

The Clarion

February 2021

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

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing.
- Jesus (John 15:5)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I find it incredibly difficult to be walking into Lent this year, still in the midst of a pandemic. Last year at this time we were celebrating our youth through a talent show, preparing for Ash Wednesday, and hosting a Winter Warming Worship in the Sanctuary. Then right in the middle of Lent, everything changed, causing us to reframe most of the norms of our church. This year we continue to evaluate our next steps as a church to continue our long history of Christian witness, mission, worship, and fellowship, all without definitive answers about what will come in the near and not-so-near future. We can't predict answers to every question we are facing, but we can say with confidence that we have a strong, faithful, and resilient community!

As time has moved forward in the last year I have watched, with joy, the movement of our church from survival, to adaptation, to innovation, to creativity. It has been a joy to see leaders in our church step up, staff take on new roles and processes, and to see people continue to live out their call to serve others. As we round the corner of this new year and reflect again on the coming Lenten season, I hope this year will also be able to say with clarity that this season is also about Spiritual growth. Lent is a season of reflection. Reflection on the journey of Christ to the cross, reflection of our own walk with Christ, and a collective reflection on the journey of our church towards living a Christian witness of love.

So how can we not only survive and adapt, but grow? Throughout Lent we will be focusing on Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk." This Lenten study will be focusing on 5 essential practices of Christian life. We will use the themes to guide our Sunday services, and we will have an opportunity for you to join together in reading the book and joining others in a weekly study each Thursday of Lent. Adam Hamilton's view, as one of the most prominent United Methodist pastors in our wider church, will help us to hear from another perspective, helping us to grow. I hope you will read, participate, and reflect through this series.

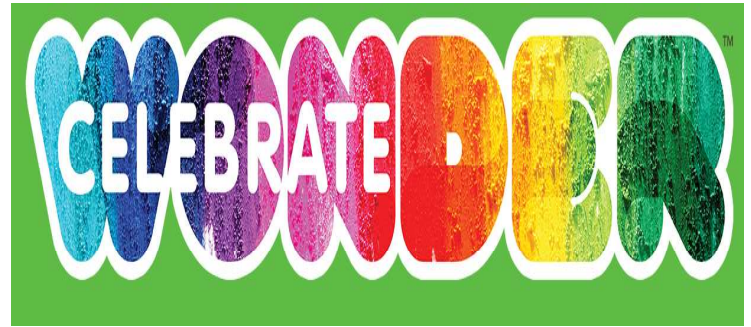
We will be sharing soon about some other Lenten opportunities, including how you can participate in Ash Wednesday. My hope for you is to feel connected to God in Christ, connected to your own Christian walk, and connected to one another through this important season. As we walk together through Lent, and as we emerge into Easter with joy, I can't wait to share it all with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Dan





The Youth Group continues to meet both in Zoom and In-Person on **Sunday's from 4:00 until 5:30.** We are currently working our way through the Bible from Creation to Pentecost using Echo-12 Bible study as well as playing games, watching movies, and engaging in service projects. All youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome to join us.



Beginning last October, children ages 3-10 have been wondering about a great many things. Each week they are invited to engage with Bible stories, activities to enhance the weekly theme, and learn spiritual practices to deepen their relationship with God. The lessons are presented with a combination of home delivered packets containing activities and craft supplies and pre-recorded videos from Cokesbury and Rev. Alicea. Many thanks to Bonnie Robbins-McCormick, Linda Johnston, and Marsha Lynch who deliver the home packets each month to the 21 children from Mount Clemens to Shelby Township from St. Clair Shores to New Baltimore



Baptism Buddies

When a baby is baptized, our congregation promises to surround the child with love promising to help the child develop faith and learn to love God. Did you ever wonder how you can fulfill this promise? Here is an opportunity for you to help a child learn to pray and to know they are loved and cared for. As a Baptism Buddy you are paired with one of our infants/toddlers when they are baptized and take responsibility for praying for your buddy. If you are interested in becoming a Baptism Buddy, please email Rev. Alicea at alwharpist30@gmail.com. There will be a zoom information meeting for all Baptism Buddies to answer your questions and talk about your responsibilities.



Graduation is just around the corner. We are looking for donations to this very worthy cause so that we can send our seniors off to college with a little help from their church family.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please make your check out to the church with a notation on the memo line for "Graduation Scholarships".

LENTEN



STUDY GROUP

Lenten Study - Adam Hamilton's, "The Walk"

Starting **Thursday, February 18th**, we will have a lenten study of Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk." This book will tie to our Lenten sermon series around 5 essential practices of the Christian life. Each Thursday in lent we will meet from **1:30-2:30** over Zoom to review one chapter and talk through how we can grow together in our Christian walk. If you are interested, please sign up by sending an email to office@mountclemensumc.org or calling and leaving a message in the office. We will be able to order you a book (\$10) and have it available in the office to be picked up. *The Walk* is also available on Kindle for \$10.



New Membership Class

Pastor Dan will be hosting an information class about the United Methodist Church on Sunday, **March 21st from 1:00-2:30pm**. This is for people who may want to join our church, or who want to learn more about our founding, our structure, and some of what makes our church unique. At this point we will plan to meet over Zoom, but I will update the church if we are able to offer it on Zoom and in person. Those that want to join our church after this meeting will be invited to do so in church on **March 28th!** I hope you will join us. To register, or if you have questions, please send an email to Pastor Dan at pastordan@mountclemensumc.org.



Endowments

Endowment Fund Report

For the 4th quarter 2020 the fund generated \$1,856.53 for the trustees for building maintenance and improvements. For the year 2020 the fund generated \$8,020.88 for the trustees.

Ken Fowler, Committee Chair



My family and I would like to give a very special thank you to Rev. Dan and Rev. Alicea and our church family and friends for all the cards, thoughts and prayers on the passing of my loving husband, father, grand and great grandfather, Wesley. You are all so kind and generous. You have a special place in my heart, you are all so caring.

God bless you all and please be safe.

Loretta Ballard & family

I appreciate the abundance of cards and encouraging, supportive phone calls Keith and I received after the death of my father in September. These kind gestures mean so much.

- Sue Rosso

Al Clary would like to thank everyone at First United Methodist Church for their cards, prayers and concerns for my recent shoulder surgery.

God bless,
Al

Thank you to the church for your incredibly generous Christmas staff gifts this year. Our dedicated staff have been taking on new and different roles throughout this year, but I know that our staff's commitment to this church is in large part due to the wonderful support that we receive from all of you. It is a blessing to work for such a generous and loving congregation. You have blessed us! Thank you.

-Pastor Dan and Staff

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Linda Johnston, Joyce Wells, Carl Cendrowski, Judy Alger, Nancy Donahue, Jamie Brownlee

Grieving

Wesley Ballard, Euella Thomas

Our Friends and Family

Harry and Norma Kosmala's great granddaughter, Eva; Karen Rothenhauser, Rev. Donna Minarik, Christy Rose, Bruce Robbins, Kelsey Bridson

Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Marilyn Jean Borow, Carl Cendrowski, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud, 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, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Annica Bocker, Nathan Buchanan, Nathan Clifton, Joshua Collins, Hannah Dion, Jessica Evans, Alison Haskell, Sean Hathaway, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Jackson Kelly, Justin Keppler, Ashley Krynski, Claire Manning, Jack Nielsen, Nick Nielsen, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon

Contact Information

2021 **First UMC** **Leadership Team**

Linda McLatcher: Chair
Tim Howlett: Finance Chair
Harry Kosmala: Business Manager
Lois Hill: Pastor Parish Chair
Bethany Gimm: Pastor Parish Co-Chair
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: Pastor
Rev. Alicea Williams: Children and Youth Ministry



57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Church Phone: 586.468.6464
www.mountclemensumc.org

Senior Pastor, Reverend Dan Hart
Email: pastordan@mountclemensumc.org

Deacon, Reverend Alicea Williams
Email: alwharpist30@gmail.com

Office Manager, Wendy Jones
Email: office@mountclemensumc.org