a solid foundation in Christianity is essential to navigating life. They love to call First United Methodist their church home and look forward to a future of worship and fellowship.



May Birthdays

Dan McLatcher	05/04
Blake Richardson	05/04
Patricia Van Camp	05/04
Tracy Beebe	05/05
Ryan Kinic	05/05
Mark French	05/06
Cassandra Semrau	05/06
Nicholas Lefurgey	05/08
Terri Brown	05/10
Judy Northrop	05/12
Lexy Alessandrini	05/13
Barb Hanna	05/13
June Hill	05/13
Louise Lambert	05/13
Candy Stevens-Job	05/13
June Dion	05/14
James Viggiano	05/15
Edmund Filer	05/16
Alexis Scott	05/19
Heather Shipley	05/19
Rick Eldridge	05/20
Brody Richardson	05/21
Abigail Trombley	05/21
Betty Keller	05/24
Jessica Tinkham	05/24
Jessica Evans	05/25
Michael McCallister	05/26
Michael Miller	05/27
Kristy Trombley	05/28
Michael Foy	05/30
Walter Sugierski	05/30



May Anniversaries

Terry & Linda Beardslee	05/02
Michael Bocker & Meribeth Bocker-Querio	05/08
Dan & Linda McLatcher	05/10
Robert & Jocelyn Prevost	05/15
Walter & Melanie Sugierski	05/18
Dennis & Maddy Lutz	05/21
Henry & Carol Cusic	05/23
Gary Petroni & Linda Pillow	05/23
Darrell & Donna Miller	05/24
Dean & Monica Benson	05/28
Dwain Read & Sheila Strunk	05/28



The First Church family wishes to thank Tony Lucido for the excellent work he did as church custodian. He always kept our beautiful facility looking wonderful. Even though he is leaving the job, he is not leaving the church. We look forward to seeing Tony and his family in "their" pew on Sundays.

My birthday this year became a special one due to some very talented ladies and my church of forty years. On a recent Sunday morning, I was presented with a beautiful hand-made quilt. To all who had a "hand" in this - I thank you.
Joe Beaudette



If you sent a card to Jean to "Get better soon" or "Condolence" to me
If you were able to attend the "Visitation Day" at Vick's Funeral Home
If you were able to come to the "Inspirational Service" of the church and/or the luncheon that followed
Or, if you were not able to share with us for any reason.....

We are so thankful to you for your support to us in our "Hour of Need" when Jean completed her journey of life on this earth and entered "Eternal Life" in Heaven. Jean was a precious "Loved One" to me, mother of three children, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren for 67 years. We knew that our marriage would be successful because we made a pledge to be together "In sickness and in health until death" and because we believed that God would help us achieve our goal.

Thanks to the many members of our church family who supported us for many years since 1953. Also, thanks to our many neighbors and their relatives whom we have known since 1957.

Jean is now in God's hands and she will remain in our hearts forever.

Truman Guard

FISH FRY

I would like to thank all of the people who put their time and effort into making our Fish Frys so successful! We had good turnouts and were able to clear around \$2,500.00 for our dinners of four Friday nights!

Thank you again,
Sue Tregembo



THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN OF FAITH

On behalf of Miracle Quilts, I would like to thank you for inviting me to share our project with all of you. Your most generous gift will be used to purchase new materials (fabric, batting, thread and backing) to create quilts for our wounded servicemen and women in the upcoming year. We can continue to say thank you to our veterans because of wonderful people like you. Your donation is truly appreciated.

~Carole Carroll and the Family of PFC Joseph Miracle

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, delicious food, cards, visits and good thoughts. Every bit of it was appreciated. I feel blessed to be part of the First Church Family.

Julie Strayer

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, Or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, As any friend could say; Perhaps you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much whatever the part. The flowers were beautiful. Thank you.
The Family of Daniel Willneff

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards & prayers. We truly are blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Shirley L. Hoffman. Love to you all, Andrea Kruse, Kyle Steadman & Craig Hoffman

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU to all who cooked food, participated in the Talent Show, and worked behind the scenes to make the Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show a huge success. We raised \$607.85 towards our Henderson Settlement trip. For all who attended thank you for your generosity. The evening was truly fun and full of fellowship.



For the 1st quarter of 2018, the Endowment Fund earned \$2,334.83 for the Trustees to use towards building maintenance and improvements. Ken Fowler

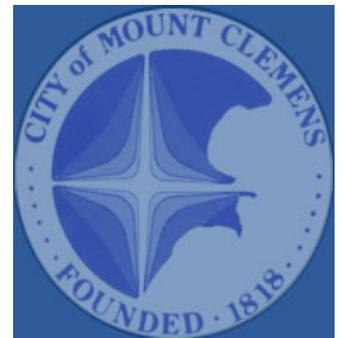
YOU ARE INVITED!

Mark your calendar for

May 5th from

11 am to 4 pm

First UMC of Mount Clemens will be hosting an Open House visitation, celebrating the **Mount Clemens Bicentennial**.



Special events are being planned at each house of worship beginning with a breakfast at St. Peter Catholic Church from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and culminating with a concert at 4:30 p.m. at the Christian Lighthouse Church. *First United Methodist Church will include a church tour, organ demonstration and quilt display.*

Maps will be available at each location describing the various events.



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of April, 2018

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
April 1, Easter	\$6,955.00	\$6,500.00	212
April 8	\$4,260.00	\$6,500.00	128
April 15	\$6,582.00	\$6,500.00	62
April 22	\$4,260.00	\$6,500.00	141
April 29	\$4,166.00	\$6,500.00	121

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Dwain Read, Linda K. Johnston, Wesley Ballard, Doris Breikreuz, Rev. Emerson Arntz, Joyce Wells
Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard, Charlotte Randolph, Leann Knapp, Kelsey & Mike Bridson and Baby Bridson
Grieving: Jean Guard; Melanie Sugierski's father, Steven Ritter; Sallie Miller's sister-in-law, Susan DeLano

Our Friends and Family

Greg Alger, Cindy Donahue, 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, 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, Megan Kupser, Makayla Landrum, Stephanie Lyskawa,
Tighe Maclean, Madeline McInnes Sword, Nick Nielsen, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry,
Martin Querio, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Sam Van Camp,
Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

Contact Information

MOTHER'S DAY
ICE CREAM SOCIAL



May 13, 2018: Mother's Day

During worship that day we will have some great music, a special message and a gift for our Mothers to show our love. Also, an ICE CREAM SOCIAL AFTER WORSHIP THAT DAY!



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