

The Clarion

April 2023

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

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11: 25-26

Dear Friends,

As we approach holy week we are reminded of the voices in the story of Holy Week. We think of those on Christ's journey to Jerusalem whom Jesus has healed, welcomed, brought to life. They are often not the voices of prominence in their communities, yet they believe and exuberantly share the message of Christ. We think about those that gathered around Christ as he enters Jerusalem. The crowds gathered hoping for a messiah that will change their circumstance and move them from oppression and loss to life abundant. We think about the disciples who have traveled with Jesus from the beginning, unsure of what will come next. We think of the empire and its leaders who are seeing the gathering voices of support. The empire of Rome who is wondering what will come next, and what actions they must take to subdue the rising tension. We think of the religious leaders of the time, who have heard Jesus question their authority and not follow the rules, all while riling up the people to believe that he is the son of God.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem there was so much anticipation, and very little assurance of what would happen. Although there were so many people waiting on every next step of Christ, NONE of them could fully predict what was coming. The confusion at the last supper table, the tiredness in the garden turned to an arrest, the broken-hearted tears at the cross, the assumption of a crisis averted from the empire and leaders, and the fear and anguish of those who believed that Jesus was the savior. All those feelings would have been definitive, but what came next broke every expectation of winners and losers, of grief and loss, and of the power of God in the world. Jesus would do his most audacious act yet...live again!

Follow with us through Holy Week to understand each part of the story. Each part of our story as Christians is made more real by understanding the fullness of the power of the resurrection. Our faith is made stronger when we hear the whole story, and when we walk in the steps of those who have believed before. May we be inspired to follow the journey from a triumphant entry in Jerusalem, to the table, to the garden, to the cross, and to the tomb. To understand the fullness of the stone rolled away, and Mary's voice preaching the Good News, we must travel the whole journey.

I invite you on the path to experience the faith of those who came before. To follow the ups and downs and twists and turns, and the ultimate gift of God, in Christ, to the world. Easter is coming. May God illuminate in our hearts the fullness of what that means.

54 When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

1st Corinthians 15:54-55

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Dan



Children's Ministry



Genesis Bells – Genesis Bells will ring in church on Palm Sunday, April 2. Please be in the Sanctuary to rehearse at 9:25.

Children's Worship – Due to Easter being on the 2nd Sunday of April, Children's Worship will only meet on Sunday, April 23, right after Young Christians Moments in the Children's Worship Center.

345 Club – The 345 Club will gather on Sunday, April 30, for a Movie Day! Bring your friends at 3:00 for a fun afternoon together!

Children's Choir – Children's Choir will meet after worship in the Children's Worship Center on Sunday, April 23 and will sing in the Worship Service on Sunday, April 30. Please let Wesley know if your child will sing on Sunday April 30.

Family Gathering May Event – Mark your calendars and watch for more details for our May Family Gathering Event. We will gather at a local park on Saturday, May 13. Watch for more details in the May Clarion and What's Up Children's Ministry Monthly.



Easter Carnival – First UMC of Mount Clemens invites all families with children on Saturday, April 8, from 3:30 - 5:30 to come join the fun! There will be games, activities, snacks, and prizes! Bring your neighbors, bring your friends, bring other family members and enjoy this celebration of Easter! The Easter Bunny will make an appearance and will be available for photos.

To volunteer go to this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEA92FA6FAC70-easter>

To register go to this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScAnr2aDnW2nUV3Wc6Qqpk73wPBMkPUcnY3kh-cCvwmhXFVYg/viewform?usp=sf_link



Summer Camp – Fun and Adventure is what awaits you at Summer Camp! Sign up today:

Lake Louise Christian Community – www.lakelouisecommunity.org

Michigan United Methodist Camps - www.umcamping.org

Bay Shore Camp – www.bayshorecamp.org



Save the Date – Vacation Bible School – August 22-24
– More details to come.

Holy Week Worship



Holy Week Services at FUMC of Mount Clemens

Palm Sunday, April 2nd
Service: 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6th
Service: 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 7th
Service: 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 9th
Sunrise Service: 7:00am
Easter Worship: 10:00am





The Divine Life Ministry for Homeless Hope is open every Thursday from 10am till 1:30pm (The Last Thursday for our Winter Season will be 4-20-23 and we will return 10-26-23)

We are located in the Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens, located on the corner of SB Gratiot and Cass.

Anyone who is homeless and needs items to keep them warm, is Welcome & Spiritually loved.



Women With Faith

We will meet on **April 17th at 1:00pm** in Wesley Hall. Pastor Dan will be speaking on what our families should know before we enter into life eternal.

Change

FOR

change



Thank you all so much for your generosity toward this important ministry!

Here is a summary of the collection totals:

February 26 - \$ 221.55

March 5 - \$ 282.61

March 12 - \$ 247.61

March 19 - \$ 339.53

March 26 - \$ 328.07

Total - - \$1,419.37

SAVE THE DATES!



Save the Dates for our Spring FUMC Pasty Bake!!

Mark you calendars!

On Tuesday, April 25th at 6pm, we will be cutting vegetables for the upcoming Pasty Bake.

On April 26th and 27th, 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 are on the window across from the library.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Pasty Chairs.

Pasty Chairs: Linda Willneff and Marge Knapp

Joys to Share



April Birthdays

Lloyd Job	04/02
Camden Parker	04/02
Patrick Young	04/02
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
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
Marsha Lynch	04/25
Rusty Northrop	04/25
Delwyn Thomas	04/26
Christina Alger	04/29
Derald Van Camp	04/29
Bill Wiza	04/29
Mike Evans Jr	04/30



April Anniversaries

Josh & Christina Alger	04/06
Mike & Kim Evans	04/29



Dear church family,
A special thank you to all of you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and notes as I recover from hip surgery due to an unavoidable fall. You have helped my positivity so much as I progressed through surgery, therapy, and healing. I am now at my daughter and son-in-law's in Algonac. It has been a slow process but I'm walking and anxious to return to church – I miss all of you, along with our wonderful pastors.
Fondly, Dee Jay Whittam

Dear First United,
Thank you so much for the Valentine's treats and care package! It was a beautiful and much needed act of grace and kindness. I know I will enjoy and love each and every snack! I send my prayers and thanks to each and every one at the church and everyone who helped to prepare the care packages.
With love, Aaron Hudock



Dear Friends,
We want to thank you so much for all the support you have given us since Tom received his cancer diagnosis! It was a complete shock to us and has been an emotional journey. We greatly appreciate your prayers which have given us strength and comfort. We also appreciate all the cards, hugs, words of encouragement, and offers of help. Some of you have shared your own experiences with cancer which have touched our hearts and inspired us. It is very encouraging to learn how many of you have survived your own bouts with cancer! Pastor Dan has been our rock from the very beginning, as well as Rev. Alicea. We appreciate them and every single one of you!
We are also grateful for family and excellent medical care. It is amazing to have Karmanos right here in Mount Clemens, and they, too, have been wonderful! Tom, had a procedure last Monday that identified the exact location of the cancer, which will greatly help with the radiation. Today, March 6th, we meet with the chemotherapy doctor, Tuesday we meet with the surgeon again, and Thursday the radiation treatments begin. Tom will have radiation treatments five days a week for seven weeks and chemotherapy once a week. The treatment will not be pleasant, but the doctors tell us his prognosis is very good!
With love and gratitude,
Thomas and Lois Hill

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Our Church Family

Cliff Tinkham, Tom Hill, JoyAnn Wells-Flanigan, Makayla Landrum, Dee Jay Whittam, Elaine Walton

Grieving

Fred Thielk, Bill Cormicle, Robert Bing

Our Friends and Family

June Dion's sister, Karen, and her family

Our Homebound

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

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

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

College Students

Brianna Akers, Emily Beebe, Aniella Bowman, Nathan Buchanan, Nicholas Buchanan, Kobe Champion, Maria Chesnutt, 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, Claire Manning, Jack Nielsen, Gabrielle Olszewski, Bailey Price, Mitchell Salisbury, Sarah Salisbury, Rachel Shier, Kyle Sieben, Jake Williams, Alex Zdravkovski

Contact Information

2023 ***First UMC*** ***Leadership Team***

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



57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Church Phone: 586.468.6464
www.mountclemensumc.org

Senior Pastor, Reverend Dan Hart
Email: pastordan@mountclemensumc.org

Deacon, Reverend Alicea Williams
Email: alwharpist30@gmail.com

Office Manager, Wendy Jones
Email: office@mountclemensumc.org