

# Pentecost

May 24 | 10 a.m.

## Filled with the Spirit

*“When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.*

Acts 2.1-3

## “The Spirit Let Loose for All”

by Rev. Julie Kline

Acts 2.1-21

The day of Pentecost has arrived! On this last day of the Great Fifty Days, we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Wind and fire are two great symbols of Pentecost that testify to God’s presence amongst the disciples. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, filled with the Spirit of

God! This same Spirit of God pours out on us as well, and gives us good and varied gifts of loving one another, serving one another, and binding us together in one Spirit to proclaim the Gospel in our lives. **Come join us at 10 a.m. on May 24 for Pentecost**, and make it even more festive by

wearing **red**, **orange**, and **yellow** as we collectively create the "flames" of the Spirit.



WELCOME to *The First Word*, a bi-monthly publication, except during the months of June, July, August and December when *The First Word* is published monthly. Articles for the next issue are due no later than Wednesday, **May 27, 2015**. The next newsletter will be mailed **June 3, 2015**. Articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent electronically by email to Jennifer Stupica at [jstupica@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jstupica@umc-kzo.org).

### FIRST CHURCH STAFF

The staff is here to empower and equip the congregation for ministry and mission. Email \*staff by entering the first letter of their first name and the entire last name, and then: @umc-kzo.org. (i.e., [scharnley@umc-kzo.org](mailto:scharnley@umc-kzo.org)).

*Rev. Steve Charnley	Senior Pastor
*Rev. Julie Kline	Pastor of Emerging & Youth Ministries
*Rev. Dan Duncan	Pastor of Children & Families Ministries
*Jacqueline Stilger	Minister of Music
*Ruth LaMachia	Church Business Administrator
*Christi Landreville	Administrative Assistant
*Jennifer Stupica	Communications Coordinator
*Bernie Foulk	Organist
Cari Miller	First Singers Director
*Curt Flowers	Bookkeeper
*Denise Wilcox	Contributions Assistant
*Rebecca Hatley-Watkins	Office Assistant
*Robin Entenman	Office Assistant/Security
Pamela Roman	Custodian
Todd Bloomfield	Evening Custodian
Ernesto Escobedo	Custodian/Security
Michael DeYoung	Evening Security
Timothy Landreville	Sunday Evening Security
Julie Meyers	First Care Director
Bishop Deborah Kieseey	Bishop of the Michigan Area
Rev. John Boley	Kalamazoo District Superintendent
Rev. Bill Haggard	Grand Rapids District Superintendent

### GLOBAL STAFF

Jeff and Ellen Hoover	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Rev. Irina Margulis	Russia
Helen Sheperd	Mongolia

PRAYER CHAIN. Did you know that it is as easy as picking up the phone or e-mailing the office to have your prayers multiplied by many caring members of your church family? Please contact the church office, 381-6340, if you would like to be included in our weekly email prayer chain. If you would like to be added to our phone prayer chain, please contact Mary Beth Garman at (269) 321-9332.



STEPHEN MINISTRY is a confidential care giving ministry of our church. If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you during a difficult time in your life, you are welcome to contact Wendy Arnold at 323-3244.

### Our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of

**Dorothy Dunn**, who died May 5.

**Virginia Krake**, mother of Cindy Krake, who died May 5.

### Please keep these friends in your prayers

Bob Baker, JL Ball, Jacqueline Barnard, Helen Bray, Gordon & Jan Bundy, Doug Charnley, Carl Cooper, Skip Decker, Sharon Evans, Rudy Hanson, Sue Hardy, Carl & Marcia Hauserman, Elaine Havens, Nancy Jacobs, Mary Ann Jaqua, Kathleen Kingsley, Cindy Krake, Bela Lahner, Becky Lawson, Rueith Lewis, Allen Lincoln, Terry Mishler, Mandy Morrill, Wilma Nelson, Joan & Hank Rohs, Al & Sue Rollier, Lois & Myron Schmidt, Sandi Stupica, Mary Helen Thomas, Ed Torrance, Arlene Triestram, Jane Vernon, Thom Victor, Virginia Weller, Jean Zuidweg

### CROP Walk Results

The Outreach Team would like to thank FUMC and the youth for participating in this year's CROP Walk. The preliminary numbers indicate that we had 31 walkers who raised \$3,036.33. There were 19 youth walkers who raised \$40 or more, which will be matched by a local foundation. With these matched funds, the total raised is \$3,796.33! If you have not paid your pledge yet, please do so as soon as possible.

### Graduates

On Sunday, May 31 we will honor and bless all our high school and college graduates at the 10 a.m. worship service. Please send graduate info (graduate's name, school name, degree earned (college) and future plans to Jennifer Stupica, [jstupica@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jstupica@umc-kzo.org).

# CHANGE THE WORLD

Saturday, May 16, 2015

by Donna Dunyak, Outreach Team Co-Chair

Save the date for this year's **Change the World** event on Saturday, May 16 from 8:30-1 p.m. This is a United Methodist Church initiative in which we partner with Sunnyside UMC to go out into the community to volunteer and 'change the world!'

Sign-up for the various projects for that morning can be found at the Volunteer Kalamazoo website, <http://go.volunteerkalamazoo.org/>, (click on the big "Change the World" logo) or sign up after church services in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to go out and make a difference in our community, meet new people, or work with your friends from church!

After the work is done, there is a celebration picnic lunch at Sunnyside United Methodist Church on Gull Road. Please join in the fun!

Here is a list of some projects that are available...

**Open Doors:** yard clean-up

**Housing Resources:** beautification of Alcott property

**Tabitha Urban Farm & Homestead:** create a playground or help in the community garden

**Kalamazoo Nature Center:** ground cleanup

**Ministry with Community:** yard beautification

**Amtrac Overpass at Riverview:** cleanup

**YWCA:** yard cleanup and beautification

**Peace House:** interact with the children while prepping yard for spring fun

**Community Garden at Sunnyside UMC:** prepare for spring planting

**Free Store at Sunnyside UMC:** setting clothes outside on tables to give away

Please join us on Sunday, May 24 after worship in the parlor, to celebrate **Wilma Nelson's approaching 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and to wish her well as she moves to Minneapolis, Minnesota** to be closer to family. Her new address will be: The Pines, 400 W. 67th Street, #326, Richfield, MN 55432. Cell phone: (269) 598-7413.  
Email: Larwil6@aol.com.



# Justice For Our Neighbors

## JFON Immigrant Ministry Update

by Ann Sweany, Justice Team

We have submitted our application to the JFON board in Grand Rapids for consideration at their May 11 meeting. Assuming they approve our application, it will go on to the National JFON for their approval. At that point, we can expect someone from National JFON to come to Kalamazoo to help us with training. Shortly after that, we can begin official JFON activity! We have already begun to make plans and have begun observing other clinics in action to better understand how our clinic will work.

We have received a number of donations to furnish our space on the third floor of the church, but there are still items we will need. If you can help with any of the items listed below, it will stretch our dollars and will be most appreciated!

### JFON wish list...

- ✓ Play area furniture (table and chairs, beanbag chairs)
- ✓ Coloring books, crayons, paper
- ✓ Children's books
- ✓ Desk scanner, such as Fuji ScanSnap
- ✓ Office desk
- ✓ Computers (one of them a laptop/portable)
- ✓ Printer paper
- ✓ Fans
- ✓ Window A/C that works with casement windows

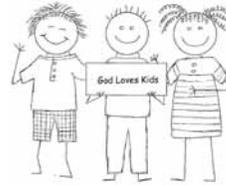


**We change to our summer worship schedule of one worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 24. Worship enrichment for children age 4 through 2nd grade will begin May 31 (this is a change from previous communications). Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (June 14, July 12, August 9) will be in the Emerging Worship style during the summer.**

# Children & Families Ministries

by Rev. Dan Duncan

dduncan@umc-kzo.org, 269.381.6340 x231



## Dinner Table Conversation

By the middle of May, we are in the middle of some beginnings and endings. The hibernation of winter is fully over, giving way to the blooming and growing season of summer. And, the school year, as well as the Sunday School year, is winding down. We benefit from looking forward, and back. Why not talk with your children about what some of the highlights were of this past year:

- What was the biggest surprise?
- Where was your biggest challenge or struggle?
- What would you do differently?
- What do you hope to remember?
- Have you thanked your teacher(s) or have a plan to thank them?

Of course, it would be helpful for you to be able to share your answers with them, at least at a level that would be accessible to them.

## Family Fun Night coming May 15 to a (Church) Theater Near You!

Our Family Fun Night in May will be a family-friendly “dinner theater,” with entertainment provided by our own First Beats children’s choir presenting the musical, “Oh Jonah.” Join us beginning at 6 p.m. for a potluck meal together in Wesley Hall. Bring a dish to pass and your own tableware. Beverages will be provided. The performance will be at 7 p.m. Plan now to be part of this great experience!

## Sunday School End-of-Year Celebration May 17

Celebrate another wonderful year of Sunday School on May 17 with a pancake brunch! We’ll be serving hotcakes from 9:30-10 a.m. in the Arches area, then having a brief time together in our classes until 10:30 a.m.

## Vacation Bible School

Save the dates of June 22-26, 9 a.m. to noon. Our annual immersion in the meaning and the application of the Bible for children will be shared, as has been our custom for a number of years, with the other downtown churches. Our theme is “Hometown Nazareth—Where Jesus Was a Kid!” This year VBS will be located at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (247 W. Lovell St., Kalamazoo). **We need you to register in advance by June 15.** You can help with supplies for VBS by taking a tag off the tree by the parking lot door and returning the item by June 7.

## Summer Enrichment Program

Beginning May 31 we will offer a summer enrichment program for children age 4 through 2nd grade following the Time With Our Children. Pastor Dan and other adult leaders will lead the children in a time of worship, Bible exploration, games, and crafts on the second floor. (There will be no summer enrichment on holiday weekends.)

## Summer Acolytes

Please have your child sign up at the Welcome Center for any Sundays he/she can serve this summer. Thanks for being our keepers of the light!

## Thank God for our teachers and leaders!

And WE thank them as well... for their time, dedication, and love for our children that they expressed in very direct ways through this past program year!

### Children Ministries Leaders

- Dan and Kylee Adams
- Cheryl Anderson
- Carolyn and Tony Betke
- Ken and Jenn Briggs
- Brook Czerniak
- Carol Grant
- Jim and Jodi Johnson
- Megan Long
- Katy McGinnis
- Jennifer and Brian Moon
- Joyce Moore
- Andrea Murphy
- Matt and Jocelyn Newman
- Anne Sherfield
- Lisa Whittaker
- Jennifer Wright

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, May 15 @ 6 p.m.  
Family Fun Night: Potluck and "Oh Jonah" musical
- Sunday, May 17 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School celebration pancake brunch
- Sunday, May 31 @ 11 a.m.  
Blessing of the Bikes in the church parking lot after 10 a.m. service. Bike ride at Celery Flats follows!
- Wednesday, June 3 @ 7 p.m.  
CFM Team meeting, Arches

## Frequently Asked Questions About Same-Gender Weddings or Ceremonies

### **What does *The Book of Discipline* say about same-gender weddings or ceremonies?**

Since 2000 *The Book of Discipline* has contained this statement: “Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.”

### ***The Book of Discipline* has had the same or similar language about homosexuality and marriage for many years. Why hasn't it changed?**

Delegates to the General Conference, which meets every four years, make changes to *The Book of Discipline*. These delegates come from the United States and parts of Africa, Asia and Europe. The number of delegates from Africa, where homosexuality is viewed from their unique societal and cultural perspectives, has increased every four years, contributing to a majority of General Conference delegates who continue to vote to retain the current language in *The Book of Discipline*.

### **What is the history of discussion in The United Methodist Church about homosexuality?**

A statement about homosexuality first appeared in the 1972 Social Principles of The United Church. Since then the General Conference, the church's top legislative body, has debated this stance every four years and has voted to keep the same or similar language, and over the years has also expanded restrictions against gay clergy and same-gender unions. The current Social Principles statement says: “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers it incompatible with Christian teaching.”

The Social Principles are not considered church law but rather reflect the church's prayerful and thoughtful effort to speak to human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation. Conversely, *The Book of Discipline* sets forth certain obligations and responsibilities for how clergy and laity are to live as United Methodist Christians.

### **What are the consequences for clergy who perform same-gender weddings or ceremonies?**

If a United Methodist church pastor performs a same-gender wedding or ceremony, someone could file a complaint with the bishop for “conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;” or for “disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church.” If this occurs, the bishop begins a process aimed at reaching a just resolution among those involved. If a resolution is not reached, the bishop either dismisses the complaint which ends the matter, or begins a process which could result in a church trial with temporary suspension of clergy privileges or revocation of clergy credentials and removal as a United Methodist pastor. (In the latter case a pastor will not lose pension benefits if his/her clergy credentials are revoked.) If no complaint is filed against a pastor, there is no official action by the Church regarding the clergy person involved.

### **Do the requirements of *The Book of Discipline* apply to non-United Methodist pastors?**

No. They only apply to United Methodist clergy. (For the current pastoral staff: Steve Charnley is an ordained United Methodist pastor under appointment to our church; Julie Kline is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor; Dan Duncan is an ordained United Methodist retired pastor.)

### **Is same-gender marriage viewed differently by the state and the Church?**

In Michigan the answer to this question is largely dependent on the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court which will decide this summer if the language in the state constitution that a union between a man and a woman in legal marriage is “the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose” is constitutional. If same-gender marriage

(continued on p. 6)

**Frequently Asked Questions** (continued from p. 5)

becomes legal in Michigan, then ordained United Methodist pastors could legally marry a same-gender couple in the eyes of the state while the language in the church's current *Book of Discipline* says they should not do such a ceremony.

**What is the decision-making process for same-gender weddings or ceremonies?**

This question will be answered in two parts: (1) the pastor's decision to perform a same-gender ceremony; and, (2) deciding if such ceremony will occur in the church building. The responsibilities of pastors are derived from their ordination. Statements about pastoral responsibilities in *The Book of Discipline* say pastors are: "To perform the ecclesial acts of marriage" and "The decision to perform the ceremony shall be the right and responsibility of the pastor." The conduct of pastoral responsibilities, including marriages, is based on the pastor's understanding of his or her call to ministry.

The question of who can or should decide whether a same-gender wedding or ceremony occurs in the church building is unclear. In some United Methodist Churches where discussions about same-gender ceremonies have occurred, the decision to have the ceremony in the church has been the sole responsibility of the pastor in fulfillment of his or her ministerial role and in keeping with the disciplinary statements mentioned above. In other churches discussion and decisions concerning use of the building have been made in consultation with various church groups (e.g. Church Council, Trustees, etc.) This is a matter that will be part of ongoing conversations in the coming months in our church.

April 19, 2015

Prepared by: John Clark, Church Council Chair  
Carol Hodges, Lay Leader  
David Lundquist, Reconciling Ministry Team Co-Chair  
Deb Search Willoughby, Reconciling Ministry Team Co-Chair  
Fred Douglas, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

## Blessing of the Bikes and two bike rides! Sunday, May 31

On Sunday, May 31, after worship you are invited to bring your bike and riding gear (including helmets!) to church! We'll bless the bikes in the church parking lot after our 10 a.m. worship service. After the blessing, families are invited to either drive to the **Portage Bikeway at Celery Flats, located on Milham Road between Westnedge and Portage Streets or bike with the youth to Markin Glen Park in the north part of Kalamazoo** for a picnic lunch. Celery Flats is quite flat (but the celery is gone...) and a very family and child-friendly place to ride; you can even use a bike with training wheels, and no public roads need to be crossed. Markin Glen County Park was originally the estate of Morris Markin, the founder of Checker Motors. The park has been labeled as one of Kalamazoo County's "best kept secrets."



## Pastor's Discretionary Fund Appeal

We are blessed to have a pastor's discretionary fund which is available for emergency needs of members of our parish as well as our neighbors. We have nearly used up all of the resources in this fund in helping in both small and significant ways. This fund is supplied not by the operating budget but by direct donations from members of the congregation. If you would like to assist in this very worthwhile ministry please note your gift for the pastor's discretionary fund in the memo of your check.

## NEW! Relational Ministry Team

We have recently created a Relational Ministry Team led by Andy Vorbrich, whose purpose is to enlist the whole congregation in ways to witness to the joy and blessing of being a part of this church family. The team will be sharing their perspectives in *The First Word*. Please see Lynne Corbus' article on page 8. If you would like to share your witness, please send it to Pastor Steve Charnley at [scharnley@umc-kzo.org](mailto:scharnley@umc-kzo.org).

# Youth Tribe



## Upcoming Events

**FRIENDS WELCOME!!**

by Rev. Julie Kline, [jkline@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jkline@umc-kzo.org)

**Sunday, May 17 (8:30 and 11 a.m. worship)**

9:30am – “Cocoa & Class.” Donuts and the “End is Near!” This is our last Sunday School class for the program year so we are going to celebrate with Sweetwater’s donuts. We’ll also have one last lesson from “Scary, Gross & Weird Stories of the Bible.” Since the end is here, we’ll talk about the end of the Bible as well.

6-8pm - Youth Tribe: “SNAP Challenge”

We’ve spent weeks looking at hunger and poverty in Ethiopia. This week we are going on a field trip to Park Street Market where we will try to buy our “family” dinner with just \$2 a person. We’ll come back watch a few videos and discuss hunger and poverty in our neighborhood and schools.

**Sunday, May 24 (10 a.m. worship begins)**

Memorial Day Weekend. No Cocoa & Class or Tribe.

**Sunday, May 31 (10 a.m. worship)**

11:30am – “Blessing of the Bikes” and riding to Markin Glen County Park (5300 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo). We’ll bless our bikes for safe and fun summer riding after the 10 a.m. worship in the church parking lot and then we’ll ride off to Markin Glen. Is there a parent who would meet us there with a picnic lunch?

**Sunday, June 7 (10 a.m. worship)**

11:30am - Last Tribe of the program year: Beach Ichthus. Let’s go draw some fish in the sand and run down the dunes! We’ll take off after church and head to VanBuren State Park. We’ll have a picnic and hopefully, enjoy some beautiful weather.

## May Mission of the Month

### Pretty Lake Camp

by Donna Dunyak, Outreach Team Co-Chair



Our May Mission of the Month will benefit Pretty Lake Camp. Since 1916, Pretty Lake Vacation Camp (PLVC), has provided totally cost-free summer camp programs to more than 50,000 at-risk children from the greater Kalamazoo area. PLVC is unique in that no child pays to attend the camp. In addition, everything is provided to each of the 800+ children who attend the camp each summer—all clothing, toothbrushes, deodorant, bedding, transportation to/from camp, and all programming—at no charge! PLVC is able to provide all of this through the generosity of donations. Below is a list of those items that are needed most by the campers. Please leave your donations in the basket in the office. Thank you!

- ▷ Packages of boys’ & girls’ underwear, sizes 8-16 (prefer briefs for both boys and girls)
- ▷ New or gently-used bath or beach towels (please no hand towels or washcloths)
- ▷ Hairbrushes (prefer small or mini-sized)
- ▷ Large bottles of sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- ▷ Bug spray
- ▷ Toothbrushes
- ▷ Travel-size toothpaste
- ▷ Full-sized bottles of shampoo/conditioner
- ▷ Deodorant



A **BIG** thank you to those groups/families/individuals who will be hosting Summer Perks! Please contact Pastor Dan Duncan at (269) 381-6340 x231 or email him at [dduncan@umc-kzo.org](mailto:dduncan@umc-kzo.org) if you have questions about Perks.

May 24	Wilma Nelson’s family
May 31	First Church staff
June 7	Marcia Duncan
June 14	CFM Team
June 21	Reconciling Ministries Team
June 28	Ruth Circle
July 5	SPRC/Nominations
July 12	Treece family
July 19	Garman family
July 26	Outreach Team
August 2	Carol Hodges
August 9	Building & Grounds
August 16	Youth Tribe/Young People
August 23	Justice Team
August 30	Choirs
Sept. 6	Trustees



# Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

	May 17 8:30 and 11 a.m	May 24 10:00 a.m.	May 31 10:00 a.m.	June 7 10:00 a.m.	June 14 10:00 a.m.	June 21 10:00 a.m.
<b>8:30 Lay Reader</b>	Molly Williams	<b>SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>  <b>One worship service at 10 a.m.</b>				
<b>8:30 Office/ Welcome Center</b>	Betty Jean Daniell					
<b>8:30 Greeters</b>	<b>need someone</b>					
<b>8:30 Sound/Lighting</b>	Jim Willoughby					
<b>11:00/10:00 Lay Reader</b>	Dave Synwolt	Tim Mullikin	Linda Winkelman	Carol Holms	<b>need someone</b>	Tim Mullikin
<b>11:00/10:00 Office/ Welcome Center</b>	Ruth Peterson	<b>need someone</b>	<b>need someone</b>	<b>need someone</b>	Ruth Peterson	<b>need someone</b>
<b>11:00/10:00 Greeters</b>	Don & Harriet Chalker	Ellen & Jim McDonald	Barb & Tim Swartz	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	<b>need someone</b>	<b>need someone</b>
<b>11:00/10:00 Greeters</b>	Ellen & Jim McDonald	<b>need someone</b>	Tom & Gerry Schaberg	Fred Jackson & Sandy Sullivan	<b>need someone</b>	<b>need someone</b>
<b>11:00/10:00 Acolytes</b>	Denis Harmon Dimitre Harmon	volunteers	volunteers	volunteers	volunteers	volunteers
<b>11:00/10:00 Sound/ Lighting</b>	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Jim Willoughby	Bob Lane	Greg Anderson

## Why First Church is my faith home

by Lynne Emons Corbus, Relational Ministries Team

Why are you here? I don't mean on the planet. (That's a question for a different day!) I'm talking about First Church. Why did you decide to come to church here? What exactly was it that led you to this love-filled, God-inspired place with its majestic stained glass windows and beautiful stone façade?

If you're like me, you have a story to tell. In my case, the story begins in 1981 with an assignment I received as a cub reporter at Channel 3 to cover the Christmas candlelight service. The assignment came from my boss, Fred Douglas, who was a member here. When I walked into the sanctuary, I was awestruck. Amid hundreds of candles and the glorious strains of *Silent Night*, I felt God calling me to this place which would eventually become my church home.

More than 30 years later, I am still in awe of all those things. But I can tell you that it is the relationships with people which have sustained me. Around 2005, I left the church for a few years and attended another place of worship, but I would occasionally come back—mostly on holidays. Every time I returned, someone grabbed my arm or called to me and said, "Good to see you." "We miss you." I felt welcomed and loved. The personal connections made all the difference. Eventually, I did come back and I've never looked back.

Is there a person or family in your life who is just waiting to make that connection with you and with God? Inviting acquaintances, friends, co-workers or neighbors to church is uncomfortable for many of us. After

all, we're not supposed to talk about religion and politics, right? But how about inviting a family with young children to a service featuring our puppet ministry? Or inviting a music lover to one of our choir or organ concerts? You could extend Christian love by making a meal for someone in need or offering to pray for them in church if they are facing difficulties in their life. We all have opportunities to reach out, to witness...if only we open our eyes and our hearts to listen to what God is saying to us.

We are a vibrant church family and we embrace opportunities to grow. In Luke 14:23, it says, *"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'"*



### Circle Meetings

**Tuesday, May 19, 6 p.m., church parlor**

Ruth Circle, Spring Pot Luck

Program: "Mission Work in Costa Rico," by Sue Eden

**Wednesday, May 20**

1) Anna Circle, 10:30 a.m., Wyndham, 2nd floor club room

Luncheon is free with presentation

Program: "Harriet Beecher Stowe," by Cindy Charnley

2) Lydia Circle, 1 p.m., Friendship Village A-1 Lounge

Program: "Lord Mountain Orphanage in Zambia,"

by Lena Ellinger

3) Miriam Circle, 1 p.m., church parlor

Program: "Mission Work in Costa Rico," by sue Eden

**Wednesday, May 27, 9:30 a.m., church parlor**

UMW Executive Meeting

**Wednesday, June 3 UMW General Meeting**

- Business Meeting, 9:30 a.m., church parlor
- Break, 10:30 a.m.
- World Thank Offering, 10:45 a.m.
- Program: "Infant Mortality, Community Action Initiative" by Grace Lubwama, Chief Executive, YWCA
- Luncheon, 12 noon, \$7 per/person

Lunch reservations can be made by calling Sue Paul at (269) 349-8218 by noon, Friday, May 29.

Summer Sunday School Class

### Continuing the Conversation

by Rev. Steve Charnley, Senior Pastor

Our pastoral staff—Julie Kline, Dan Duncan, and myself—are preparing to offer a special class to further the conversations, learnings, and sharing that was begun by our recent letter concerning our commitment to marriage equality in the church.

The class will be held on Sunday mornings right after worship, beginning on May 31<sup>st</sup> and continuing until June 21. As summer worship will be at 10 a.m., the class will meet shortly after 11 a.m. and be finished by noon.

The class will be entitled “Exploring the Biblical Witness about Homosexuality.” My colleagues and I eagerly anticipate this opportunity to engage in fruitful dialogue centered on the scripture. Employing the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, we will focus on how the Bible interprets itself, as well as bringing to bear insights gained from our church tradition, empirical reason and formative experiences.

It will be a lively and enriching experience. We will meet in the parlor unless numbers necessitate moving to a larger space. Come and join the conversation on Sunday, May 31 after worship.

### April 2015 General Fund Financial Picture

Note: Building Fund numbers are not included

	April 2015	2015 YTD	2014 YTD	2015 Budget	% of Budget
Total Income	\$ 53,161	*\$ 373,951	\$ 391,600	\$ 900,506	41.5%
Total Expense	\$ 75,947	\$ 292,062	\$ 356,000	\$ 900,506	32.4%
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (22,786)	\$ 81,889	\$ 35,600		

\* Income includes 2015 pre-paid pledges of \$152,002 and \$144,776 received in 2014.

JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>Blessing of the Bicycles</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Exploring the Biblical Witness about Homosexuality 11:00 AM Youth Tribe 4:00 PM Notified 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone	<b>1</b> 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 5:30 PM Golf League	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Worship Planning 5:00 PM ALS Support Group 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM SPRC	<b>3</b> 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:00 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM OLLI Curriculum Committee Meeting 9:30 AM UMW Meeting 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 7:00 PM Children & Family Ministries	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Higher Ground Counseling 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Depression Bipolar Support Alliance	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Art Hop	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Blood Pressure Clinic</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Exploring the Biblical Witness about Homosexuality 11:30 AM Youth Tribe 4:00 PM Notified 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone	<b>8</b> 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 5:30 PM Golf League	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Worship Planning 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM NA	<b>10</b> 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:30 PM Stephen Ministry	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Wesley Foundation Building Meeting 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 11:00 AM Buildings & Grounds 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Higher Ground Counseling 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Depression Bipolar Support Alliance	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Wedding
<b>14</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Exploring the Biblical Witness about Homosexuality 4:00 PM Notified 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM ASP group building	<b>15</b> 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 5:30 PM Golf League	<b>16</b> 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Worship Planning 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM NA	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Anna Circle 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 11:30 AM Miriam Circle 4:00 PM Center for Transformation 6:00 PM Wild Ones Board Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>Youth Ramp Build</b> 9:30 AM Trustees 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 5:30 PM Outreach Team 6:00 PM Higher Ground Counseling 6:30 PM Kinship Care 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Depression Bipolar Support Alliance	<b>19</b> <b>Youth Ramp Build</b> 6:00 PM Family Fellowship Fun Night	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Blood Pressure Clinic</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Exploring the Biblical Witness about Homosexuality 12:15 PM Young People 4:00 PM Notified 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM ASP group building	<b>22</b> 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 5:30 PM Golf League 7:00 PM Justice Team	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 10:00 AM Worship Planning 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM First Word Collating 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:30 PM Stephen Ministry	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Vacation Bible School 9:30 AM Wesley Foundation Building Meeting 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Higher Ground Counseling 6:30 PM Emerging Worship Planning 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Depression Bipolar Support Alliance	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Wedding
<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Notified 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM ASP tool training	<b>29</b> 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 5:30 PM Golf League	<b>30</b> 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Worship Planning 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training 7:00 PM NA	<b>1</b> 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 7:00 PM Children & Family Ministries	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Higher Ground Counseling 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Depression Bipolar Support Alliance	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



# The View from my window

Rev. Steve Charnley  
Senior Pastor

As I write this, Cindy and I have just returned from a community event at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Kalamazoo's northside. Since January, I have been attending the Northside Ministerial Alliance which meets at Mt. Zion and in so doing have made new friends among my African American colleagues in ministry. It has been a good way to become more acquainted with the wider faith community and to build bridges based on relationships.

The event which we attended was entitled: "Youth Lives Matter." It convened the leaders of the civic, school and church communities. Present were all of the police chiefs from our local municipalities, the superintendent and head administrators of the Kalamazoo Public Schools, the leaders of numerous foundations whose focus is the empowerment of our youth, and finally members of the clergy. The guests of honor were the young people. They were the ones invited to speak. Except for the introduction and moderation from two adult leaders from Mt. Zion, no adults spoke. The young people were asked to respond to several questions, among them were these:

- ▶ How do you feel about social justice in our nation in regard to the events in Ferguson and Baltimore and other places?
- ▶ Do you feel limited or restricted in your desire for success, and if so, how?
- ▶ Who do you turn to for guidance and support?
- ▶ How have you experienced or seen racism right here in Kalamazoo?

I was amazed by the number of youth and young adults who rose to the microphones and spoke. At least two

dozen different persons took turns, several making multiple comments. One very gifted communicator used poetry rap to express his fears and hopes. Another, whose journey involved the double burden of race and autism, spoke with inspiration of the will to succeed. They spoke with honesty about the struggle with drugs, peer pressure, and institutional racism. They articulated the dream to rise above circumstances, to be true to themselves, and to criticize those who would abandon the non-violence of Martin Luther King. They made an eloquent plea for parents to care more for their children, for schools to care more for their students, for the community to seek to remedy poverty, treat mental illness and not stereotype all by the actions of a few.

All of the adults sat and listened... and after each statement, applauded. I so much wanted to shout out, in the parlance of my youth, "Right on!" But I kept quiet, save for my applause. As Cindy and I left, a mother of one of the youth thanked us for coming. I told her how grateful we were to be there to hear from the youth of our community and Cindy added that we need to do more of this. She agreed.

I'd like to challenge us as the summer approaches to think of how we can widen the circle of our conversations about racism. After all, as the youth told us, it's personal and it's relevant. One of them said that the time for planning or hoping is past, it's time to act. Let me know your thoughts, your dreams and your hopes.

Blessings,



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WE ARE A RECONCILING CONGREGATION. First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, open doors.



### 2015 First Word Schedule

Article Deadline	Mailing Date
May 27	June 3
June 17	June 24
July 15	July 22
August 19	August 26
September 9	September 16
September 23	September 30
October 7	October 14
October 21	October 28
November 4	November 11
November 18	November 25
December 2	December 9

**Articles are due on the deadline!**  
**Late submissions will only be published if space permits.**  
**Articles may be edited for space and content.**



### Spring Musical: Oh Jonah Presented by First Beats

May 15 & 17, 2015  
First UMC Sanctuary  
by Jacqueline Stilger, Minister of Music

The spring musical *Oh Jonah* will be presented by our children's choir, First Beats, on Friday evening, May 15 and Sunday, May 17 during the 11:00 a.m. service. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we will share a potluck meal at 6 p.m., followed by the musical. Please bring a dish to share with everyone.

The musical tells the story of Jonah and his reluctance to share the word of God as God commanded him to do. We'll share how Jonah ran from responsibility through singing, dancing, and acting. Our children have been working hard to share this biblical story, and we hope you will join us for one of the performances.



### YOUNG PEOPLE

A small group ministry for ages 18-35

#### Young People meeting Sunday, May 17

After the 11 a.m. worship we will share in a picnic in Bronson Park. Bring some food to share and a blanket to sit on. Afterwards we will do a little Geocaching because we had so much fun with it at the Nature Center. Several of us have the app on our phones, so don't worry! We'll share the navigation. Come join us for our last planned Young People event for the program year.

*Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.*

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU,  
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, 1984

