

The Clarion

April 2022

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

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." -Luke 24:44

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, I was reflecting on the last two years, and came upon a devotional that I did with Autumn and Elodie at the very beginning of the pandemic. Elodie was 2 years old, and Ailey was not yet born. We sat in those first few weeks wondering what all would be. I announced that for the month of March, we would be worshipping from home, but would return soon to more normalcy. I remember hearing questions about why something so horrible would happen. Did humanity "deserve" such a punishment for living poorly? Was it intentional on behalf of God to make us better? I find the words of two years ago, echo even louder now. It is hard to understand how so many lives, so much time, and so much peace has been lost. Still, we are faithful.

Here are the three points shared in March of 2020, that are worth revisiting today:

First, **God does not choose to harm us.** It is not God's will for us to be punished or hurt by God. God does not choose viruses to flourish, or for people to needlessly die. There is nothing in the Bible that tells us that is true, especially when we look at the way people of all faiths, backgrounds, political affiliations, and economic situations have all experienced loss. God does not choose to harm us.

11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. -Jeremiah 29:11

Furthermore, **God is with us!** God is there to support us and guide us. We can turn over what we are struggling with to Jesus Christ, knowing that God intentionally cares for us every day. We are tied to a God that promises to carry the load of our burdens.

28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." -Matthew 11:28-30

That same God who is with us in Christ also calls on us to care for one another. **God chooses us to do good.** We are called to community within and beyond our church. We are called to radical love that pushes our boundaries and remembers the sacred worth of all of God's people. Just as God chooses not to harm us, and is intentionally with us, we are called to do the same in the world.

16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so you may love one another. -John 15:16-17

We journey through this Lent with two years of weariness. As Lent gives way to Easter, we are reminded again that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is changing our lives. The good news of Jesus Christ is that in life, death, and resurrection, we too are given life. With God's love we are called from fear and worry to abundance and life! May we follow Christ's journey with eager joy, knowing that we will never be the same.

In Christ,
Pastor Dan



Children's Ministry & Youth Group Updates



Youth Service Day

What do 4 youth, 2 leaders, and a very early morning have in common? An Arts-n-Scraps service day, of course! We gathered on a snowy Saturday morning to drive to Arts-n-Scraps in Detroit for a morning of making art kits out of recycle materials. In just under 2 hours we put together 181 art kits! Whew! Thanks to Sydney who drove and Justine who lent us her car so we could all go in one car! Watch for more Youth Service Days!



Youth Mission Trip

Our packet of information from God's Country Cooperative Parish has arrived and is being filled out BUT if you are planning to attend our awesome Mission Trip to Newberry, MI **July 31-August 6**, your \$50 deposit is due. Make your checks payable to First UMC of Mount Clemens with "2022 Mission Trip" in the Memo. A parent/participant information meeting will be schedule after Easter. Make your plans to attend our 2022 Mission Trip!



Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

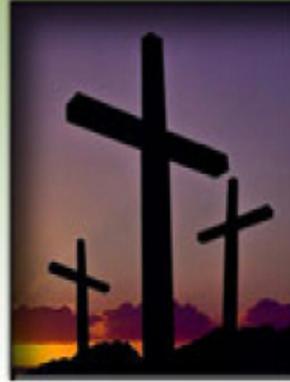
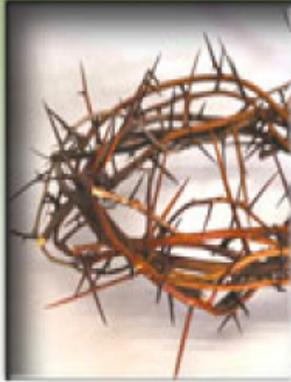
Our Family Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt will be **April 10**, Palm Sunday. Please arrive at **4:00** to begin your hunt. Pictures with the Easter Bunny will take place in Wesley Hall between **5:00 and 5:30**. All volunteers should arrive by **3:30**. It will be a hopping good time!



FOOD TRUCK PARTY: On a Roll with God

On **June 21-23 from 4:00 – 6:00** we will "taste and see that the Lord is good" with Cokesbury's Food Truck Party VBS. All children ages 3-10 are welcome to attend! Registration will open on **May 1**. We are making plans and need volunteers to lead a center (Bible Story, Craft, Science, Recreation), assist the Center Leaders, help with decorating, or simply to be here to lend a hand wherever a hand is needed. Please see Rev. Alicea if you would like to volunteer!

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday Worship, 4-10-22, 10am

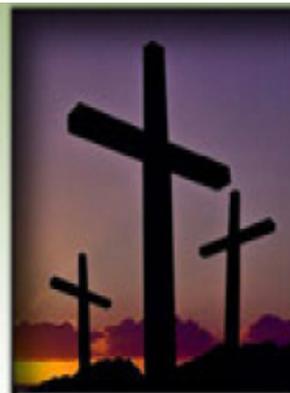
Maundy Thursday Service, 4-14-22, at 7pm

Good Friday Service, 4-15-22, at 7pm

Easter Sunday Worship, 4-17-22

7am SonRise Service

10am Easter Worship



Ministry Updates

NOTES FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Leadership Committee met on March 8, 2022 in person at the church.

Discussion Topics:

- The Committee received and reviewed the January Treasurers Report and Balance Sheet. The church finances continue to be strong and ahead of budget.
- The Committee gave final approval of the revised Guiding Principles.
- Staff Parish announced that they interviewed 3 candidates for the Custodian position. The Committee accepted Staff Parish's recommendation and selected Ms. Monique Thornton. She will begin the week of March 15th.
- Pastor Dan presented to the Committee a Leadership Covenant Agreement that all Leadership Committee members will sign. Editorial changes were discussed and the Covenant was approved as amended.
- The Committee reviewed the Church's Mission Statement. Further discussion will continue at the April meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for **7:00 PM April 19th in Wesley Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Your Leadership Committee



Women With Faith

Women With Faith will meet this Thursday, **April 7th, at 1:00 P.M.** in the Wesley Hall. Danielle from McLaren Hospital will be giving the program on safety and injury prevention. Please join us!



Spring Pasty Bake Sign Up Sheets

On **Tuesday, April 26 at 6 pm**, we will be cutting vegetables for the upcoming Pasty Bake. On **April 27 and 28**, we will be making and baking around 1,100 pasties, so we need all hands on deck to help in this important ministry fundraiser. Sign-up sheets are on the window of the Library. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Willneff.



The FUMC Quilters have been putting together new blankets to send to the children of Ukraine. Some of the blankets (such as in the picture) are fleece and will be very warm to use. Others are flannel blankets made by using king size flannel sheets with batting put in between the layers and will also be very warm. In early April, these blankets along with numerous new bedsheets will be taken to a warehouse in Hamtramck where they will be added to other donations to be flown to Poland for the Ukrainian refugees. Any prayers you can offer for the safe passage of these planes would be greatly appreciated.

Spring Outreach Mission!

Many thanks to Darrell Miller and his Missions Team! The spring rain couldn't stop this amazing group of people from building a beautiful wheelchair ramp for a very grateful young lady in our community. (Wendy Jones' granddaughter, Cassi)



Joys to Share



April Birthdays

Lloyd Job	04/02
Camden Parker	04/02
Patrick Young	04/02
William Cormicle	04/04
Emily Minarik	04/04
Kathryn Sommers	04/04
Autumn Hart	04/05
Robert Richardson	04/05
Desiree Grigsby	04/06
Patricia Hill	04/06
Marge Knapp	04/07
Megan Wilson	04/07
Gerald Pagett	04/10
Robert Prevost	04/10
Christopher French	04/11
Shawn Maertens	04/12
Madelyn Benson	04/13
Alyssa Semrau	04/13
Julie Skurya	04/14
Susan Galatioto	04/15
Jason Parker	04/16
Ray Buchanan	04/17
David Knapp	04/18
Bev Sumpter	04/18
Christopher Trombley	04/19
Everest Lefurgey	04/21
Elodie Hart	04/23
Mike Evans	04/24
Richard Paul	04/24
Arrow Stahl	04/24
Marsha Lynch	04/25
Rusty Northrop	04/25
Delwyn Thomas	04/26
Derald Van Camp	04/29
Bill Wiza	04/29



April Anniversaries

Mike & Kim Evans 04/29



Dear Chef Sue & Fish Fry Friends,
So well done, all packaged to stay warm, absolutely tasty and honestly, enough for another meal.
Your good, healthy meal is a testimony to our "church family".
Thank you so much! Yummy!
Pat Hill



My granddaughter, Michelle Hudock Granke, age 39 with a 4 month old and a 4 year old, finally had surgery to remove her tumor. It was wrapped around the spine and the neurosurgeon went into the back to put in screws and turned her over and entered from the front to remove the tumor, an 8 hour surgery! Today is day 2 and she has eaten spaghetti and used the bathroom! So many of you have prayed for her and shown your concern to me and I deeply appreciate all of you so much, thank you, thank you, thank you! The success of the surgery is everything the doctor hoped for and all that so many have prayed for. I am thankful to be a member of our caring church family.
Blessings to all of you,
Jan Hudock

Sharing thanks and blessings from Jamie Brownlee: Prayers were answered my Doctor is back at Work and says Thanks Soo much !!



Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Truman Guard, Steven Brandon, Holly Breikreuz, JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan, Jarrett Hill, Tony Lucido, Kelsey Bridson, Jamie Brownlee, Nancy Donahue, Jan Hudock, Gus Querio, Linda Tinkham

Our Friends and Family

Kate Michels, Jon Adams, Michelle Granke

Grieving

Faye Eileen Brown

Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Herb & JoAnn Brush, Marilyn Jean Borow, Irene Cloud, Nancy Donahue, Shirley French, Suzan Littlejohn, Karen Loos, Carolyn Merlo, Marilyn Nielsen, Gerald & Barbara Pagett, Gus Querio, Kay Sommers, Ruth Swistock, Fred Thielk, Del Thomas, Linda Tinkham, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Scott Bean, Cory Berg, Adam Donahue, Matthew Juras, Steven C. Kelly, Tami Morgan, Rande Phan, Brendan Price

College Students

Brianna Akers, Emily Beebe, Hannah Berg, Hunter Berg, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan, Nathan Clifton, Hannah Dion, Jessica Evans, Alison Haskell, Kyle Hill, Aaron Hudock, Jackson Kelly, Justin Keppler, Andrew Kosmala, Megan Kosmala, Ashley Krynski, Megan McCallister, Claire Manning, Jack Nielsen, Gabrielle Olszewski, Jordan Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Jake Williams, Alex Zdravkovski

Contact Information

2022 **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
Justine Olszewski: Chair of Trustees
Linda L. Johnston: Lay Leader
Lois Hill: Lay Member to Annual Conference
Linda Strait: Secretary
Rev. Dan Hart: Pastor
Rev. Aicea Williams: Children and Youth Ministry



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