

# The Clarion

June & July 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

*30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12: 30-31*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The foundation of our faith leads us to love God and love our neighbor. We are called to be a people of belief and prayer, and a people of Christ-inspired action. The Bible tells us in the book of James, "26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." (James 2:26) Yet, we are also reminded that is in not just works, but faith in Christ inspiring action, as we hear clearly in Colossians, "17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17) How do we see our faith as a catalyst for serving our neighbors? How do we see our actions of service as a faithful witness to Christ?

I am regularly in awe of this church for the way our congregation embraces mission and serving our community at the core of who we are. We have worked, over time, to identify how we can be a positive place where people can come to have their immediate needs met and know that they are valued and respected. That was the mindset of this church long before I arrived and will continue to be at the core of who we are for the foreseeable future.

As we consider how we can be a positive beacon of God's love as we continue forward in ministry, I think it is also important to take time to reflect, listen, and engage our community. I recently came across some helpful guiding questions from Douglas Ruffle, a ministry leader who worked previously as a missionary in Argentina, and then worked at the General Board of Discipleship Ministries as part of the United Methodist Church. Following the guidance of E. Stanley Jones, he compiled a list of how to live into community with a missionary mindset. He believed we should:

- Approach a community as if we are from a different land
- Don't assume anything, but start with a clean slate
- Reflect upon our "default culture" to enable us to interpret our experience of people and relationships in a different culture
- Seek ways to embrace the cultures of others
- Try to break down barriers to understand the common ground of the human race
- Fall to our knees in prayer before seeking to know our communities
- Seek a greater understanding of ourselves
- Understand the need to listen deeply to others
- Approach our community with humility and love

Even if we have been part of our community for over 200 years, our job is to continue to love, continue to listen, not assume anything about what our community needs, and be grounded in faith and humility. When I read this list, I especially identify with beginning in prayer, and then trying to break down barriers through listening and love. As we reflect on where we are called moving forward, I whole-heartedly believe we can only know by listening and asking first. Let us be in prayer, preparing for all that is ahead, and opening our minds to asking the right questions, hearing the right voices, and boldly serving, grounded in Christ. Thank you for serving our community with strength! As our community continues to experience new joys and new challenges, I am thankful that we have the privilege to be a part of the in-breaking of Christ's love.

In the humility of Christ,  
Pastor Dan

## Summer Special Music

*Our Music Director, Wesley Knust,  
is looking for those who would  
be willing to share their musical gifts  
this Summer!*

*There is a sign up sheet  
on the library window.*



**Special  
Music *this*  
Summer**

## Youth Group Update and Thank You Notes



### God's Country Cooperative Parish

We have 7 participants signed up for our Mission Trip to God's Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP) **July 31 – August 6**. God's Country Cooperative Parish began as an idea in the late 1960's and early 1970's when the 7 churches that now make up the parish were being served by only 2 pastors. One pastor served the churches in Newberry and Paradise, Michigan and one pastor served the churches of McMillan, Engadine, Hulbert, Germfask, and Grand Marais. These seven church spanned 5 counties, and included 5 school systems and funeral homes, 9 or more cemeteries, 6 hospitals, and many nursing homes. By 1985, GCCP, with a name, a purpose statement, a newsletter, an Advisory Committee, a Church and Community worker, and a Parish Director, had become a reality. GCCP covers an area of 2500 square miles in the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula and churches might be up to 100 miles away from another GCCP church. They combine their resources, share their faith, and work to bring hope and faith to all God's children in their parish. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the presence of Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams. Our group will be a VIM team and will work on projects to help families in the parish, share God's love to the people of the area, experience the beauty, culture, and richness of the UP, and have a lot of fun doing it.

Our participants are: Sean Brown, Gabrielle Olszewski, Sydney Olszewski, Pastor Dan Hart, Justine Olszewski, Jim Brown, and Rev. Alicea Williams.

How can you help? Begin praying for our team as we continue to prepare for our time in Newberry, MI and watch for emails with more information about our trip. Plan to attend worship on July 31 as our team will be commissioned for our week away.



*Dear Pastor Dan, Rev Alicea and our church family, Al and I want to Thank You for your prayers, cards and calls. They are all greatly appreciated. This was more surgery on my knee than we expected with a longer recovery. We trust in the Lord*

*Love,*

*Al and Karen Clary*

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### Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event a success! Families had a good time participating in the activities at each station. Children especially "finding" their eggs and were somewhat fascinated by the Easter Bunny who arrived to take pictures with all the families. Photos from the event may be viewed here:*

*<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ak5stUnpuFNQ2NgDZZfCRih3EltCsb3i/view?usp=sharing>*

*Note: Pictures may only be viewed. They may not be downloaded, printed, or shared.*

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*Dear FUMC family,*

*Perhaps you sent a card or joined us in celebration for our loved one, Joyce Wells, who has gone home to be with God. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. She will be missed, dearly, for years to come. We're sure she loved seeing us from above, gathered in her honor, twice. We also thank you for your support, thoughts, and prayers.*

*With love and prayers,*

*JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan and Rory Flanigan*

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*Dear church family,*

*Thank you very much for all of the prayers and condolences in the passing of my mother, Joan R. Parnagian. We also loved the flowers from our church, thank you!*

*Blessings and love,*

*The Brownlee Family*

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*Thank you very much to all of our amazing volunteers who helped to make our Fish Fry and Pasty Bake a wonderful blessing and success!*

# Ministry Updates

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*This will provide a report of our finances at the end of the first quarter of 2022.*

*We will provide a more detailed report through six months in the next Clarion.*

*Our actual pledged envelope giving was \$57,165, which was \$2,627 below budget. Our non-pledged envelope giving was \$16,371, which was \$1,129 below budget. Miscellaneous receipts are \$1,754 above budget. Expenses are generally at budget. Overall, we are ahead of our budgeted shortfall by \$1,748.27. As discussed previously, this shortfall was budgeted with the understanding that we had a surplus at the end of 2021 to cover it if necessary.*

## MINISTRY IN THE MAKING

*In December 2014, we entered into a 15 year mortgage for \$698,437 with the United Methodist Union after several years of rollover mortgages where we paid only interest. In December 2015, the mortgage balance was \$647,521. In June 2016, we conducted the Ministry in the Making campaign with a goal of raising \$320,000 and paying off the mortgage by 2021. As of now, our mortgage balance is approximately \$146,190. Our monthly interest payments have gone from about \$1,950 to about \$500 per month. If we pay only the mortgage payment and no additional payments, the mortgage will be paid by August 2024, at the latest, more than a five-year reduction in the payment period. We will continue to monitor and address the mortgage. The annual cost is \$63,060, which is 17% of our 2022 budget.*

*Thank you, again, for your extreme generosity.*

*Tim Howlett  
Finance Chair*

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## NOTES FROM YOUR LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

*The Leadership Committee met on June 24, 2022 in Wesley Hall.*

### *Discussion Topics:*

- The Financial Reports were reviewed. It was recommended by Tim Howlett, Chair of Finance and Pastor Dan that we move the following funds from the COVID Relief-PPP Balance:*
  - o \$5,000 to the Trustees Restricted account*
  - o \$5,000 to Ministry in the Making which will go towards the mortgage*
  - o \$10,000 to the General Fund.*

*After further discussion all members voted in favor of this transfer.*

- Trustees are continuing to investigate and discuss the cost of the roof as well as a major repair to the skylight in the sanctuary. More information to follow.*
- Pastor Dan announced the upcoming changes to the Leadership Committee, effective July 1. These changes include Warren Minarik, Chairperson; Terri Brown, Vice Chairperson; Sidney Olszewski, Lay Leader; Kim Rueger-West and Sheila Strunk, Members at large. The position of Secretary will be announced at a later date.*
- Rev. Alicea gave an update on VBS which will be held on June 21-23 with 19 enrolled at this time. The Youth Mission Trip will take place in the Upper Peninsula July 16-24th.*
- Pastor Dan congratulated the new members of the committee and offered a thank you to those leaving the committee due to term of office limits.*

*The next meeting has not been scheduled but will be placed on the calendar at a later date.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Your Leadership Committee*

# *FOOD TRUCK PARTY:*

*On a Roll with God*

*Tuesday June 21 – Thursday*

*June 23 from 4:00PM – 6:00PM*



# Joys to Share



## June Birthdays

Nicholas Lynch	06/02
Addison Maertens	06/03
Jake Williams	06/03
Ellen Crossman	06/05
Diane Vander Muellen Nagle	06/07
Donna Miller	06/08
Frank Presley	06/09
Keith Rosso	06/09
Kelli Pierce	06/10
Marsha Blakely	06/11
Makayla Landrum	06/13
JT Tinkham	06/14
Dee Jay Whittam	06/14
Kenneth Hyde	06/17
Audrey Minarik	06/17
Anne Champion	06/21
Kelly Norkiewicz	06/21
Jean Borow	06/22
August Querio	06/22
Lisa Lucido	06/23
Caralee McKay	06/23
Joey Lynch	06/24
Jude Lynch	06/24
Ashley Krynski	06/25
Linda Beardslee	06/26
Jason Machalak	06/26
Chase Grigsby	06/28
Moorea Stahl	06/28
Donald Ballard	06/29
Carol Dorsey	06/29



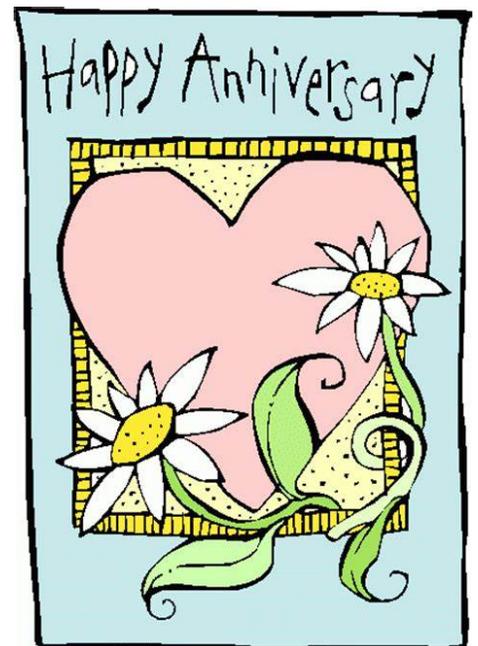
## July Birthdays

Sydney Olszewski	07/01
Pastor Dan Hart	07/02
Jaxon Haxer	07/02
Celeste Duggan	07/03
Kaitlyn French	07/04
Rick Lyon	07/04
Janna Holderer	07/05
Suzanne Tregembo	07/05
Emma Lucido	07/06
Michael Olszewski Jr	07/06
Steven Paul	07/08
Emma Granke	07/11
Rory Flanigan	07/12
Ben Wilden	07/12
Irene Cloud	07/13
Tony Lucido	07/14
Jennifer Haxer	07/20
Bonnie Kaster	07/23
JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan	07/24
Patricia Arketa	07/25
Debra Card	07/28
Linda Mowatt	07/29
Meribeth Bocker-Querio	07/30
Diane McDougall	07/30
Patricia Yousif	07/30
Melissa Machalak	07/31



## June/July Anniversaries

Herbert Brush III & JoAnn Taylor Brush	06/04
Al & Karen Clary	06/09
Tim & Celeste Duggan	06/11
Matt & Linda Tinkham	06/15
Ray & Judy Buchanan	06/16
Terry & Vicki Jones	06/17
Mark & Patricia Yousif	06/23
Andy & Jenny Ellis	06/27
Michael & Micki Schichtel	06/27
Rev. Alicea & Christopher Williams	06/30
Bob & Betty Brown	07/08
Jason & Melissa Parker	07/13
Jeff West & Kim Rueger-West	07/18
Robert & Miria Chamberlin	07/31
Aaron & Bethany Gimm	07/31



# Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

## Our Church Family

Truman Guard, Barbara Knuth, JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan, Karen Clary, Caralee McKay, Makayla Landrum, Nancy Donahue, Jamie Brownlee, Gus Querio

## Our Friends and Family

Diane Jones, George D'Luge

## Grieving

Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Joan R. Parnagian, Joan Lisbon Boyd

## Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Herb & JoAnn Brush, Marilyn Jean Borow, Irene Cloud, Nancy Donahue, Shirley French, Barbara Knuth, Suzan Littlejohn, Karen Loos, Carolyn Merlo, Marilyn Nielsen, Gerald & Barbara Pagett, Gus Querio, Kay Sommers, Ruth Swistock, Fred Thielk, Del Thomas, Linda Tinkham, 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, Hannah Berg, Hunter Berg, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan, Nathan Clifton, 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, Mitchell Salisbury, Kyle Sieben, Jake Williams, Alex Zdravkovski

## Contact Information

### **2022** ***First UMC*** ***Leadership Team***



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Chair: Warren Minarik  
Vice-Chair: Terri Brown  
Finance: Tim Howlett  
Lay Leader: Sydney Olszewski  
Secretary: TBD  
Staff Parish Relations: Bethany Gimm & Lois Hill  
Trustees Chair: Justine Olszewski  
Member at Large: Sheila Strunk  
Member at Large: Kim Rueger-West  
Clergy: Rev. Alicea Williams, Rev. Dan Hart

Senior Pastor, Reverend Dan Hart  
Email: [pastordan@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:pastordan@mountclemensumc.org)  
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