

# The Clarion

January 2019

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 New Year!

In some ways, January is an exciting month because it is a transitional month — a month of beginnings. January is a perfect moment to consider which direction we're going as we face the year unfolding before us.

The question for us as we enter the year 2019 is whether we will look forward through the eyes of faith, or backward toward what once was. And in this discussion, the Bible can help us. The Israelites were continually asked to look back at the miraculous things God had done for them, most notably, of course, deliverance from centuries of slavery in Egypt. It's not always a bad thing to look back on the past. In fact, in the Bible we are given constant reminders to *"forget not all his benefits"* (Psalm 103:2). Looking back and remembering. But looking backward can also be dangerous and destructive. Lot's wife famously looked back and became a pillar of salt, according to the account in Genesis 19:26. Orpheus looks back at Eurydice following him, and loses her forever. Brooding about failures and mistakes is not good for our spiritual and mental health. Dwelling on "what might have been" does not help us get to "what might be."

We must look ahead and wonder what's next. "What will this year bring forth? What will I be able to achieve? How will my family and I be affected by this or that force? What will I do to improve my health? What will happen that will alter my life? What can I reasonably expect?" Perhaps as a congregation we're wondering, "Where is God leading us? What can we do better to utilize our gifts in the kingdom of God?" "What's next for us?" The apostle Paul has some ideas that might help us to live for Jesus.

Paul not only writes about forgetting the past, but he says, *"Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus"* (v. 14). Paul wasn't thinking of the turn of the calendar, however, but of the turn in his life that began with his Damascus Road conversion. In that journey, Paul does something intentional about the backward look: He chooses to forget what lies behind. He does something intentional about the future as well: Using the imagery of a footrace in which all the attention of the runner is focused on the finish line, Paul says he strains forward to what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal of eternal life with Christ.

The author of Hebrews cautions us, using the same racing or running metaphor as the apostle Paul: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus..."* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Let's look to Jesus!

Rev. Maureen Baker



**2019 SERMON SERIES: THE BOOK OF ACTS**

*Beginning in January and running till the end of March, there will be a preaching series on the Book of Acts, so I encourage all to read or to reread this wondrous story of the birth of the church. We will end this series with a special movie night with the movie "Paul".*

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES! COMING SOON!!**

*Beginning January 13, 2019; 3-5 pm, at the Parsonage; 110 Bellevue Street, Mount Clemens. We will be studying the Book of Acts. Each week we will meet at a home and study 2 chapters of Acts enjoying some coffee, tea and sweet treats. It's not necessary to attend every one of the session, although we would love that. Each week's study will be looked at and new insights gained in how the Church came into being and what it means for us today. We hope you will make this opportunity a priority in your life. So grab your Bible and come! You can follow us on Facebook at Sunday Supper and Scriptures. Call either the church office (586-468-6464) or Rev. Maureen's cell phone at (810-488-2390) for more information. (if calling my cellphone please leave a message) Sign up today at the volunteer sign up wall!*

## Youth Updates

### ***Youth Group Christmas Party***

What a night!! We enjoyed a ham dinner, exchanged fun Christmas mugs filled with candy, played games, watched a movie, and decorated 225 Christmas cookies finally falling asleep around 2:00 a.m.!! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end the year as a youth group! If you are in grades 6-12 and haven't come to our youth group activities, you should join us!! Lots of fun and faith learning!! Our next meeting is January 6 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ALL are welcome!!



### ***Bake Sale***

Thank you to all who made donations and took home Christmas goodies! We raised **\$350** for our mission trip 2019! We will travel to Detroit where we will lodge at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in the heart of the city and participate in Motown Missions. **Our week is July 7-13.** Look for more opportunities to help us raise the funds we need for all youth grades 6-12 who would like to attend.

### ***Can and Bottle Drive!***

Please consider donating your returnable cans and bottles to our youth group! Our youth will be collecting returnables from **February 3 thru February 10** (conveniently after those Superbowl parties!). You may drop them off in the youth lounge or call Karen at 586-263-9391 to schedule a pick-up. The youth have some amazing opportunities coming up and would really appreciate your help! Thank you!

### ***U-Nite***

Sign up today for this District Youth Lock-In! **Friday, January 11, beginning at 8:00 p.m. until 6:30 a.m. Saturday, January 12,** at Eastern Michigan University Recreation Center, several Greater Detroit District churches will gather for an all-night fun-night. The cost is \$20/youth. Sign up on the youth bulletin outside the Youth Room and see the "What to Bring to U-Nite" list. Rev. Alicea needs at least one other person who has taken the Conference Protection Policy Training to attend with her and a few parents who would be willing to drive Friday night and come back to pick us up on Saturday morning. Please let Rev. Alicea know if you are available. Youth please sign up ASAP so Rev. Alicea can send in the registration form. You do not need to pay ahead of time, simply bring your money with you to the event.



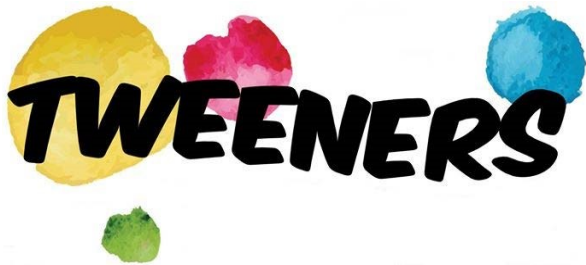
## Protection Policy Training



The 2nd training session for our Protection Policy will **Saturday, February 16, from 9:00 – 11:30am** in Wesley Hall. If you were unable to attend the 1st session, please mark your calendar to attend this session. A Sign Up sheet will be on the Library window, please sign up by **February 10**.



The new sign-up sheet for Children's Worship Assistants, is up on the Library window. Please take a moment to sign-up to help our Children's Worship Leaders lead our children.



Our First UMC Tweeners Group had a Fun time at their New Year's -Chocolate Fountain Party!! Thank you to all who came out!!



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### *Young Adults*

Save the Date for Dinner and Movie!! **Saturday, February 9**, Movie and Dinner. We will meet for a movie first and then go to dinner together to talk about the movie. This event is adult only so please plan for a babysitter. Time and Place to be announced.

## *Youth Ministry Fundraiser!!*

### **Chair Sale:**

To help our youth with fund raising the Trustees would like to offer 45 wooden folding chairs for sale. The chairs are no longer needed and are in very good condition. We are pricing the chairs at **\$7.00 a piece**, unless you feel they are worth more, than they would accept that too. The monies would help with the youth ministry of our church.

Blessings, Trustees





## January Birthdays

Susan Rosso	01/01
Dawn Brass	01/03
Andrea Kruse	01/03
Faye Brown	01/04
Bobette Dodge	01/04
Matthew Paul	01/06
Caroline Moore	01/07
Linda Strait	01/07
Al Clary	01/10
Lindsay Job	01/10
Bonnie Bober	01/11
Kathy Viviano	01/11
Elaine Walton	01/14
Toshiko Arketa	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



## January Anniversaries

Rev. Maureen & Bob Baker	01/12
Fred & Nancy Hathaway	01/17



*Thank you, everyone who attended my 80th Birthday Celebration, my children and grandchildren surprised me with, Sunday the 9th. Thank you for all the cards and well wishes! It was a great way to get together with family and long time church friends. Thank you all for being a part of this Great Day.*  
Larry Alger

*...whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part...  
~from the family of Michael Foy  
Our church family is so important to us. We have a great family!  
Jim and Linda Willneff*



*With Gratitude...  
The generosity of this congregation never ceases to touch my heart. Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I am overwhelmed with your love and support of the ministry to which I am called. You are God's people doing God's work and I am grateful to be in your midst observing, teaching, and guiding. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you.  
Peace, Rev. Alicea*

*Rev. Baker, Rev. Williams and the congregation of First UMC. On behalf of the students & families of Mt. Clemens Schools I say "Thank You!" for all of your kindness and generosity!  
Shirley Monk, School Social Worker*

*A BIG THANK YOU!  
I want to thank you all for a great Christmas season! It will be my last one as a Pastor here and I so enjoyed all of it, from our special concerts, to the Choir and Bells, our silly Ugly Christmas sweater day and our joyous Christmas Pageant. I also want to thank you for the most generous Christmas present. You are all a blessing to me and I love you all!  
May God continue to bless all of you!  
Rev. Maureen*

*Dear church family,  
Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift!! I feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful group of people who love the Lord and each other so well!  
Blessings, Wendy Jones*



## 2018 First UMC Christmas Pageant!!



Looking for a person or group to take over the task of addressing and delivering 225 Christmas cards to the Martha T Berry Medical Facility for the Christmas 2019 season. I have a lot of Christmas cards left over from previous years. Any questions please feel free to ask. Thanks to Loretta and Lorraine I am sure the residents of the facility were very pleased!  
Diane McDougall

## WESLEYANS

On Saturday, January 19th, the Wesleyans will gather at **noon** in Wesley Hall for a sack lunch and a game afternoon. If you like Mexican Train, Rummikub, Golf, etc. come join us.  
Ken Fowler



Messy Church will take a brief break and will resume on **Wednesday, March 13**. Mark your calendars and bring a friend to experience "church" in a different way. We hope you will join us for dinner at **6:00pm** and worship celebration at 7:00.



Join us for a 6 week Chair Yoga series starting on **Thursday, January 10th, at 11:00 am in Wesley Hall** (runs through February 14th) Cost is \$30.00 for 6 weeks series, or pay 6.00 walk in rate each week.

## Firstfruits Offering

**Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the months of December, 2018**

	<i>Amount</i>			
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>		<i>Attendance</i>
December 2	\$7,490.00	\$6,500.00		143
December 9	\$7,490.00	\$6,500.00		169
December 16	\$7,490.00	\$6,500.00		158
December 23	\$4,055.00	\$6,500.00		118
December 24	\$4,570.00	\$6,500.00		288
December 30	\$5,349.00	\$6,500.00		74

## Our Church Family

Dwain Read, Debbie Tchakerian

## Our Friends and Family

Ted Petri, Kimberly Ballard, Craig Maclean, MaryAnn Tracy, Dr. Zellin,  
Jocelyn Prevost's granddaughter, Sabrina

## Our Homebound

Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, Polly Darling,  
Marjie Eckhout, Karen Loos, Murray Shelson, Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel,  
Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

## Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Adam Donahue, Tami Morgan, Sean Kiernan, Tony Kiernan, Brian Hill

## College Students

Brianna Akers, Sarah Akers, Michaela Baker, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Brocker,  
Nathan Buchanan, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton, Matthew Durham, Draven Forbes, Jaryd Forbes,  
Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean,  
Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Hope Reyna, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben,  
Amy Beth Simon, Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

## Contact Information

### **2019** **First UMC** **Leadership Team**

Linda McLatcher: Chair  
Tim Howlett: Finance Chair  
Harry Kosmala: Business Manager  
Julie Strayer: Pastor Parish Chair  
Andrea Kruse: Co Chair Pastor Parish  
Bill Wiza: Chair of Trustee  
Co-Chair of Trustee: TBA  
Linda L. Johnston: Lay Leader  
Bethany Gimm: Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Linda Strait: Secretary  
Rev. Maureen Baker: Lay Nominations Chair  
Rev. Alicea Williams: Children and Youth Ministry



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Church Phone: 586.468.6464

*Pastor, Reverend Maureen V. Baker*  
Email: [revmaureen@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:revmaureen@mountclemensumc.org)

*Deacon, Reverend Alicea L. Williams*  
Email: [alwharpist30@gmail.com](mailto:alwharpist30@gmail.com)