

The Clarion

August 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

24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize?

Run in such a way that you may win it. 25 Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 26 So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; 27 but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

First Corinthians 9: 24-27

Dear Friends,

As the Olympics are in full swing it got me thinking about what Biblical headlines might look like if they were written for the Olympics today. It may read “Jesus Christ is the Fastest on the Water with a New Technique – Can His Teammates follow?” (Matthew 14:22-33) I could even see a, “Name Change and a Change in Faith Carry Man to the Finish Line – See What Happens When He Gives His All!” (2nd Timothy 4:6-8) Maybe even, “Rowing Team Experiences Unbelievable Miracle – Is Sleep the Secret?” (Mark 4:35-41)

The Olympics are a wonderful celebration of athletic events with athletes from across the world. They never fail to give us stories to cling to! The strength and courage to carry the weight of an entire country is incredible, and sometimes the greatest gifts of the games come from those who exemplify strength in different ways. We have already seen beautiful sportsmanship, the courage to step away for health, and athletes serving as mentors to their competitors and teammates even as the ark of their own athletic careers begin to close. There is much to celebrate and remember from these gutsy, heart-filled, and vulnerable moments. This encourages us to engage deeply in every aspect of our life and faith with courage and deep connection.

Throughout this year, I have seen the depth of faith of our congregation. I have witnessed the way that we have raced through the unfamiliar and persevered. I am so thankful to you all for traversing the difficult track to keep your connection to God and to our church. That being said, it certainly seems like we are headed on a new journey. We have the chance to move from endurance to celebration. This August, we will welcome our new Music Director to help us move forward with worship. We will have in-person (and online) Vacation Bible School led by Rev. Alicea and a wonderful team of volunteers. This September, we will return many of our small groups and will be taking pictures for our new church directory. And greatest of all, this October, we will be welcoming Bishop David Bard, to worship with us as we celebrate our 200th year of Ministry in Mount Clemens! There is so much ahead to be excited for, and I know that all of these connections and joyful moments are really a celebration of all that Jesus Christ has done for us, and will continue to do through us!

No matter how you have participated in church through your time, talents, gifts, service, and witness over this time, the time has come again to look forward with hope and strength. We have endured with strength, but now is the time to engage with purpose. Return to worship, rejoin the study, come quilt with the quilters, raise your voice in praise with the choir, help in mission, or join our worship team. While we are certainly continuing to watch what is going on in the community around us with caution and safety in mind, we are also finding new ways to move forward in connection. We can only continue to be strong if our community comes together, engaging our community, and engaging our faith in an incredible God. We have so much to be thankful for, and even more to celebrate. Let our headline be, “Seemingly Small Church Makes Centuries of Big Waves – Meet the Carpenter Turned Messiah that Made it Happen!”

With the Hope of Christ,
Pastor Dan

CHURCH DIRECTORY

SIGN UP TODAY



Our Mount Clemens First UMC Church Directory will not be complete without you!

Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

Set up your appointment today online or stop by the office for assistance.

*Photography Dates are Wednesday, September 15th, from 2-8:30pm
or Thursday, September 16th, from 2-8:30 pm.*

*Everyone who is photographed will receive a
complimentary 8 x10 portrait and a Directory!*

Go to the Universal Church Directories website (www.ucdir.com)

*Click on the box on the right side of the homepage
entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"*

Enter your church code [mi1405](#)

Enter your church password [photos](#)



Discovery on Adventure Island!

Our adventure begins on **Tuesday August 17** and ends on **Thursday August 19**. In-person explorers meet from **4:00 – 6:00** and Virtual Explorers will have access to the VBS videos beginning at **9:00 in the morning** each day of VBS and your family will receive a home delivered packet of materials the weekend before VBS. The lighthouse keeper and his special friend, Beacon, look forward to welcoming you to our island of Adventure!

VBS Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer to help prepare and pack the craft and science kits for VBS please contact Rev. Alicea. Dates and times for helping are **Thursday August 5 and Thursday August 12 from 6:30-8:30**. We also need volunteers to turn Wesley Hall into a tropical paradise. The date and time for our decorating party is **Sunday, August 15, from 11:30-1:30**. Pizza and Drinks will be provided, please let Rev. Alicea know you are coming. Please check your email for a link to a sign up form for these dates OR you may contact Rev. Alicea.

VBS Materials

VBS Materials are still being collected, please check your email for updated versions of the list or call Wendy in the church office to find what is still needed.

Nursery Reopening

We have been blessed with the births of many babies and there are more on the way! A Nursery Reopening team is being formed to assess the needs of our families and determine the best way to proceed with renovations. We are excited about this step in the life of our church and look forward to sharing more news with you as we proceed.

*Coming this Fall: more details in the September Clarion
Celebrate Wonder Sunday School – Online
Children's Worship – in person
Acolyte Training – 3rd -6th graders*



Youth Group NOAH Service Project

On Wednesday August 11 our youth group will go to Central United Methodist Church in Detroit to participate with the NOAH project. We will pack lunches for their guests and then serve a meal to all who show up. We will meet at the church at 9:00 and return around 12:30. There are 2 more spots open for this service project. Please let Rev. Alicea know if you are joining us!

Confirmation Parent Meeting

Confirmation Classes are being offered this year for all students in the 6th-8th grades. Confirmation is a time for students to learn more about Faith and the Church culminating in a Confirmation Sunday where students repeat the vows made for them at their baptism and become full members of the United Methodist Church. There will be a Parent/Youth orientation meeting on **Thursday August 26 beginning at 7:00**. This meeting will be in-person in Wesley Hall. If your family would like to attend on Zoom, a link will be available. Please RSVP to Rev. Alicea by **August 23**.

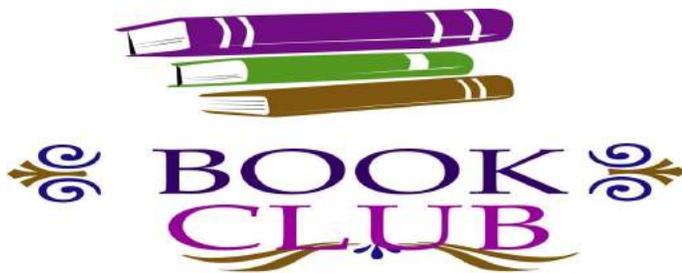
Driveway Visits

Driveway visits with our church families are on-going. There are still spots available for families to sign up for Rev. Alicea to come for a visit. For families with young children Rev. Alicea arrives with a box of goodies including bubbles, sidewalk chalk, stuffed animals, books, Tonka trucks and more...she is ready for games and fun with you and your children. For older children, Rev. Alicea will bring a portable Corn Hole game or is willing to learn a game from you (she might even be encouraged to kick a soccer ball or shoot some hoops)! Contact Rev. Alicea to sign up for your driveway visit today!!!



Youth Group Yard Clean Up

On Friday July 9, our youth group met at Nancy Donahue's home and spent the morning weeding her yard. We had a wonderful morning visiting with Nancy and even enjoyed cupcakes together!



The book club will meet in the nursery in **September on the 7th at 10:00**. Participants may read one or both of these books:

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet
by Jamie Ford

Snow Falling on Cedars
by David Guterson



For the 2nd quarter 2021 the Endowment Fund generated \$2,579.10 for the Trustees to use for building maintenance and improvements. The value of the fund as of 6-30-2021 is \$475,529.61
Ken Fowler

We are excited to welcome our new Music Director, Wesley Knust!



Wesley Knust holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Saginaw Valley State University, and a Master of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Florida. While at SVSU, Wesley studied both trumpet and piano. His graduate research at the University of Florida focused on incorporating improvisation and composition activities into piano lessons for adolescent beginner students.

Wesley has served in music ministry at several churches, primarily in Saginaw and Midland. While serving at Aldersgate Church of Midland, he was awarded a scholarship to take organ lessons with Nicholas Schmelter. He currently directs the Blue Water New Horizons concert band and swing band in Port Huron, and teaches private piano and trumpet lessons. In his free time, he enjoys reading, walking, and traveling with his husband, Kenneth.

Notes from your Leadership Committee

The Leadership Committee met on July 14th in person at the church.

Chairperson Report:

- Linda McLatcher announced the annual Church Charge Conference will be held on October 4, 2021 via zoom.
- The committee discussed the many documents that need to be prepared and a timetable was set for achieving that goal.

Finance:

- Tim Howlett reported that our finances continue to be favorable.
- A \$12,000 transfer has been made to the Ministry in the Making to reduce our mortgage balance.

Trustees:

- Changes to LED light bulbs have been made throughout the church.
- The two gas leaks that were found in the Fellowship Hall area have been repaired.
- A new company has been hired to cut the grass around the church.
- The required elevator inspection has been completed.

Pastoral Report:

- The first inhumed ashes have been placed in the Memorial Garden. Information is currently being prepared for additional information on this subject.
- A new sermon series will begin in August entitled *Northern Nice/Southern Sweet*.
- Work is beginning on our 200 year celebration with final date to be determined.
- Pastor Dan reported that he was recently selected to attend an educational program through Dakota Wesleyan University. It is designed for Methodist pastors to gain further knowledge on stewardship, governance, vision, etc. This is a one year on line program totaling 21 credit hours and offers a Non Profit Church Leadership Certificate of Learning at the end of the year. Costs are being partially covered by the Conference, District, and personal funds.

Deacon Report

- Rev. Alicea announced that VBS will be August 17, 18 and 19 from 4:00-6:00 PM. This will be delivered both in house and virtual.
- Rev. Alicea also will be visiting families for a driveway visit as an opportunity to chat and enjoy a little play time together.
- Currently working on an acolyte class in the fall of 2021 for 3-6th graders as well as a confirmation class to begin in January, 2022.
- Continuing to work with the social worker from Mt. Clemens Schools and community leaders to learn how we can best support the school district.
- Will be attending Middle School Camp on July 24-31 at Lake Louise.

Next meeting will be August 24th.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Leadership Committee



August Birthdays

Tom Baber	08/05
Liam Gawthrop	08/06
Judi Lozo	08/06
Michael Brocker	08/08
Lindsay Collins	08/11
Sheila Strunk	08/11
Rachel Reece	08/12
Brandon Gawthrop	08/13
Jeremy Pointer	08/14
Danielle Reece	08/14
Ronan Dumas	08/15
Roger Merlo	08/15
Rev. Alicea Williams	08/15
Jim Willneff	08/15
Gayle Bumler	08/16
Brad Stahl	08/16
Martín Querio	08/17
Deborah Evans	08/18
Jim Brown	08/19
Melissa Parker	08/20
Christine Tchakerian	08/20
Linda L. Johnston	08/21
Jack Bridson	08/22
Samuel Silien	08/23
Mark Yousif	08/24
Maeson Machalak	08/26
Marilyn Nielsen	08/26
Denette Ballard	08/27
Matt Tinkham	08/27
Linda Willneff	08/27
Betty Brown	08/28
Jacques Tchakerian	08/28
Daniel Card	08/29
Brady Machalak	08/30
Heather McCallister	08/30



August Anniversaries

William & Terri Kimble	08/03
Michael & Sallie Miller	08/06
Steven & Kitty Kinic	08/15
Donald & Carol Ballard	08/17
William & Suzan Littlejohn	08/20
Richard & Sandra Paul	08/20
Brad & Sarah Stahl	08/24
Nicholas Lynch & Kelli Pierce	08/29
August & Junia Querio	08/29



*Dear Church Friends,
Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, and good thoughts sent during my recovery from my recent shoulder surgery! They were all very much appreciated and helped so much. I am happy to say that I am healing well. I am still doing physical therapy three times a week, but I can now drive myself. Lois and I feel very fortunate to be part of such a caring church family!
Sincerely,
Thomas Hill*



To the members of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens, thank you!

Thank you for the generosity and benevolence that you have bestowed upon me by providing a room at the Riverfront Inn, along with food, clothing and other items to help my stay there pleasant. I believe the help that you have given me in many ways has earned God's good grace and of course my eternal thanks.

*Best regards,
Steve Zmuda*

I want to thank my church family for the scholarships given to the seniors. I really appreciate the generous gift.

*Thanks again,
Alex Zdravkovski*

Many thanks to those who provided anything I needed such as supplies, food, rides, encouragement and more. All the prayers and cards contributed to my recovery from surgery. I am grateful for my church family.

*A special shout out to the quilters-you are the best! Thank you, thank you!
Linda Strait*

Dear Quilters and First UMC, Ethan wanted to say thank you so much for the beautiful quilt! It is already well loved! Thank you for blessing us with your talents and we are so grateful for the gift. We love it and we love you!

*Love,
Bethany, Aaron, and Ethan*

Our Church Family

Linda Strait, Marilyn Nielsen, Joyce Wells, David Knapp, Nancy Donahue, Roger and Carolyn Merlo
Tom Hill, Pat Hill, Carol Dorsey

Our Friends and Family

Morgan Wiza, Landon Morrison, Norma Kosmala, Joan R. Parnagian, Maryon Young
Rev. Donna Minarik, Beverly Anglin

Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Marilyn Jean Borow, 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, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan, Nathan Clifton,
Joshua Collins, Hannah Dion, Jessica Evans, Alison Haskell, 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, Jacob Williams

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



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Deacon, Reverend Alicea Williams
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Office Manager, Wendy Jones
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