

The Clarion

October 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 hope 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,

All throughout the Bible there are verses, imagery, and poems that evoke deep emotions and spiritual connection. Vivid language creates visions so tangibly beautiful it flows off the page and comes to life. We hear this in the beautiful poems and songs of the Psalms, the imagery, and lessons of Isaiah, and even in the creation stories in Genesis. In the New Testament we connect to the personhood of Christ, walking, sharing a table, and boldly standing in peace and strength amid fear and chaos. We feel the power of scripture in the imagery of the parables, reminding us that much of our lived experience today still harkens back to the time of Christ (planting seeds, how we treat others, Christ finding the lost, giving). We hear in the inspirational words of the disciples in the early church, and Paul, the great hope for a new creation that comes in faith in Christ.

Throughout the season of fall we see the grandeur of God's creation on display. We see the brilliance of the changing leaves, we feel the warmth of the sun, the sour-sweet taste of apples fully formed, we watch as animals gather up food for the season to come. In Michigan, we feel the changing temperatures, chilled in the morning, warm as the day moves on, with the sun setting earlier. Each warm, sunny day is a gift. We mark that the hard work of hands and hope bring about a harvest that we partake in with gratitude.

The Triune God is not only our redeemer, our comfort, and our guide, but is also our creative designer. God is revealed in the imagery of poems and hymns, proverbs and prophecy, and in the son of God made real in the life of Christ. God continues to be revealed today in the world around us. God is still creating, with intentionality, each new entity. Christ is alive in the continuance of love and the welcoming of the stranger. The Holy Spirit continues to move and work within us, breathe life in the whipping winds of fall, and inspire our church to move forward with assisted steps of courage. We soar with wings like eagles, lifted by the continued intentionality of a God who is never done bringing life anew.

This October, as we contemplate our own work in the stewardship of all God's blessings for us, we will be exploring the creative work of God, and the part that God calls us to play in creation. We will talk about the artistry of God and the way that we are both the creation and co-creators of the world that God would hope us to realize. We are called to be a part of God's beauty in the world. As we read the Bible, as we open our eyes to the world around us, as we live out our faith with boldness and vision, let us feel the creative presence of God in our lives. Let us feel the hopeful breath of God's continual work of goodness, and apply ourselves to aspire in that good work. May we see the beauty of God, and share it with the world.

With Inspired Hope,
Pastor Dan



Youth Group and Children's Ministry



YOUTH

Combined Youth Group Gatherings have begun again! Our first gathering was at Universal Nonstop in Warren on Sunday September 16. We met with youth from Eastpoint Immanuel UMC and had fun playing Laser Tag, Arcade Games, VR games, riding Go Karts, and eating Pizza!



Come to a Halloween Party!

Saturday October 29, we are having a Halloween Party with the Combined Youth Group from 6-8 at Warren First UMC! All youth are invited to attend, and costumes are highly recommended. We will meet at the church at 5:30 and return by 8:30. Please let Rev. Alicea know if you would like to attend. Friends are always welcome!

Save the Date for our Holiday Family Events:

November 5 – Family Thanksgiving Event – This event will be a fun family afternoon that will include a mission project for families, some fun fall/Thanksgiving crafts and much more! Please RSVP by **Sunday, October 30**, to Rev. Alicea alwharpist30@gmail.com or 586-746-4650

December 10 – Breakfast with Santa – Come enjoy a light breakfast, Christmas crafts, and visit with Santa! Watch for more details but for now, save the date!

Celebrate Wonder Sunday School

Celebrate Wonder has begun with a whole new year of Bible stories and activities for your family. If you have children ages 3-10 and are not currently receiving a Celebrate Wonder Sunday School bag, please speak to Rev. Alicea.



Celebrate Wonder LIVE!

Beginning **October 2 at 4pm** and continuing the first Sunday of each month, Rev. Alicea will host a Celebrate Wonder LIVE! Zoom gathering for all Sunday school participants. This will be a 30 minute gathering with a Bible story, an activity, and more. The link to the zoom meeting is in the What's Up monthly parent newsletter or email Rev. Alicea to receive it!

Children's Worship

Children's Worship begins **Sunday, October 9**. This worship service for children will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and will be led by Rev. Alicea (2nd Sundays) and Mr. Chris (4th Sundays). Children's worship is for children ages 3-8 but children close to 3 may attend with a parent or grandparent just until they are comfortable with the program. Children ages 9-10 may also attend but are encouraged to attend worship in the sanctuary as well. The children will leave the sanctuary after Young Christian Moments and will attend a worship service just for them. We use Godly Play and teach children how to worship. Rev. Alicea needs a few more assistants for Children's Worship as well as a few folks who might want to be trained to lead Children's Worship. Please see Rev. Alicea if you would like to be an assistant or a leader. Let's help our children learn to worship!

Children's Bells with Darci West

Darci West, our Chapel Bells Director, will lead our children in learning to play bells. Join Darci in the choir room right after worship on **Sunday, October 16**, for a short time to begin learning how to play bells. The children will work toward playing a song in worship. All children are invited to come and learn. Children under 3 are asked to bring a parent/grandparent or caregiver/guardian with them to bells. Children's Bells will meet on the 3rd Sundays of the month.

What's Up? A Monthly Newsletter for Parents

What's Up? Is a new newsletter that is emailed to parents once a month to update them on all the activities and events in Children's ministry. The first edition was emailed on September 22, if you didn't receive your What's Up? Newsletter, please send Rev. Alicea a text or email to be added to the email list. Don't miss a single event in Children's ministry this year!

FINANCIAL REPORT

This will provide a report of our finances through August, 2022.

Our actual pledged envelope giving was \$147,581, which was \$6,629 below budget.

Our non-pledged envelope giving was \$51,464, which was \$4,348 above budget.

When all budgeted offerings are considered, total offerings to date are \$1,597 below budget. Our expenses for Total Apportionments & Missions; Total Salaries, Benefits, Services; and Total Occupancy & Support, our primary expenses, are approximately \$4,587 over budget, which is primarily a timing issue. Overall, we are behind our budgeted shortfall by \$584. 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 \$98,767. Our monthly interest payments have gone from about \$1,950 to about \$350 per month. If we pay only the mortgage payment and no additional payments, the mortgage will be paid by March 2024, at the latest, almost a six-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.

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund, with the United Methodist Foundation, dedicated to building and occupancy, is \$408,827.

After past significant growth, it is down \$79,167 this year.

Thank you, again, for your extreme generosity.

Tim Howlett
Finance Chair



Thanksgiving Food Drive to Support Father Bob's Food Pantry

Father Bob's Food Pantry is located at Grace Episcopal Church in Mount Clemens. The Food Pantry provides emergency food relief for people in Macomb County. We are conducting a Thanksgiving food drive to help support Father Bob's. Please bring food items to church on the following Sundays: **Oct. 16, Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, and Nov. 20** to help support the food drive.

Recommended food donations include: canned soups, canned vegetables and fruits, macaroni and cheese, tuna fish, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce.

Donated items should be regular sizes (not large), and in non-breakable containers.

Monetary donations of either cash or check to Father Bob's Food Pantry are also welcome. Please place monetary donations in an envelope and mark "Father Bob's Food Pantry", and then deposit in an offering box. You may make the check payable to FUMC and then in the memo put, Father Bob's Food Pantry.

The donations will be counted and taken to Father Bob's each week. A running total of the donation amounts will be kept and communicated each week, with grand total amounts announced at the end of the food drive.

Thank you for your support of this valuable food pantry that serves as a lifeline in our community!



Painting Retreat!

**Join us October 22nd for
a painting retreat!
10:00am-Noon**

This October 22nd our church will be inviting Rev. Cora Glass to come and lead a painting mini retreat. Rev. Cora is a UM Deacon and currently serves at Lake Huron Retreat Center. She has a passion for retreat ministry and art, and travels all over the state to lead groups. Here is how Rev. Cora describes the event:

"This In-Person Painting Event will be a mix of painting, community building, and times of reflection. All creative abilities welcome! We'll practice intuitive painting; noticing what you crave more of on your canvas and where you are ready to let go. Each person will leave with 1 unique painting. To see examples of Intuitive paintings and past events, visit @RecreateRetreat on Facebook or Instagram."

To participate please use the sign-up sheet on the library window, and please bring \$35 to the church office (If you need help with the cost, please let pastor Dan know). If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Dan for more information. It should be a great day. All are invited, no matter your painting skill level. Each person will be invited to paint in their own way.

Ministry Updates Continued



It's Pasty Time!!

Mark your calendars! On **Tuesday, November 8th at 6pm**, we will be cutting vegetables for the upcoming Pasty Bake. On **November 9th and 10th**, we will be making and baking around 1,100 pasties, so we will need all hands-on deck to help in this important ministry fundraiser. Sign-up sheets will be on the window across from the library soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Pasty Chairs.

Pasty Chairs, Jim & Linda Willneff and Marge Knapp



Children's Music Ministry!

Starting **October 9th**, we are excited to launch a new children's music ministry!

The second Sunday of every month, we will offer a time of music and learning in the Children's Worship Center after worship.

We will learn the basics of singing, sing some songs, play some games, and do other fun musical activities.

The goal is not to read music, but to learn about music and discover our voices in a fun, interactive, and worshipful environment.

This monthly music time will last about fifteen minutes after the close of worship. Children of all ages are welcome.

We hope to see you there! Contact Wesley Knust at wesleyknustmusic@gmail.com for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Activities Night will begin on October 5th at 6pm. This will be a fellowship group for all interested quilters, crafters, crocheters, knitters and needleworkers to have a space to work on their individual projects. Also, Melanie Sugierski has offered to do a group quilt project and she will provide instruction for new quilters if you would like to participate in that. Please help us to get the word out, thank you!



Women with Faith

Women with Faith invites all church members -family and friends over 55 years of age to join us on a bus trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts. Bus will pick up at church parking lot on Friday, 11-4-22, at 12:15pm. A minimum of 25 "senior" people are required to make this trip happen. Please sign up with the # in your party by October 20th (sign up sheet is on the Library window). When we arrive, we will have an hour guided tour and then another hour on our own.



The Divine Life Ministry for Homeless Hope will be open on **October 27th from 10am till 1:30pm and every Thursday following that date**. We will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Joys to Share



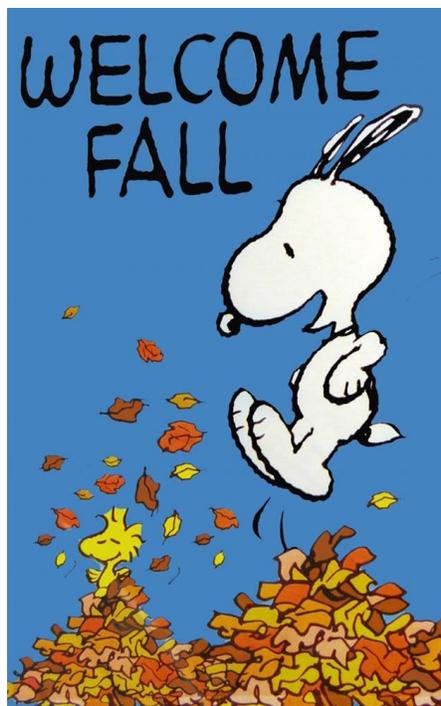
October Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Barbara Knuth | 10/01 |
| Sarah Alger | 10/02 |
| Ramona Filer | 10/04 |
| Linda Tinkham | 10/04 |
| Ronald Brownlee | 10/06 |
| Linda McLatcher | 10/07 |
| Warren Minarik | 10/07 |
| Steven Waid | 10/07 |
| Seth Trudel-Pointer | 10/09 |
| Julian Elkins | 10/10 |
| Jack Machalak | 10/11 |
| Ellen Arntz | 10/12 |
| Darrin Deeter | 10/12 |
| Jake Lucido | 10/15 |
| Bethany Gimm | 10/19 |
| Calan Parker | 10/19 |
| Noah Calvert | 10/20 |
| Kim Evans | 10/20 |
| Matthew Gregory West | 10/20 |
| Micah Robert West | 10/20 |
| Camden Lefurgey | 10/21 |
| Stacy Nichols | 10/21 |
| Lois Hill | 10/23 |
| Morgan Jackson | 10/23 |
| Hannah Berg | 10/26 |
| Blake Miller | 10/26 |
| JoAnn Taylor Brush | 10/27 |
| Barbara Pagett | 10/28 |
| Andrew Deeter | 10/29 |



October Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Michael & Kelsey Bridson | 10/01 |
| Warren & Emily Minarik | 10/03 |
| Mark & Cheryl French | 10/08 |
| Michael & Justine Olszewski | 10/11 |
| Nicholas & Jessica Dumas | 10/17 |
| Martin & Marsha Lynch | 10/22 |
| Robert & Melissa Richardson | 10/25 |



Dear Pastor Dan & FUMC,
I can not thank you all enough for your continued love and support. We deeply appreciate partnering with you to serve those in need. Thank you for the wonderful donation as well, God bless you! Your trust and friendship mean very much to us.
Todd Gorden, WAVE Project

We would like to thank the congregation for the prayers, cards, calls and messages for the passing of my mom, Nancy White. Thank you all so much.
Kitty Kinic and family

Thank you so much FUMC family for your support of the Blessing Box Ministry! We are still in need of TRAVEL SIZE Shampoo, Conditioner, Hand Lotion, and Soap. We also appreciated all the donations of School Supplies. Some of them have already gone to Mount Clemens students and the other supplies will be donated in January. Thanks again!



Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Elaine Walton, Miriam Carroll, Dawn Meredith, Pat Van Camp, Makayla Landrum

Our Friends and Family

Salvator Giannone, Bob Broad, Joan Sarns, Vivian (Dawn Meredith's mother)

Grieving

Nancy Donahue, Gladys Wiggins

Our Homebound

Jo & Joe Beaudette, Herb & JoAnn Brush, Marilyn Jean Borow, Irene Cloud, Shirley French, Barbara Knuth, Suzan Littlejohn, Karen Loos, Carolyn Merlo, Marilyn Nielsen, Barbara Pagett, Kay Sommers, Ruth Swistock, Fred Thielk, Del Thomas, Linda Tinkham

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Scott Bean, Cory Berg, Hannah Dion, Adam Donahue, Matthew Juras, Tami Morgan, Brendan Price

College Students

Brianna Akers, Emily Beebe, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan, Nathan Clifton, Katie Crossman, Jack Eckert, Jessica Evans, Alison Haskell, Danny Haskell, Kyle Hill, Aaron Hudock, Jackson Kelly, Justin Keppler, Megan Kosmala, Ashley Krynski, Emily Longstreth, Colin McCallister, Megan McCallister, Claire Manning, Jack Nielsen, Gabrielle Olszewski, Mitchell Salisbury, Sarah Salisbury, Rachel Shier, 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

Senior Pastor, Reverend Dan Hart
Email: pastordan@mountclemensumc.org
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Office Manager, Wendy Jones
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 **First United
Methodist Church**
OF MOUNT CLEMENS
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*Painting Retreat!
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