

The Clarion

February 2020

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

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1st Corinthians 13:4-7

Dear Friends,

We start February with an epic competition in the Super Bowl. Two teams standing alone on their sidelines trying to show the world who is the best of the best. I admit that I love football, and that there is something great about being part of a team, but I feel like our whole culture is tied up a little too much in competition and “us vs. them” attitudes. I am so glad that the rest of February is more reflective of the what I see as our Christian call in the world. First, we have Black History Month, which gives voice to voices that have been often silenced, sharing inspiring stories of strength, courage, and persistence. Plus, we also celebrate Valentine’s day in February. While Valentine’s Day is not always a fun holiday for everybody, I do find some value in the reminder to show our love to others. So, while we start with competition, we really have a month focused on equality and love. I am thankful for a God who names and claims each of us with love and makes us in God’s image, unique and the same. We are loved by Christ, and we are called to be love in the world as well.

Often times in the church we say we are the hands and feet of Christ in the world, but I also believe we can’t stop there. We have to be the ears of Christ, listening and relating to the needs of all we encounter. We have to be the eyes of Christ, seeing and responding with love to every act of injustice we perceive. We have to shoulder the load for those who can’t bear the weight of life’s struggles, and walk arm in arm with the lost and broken. We have to speak the love of Christ with every word that passes our lips, so all may know they are never alone.

I am glad that we are intentional about partnerships and seeing the humanity in others. I hope you will pray and consider what ministry God is calling you to participate in this year, to grow in faith, to grow in connection with others, and to see and reflect Christ. Each year members and volunteers from our church partner with so many seeking to make life better for those in need and to share the love of God. As we walk into 2020 and beyond, I can’t wait to see the way we love others and seek the celebration of the fullness of humanity.

Worship, pray, serve, study, support all. February will be filled with chances to do so in our church and for our community. I can’t wait to share it with you!

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Dan



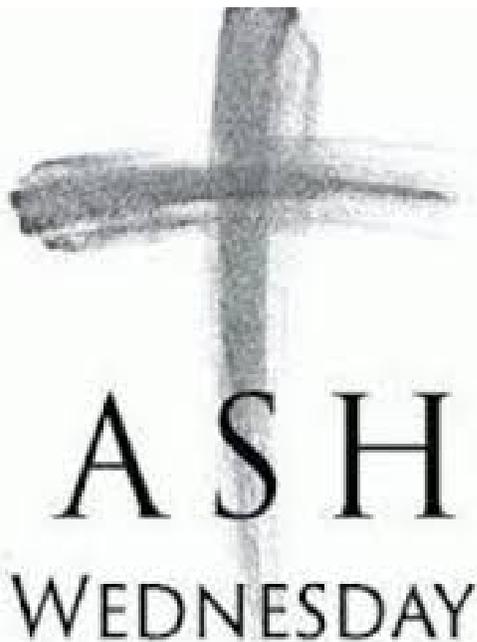
Sermon Series

February Sermon Series: “Advice From Jim”

This February we will be looking into the book of James to help us understand the ways we can live our Christian faith. Our series will be “Advice From Jim” and will include talking about ways that we can live out our faith, be careful with our words, seek to live humbly, and have the power to endure through Christ. Although the book of James is not the most looked to text, there is much to learn!

Join Us for
Winter Warming
Worship
Wednesday, February 12
at 6:30pm

On **February 12th at 6:30 pm** we will have an opportunity to gather in fellowship, worship, and community. We will have a LOVE themed worship to help us feel some warmth and love in the midst of winter. We will have contemporary music, scripture and a message, and will take an offering to support our Good Samaritan fund to help those in need in our community.



Ash Wednesday - February 26th

The beginning of Lent is quickly approaching, and with it comes an opportunity to be together in worship for Ash Wednesday. We will have two opportunities at the church to be in community with one another and receive ashes. On **Feb 26th**, we will have a short prayer service at **12:15pm** which will last 15-30 minutes. This will be a short liturgical service with ashes. We will also have a regular Ash Wednesday service at **6:30pm** with music, liturgy, a message, and ashes. As we begin our lenten journey, come and remember who you are.



Women With Faith

Women With Faith will meet on **February 6th at 1:00 P.M. at the Mount Clemens Library**. Our program will be on surviving grief .



Mark Your Calendars!!

Fish Fry's are coming! There will be one every Friday evening beginning on **February 28 from 4-7pm**. Here are the other dates: **March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 from 4-7pm**. On **April 10**, the dinner will be from **4-6:30pm** with a Good Friday Service to follow immediately after.



Let It Snow!

In the event of a major snowstorm, FUMC will be closed if the Mount Clemens schools are closed. Please do not try to come in even if you have a key. We need to keep the area completely clear for the plow. If we are hit with extreme cold (minus the snow), the office will be open regardless of what the schools do. Just button up!



Youth Group

Combined Youth Group – All youth are invited to attend the Combined Youth Group Lock-in at Warren First UMC Saturday **February 15 – 16**. We will travel to spend the night and then stay for worship at Warren First on Sunday morning. Please Let Rev. Alicea or Sydney know if you would like to attend this event.

Youth Group Study – Our next Youth Group Study will be Earn. Save. Give. Wesley's Simple Rules for Money by James A Harnish. This four lesson study will help youth look at how to use money in living a Christian Life expressed in three powerful simple rules: Earn all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can. This study begins on **Sunday, February 9, at 12:15** in the youth room (right after Crescendo Ringers Practice).



Henderson Update – We have 8 confirmed travelers to Henderson Settlement **June 21- 28**: Rev. Alicea, Justine Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, and Bill Cormicle will lead Jessica Evans, Camden Parker, Hunter Berg, and Gabrielle Olszewski on a week-long trip to share Christ's love to those in the Frakes, Kentucky area. Thank you to all who attended the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday January 31. We raised \$1,258.00 in total. Our next fundraiser will be our Annual Bake Sale on March 6 during the Fish Fry Dinner. Also, the Change for Change offering will be put towards our Henderson Settlement Trip.



Sean Brown will be performing in Disney Frozen Jr. presented by All The World's A Stage. His roles are as follows: Child of Arendelle, Summer Chorus and Hidden Folk. This production will be at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts at Macomb Community College – Center Campus on Hall Road and Garfield. Wednesday, March 25, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon (shows on 3/25 are primarily for school field trips but they do have a row of tickets available for sale to the public – tickets are \$6.00); Saturday, March 28, 2020 – 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; Sunday, March 29, 2020 – 2 p.m. (shows on 3/28 and 3/29 are for sale to the public and are \$13 plus a \$4.50 handling fee per ticket order). You can purchase tickets at the Box Office, by phone (586.286.2222) or online (MacombCenter.com). We hope you come to see and support Sean.



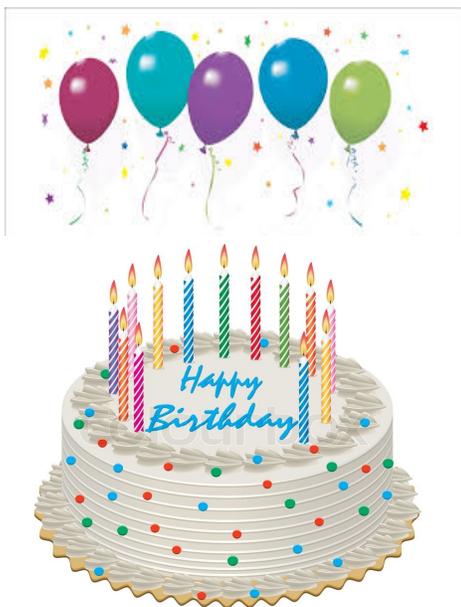
Children's Worship Library

The Children's Worship Library is officially open now, waiting for you to take home a book. The Library is located in the Children's Worship Center. There are many books about faith and social justice/compassion ministry. You may check out 2 books for up to 2 weeks. There is a check out/check in sheet on the book shelf with instructions about checking out the books. This is on the honor system so in order to have the books continue to be available to all, please be mindful of the 2 week time limit.



February Birthdays

Janet Wilden	02/01
Jo Beaudette	02/02
Morgan Wiza	02/04
Jocelyn Prevost	02/05
Stella Wilden	02/06
Ben Oakley	02/07
Sandy Baber	02/10
Karen Harris	02/10
Carl Cendrowski	02/11
Cliff Tinkham	02/11
Jamie Brownlee	02/12
Julie Strayer	02/15
Jo Fowler	02/18
Carolyn Merlo	02/18
Kitty Kinic	02/22
Paul Tregembo	02/22
Caleb Parker	02/24
Rosalie Tinkham	02/27
Suzan Littlejohn	02/28



February Anniversaries

Thomas & Judy Northrop	02/03
Derald & Patricia Van Camp	02/07
Deborah & Jacques Tchakerian	02/10
Paul & Suzanne Tregembo	02/19
Brandon & Ashley Gawthrop	02/23



Dear Members of First UMC,
 Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I was overwhelmed by your loving gift. It is an honor and pleasure to serve with you in this church. Together we are reaching out to those in need, sharing our faith with our children and youth, and seeking to be God's people in the world. I pray that in the year and years to come, we will continue to seek God's calling and live the path that Christ laid out for us as we serve the Mt. Clemens community. Thank you for your generosity.
 Blessings, Rev. Alicea

Dear FUMC family,
 Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it is greatly appreciated. We are forever grateful.
 ~The family of Doris Breikreuz



Autumn, Elodie and I want to thank everybody for the incredibly kind Christmas staff gift. We also want to thank everybody who attended the open house. Autumn tried to write down everybody's names and gifts to write thank you notes, but Elodie had a few of them opened before we could get to them. So, in case we do not get a chance to say it otherwise, thank you! We feel blessed to be part of such a joyful and generous congregation.
 ~Pastor Dan, Autumn, and Elodie

Dear friends,
 A note of thanks for supporting our family at the death of my dad, Bernie Weideman. Rev. Alicea's service and especially the beautiful sermon is still being mentioned to me. She did an especially sensitive job. Thank you for flowers, and the help in the reception - to Marge, Wendy, and Dan for work with the video. You are my home church, and always will be.
 Sincerely, Cheryl Weideman Luce

First UMC,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful plant, the beautiful music from Matthew, the awesome service by Pastor Dan and Rev. Alicea. Our family was very comforted by the church family.
 Love, Carol Cusic

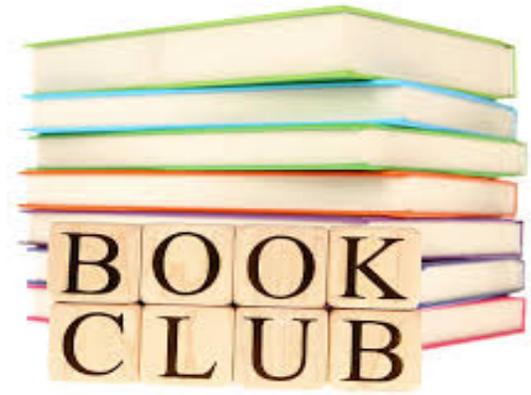
Dear church family,
 Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gift! It was such a blessing to me and my husband.
 Love, Wendy and Bernard

Notes from your Leadership Committee Team

The Leadership Committee met on December 3, 2019 with the following items being discussed:

- Discussion on the recent stewardship campaign. Pledges are still coming in and the numbers looks very promising. At the next Leadership Committee Meeting final numbers will be tabulated and a budget will be presented for approval.
- Bill Wiza announced that he will be stepping down as Chairperson of the Trustees, effective at the end of the year. Justine Olszewski will be serving as Co-Chair with Tom Baber as Chairperson.
- Pastor Dan reviewed the church calendar for the month of December and early January.
- Rev. Alicea presented a written report on her activities and upcoming plans for the Youth.
- The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Your Leadership Committee Team



The book club will meet **February 11th at 10:00am** in the Library to discuss *THE DRY*, by Jane Harper.

WESLEYANS

Wesleyan Activity

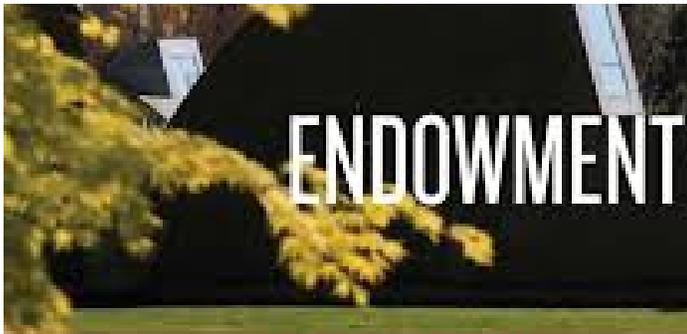
The Wesleyans will gather for a sack lunch and game afternoon in Wesley Hall on **February 15th at noon**. All are welcome.



Firstfruits Offering

Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of January, 2020

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
January 5	\$10,352.00	\$6,500.00	109
January 12	\$5,180.00	\$6,500.00	80
January 19	\$6,223.00	\$6,500.00	96
January 26	\$5,446.00	\$6,500.00	146



Endowment Report

Dividends for the trustees for the 4th quarter 2019.
\$2,213.62

Dividends for the trustees for the full year 2019.
\$10,230.46

The trustees are withdrawing \$7,800 from the fund profit for additional security cameras and computer upgrades.

Ken Fowler

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Kathy Oakley, Jessica Evans, Nancy Donahue, Al Clary
Grieving: Agatha Pingley, Bernie Weideman, Barb Matz, Myna Born, Lois Vale, Murray Shelson

Our Friends and Family

Elsa Strayer, David Rice, Clifford Steggell, Michael Romero, Norma Kosmala,
Darcie West's mother, Christopher Williams' mother, Jamie Brownlee's cousin, Wanda

Our Homebound

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

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 Brocker, 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

2020 **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
Tom Baber: Chair of Trustees
Justine Olszewski: 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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