



The Clarion

September 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

*31 but those who trust in the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

Dear Friends,

As we kick off fall, we do so with great anticipation of all we have in store. Many things have returned to “normal” and most of our ministry opportunities have returned. We continue to take Covid seriously but have learned a lot about how to be safe and in full ministry mode. We enter the fall with new opportunities for fellowship, worship, and for our children’s and family ministries. God is up to some wonderful things in our church!

This has also meant that our leadership team is beginning to dream again and look to the future with optimism and faith. Our church leadership, staff, and congregation have done a wonderful job of sustaining us through a difficult season, but now is the time to begin to look forward, again, with our ministry goals in mind to see where we want to be through this year, and into the future.

To be grounded in who we are, and who we want to be, we will be taking a congregation-wide look at our church identity. Throughout September, we will be looking to remind ourselves of who we have identified ourselves to be as a church. We will spend the Sundays looking at our vision statement, piece by piece, to be encouraged, reignited, and reminded of how we can grow to reach our full potential. This church went through a dedicated process to create our vision statement, and we see it each week on our bulletin. I think it will be a purposeful practice to be reminded what it says, talk about how we can live into its words, and to ask what it means for our church now and as we go forward.

Here is our vision statement that we will explore through September, starting with our kick-off Sunday on September 11th:

First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens 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.

As we remember our teachers, students, staff, and parents, who have begun or are beginning a new school year, we pray that their transition may be one of excitement, potential, and inner peace. As we pray for our church, and all we have ahead of us this fall, and this next school year, we pray for excitement, potential, and the presence of the Holy Spirit, drawing us forward towards God’s ministry for our church and community. I hope you will jump into something new, and grow in faith, community, and joy. I hope you will use this new season to ask what God is calling you to do for the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world. Say yes to something new (and start by throwing a whip cream filled pie at your clergy on September 11th to support mission)! I can’t wait to share this fall in ministry with you!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Dan

Youth Group and Children's Ministry



U.P. Mission Trip 2022 - The group of six: Jim and Sean Brown, Justine and Sydney Olszewski, Pastor Dan, and Rev. Alicea left on July 31 for Newberry, MI for a week of work with God's Country Cooperative Parish. Beginning on Monday we worked each day on projects that would help this community from sorting clothes to painting a deck, we worked hard and had a great week. During our leisure time we played games, ate some really questionable jelly beans, star gazed at Whitefish Point, saw Tahquamenon Falls, Pictured Rocks, and Kitch-iti-Kipi. Thank you for your prayers, and your support for our trip.



Combined Youth Group

Mark your calendars for **September 18** in the afternoon for a combined youth group event. Before the Pandemic, four churches: Eastpointe Emmanuel UMC, Roseville Trinity, Warren First UMC, and our church had joined together once a month to bring youth together from the four communities for a large group experience. This fall we are planning to bring this group together again. Our first event is **September 18**. Watch for more details as they become available!

Children's Worship

Children's Worship will begin Sunday October 9 and will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Children's Worship is for children ages 3-8 and uses the Godly Play curriculum to teach children about worship. Children's Worship takes place in the Children's Worship Center during our Worship service with children leaving right after the Young Christians Moment. Parents may pick up their children from the Children's Worship Center after Worship as children will not be released until a parent is present.

Children's Worship volunteers

Volunteers to lead/teach and assist are needed to staff Children's Worship. All volunteers will receive training for this program and must attend a Protection Policy training before working with children. Leaders/Teachers will only lead once a month and assistants will be needed twice a month. Please see Rev. Alicea if you are interested in volunteering for Children's Worship.

Celebrate Wonder

It's that time of year again...Celebrate Wonder Sunday School will begin in September with all new videos and all new Sunday School Bags delivered to your home. If you have a child 3-10 and are not already receiving a Sunday school bag each month, please let Rev. Alicea know and you will be added to the delivery and email list. We are trying a new thing this year: Celebrate Wonder Live! On the first Sunday of each month, beginning on Oct. 2, from 4:30-5:00 we will gather on Zoom for a Celebrate Wonder Time!



Driveway Visits

Tonka Trucks, chalk, and bubbles defined visits from Rev. Alicea this summer. We moved lots of sand, played many tic-tac-toe and hopscotch games, drew many rainbows and dinosaurs, and chased lots of bubbles. This ministry has, for the last two summers, been fun and has provided some personal connection with families.

Camp 2022 Recap & Christmas In July

This summer, eight campers from our church ventured north to Lake Louise Christian Community Camp in Boyne Falls, MI to go to camp. They attended Middle School Camp (Caleb "CJ" Parker), Black Bear Camp (Caiden Parker), Teddy Bear Camp (Wyatt Minarik and Calan Parker) and Clergy Family Camp (Pastor Dan, Autumn, Elodie, and Ailey Hart). They each came back with great stories to tell and a desire to return to camp next summer. Camp changes lives! If you would like to send your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew to camp, please talk with either Pastor Dan or Rev. Alicea about how to register and which camp might be best for your child. Registration for Lake Louise Camp 2023 begins January 3. You can find more info at www.lakelouisecommunity.org



Wyatt at Teddy Bear Camp 2022



Black Bear Camp 2022



Middle School Camp 2022
(yes, that is Bishop and Julie Bard in the front row!)



Wyatt and Warren at Teddy Bear Camp



Clergy Family Camp 2022

*Thank you to all who participated in our **Christmas in July** sock and underwear drive. With your support, and the support of our knitters and quilters sale after church, we were able to bless the Wave Project and Rev. Kelly's Clothing Closet with over 400 items of clothing and a \$150 gift card for Meijer, each. They were so thankful for the surprise Christmas gift and for what it will do for those in need in our community!*



Ministry Updates



Mens bible study will be on the 1st & 3rd Monday beginning **October 3 at 7pm Wesley Hall**. This year we will be studying From the book "Simon Peter" by Adam Hamilton. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rick Eldridge



Women With Faith will meet **Monday, September 12th, at noon**. We will provide a light lunch for our opening meeting. We will discuss possible program ideas and have fellowship. Due to the Waves shower truck that takes up some of our parking spaces we decided to change from our usual Thursday meeting days. We are a open group - all are invited to attend but if you could let either Marge Knapp - 586-468-6146 or Jocelyn Prevost 586-463-8236 know if you plan on attending we would appreciate it, so we know how much food to prepare.



Rev. Kelly and Divine Life Ministries for Homeless Hope will be reopening on **Thursday, October 27, from 11-1pm**. The Clothing Closet will be open every Thursday following this date.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! SEPTEMBER 11 is our FALL KICK OFF SUNDAY! Join us for Worship at 10:00 and don't forget to bring your backpacks for a special blessing! Then you are invited to return at **4pm** for a Return to Fall Celebration! There will be a Food Truck (with carnival type food), a Bounce House for the Kiddos, a Mission Project to benefit our Homeless Guests, and, back by special request (from Elodie) Pie the Pastors to benefit an Intergenerational Mission Trip next summer. We hope you will join us for both Worship and our Return to Fall Celebration!



The church Rummage Sale will occur on **October 1st from 9am to 1pm**. Proceeds from the Rummage Sale will go toward the church mortgage pay down, and UMCOR. We need your help to donate clean and useable items. Please pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center or in the office for more information.



ENDOWMENT FUND

For the quarter ending June 30 the Endowment Fund generated \$2,951.35 for the Trustees to use for building maintenance and improvements. The dividends generated monthly are taken out of the Endowment Fund quarterly and placed in a restricted fund at the church for the Trustee's to use as needed.
Kenneth Fowler

School Supplies Needed



We are collecting school supplies again this year for the Mount Clemens School District. We will collect supplies throughout the fall in preparation for a mid-year donation when teachers begin to run low on classroom supplies. Please drop off your donations that will be going to Seminole Academy in the choir room. Supplies for the Middle/High School may be placed in the box at the top of the stairs going into Wesley Hall. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our Mount Clemens Schools! Please stop by the Welcome Center of the office for a flyer that will list what each school needs.



N.O.A.H Project – The N.O.A.H. Project needs volunteers. **Monday -Friday from 10:00 – 2:00 volunteers gather to serve lunch.** Each day 5-10 volunteers are needed (5 to serve and 5 to make sandwiches). Rev. Alicea is happy to coordinate a small group of volunteers to go to Central United Methodist Church in Detroit (right next to Comerica Park) for a few hours of service. For more information about N.O.A.H. Project please visit www.noahprojectdetroit.org



Hands with Detroit is Saturday October 1. We will participate by making Meal Kits for Cass Community Services during our Return to Fall Celebration on September 11. The Meal Kits will be delivered in the afternoon of October 1. **Join us on September 11** at the Return to Fall Celebration to help us make 150 Meal Kits for Cass Community Social Services and our Mount Clemens community as well.

Hands with Detroit Promo Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJvrFHEO1uw>



Greater Detroit District News

Greater Detroit Annual District Conference – Serving Gracefully with Unconditional Love is the theme for our Annual District Conference. This event will take place online and in-person on **Saturday September 17 from 9:00-noon** and will include a business session and a worship service celebrating the great diversity in our district. You may find more information including a link to register at:

www.greaterdetroit.michiganumc.org



We are hoping to start a group on Wednesday nights at 6 or 6:30pm in Wesley Hall for all crocheters, knitters, quilters, needleworkers, crafters who would like to have night out during the week. We already have a few people interested. Please contact Wendy in the office if you would like to be a part of this group or if you have any ideas on how we could expand it to include more activities.

Joys to Share



September Birthdays

Colin McCallister	09/02
Timothy Wilden	09/02
Karen Clary	09/04
Keith Philo	09/04
Connor Ellis	09/05
Lyle Weldon	09/05
Christopher Williams	09/05
Lillyana Haxer	09/06
Terry Jones	09/08
Gabrielle Olszewski	09/10
Deborah Tchakerian	09/13
Paul Schutt-Pointer	09/16
Carol Cusic	09/18
Jenna Zdravkovski	09/20
Miriam Carroll	09/21
Cheryl French	09/21
Ashley Gawthrop	09/21
Connor Jackson	09/21
Michael Bridson	09/22
Mary Jo Greenslade	09/22
Jeri Wiza	09/22
Dan Zdravkovski	09/23
Martin Lynch	09/24
Beverly Pressley	09/24
Tami Morgan	09/25
Annica Brocker	09/26
Rebecca Card	09/26
Bob Brown	09/28
Harry Kosmala	09/28
Ruth Swistock	09/28



September Anniversaries

Scott & Danielle Reece	09/05
Donald & Barbara Clay	09/06
Michael & Heather McCallister	09/08
Rick & JJ Eldridge	09/09
Rick & Nancy Lyon	09/14
Darrin & Trisha Deeter	09/17
Tony & Lisa Lucido	09/18
Frank & Mary Ellen Presley	09/20
Ken & Jo Fowler	09/28



I wish to thank Pastor Dan and the entire congregation for the many prayers for my great-great nephews Braedyn and Jaxxon. Our prayers were answered today when the judge granted their maternal grandmother in North Carolina temporary custody. The boys are jumping for joy! As we prayed for them on Sunday, their grandmother was getting them baptized in her church. They're also enjoying VBS this week! Thank you and may God bless all of you!
Nancy Burling



Dear precious church family,
Thank you for your overwhelming support for Gus and the girls and I. So many times it was some small thing you did that made the day special and knew we were loved. The flowers were beautiful!
Junia, Jennifer, and Meribeth

Dear friends, thank you so much for the many cards, calls and visits I have received while recovering from my knee surgery. Although slower than I would wish, I'm well on the road to recovery. Thanks again.
Ellen Arntz

Dear church family,
We would like to thank you for your concern, love, prayers, calls, visits and cards for our dad and family. We also appreciate the beautiful flower arrangement for his funeral. He knew he was loved, and he loved his church family. Thank you for all you did for him over these many years.
Love,
The family of Truman Guard

To the Beloved people of First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens: With a grateful heart,
The Homeless Community and the Divine Life Ministry for Hope, thanks you for your continuous generosity!

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Makayla Landrum, Sheila Stunk, Tom Williams, Ellen Arntz, Jan Hudock, Maurine Deprez

Our Friends and Family

Nicole Allen, Antonio Hall, Betty Butler, Barry Champion, Daniel Sanfilippo

Grieving

Truman Guard, Gus Querio, Norma Kosmala, Nancy White, Gerald Pagett

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, Barbara Pagett, Kay Sommers, Ruth Swistock, Fred Thielk, Del Thomas, Linda Tinkham, Gladys Wiggins

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Scott Bean, Cory Berg, Hannah Dion, 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: Keith Rosso
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

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