

# The Clarion

February 2018

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

Dear Friends,

February is here, the month of Love, it is also the month of Ash Wednesday! We will be having an **Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm on February 14, in the Sanctuary**. Also, please be aware that we have some special services in store for all of you during Lent. A calendar of events will be in the Bulletin soon.

During Lent, we will be delving into “24 Hours that changed the World”. Final plans for a Bible Study are in the works, please watch the Volunteer sign up for your opportunity to join the discussion.

I also want to invite you to a Review of our Goals and Goal Setting for 2018 and beyond, on **February 17, 2018, from 9:30 am to Noon, in the Multipurpose Room**.

The Leadership team thought it would be a good idea to continue to share with you some more about the reasons we are adopting the *Governance Board* structure that I spoke to you about last month.

The basis of our work is Biblical. Moses had to organize the children of Israel in order to lead them from slavery into a promised land. Jesus had to organize the disciples in order for them to share the good news of God's love. The church from its beginning has had to organize itself in such a way that the gospel is proclaimed. So, excellence governance (administration structure) must be joined to excellent ministry. Vital and vibrant ministry actually depends upon effective governance and effective leadership.

The organizational structure of our church was designed for a different cultural context. In the context of the 20th century, change was more predictable and occurred at a slower rate. Today, we live in a culture of rapid and unpredictable change. When new threats appear on the horizon and when new opportunities present themselves, the church needs organizational structure that is adaptable and flexible. Long chains of decisions making groups can get in the way when it is important to be flexible. Because large congregations like ours are not generally nimble, they are not well equipped to handle the changes that are required in the 21st century.

Under the Council Structure, our church had a Church Council of 22 members; a Staff Parish Relations Committee of 9, Trustees made up of 9 members, Finance Committee made up of 13 members, and a Nominations Committee made up of 9. Other Chair positions and missional areas included Nurture, Outreach, Worship and Witness. 62+ people, making decisions for the church!

On one hand, it sounds good to have so many people participating in our governance of the church, but the reality is that our church is not structured in a way that is appropriate for its size, and the Council model is not a system that supports our mission and vision.

## Pastor's Ponderings Continued

*Below are some additional reasons for restructuring our Leadership Structure:*

- There are many administrative meetings to attend, where it seems people have the same questions, with little accountability.
  - With a more centralized leadership, major decisions of finance, building repairs, and other large decisions are left with the Leadership Team. But day today decisions are left to the pastor, who has empowered the missional area leaders (Directors) to make decisions based on the mission and vision.
- Our young families that we do have do not have time to participate in the meetings. With very little free time, even if they wanted to, they could not be a Sunday School Teacher and serve on any administrative committees.
  - This new model will allow more people to be in actual ministry.
- As our congregation gets older there are fewer and fewer people who agree to be a part of the many committees. For the last three years, we have been unable to fully fill each committee with the required number.
  - We know everyone is more open to short term projects and events. The governance model has a 3 year, class rotation of leadership; this will provide a method for new leadership every year.
- We also remember all the vision statements that have been worked on and then left in the dust never to be seen again.
  - This new model uses the vision and mission to drive our work.
- We noticed that the larger the group, the fewer number of people who shared ideas or spoke letting a few speak, and many others remain silent.
  - The new model is based on an open style of communication with accountable leadership.
- It takes a long time and a lot of meetings to make a decisions.
  - Major decisions are always made by the Leadership Team, but day-to-day ministry decisions with defined boundaries are made by the Pastor.
- We realized that is it rare for any of the committees to have “Big Picture” discussions. Most meetings consist of reporting and doing the tasks at hand. It is rare that the question, “*are we doing the right things to move toward our vision*” is asked. It is rare for us to hold any group or position accountable for moving the church toward the vision.
  - This new model will focus all ministry and goals towards the vision and the mission of making disciples.

Over a year ago, Rev. Mary McInnes presented Church Council with a way to reduce the present structure in such a way that it will empower the ministry and focus it on the mission of “making disciples for Jesus Christ” by seeking to fully become our Vision. “*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.*”

She gave Council the model contained in a book entitled, “Leadership and Organization for Fruitful Congregations”. She also suggested the church wait until Rev. Maureen came as she was trained in the process and had assisted several churches larger than ours to implement the model.

This new model is helping us make better decisions faster, keeping the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ in the forefront of our minds, and always striving to improve at living out the vision. “*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.*”

I hope this has helped you understand better what is happening at the Leadership Level of the church. My door is always open and the Leadership or myself are always willing to answer any of your questions as we go on to “Christian Perfection”.

B-blessed,  
Rev. Maureen



## Ash Wednesday Service

**Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm on February 14**  
Come and be blessed by this time of intimacy with God as we release and prepare ourselves for the most important day of the year! **Resurrection Day EASTER SUNDAY, April 1, 2018!**



## Taize' Service

**February 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm**

Come and participate in the contemplative service of "Taize" This contemplative worship practice of Taizé involves listening, singing with words sung over many times, prayers, meditation, a period of silence, liturgical readings, and icons. There is no preaching. Taizé comes from the contemplative practices of a monastic community located in Taizé, France, founded in the 1940s by a Swiss named Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche, familiarly called Brother Roger. Since its founding, the practice has spread worldwide since it is non-denominational and seeks to unite all forms of Christianity. Its peaceful, contemplative nature has drawn millions from all over the world to practice this kind of worship.



**Ready, Set, Go to the FUMC Annual**

**\*All you can Eat\***

**Lenten Fish Frys!!**

The Fish Frys will be on **March 2, 9, 16 and 23 between 4-7pm.** We'll have our Baked and Fried Fish, along with Coleslaw, Baked and French Fried Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese and Vegetables. Call your friends, relatives and neighbors to come! Take outs are available. The price is \$11. Volunteer Sign up Sheets are on the windows in the hallway by the Library. *Volunteer early and often!* Call Sue Tregembo for any other information

## Vision & Goals Review Meeting

**On February 17, 2018, from 9:30am-Noon,** we will gather as a Church and begin with reviewing our goals from 2016 and 2017. Then we will gather in our small groups and dream and imagine ministries and projects that are still on the horizon for us as a church for 2018 and beyond. Snacks and coffee will be provided. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Last year, we mailed 714 Box Tops for Education (worth 10 cents each) to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. These monies are used to purchase school supplies for the mission's school children. Please continue to bring the Box Tops in and place them in the container near the Multi-purpose Room. We hope we can do even better in 2018! This is such a worthy project for our church. God bless and thank you all so much!  
Del and Euella Thomas



## Family Spotlight of the Month

Hello, fellow members of First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens! We are the Lynch Family and we have been asked to tell you about ourselves as a way of getting to know more about us.....whether you are interested or not! :)



Marty and I just celebrated our fortieth (40th) wedding anniversary in October of 2017. We met at Central Michigan University in 1968-69 as freshmen. Marty grew up in Mayville, Michigan, where he lived on the homestead farm started by his great-great grandfather, Daniel Lynch, in 1855 after Daniel came over from Ireland. Marty had four brothers and two sisters, he being the eldest (and most handsome, for sure). Marty attended Mayville Methodist Church on Main Street until heading off to CMU after graduation.

I grew up in Cheboygan, Michigan, with an older brother and younger sister. Yes, I have always suffered from being the "middle child". My father was a high school teacher and my mother was a nurse. Both served in the US Army during WWII and got married 3 months after my father returned home in December, 1946. I was also raised in the Church, St. Paul's United Methodist, where my mother was extremely active.

Marty and I were married at St. Paul's in 1977 and moved to Mount Clemens where he had a job with the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center/Michigan Department of Mental Health. I had left my teaching job (as the entire English Department at Mackinaw City High School) and substitute taught until securing another teaching job in Clinton Township. Marty went on to get his nursing degree and retired in 2012 from Henry Ford Hospital after 21 years of service. I also completed two more degrees and retired from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2006 after 21 years there with a total of 34 years in education.

We have two children. The oldest is Nicholas Daniel (37) who is married to Kelli Pierce. They have three children. Crosby Daniel is 2 and the twins Jude and Joey are 6 months old. Nick is a Financial Recruiter for United Way in Lansing and Kelli is a Speech Pathologist in Jackson. Nick was baptized at Marty's family's church in Mayville as an infant.

Our daughter Jessica (33) is married to Nick Dumas. And, yes, there continues to be much confusion as to which Nick we are talking about! They have a son, Ronan, who is 3 1/2. Jessi is a Support Coordinator for Macomb County Community Mental Health and her husband is the IT Specialist for University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe. Jessi was baptized and married here at First United and Ronan was also baptized at this church six years later.

Why are we Methodists? Well, initially, it was because our families were. We grew up learning the lessons and songs of this church. We continue to be Methodists now because what Marty and I believe in, in this life, are the very same values the Methodist Church holds dear - love of God, mercy, justice, kindness, grace, peace and a deep need to do what we can to help make this a better world for all. We love our church family. We love our church.





February Birthdays

Janet Wilden	02/01
Jo Beaudette	02/02
Micki Schichtel	02/04
Morgan Wiza	02/04
Jocelyn Prevost	02/05
Ben Oakley	02/07
Sandy Baber	02/10
Eric Broesamle	02/10
Karen Harris	02/10
Carl Cendrowski	02/11
Cliff Tinkham	02/11
Alivia Scott	02/13
Julie Strayer	02/15
Jo Fowler	02/18
Carolyn Merlo	02/18
Kitty Kinic	02/22
Paul Tregembo	02/22
Caleb Parker	02/24
Cameron Biery	02/26
Daniel Leeber	02/26
Laura Littrell	02/27
Rosalie Tinkham	02/27



February Anniversaries

Thomas & Judy Northrop	02/03
Derald & Patricia Van Camp	02/07
Deborah & Jacques Tchakerian	02/10
Paul & Suzanne Tregembo	02/19
Gary & Ashley Palmer	02/20
Brandon & Ashley Gawthrop	02/23



Dear church family & friends,

Thank you to all who came in after church service January 14th for cake and punch in celebration of my 90th birthday!

Special thank you to the quilters for the beautiful purple quilt and to all who have sent cards.

Much Love,  
Shirley French



Hello Church Family,

As Rev. Maureen indicated in the January Clarion we have a new Governance Model to lead our Church forward. I'm excited about the possibilities and it makes all of us accountable to "making new disciples for Jesus Christ." As the Trustee Chair this will be a welcomed change. The responsibilities and duties will become divided equally between 2 (Trustees) and they will be Co-Chairs.

As I have had the pleasure to serve you as Trustee Chair, I would like to thank everyone that served on Trustees. Your dedication and love for this Church and community made my time with you very special. No matter the task at hand, we always completed what we set out to do. I would also like to thank our Church family for their continued support.

We are in need of another person to fill the Trustee Co-Chair position. As I mentioned at the beginning, we are all accountable as Methodists to "making new disciples for Jesus Christ" and we are all responsible to keep First Church welcoming and safe to everyone who enters it's doors. With the new Governance Model, you will have a chance to work in multiple areas of the church and won't be tied down to a certain committee for 3 years. If you decide to Chair a committee that would be a 3 year commitment. Thanks again.

Blessings, Bill Wiza

**Youth Events**

**Confirmation Retreat**

The Confirmation class will meet at the church on **Saturday, February 10 beginning at 9:00 am** for a day of learning and fun. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Rev. Maureen and Rev. Alicea will facilitate this retreat. We will cover several lessons, play games, fellowship, and break bread together. The day will end no later than 3:00. Confirmands please make your plans to attend this very important day in our year together.

**Youth Bake Sale, Friday, March 2nd!!**

Have a new recipe that you've been waiting to try? Or a sweet tooth that you can't satisfy? Donate or buy goodies at the Youth Bake Sale during the March 2nd Fish Fry! To donate treats, email Meribeth Brocker-Querio: [meriqueri@yahoo.com](mailto:meriqueri@yahoo.com), or sing-up in the multi-purpose room.



Do you find yourself always worrying about money? Are you just starting out and setting up retirement for the first time or are you ready to retire and are not sure what to do? Never fear, FPU is here! This class is designed to help at any stage of life and will teach you how to win with money and be at peace with your finances. Just imagine a world where you never have to worry about money again and even have enough to bless others by giving it away! The class is a 9 week course and will begin on **Sunday, February 25th at 1:00pm** in the Multipurpose Room. Greg West, Aaron Gimm, and Bethany Gimm will be facilitating the class. There is a sign up sheet in the multipurpose room and you can see them after church with any questions. The cost for the course and materials is \$129 per family if purchased on the website <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu> There is a discount of \$20 for early registration through the church office. Checks of \$109 can be made payable to FUMC of Mount Clemens with Financial Peace University in the subject line. We can't wait to see you there!



**Easter Carnival  
Saturday, March 24**

Plans are being made for our 1st Annual Easter Carnival! This day will be a fun intergenerational event for everyone in your family. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend. There will be a cake decorating contest with children, youth, and adult judging categories, an old fashioned Cake Walk, egg decorating, crafts, Easter Basket Raffle (one for a boy and one for a girl), lunch, and maybe even a visit from the Easter Bunny. Coordinators for the various areas for the carnival are needed. Volunteers are also needed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Library window to sign-up. A Coordinator planning meeting will be held February 4 after church to plan our Easter Carnival. Please see Rev. Alicea for more details. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Saturday March 24 from 1:30 – 4:30** for this fun Easter Event.



**Attendance, Gifts and Tithes for the month of January 2018**

	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
January 7	\$8,747.00	\$6,500.00	131
January 14	\$4,513.00	\$6,500.00	132
January 21	\$5,052.00	\$6,500.00	141
January 28	\$6,025.00	\$6,500.00	139

## Our Thoughts and Prayers are with...

### Our Church Family

Judy Alger, Carol Dorsey, Barb Knuth, Jean Guard, Ray Buchanan, Rev. Emerson Arntz, Joyce Wells  
Debbie Tchakerian, Denette Ballard  
Grieving: Cliff Tinkham's son, Geoff Tinkham

### Our Friends and Family

Cindy Donahue, Lisa Dion, Michael Clary, baby Vance Cole, Dr. Harol McNeil, Jan Endres

### Our Homebound

Rev. Emerson Arntz, Myrna Born, Marilyn Jean Borow, Dawn Brass, Shirley Champion, Irene Cloud,  
Polly Darling, Marjie Eckhout, Mike Foy, Karen Loos, Charlotte Randolph, Mary Schmidt, Murray Shelson,  
Fred Thielk, Rosalie Tinkham, Patsy Weagel, Gladys Wiggins, Bernie Weideman

### Those Serving in the Armed Forces

Adam Donahue, Tami Grigsby, Sean Kiernan, Tony Kiernan, Brian Hill

### College Students

Sarah Akers, Kyle Blaszkowski, Emily Beebe, Melanie Blaszkowski, Leah Clifton, Nathan Clifton,  
Matthew Durham, Jordan Gould, Josh Gould, Kyle Hill, Nina Hill, Ashley Krynski, Megan Kupser,  
Makayla Landrum, Stephanie Lyskawa, Tighe Maclean, Madeline McInnes Sword, Theo Miller,  
Nick Nielsen, Sydney Olszewski, Kevin Perry, Martin Querio, Kyle Sieben, Amy Beth Simon,  
Jordan Spratt, Tina Tinkham, Sam Van Camp, Jake Williams, Morgan Wiza

## Contact Information

*Dreams really do come true!*

*Thanks to an anonymous giver.*

*Our Warming Center now has cots for our guests.*



57 Southbound Gratiot Avenue  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

[www.mountclemensumc.org](http://www.mountclemensumc.org)

Email: [office@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:office@mountclemensumc.org)

Church Phone: 586.468.6464

Pastor, Reverend Maureen V. Baker

Email: [revmaureen@mountclemensumc.org](mailto:revmaureen@mountclemensumc.org)

Deacon, Reverend Alicea L. Williams

Email: [alwharpist30@gmail.com](mailto:alwharpist30@gmail.com)