

The Clarion

December 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

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

Dear Friends,

December has arrived whether we were ready for it or not! With it comes the hustle and bustle of the season. While the world around us begins to come alive with lights and trees and gifts, the church awaits something more magnificent than we can even imagine! Something is coming that will change every part of who we are.

As we head into the Advent season, we are not called to dismiss all our community is celebrating. In fact, we are invited to reflect on what is sacred within the secular. For many people who are part of the church or not, this season is a time of extravagant giving. People who have no previous connection give generously to one another in the form of gloves and coats and presents. People go out of their way to reach out to friends and neighbors with cards and treats, festive celebrations, and meaningful gifts. For the most part, you will find cheer, kindness, and a warm hello from strangers gazing upon the same festive decorations. The positive feel of the whole community, minus some Scrooges, is something you can feel.

As Christians, we can relate to kindness, generosity, service, and joy. We are called to participate in the fullness of this season with our community with eager hearts. Yet, for Christians there is something more. In the Advent season, we give, we celebrate, we share love, and help others. But when we do these things as Christians it takes on a different meaning. I would hope when we participate in giving, fellowship, and celebration, we do so because we know of the coming Christ child. When we sing and rejoice, we do so to anticipate, with joy, the beauty of God's presence in the world. We are called to embrace the good news, that God is so intentional with us that God is sending Jesus into the world to redeem us with grace and love. Christ is coming, and that news is so good, we can't help but to celebrate.

There is nothing wrong with lights, presents, carols, and cookies. Yet, as Christians we need to name and know why we are partaking in the festivities. There is joy in a God that loves us so much that he would send a Messiah by humble means to care for even us. So join the chorus of joy this season, and do so in honor of the greatest gift we will ever receive.

Thank you, God, for sending your son Jesus Christ to live in solidarity with us, to move us from brokenness toward wholeness, and to grant us grace. Amen.

Merry Christmas (soon)!

In Christ,

Pastor Dan





You are formally invited to:

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

December 18th, 4:00-7:00pm

110 Belleview St. Mount Clemens 48043

Desserts and Light Refreshments will be served

Bring your best Christmas Sweater!





5:45pm Children's Worship - Christmas Hymns, Stories, and all-age inclusive worship! An interactive service where all kids and families are welcome. Come as you are, to learn the Christmas story. We will have glow sticks for silent night, nativities to build together, and Christmas A to Z. All are welcome to join in the fun!

7:00pm Traditional Service - Christmas Hymns, Special music, Candlelight, and Communion.

A traditional Christmas Eve service where we will hear the story of the Christ child in many meaningful ways. We will have scripture and hymns, music of many types, sharing communion, and candlelight. The grace space and the cry room will be open, so all families are welcome to attend.

11:00pm Contemplative Service - Christmas Hymns, Time for reflection, Candlelight, and Communion

A unique service that will focus on Christ in an intentional and contemplative way. There will be some special music, harp, a meditation, communion, and candlelight. We will sing silent night and welcome in Christmas morn!

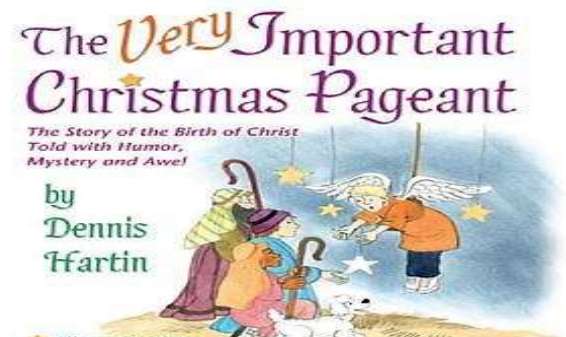


Save the Date!!!

Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show! Join us on **Friday night January 31** for the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser hosted by our Youth Group to benefit our trip to Henderson Settlement.



After dinner there will be a First UMC Talent Show!! So, dust off your tap shoes, warm up your voices, and practice your best jokes and share your talent with us. Can't sing, dance, or tell a good joke? Plan to stay and be entertained by all the best talent from First UMC! Watch for further announcements on signing up to perform and making a free reservation for dinner.



Christmas Pageant – Our final rehearsal for our Christmas Pageant is **December 14 from 10:00 until Noon.**

Join us **Sunday, December 15, during worship** as we tell the Christmas story with laughter and joy!



Children's Ministry Christmas Wish List - As part of the Children's Worship Center redecoration project, Rev. Alicea sorted through all the books that were in the Responding Room. Many were out dated, very old (1939 was the oldest), and worn out. In an effort to resource our families with books about faith and the Bible, Rev. Alicea has put together a Wish List of book titles. If you would like to help build this Children's Library please pick up a list in the Church Office. All titles may be ordered from Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com. Remember every time you order something from Cokesbury, a portion goes toward the Clergy Pension fund.



December Birthdays

Mason Munn	12/01
Melissa Richardson	12/01
Herbert Brush III	12/02
Scott Reece	12/04
Aaron Gimm	12/06
Meah Higbee	12/07
Zachary Kinic	12/07
Christopher Miller	12/07
Crosby Lynch	12/10
Camille Moore	12/10
Tina Tinkham	12/10
Nicole Evans	12/11
Thomas Hill	12/11
Thomas Northrop	12/11
Justine Olszewski	12/12
Constance Hall	12/13
Emily Beebe	12/14
Barbara Dodd	12/14
Jazmin Schutt-Pointer	12/14
Lorri Petty	12/16
Monica Benson	12/17
Nancy Donahue	12/18
Larry Alger	12/19
Carol Ballard	12/19
Bob Hill	12/20
Wyatt Minarik	12/20
Mary Philo	12/20
Brian West	12/24
Janet Hudock	12/26
Karen Loos	12/26
Junia Querio	12/26
Malina Haxer	12/28
Murray Shelson	12/29
Sandra Paul	12/31



December Anniversaries

Rolland & Gayle Bumler	12/21
Wesley & Loretta Ballard	12/26
Pastor Dan & Autumn Hart	12/27
Steven & Claudia Waid	12/29
Thomas & Lois Hill	12/31



The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay—
In fields where they
lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night
that was so deep.



*To all my church friends,
I just wanted to thank everyone
for all the cards, calls and
encouragement after my recent
surgery. Therapy is not going as
quickly as I like, but I am making
progress. I can drive now so I can
get to quilting and church,
weather permitting.
Thanks again,
Sara Colah*





First UMC has a YouTube Channel!

On December 2, Rev. Alicea posted the first video to our new YouTube Channel. Each week during Advent she will post a new Christmas Story. Please subscribe to FirstUMCofMtClemens YouTube Channel to see new videos. In the coming year, Pastor Dan and Rev. Alicea will post videos so stay tuned for new ways of faith building through YouTube.



Warming Center Update

The next Warming Center week is approaching the week of **Sunday, December 29th through Saturday, January 4th**. We need socks, "hoodies", underwear (both regular and thermal) and/or financial donations. A collection box will be placed at the entrance of Wesley Hall. Please consider supporting this important outreach ministry. Questions? See Dan McLatcher or Sandy Paul. Thank you good people of First Church!



Chair Sale:

To help our youth with fund raising the Trustees would like to offer 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



Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of November, 2019

	<i>Amount</i>		
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
November 3	\$7,758.00	\$6,500.00	152
November 10	\$6,522.00	\$6,500.00	151
November 17	\$5,251.00	\$6,500.00	154
November 24	\$8,534.00	\$6,500.00	141

Our Church Family

Joyce Wells, Nancy Donahue
Grieving: Polly Darling, Henry Cusic

Our Friends and Family

Karen Harris' grandson, Matt Juras; Lois Vale, Norma Kosmala, Darcie West's mother,
Christopher Williams' mother

Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Carl Cendrowski, Shirley Champion,
Irene Cloud, Marjie Eckhout, Karen Loos, Gerald & Barbara Pagett, Murray Shelson,
Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Scott Bean, Adam Donahue, Brian Hill, Steven C. Kelly, Tami Morgan, Rande Phan

College Students

Brianna Akers, Michaela Baker, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Bocker, Nathan Buchanan,
Nathan Clifton, Jessica Evans, Draven Forbes, Jaryd Forbes, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Sean Hathaway,
Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Jackson Kelly, Justin Keppler, Ashley Krynski, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean,
Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Hope Reyna, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben,
Amy Beth Simon, Alaina Spratt, Tina Tinkham

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 Trustees
Tom Baber: Co-Chair of Trustees
Linda L. Johnston: Lay Leader
Lois Hill: Lay Member to Annual Conference
Linda Strait: Secretary
Rev. Dan Hart: Lay Nominations Chair
Rev. Alicea Williams: Children and Youth Ministry



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