



MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

UMW Mission Sunday, October 30 Worship service on a Vision of Hope 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Each year United Methodist Women (UMW) select a mission and topic for UMW Mission Sunday. In February, a few days after the mass shooting in Kalamazoo, UMW and Pastor Julie Kline felt strongly that they wanted to do something to address gun violence. At the same time, the Kalamazoo chapter of Moms was being formed. A number of our church members are now actively involved.

On October 30, Pastor Julie Kline will be preaching at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. on the prophet Habakkuk and how he wrestled with what troubles every age: **Why does God seem inactive in**



Guest speaker
Emily Durbin

the face of evil and injustice? Our guest speaker from Moms is Emily Durbin, leader of the Michigan Moms chapter. Emily is a mother and an Associate Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University. She will provide practical information on what we can do to help decrease and prevent gun violence. A special offering will support Moms and their work.

At 9:30 a.m. in the parlor, Christine Peavler will present a BE SMART training, a Moms program developed to teach gun safety tips to parents, grandparents, and all other interested people. There will be gun locks available that have been provided by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.

You are welcome to stop in the marketplace to pick up more info regarding Moms Demand Action as well as info on candidates that support gun safety legislation.

Disarm hate. Take action NOW.

Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to reduce drunk driving, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America was created to advocate for stronger laws and policies that will reduce gun violence and save lives. They are a non-partisan grassroots movement with over 3.5 million supporters demanding common-sense solutions to address our country's dangerous culture of gun violence.

Their goals are:

- ✓ Close the deadly loopholes in the country's background check system that allows dangerous people like felons and domestic abusers easy access to guns.
- ✓ Support reasonable limits on where, when, and how loaded guns are carried and used in public.
- ✓ Promote gun safety so that America's children will no longer be exposed to unacceptable level of risk.
- ✓ Mobilize popular support for policies that respect Second Amendment Rights and protect people.

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 **October 19, 2016**. The next newsletter will be mailed **October 26, 2016**. Articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent electronically by email to Jennifer Stupica at 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).

*Rev. Steve Charnley	Senior Pastor
*Rev. Julie Kline	Associate Pastor
*Rev. Dan Duncan	Pastor of Children & Families Ministries
*Rev. Keith Treman	Pastor of Congregational Care
*Jacqueline Stilger	Minister of Music
*Ruth LaMachia	Church Business Administrator
*Christi Landreville	Administrative Partner in Ministry
*Jennifer Stupica	Communications Coordinator
*Bernie Foulk	Organist
Rich Peavler	First Singers Director
Linda Winkelman	JFON Legal Assistant (kzoo_assist@jfonwestmichigan.org)
*Curt Flowers	Bookkeeper
*Denise Wilcox	Contributions Assistant
*Sara Miller	Office Assistant
*Robin Entenman	Office Assistant/Security
Pamala Roman	Custodian
Todd Bloomfield	Evening Custodian
Ernesto Escobedo	Custodian/Security
Michael DeYoung	Evening Security
Julie Meyers	First Care Director (msjulie55@yahoo.com)
Bishop David A. Bard	Bishop of the Michigan Area
Rev. Dwayne Bagley	Kalamazoo District Superintendent
Rev. Cora Glass	Dir. of Discipleship and Resident Director of Wesley Intentional Living Community

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

Jacqueline Barnard, who died Sept. 13.

Please keep these friends in your prayers

Hannah Boley, Helen Bray, Sandy Brink, Skip Decker, Hyesuk DeRoo, Bob Goodwin, Brenda Haan, Paula Hall, Marge Hastings, Carl Hausermann, Nell Holland, Barbara Hughey, Nancy Jacobs, Ann Kneas, Rueith Lewis, Jim Martin, Dave Martin, Ellen McDonald, Marsha McKenzie, Terry Mishler, Ron Moore, Mandy Morrill, Mariel Neu, Jack Roderick, Mary Helen Thomas, Arlene Triestram, Anne Wolfe

Food Pantry Needs

The Bronson Park Food Pantry is in need of hearty soups, boxes of cereal, and canned green beans. They continue to need your used plastic grocery bags. Please drop items off at the food pantry window. Thank you!

Church Charge Conference

The annual Church Charge Conference with District Superintendent Dwayne Bagley presiding is scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The SPRC meeting with the DS will be held at 6:30 p.m.

All committees and teams that have annual reports need to have them completed and emailed to Jennifer Stupica at jstupica@umc-kzo.org by Tuesday, Nov. 22 in order that they can be ready for distribution the night of the Charge Conference.

For those who need to submit reports or forms for the Charge Conference, please visit the Kalamazoo District website at <http://kalamazoodistrict.org/resources/> or www.umc.org/gcfa/forms



Jesus provides Opportunities for You

2017 Stewardship Campaign Consecration Sunday, October 23

By now I'm sure you know that this year's stewardship theme is **Jesus Provides Opportunities for You (JOY)**. These opportunities are provided in many different forms but are meaningless unless we are able to recognize them.

Recently a member of the Stewardship Committee shared a story about being sorry for missing an opportunity. Chances are once an opportunity is missed, it may never come again. "As a

child growing up in Kalamazoo our family very rarely attended church. I wasn't brought up in an environment where religion was cherished and valued. I learned little about Jesus and the opportunities that he provides. It wasn't until my relationship with FUMC began in 1991 that I began to understand the important role that religion and Jesus play in not only my life, but in the lives of everyone—regardless of race,

creed, religion or social importance. Slowly, over the years I have become a true believer. Not just that Jesus is present in my everyday life, but also that he helps guide me toward being a better person. A person that cares about others..."

When filling out your Estimate of Giving for 2017, please think about all the good that you are helping to create and be sure not to miss this opportunity.

~ Mike Cooper, Stewardship Team

Welcome Bishop David A. Bard Service of Installation Sunday, October 16 @ 3 p.m. FUMC Sanctuary

We are excited and honored to host one of the three services of installation for our new Bishop of the Michigan Area, David Bard. We hope that you will attend the worship service scheduled here on Sunday, October 16 at 3 p.m., followed by a celebration that will include refreshments and an opportunity to greet Bishop Bard and his wife, Julie.

If you are interested in helping with refreshments for this event, please contact David Lundquist or Donna Duniak at the email addresses below by Wednesday, October 12, so that we can appropriately plan. There is also a sign-up sheet located at the Welcome Center.

We could also use some additional hands for food preparation and would like to give an opportunity for the many talented bakers in our congregation to help provide home-baked cookies—as we anticipate 250-300 people to attend! Cookies can be dropped off at the church on Friday, Oct. 14, Saturday morning, Oct. 15, or Sunday, Oct. 16 by 1 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity and we hope to see you there!

Sing Out Sunday October 23 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.



Sing Out Sunday is a time to celebrate the precious gift of music that has been given to us by God. It is a day of celebrating the musical gifts of the adult choirs, instrumentalists, and the congregation. A joyful day in which we can sing the praises of our loving and gracious God throughout the Sunday service.

The adult choirs combine for this Sunday, singing at both the 8:30 and the 11:00 service. We combine in order to have the fun that comes from singing in a larger group. We also join together to form new ties and get to know other musicians from the congregation. First Singers rehearses on Sunday nights and sings at the 8:30 service about twice a month. The Chancel choir rehearses on Thursday nights and sings at the 11:00 service. It is through Sundays like Sing Out Sunday that we intentionally have our musical paths cross and join together to sing and create community. Singing together permits the choirs to do repertoire that works best with a larger group. It stretches us and allows us to discover and present anthems that we might not do on our own.

This year, Sing Out Sunday is combined with Consecration Sunday. Music is a true gift from God. And as we give our varied gifts on that Sunday, it seemed natural to celebrate the gift of music that has been so abundantly given! ~ Jacqueline Stilger



In order to offer more ways to give, First UMC is initiating electronic giving services. New options will include online giving through a computer, smart phone, or tablet via a QR Code or link to a website. You will be able to set up your own bank account information, so that you can contribute to the operating budget, building fund, or special offerings for ongoing ministries. Both periodic and one-time giving can be accommodated.

Credit/debit card processing will also be available for donations or for purchases such as books, bake sales, or other fund-raisers.

As we set up electronic giving, it would be helpful to have additional input from our membership regarding what features are most important to you. A 5-minute survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVD5NLF> and paper surveys are available at the Welcome Center. Please let us know your thoughts as we begin this new service.



OCTOBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 18

Ruth Circle, 7 p.m., church parlor
 Program: "Love Will Steer Me True," by author Jane Knuth

Wednesday, October 19

Anna Circle, 9:30 a.m., Wyndham (no lunch)
 Program: "Going to Korea," by Lois Miles

Lydia Circle, 1 p.m., Friendship Village, A-1 Lounge
 Program: "Needful Things: The Art and Practice of Prayerful Minds," by JerryToshalis

Miriam Circle, 1 p.m., church parlor
 Program: "What Happened to the Gargoyle," by Lois Richmond

UMW BAKE SALE

Sunday, October 23
 9:30 - 12:30 p.m., Marketplace
 Proceeds benefit UMW's missions for women and children

UMW EXECUTIVE MEETING

Wednesday, October 26, 2016
 9:30 a.m., church parlor



October 23
 in the
 Marketplace

*proceeds will benefit
 UMW's missions for
 children and women*

JFON Immigration Ministry

Your support helps families stay together

Many thanks to those who attended Justice For Our Neighbors' first birthday celebration after the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 18. We always enjoy a chance to share good news of this ministry. Gifts to JFON to date in honor of Pastors Vernon, Boley and Charnley will nearly cover a month of operation! We are so appreciative of your support. ~Ann Sweany

Last week, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 145 mph, smashed through the Caribbean and on to our nation's coast leaving in its path a wake of death and destruction. Haiti was one of the worst places of damage. The death toll is expected to surpass 1000, with over 95% of structures in the path of the storm totally destroyed. The Haitian people are living outside with little food and no clean water. First responders are already reporting the outbreak of Cholera. We must pray for all those lost and affected, but we can also help by giving to **UMCOR's international relief fund Advance #982450 on Sunday, Oct. 16.**



Children & Families Ministries

by Rev. Dan Duncan
 dduncan@umc-kzo.org

A second Godly Play section has begun! Due to the large and growing number of children participating in Godly Play (during the 11 a.m. worship service), we have opened a second section in room 203. Four and five year olds meet there, and 6-8 years olds meet in room 200. This will ensure that we have a more optimal number of children in each area for the best experience for them. We thank Nancy Douglas for painting over the plywood panels covering the old fireplace in Room 203 (see photo of our new center), and the Memorial Committee whose generosity helped us purchase the necessary equipment and supplies.



Our new Godly Play area in room 203

Sunday School

Our curriculum for K through 4th grade is from Cokesbury, and is called "Deep Blue." Upcoming Bible lessons will be:

- October 16: Moses and Pharaoh
- October 23: Crossing the Sea
- October 30: Songs of Joy

5th and 6th graders "submerge" themselves in issues of Christian faith and life with the "Submerge" curriculum from Cokesbury:

- October 16: Working Together (The Walls of Jericho)
- October 23: Choices (Samson)
- October 30: Discerning God's Will (Samuel anoints Saul)

Godly Play Stories Coming Up (11:15 a.m. to noon)

4 -5 year olds—Room 203

Oct. 16: Noah	Storyteller: Shelly Wisdom-Long	Guide: RuthAnn Uggen
Oct. 23: Abraham and Sarah	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: Donna Oudersluys
Oct. 30: Birth of Moses	Storyteller: Matt Bland	Guide: Sara Miller

6-8 year olds—Room 200

Oct. 16: Birth of Isaac	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: Mary Lee Dimond
Oct. 23: A Sold Birthright	Storyteller: Julia Librizzi	Guide: Brian Moon
Oct. 30: Jacob's Dream	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: Shondo Miller

First Bells. Our youngest ringers will ring on October 16. They will rehearse during the gathering time at 9:30 a.m. in the Arches, then play at the beginning of the 11 a.m. worship service (they should sit in the front pew with Mrs. Wolfe).

Family Fun Night coming! Our next Family Fun Night will be "Pizza and Pumpkins" on Friday, October 21, from 6-8 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We'll provide pizza, cider and donuts, and the pumpkins for carving! You provide an RSVP for number of adults and children, pumpkin carving implements, and \$5 per person. There's not a better fellowship, fun, or meal deal available! RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 19 to Pastor Dan at dduncan@umc-kzo.org.



YOUTH TRIBE

SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING YOUTH EVENTS



by Rev. Julie Kline, jkline@umc-kzo.org

SUNDAY, October 16

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am

An Oprah Winfrey documentary that will travel to the far reaches of the world and to places cameras have rarely been revealing stories that will have us all asking: "What do I believe?" These are the remaining episodes: The Practice and God Help Us. We will choose together which one to watch first and if we watch the whole thing and then discuss or break it up into parts. Come, learn and engage with one another.

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm ~ "Digging Deep" Dating Game

Relationships are often the focus of teen living and they can be confusing. We're going to spend some time this evening talking about how to navigate your way through these confounding times. These kind of conversations are about romance but also about friendship and identity too. Maybe a little awkward but we'll lighten it up with some funny videos and by playing a version of the very old sitcom, "The Dating Game." This will be an evening when we divide into age and perhaps gender groups.

SUNDAY, October 23

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am

An Oprah Winfrey documentary that will travel to the far reaches of the world and to places cameras have rarely been revealing stories that will have us all asking: "What do I believe?" We have one more episode to watch and then we will have to decide on our next topic or area of study. Come, learn and engage with one another.

Youth Tribe @ 5-8:30pm ~ Pie making party!

This is an annual event that youth and parents are seriously encouraged to participate and help out. This is great fun. We make about 150 pies, give or take, to sell as a fundraiser for our youth missions. We make a big mess peeling lots of apples, then we have a big assembly line in the kitchen where we mix up the pie fillings, put it in a crust, top it with butter, a top crust and presto a beautiful homemade pie. Our congregation looks forward to our delicious pies! Anyone who loves to make pies is welcome to join us!

SUNDAY, October 30

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am and selling pies in throughout the morning

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm – Mindful Mission

It is the eve of Allhallowtide and so we will mark this triduum of All Saints Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day by intentional doing some acts of kindness and compassion. We hope to carve pumpkins with Eleanor House, shop for the food pantry, count and sort a donation for World Vision, make blessing bags, have a candle lighting service and eat some caramel and apples. Come and join us for a time of remembering our saints and being the saints.

ASP Sunday Offering

Thank you for your generous gift toward our Appalachia Service Project special offering on October 2. Total giving was \$1,795.33 Your gift will be used toward next year's trip to make homes warmer, safer and drier at no cost to the families in need. You can continue to equip and inspire lives of Christian service for our youth by supporting their fund raisers throughout the year, including their homemade apple pies and crisps sale coming October 30!

Apple pie sales

Just in time for the holidays! The youth will be selling their homemade apple pies and crisps on Sundays beginning October 30 in the Marketplace. We once again thank Gull Meadows Farm for their donation of fresh apples! Thank you for supporting our youth mission projects with your purchase!

APPLE PIE: \$13
APPLE CRISP: \$13



Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

	Oct. 16 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 23 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 30 8:30 and 11 a.m	Nov. 6 8:30 and 11 a.m	Nov. 13 8:30 and 11 a.m	Nov. 20 8:30 and 11 a.m
8:30 Lay Reader	Terry O'Connor	Carol Hodges	UMW	Sue Paul	Andy Vorbrich	Carol Hodges
8:30 Greeters	need someone	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	UMW	Jennifer Stupica	need someone	need someone
8:30 Sound/Lights	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby
11:00 Lay Reader	Carol Holms	Lynne Corbus	UMW	Judy Aardema	Nancy Hyde	Chris Stamper
11:00 Office/Welcome Center	Harriet Chalker	need someone	need someone	need someone	Harriet Chalker	need someone
11:00 Greeters	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	need someone	UMW	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	need someone	need someone
11:00 Acolytes	Ella Adams Andrew Wright	Layla Eaton Collin Bland	Ryan Ernest Emma Hampton	Sean Willoughby Alex Moon	Andrew Wright Layla Eaton	Collin Bland Emma Hampton
11:00 Sound/Lights	Bob Lane	Jonah Bolton	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton
Van Driver	Jay Gross	Jake Lisak	Dave Russel	Mike Cooper	N/A	N/A

PLEASE NOTE: We do not have anyone who schedules greeters. Please sign up to greet on the board near the Welcome Center if you would like to share your gift of hospitality. *Thank you!*

Are you fall cleaning your closets? Do you have winter coats that you no longer wear?

October Ministry of the Month THE SALVATION ARMY "SHARE THE WARMTH"

First Church is once again partnering with the Salvation Army to collect coats for children and adults. Please put your donations of gently used or new winter coats in the Salvation Army barrel near the Welcome Center during the month of October!



NOTE: Be on the lookout for our upcoming November Ministry with Community underwear collection as well as our Salvation Army Angel Tree! Your support of our Missions of the Month are truly appreciated!



All Saint's Day Sunday, November 6

On Sunday, November 6 we will remember and honor our family and friends who have died in the past twelve months. This year's worship experience will include a slide show of the saints. If you would like to include a photo of your loved one in this presentation, please email a photo as an attachment to Communications Coordinator Jennifer Stupica, jstupica@umc-kzo.org, by Monday, October 31.

Hurricane Matthew has moved on and Haiti is left to recover from the latest national catastrophe. The United Methodist Committee on Relief's country office staff in Haiti is monitoring and evaluating needs in Matthew's aftermath. UMCOR will explore strategies for responding to this disaster. You are invited to make a gift to support the bishop's Advance Special Appeal for relief efforts. Please make your check out to the church with "UMCOR Hurricane Matthew" in the memo.

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Baptism Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bishop Welcome 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	17 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 2:00 PM Memorial Committee 6:30 PM Basketball	18 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:15 PM Finance Team 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	19 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM Anna Circle 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Lydia Circle 1:00 PM Miriam Circle 6:00 PM Wild Ones Board Meeting	20 9:30 AM First Stitches 9:30 AM Trustees 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Clergy Cluster 1:30 PM Prayer Group 5:30 PM Outreach Team 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Emerging Worship Planning 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	21 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM Family Fellowship Fun Night	22 4:00 PM Wedding
23 Consecration Sunday, Sing-Out Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	24 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Justice Team	25 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:00 PM Center for Transformation 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA	26 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM UMW Executive Committee 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 6:00 PM Wild Ones Membership Meeting 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM MOM's Demand Action 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	27 9:30 AM First Stitches 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	28 7:00 AM ACDA-MI Fall Conference	29 7:00 AM ACDA-MI Fall Conference

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 UMW Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	31 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball	1 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM SPRC	2 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM OLLI Curriculum Committee 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group	3 9:30 AM First Stitches 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM CFM Team 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:00 PM Pub Theology 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	4 7:00 PM Bob Milne Piano Concert	5
6 All Saint's Day & Blood Pressure Clinic Holy Communion 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	7 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball	8 10:00 AM Northside Ministerial Alliance 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 8:00 PM Communion Service	9 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM MOM's Demand Action 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Stephen Ministry 5:30 PM First Care Board Meeting 6:00 PM Emerging Worship Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	10 9:30 AM First Stitches 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 10:30 AM Building & Grounds 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	11	12

Staff Sharing

Rev. Dan Duncan
Pastor of Children & Families Ministries



Generation to Generation

As the Pastor of Children and Families Ministries here at First Church, I naturally spend a lot of my time teaching and relating with the children in our congregation—which is a delightful part of my job. Of course I enjoy relating to their parents as well, but I find that Jesus' observation about how "you must become as children if you are to enter the Kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19.14) continues to ring true. As a reality check for those who might be misled by my youthful appearance: I am not the age of these children's parents, but of their grandparents.

In my family life, I've been engaged a lot with the generation ahead of me, namely my mother. For the last eight months she has had chronic and unresolved health issues, which culminated in her death on September 22nd. I appreciate your many signs of support and sympathy on that occasion.

The photo we chose to put on mom's funeral bulletin was from over 70 years ago when she was approximately six years old. It shows her sitting in a metal washtub in her parent's backyard in Winterset, Iowa in a swimsuit, with a broad smile and intent gaze. I had never seen the photo before, and of course it was taken long before I was in the world. I am always intrigued, as a pastor officiating at funerals for the "chronologically gifted," to see photos of the dear departed from childhood and youth, since I generally only knew them in old age. Surely mom's photo showed the openness and spontaneity that Jesus knew came naturally to children.

It also made me aware of how much our faces change over a long lifetime. All of this reminded me

of something that C.S. Lewis wrote from a couple of generations ago (which also explains the now archaic sounding sexist language for God), which I share even though it is lengthy:

We were made for God. Only by being in some respect like Him, only by being a manifestation of His beauty, loving kindness, wisdom or goodness, has any earthly Beloved excited our love. It is not that we have loved them too much, but that we did not quite understand what we were loving. It is not that we shall be asked to turn from them, so dearly familiar, to a Stranger. When we see the face of God we shall know that we have always known it. He has been a party to, has made, sustained and moved moment by moment within, all our earthly experiences of innocent love. All that was true love in them was, even on earth, far more His than ours, and ours only because His. In heaven there will be no anguish and no duty of turning away from our earthly Beloveds. First, because we shall have turned already; from the portraits to the Original, from the rivulets to the Fountain, from the creatures he made lovable to Love Himself. But secondly, because we shall find them all in Him. By loving Him more than them we shall love them more than we now do.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
 IN KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN



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.



2016 First Word Schedule

Article Deadline	Mailing Date
October 19	October 26
November 2	November 9
November 23	November 30
December 7	December 14

Articles are due on the deadline!
Late submissions will only be published if space permits. Please submit articles typed exactly as you want them to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be edited for space and content.

EVENTS COMING UP

Mark your calendars for our packed fall schedule!

- SUN., Oct. 16 Baptism Sunday/Children's Sabbath;
New Bishop Celebration @ 3 p.m.
- SUN., Oct. 23 Consecration Sunday/Sing Out Sunday;
New series of Academy Classes begin
- SUN., Oct. 30 UMW Sunday/Reformation Sunday;
Guest speaker Emily Durbin,
Moms Against Gun Violence
- SUN., Nov. 6 All Saints' Sunday
(Daylight Saving time ends)
- TUES., Nov. 8 Election Day Vesper & Communion
Service at 8 p.m.
- SUN., Nov. 13 Guest speaker Dr. Lalene Rector,
President of Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary;
Emerging Worship at 9:30 a.m.;
Blessing Bags distributed
- SUN., Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Sunday
Reception of New Members
Blessing Bags collected and blessed
- SUN., Nov. 27 Advent Begins



FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS!

- "Stop, drop, and roll won't work in hell."
- "Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil. No point."
- "God shows no favoritism, but our sign guy does. Go Cubs!"
- "Ipod. Ipad? Try Ipray. God is listening."