



Happy Birthday JFON!



Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) Immigration Ministry

Celebrate our first birthday on Sunday, September 18



Please join us as we celebrate JFON's first year in Kalamazoo and look forward to the future! We will be hosting a celebration immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on September 18. Come see Ray Sweany freeze ice cream using liquid nitrogen (-321°F) in dramatic fashion. A light lunch of quiche, vegetarian samosas, turkey wraps and cheese and crackers will be followed by a short program.

Our attorney, Katrina Pradelski, will be present to help us learn about this important work. In the past year, we have held seven intake clinics, and one large refugee clinic. Ms. Pradelski has also made regular presentations to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees at the Calhoun County Jail. We are approaching nearly 200 people whose lives we have directly touched with this ministry, not counting our many volunteers from the community.

Three Kalamazoo First UMC pastors have helped birth this ministry: Rev. Doug Vernon, Rev. John Boley and Rev. Steve Charnley. It started with the concept of a Justice Team, then we explored the option of opening a satellite office of JFON Grand Rapids, and finally culminated in the opening of a JFON ministry with space in our church. As Mollie Clements says, "It has been a rather incredible journey. It wouldn't have happened but for the contribution of each of these pastors."

We hope you will consider a "birthday gift" to JFON in honor of these three pastors to help sustain JFON in Kalamazoo as we continue to assist those in need of this ministry.

~ Ann Sweany, Justice Team Co-Chair



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, **September 21, 2016**. The next newsletter will be mailed **September 28, 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
*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
Bishop David A. Bard	Bishop of the Michigan Area
Rev. Dwayne Bagley	Kalamazoo District Superintendent

GLOBAL STAFF

Jeff and Ellen Hoover Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

Barbara Vindedahl, mother of Ann (John) Kneas, who died August 25.

Marcia Husted, who died September 11.

Please keep these friends in your prayers

Helen Bray, Marguerite Briggs, Skip Decker, Hyesuk DeRoo, Marcia Duncan, Kenny & Barb Fuller, Brenda Haan, Paula Hall, Carl Hausermann, Nell Holland, Barbara Hughey, Nancy Jacobs, Ann Kneas, Rueith Lewis, Jim Martin, Dave Martin, Ellen McDonald, Marsha McKenzie, Ellie Miller, Terry Mishler, Mandy Morrill, Mariel Neu, Paul Patterson, Jack Roderick, Forrest Seals, Mary Helen Thomas, Arlene Triestram

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Congratulations to **Gerald and Mildred Hedrick** on their 75th wedding anniversary on September 17th!

Food Pantry Needs Volunteers

Our Bronson Park Food Pantry is in need of volunteers Monday through Friday, from 1 -3 p.m. If you have a couple hours available to help once a week or even every other week, please contact Judy Ross at 343-1978.

SAVE THE DATE

Borgess Health Flu Vaccine Clinic
Sunday, October 9
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Fellowship Room

For our members and their spouses/partners ages 80+

In Your Honor
First United Methodist Church invites you

Four Score and More Luncheon

**Thursday, September 22, 2016
Noon—2 p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church
Wesley Hall**

We are especially blessed by you and want to share our appreciation for our most revered members with a luncheon and musical entertainment.

Please RSVP to the office by Sept. 19
(269) 381-6340 or
kalamazoofumc@umc-kzo.org.
Transportation is available if requested.

September Mission of the Month

by Donna Dunayk, Outreach Team

Wesley Campus Ministries has recently moved into their brand new building. For the September Mission of the Month, the Outreach Team would like to offer First Church the opportunity to bless them with some housewarming gifts to make their new home a little cozier. If you would like to provide one of these gifts or go in with others to purchase a gift, please bring it in to the church during the month of September and place it in the baskets provided below the mailboxes in the office area. The wish list of items are:

- Blender
- Waffle iron
- Reams of copy paper
- Paper napkins
- Ice cube trays
- Rubbermaid or Tupperware storage containers
- Hot pads and oven mitts
- Crockpot
- Electric griddle
- Dry erase board, 3x5
- Post-It easel pads of paper

Missionaries Jeff and Ellen Hoover to visit First Church Monday, Sept. 19

First United Methodist Church has supported Jeff and Ellen Hoover for the past several years. Both Jeff and Ellen are missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving in the area of education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1979. They will be in Southwest Michigan in September and will be at FUMC on **Monday, September 19 from 10 a.m. until noon.** Please plan on attending this meeting with them and learn more about their work in the DRC.



Come and cheer on runners and walkers on September 25!



Our church is hosting an “excitement zone” for the Bronson Children’s Hospital Run/Walk on Sunday, Sept. 25, beginning at 1 p.m. right outside our church. Our mission is to cheer on the approximately 1,500 runners and walkers who are raising money to support the hospital. Bring a cowbell, musical instrument, noisemaker, and your cheer-ful voice! We’ll provide a simple lunch after worship so you can just stay here and be ready.



September 18 BAKE SALE

to help support the Costa Rica mission trip!



Jesus provides Opportunities for You

Stewardship 2017

As fall draws near, our thoughts turn to cool crisp days, the changing colors of the trees, the smell of fresh apples, and the fast approaching holidays. At First United Methodist Church, our thoughts also turn towards stewardship and how we are going to respond to this blessing from God.

After much discussion, our Stewardship Committee agreed that the whole idea of giving is just one more way that Jesus provides us with

opportunities. Our theme this year is quite simple yet speaks to each one of us in many different ways. “Jesus Provides Opportunities For You,” and many of those opportunities can be found right here at FUMC.

As you begin to think about your estimate of giving for 2017, the Stewardship Committee would like to remind everyone that it is simply that—an estimate. It is not a binding contract nor is it a legal document. We look at it as another opportunity to

continue the work of God right here at FUMC—an opportunity for us to experience JOY.

Our Stewardship campaign will culminate on Consecration Sunday, October 23, when we will be asking you to provide your estimate of giving. In the interim, we ask that you reflect not only on all the joys in your life, but especially those found right here at FUMC. Let us celebrate the opportunities that are provided to us through Jesus. ~ *Mike Cooper*

Finishing Forward in Faith

by Molly Williams, Finance Chair

Thank you for \$3.6 million! That’s right! Over the nearly nine years since our construction project began in 2008, donors have contributed over \$3.6 million toward this \$4.1 million project that added our main floor Perks area, food pantry, and rest rooms; air conditioned the sanctuary; consolidated and graded our parking lots; and renovated the lower level youth area, Wesley Hall, and the kitchen.

Anyone who was part of this congregation in 2008-09 can affirm that the construction period was indeed a trial to endure. However, its completion has equipped us to be

a more welcoming community and to better support our church’s many activities and ministries.

As members and friends of FUMC, you are entitled to regular updates on our progress toward retiring this debt. Here’s where we stand now: We have completed two 3-year **Forward in Faith** campaigns, and we are approaching the end of the third. In 2014, **Forward in Faith III** secured pledges of \$1.3 million to be paid over three years, of which over \$1 million has already been received. Outstanding pledges, to be fulfilled by June 30, 2017, total \$290,000.

As of the end of summer 2016,

our loan balance is \$514,000. By summer of 2017, we expect the balance to be between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Ways to raise the remaining funds are being developed, so that the debt can be fully retired by the end of 2017.

Becoming debt free is not far away. We are grateful to all who have supported this major capital project, and we anticipate the completion of this obligation very soon.



We have choirs for every age. Singing offers opportunities to learn and grow musically, and to foster new friendships!

COME TO A REHEARSAL AND CHECK US OUT!

Chancel Choir rehearsal: Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.

First Singers rehearsal: Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

First Beats children's ensemble rehearsal: Tuesdays at 4:15 p.m.

Handbell Ensemble rehearsal: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.



THANK YOU RAMP UP! Words cannot express our thanks to the Ramp Up crew! On Saturday, September 10, six great folks fought the mosquitoes and rain to build a wonderful ramp to make our home entrance safer. Brian Grant, Derek Wheaton, Jim Treece, Royce Bland, Ed Hessler, Roger Williams, and Carly Braginton worked hard and were very organized! Deb Willoughby and Jennifer Moon brought a wonderful lunch to feed the crew, and Jim Willoughby brought two awning covers to shelter workers from the rain. Each time we safely enter or exit our front door, we will remember them all and praise God for their love. ~ Ron and Joyce Moore



Carly Braginton & Ron Moore

Worship Technology Vision Team(WTVT) searching for new members

by Derek Wheaton, WTVT Chair

The Worship Technology Vision Team is looking for new members! A small group of diverse parishioners spent a year and a half developing a comprehensive 21st Century Technology Plan for our church. Our plan was presented to the Church Council last May. Based on the plan researched and developed, our team wrote and applied for a Dick Knapp Bequest Fund grant. We found out this summer that our plan was approved!

Now it is time to implement our vision! We need to hold focus groups and receive feedback from our parishioners regarding implementation, research and determine vendors(some have already been identified), finalize our plan and work toward bringing our vision to fruition! Because most of the background work has been completed, this should be a short term commitment—less than six months. As chair, I am strict about a one-hour meeting and to do as much work as possible via technology means or in small group work. Won't you consider joining us?



2016 Special Sunday Offerings

2016 DATE	OFFERING DESCRIPTION	GIVEN IN 2015	GIVEN IN 2016
January 17	Human Relations Sunday	446.00	571.00
February 21	Wesley Sunday	---	2,861.35
March 6	One Great Hour of Sharing	1,889.40	1,446.80
March 27	Easter Offering	7,609.00	7,233.00
March 27	Easter Outreach Offering		1,328.00
April 10	Native American Sunday	633.51	557.00
May 22	Peace with Justice Sunday	255.00	710.00
June 19	Camp Sunday	1,481.00	525.47
July 21	Michigan United/Justice Team	2,750.00	2,080.36
September 11	Christian Education Sunday	469.00	419.25

August 2016 General Fund Financial Picture

Note: Building Fund numbers are not included

	Aug. 2016	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	2016 Budget	% of Budget
Total Income	\$ 36,695	\$ 633,354	\$ 627,561	\$ 913,661	69.3%
Total Expense	\$ 66,691	\$ 594,477	\$ 586,297	\$ 913,661	65.1%
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (29,996)	\$ 38,877	\$ 41,264		

* Income includes 2016 pre-paid pledges of \$126,137.51 and \$152,002 received in 2015.



Children & Families Ministries

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

Some Temporary Room Changes

While our Building and Grounds Committee works to clean up some lead residue from the windows in the oldest parts of our building, we will move our toddler nursery to Room 210 (the infant nursery remains where it was), The Pre-K and Kindergarten class moves to Room 206, and the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School will meet in Room 208. The second section of Godly Play will begin when Room 203 is available again.

Sunday School begins Sunday, September 18!

Give your child the gift of a solid foundation for spiritual growth in the Christian tradition. Our curriculum for the three youngest children's classes is from our United Methodist publishing house (Cokesbury), and is called "Deep Blue." Using a water motif, Deep Blue reminds us at several levels of the Christian journey, beginning with the waters of baptism, the redemption of the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea during the Exodus, and the ancient depiction of the church as a sailboat traveling across the sea—a place of refuge. Our children are going to love the multiple learning styles that it uses, and we have a wonderful teaching team—as usual!

Our classes are these:

- 1) Pre-K (4 yr. old) to Kindergarten: Teachers are Anne Sherfield, Lisa Whittaker, Allison Bland, and Adriane Siefert
- 2) 1st and 2nd Grades: Teachers are Penny Russel, Vickie Seals, and Colleen Treman
- 3) 3rd and 4th Grades: Room 209. Teachers are Dan and Kylee Adams, and Carol Grant
- 4) 5th and 6th Grades: Room 305 Teachers are Andrea Murphy and Jocelyn and Matt Newman. This curriculum is called "Submerge" and is geared toward older elementary children transitioning into adolescence.

Godly Play (after "Time for the Child in All of Us" during 11 a.m. worship)

Godly Play is for children 4 years old through 3rd grade. This fall, we are inviting 3rd graders to join us if they would like, or they may remain in adult worship. We will add a second section of Godly Play when Room 203 is available. In the meantime, we will all be in Room 200.

Sept. 18: The Light	Storyteller: Rev. Dan Duncan	Guide: Mary Lee Dimond
Sept. 25: The Gift of Creation	Storyteller: Jennifer Wright	Guide: TBD

Family Fun Night, September 16

Our next Family Fun night will be a cookout and picnic at Oshtemo Township Park (off M-43, about a mile west of Meijer's). Bring a dish to pass; we'll provide hot dogs, drinks, and paperware. Friday, September 16, 6-8 p.m.

Third Graders Receive Bibles on September 18!

We begin the program year as usual with the presentation of Bibles to our third graders. This will occur at the 11 a.m. worship service. If you have a third grader, please let Pastor Dan know if he or she will be present that day!

Acolyte Training, October 9

Pastor Dan will lead an acolyte training for children in 3rd grade and up on Sunday, October 9 at 9:30 a.m. Children who are in third grade and up who'd like to be acolytes are welcome to meet in the Sanctuary.

Baptisms, October 16

Our next date for baptisms is October 16. Please contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in a baptism for your child!

Three open positions

Office Assistant

We are seeking a part-time office assistant toward the end of fall. This is an entry-level, 10-12-hour per week position. The Assisting Partner in Ministry facilitates the work of the Emerging Worship Team by designing bulletins and projection for the monthly Emerging service, the Hospitality Team, Life Line Prayer Group and Caring Committee by maintaining Sunday visitor lists and prayer lists and providing CD recordings of services for those worshipping from home. Candidates must have excellent written and oral communication skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office, specifically PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, Outlook and Excel. Familiarity with Church Windows, MailChimp, Google Docs and InDesign is also helpful. As part of the frontline office staff, successful applicants will exemplify superior hospitality. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Church Business Administrator Ruth LaMachia, at First United Methodist Church by emailing rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Nursery Worker

We have a position in our church nursery on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. beginning immediately. Responsible for providing safe, secure, nurturing, clean, and efficient care for our children. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Ruth LaMachia, rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Security Guard

First United Methodist Church is currently has a position open for a part time Security Guard for special events. The purpose of this position is to be responsible for the safety of all those who are in the building and to safeguard, patrol, and monitor the premises. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Ruth LaMachia, rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

YOUTH TRIBE

SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING YOUTH EVENTS



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

SUNDAY, September 18

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am ~ "Belief." At the end of the last program year, we began a class entitled "Belief" that was based on Oprah Winfrey's 7- part documentary series that explores humankind's ongoing search to connect with something greater than ourselves. This series travels 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 Seekers, A Change is Going to Come, The Practice, and God Help Us. We will choose together which one to watch first. Come, learn and engage with one another.

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm ~ Ichthus Party @ Kline-Boltons' home (1724 Nichols Road). The early Christians gathered in one another's homes to sing, pray and eat. In this ancient tradition we gather to have fun and fellowship and communion with the sign of the fish, the Swedish fish that is. Slip-n-Slide SPUD is the name of the game for the evening!! We're going to try a little spin on some of our favorite games. Before we play Slip-n-Slide kickball, we're going to try Slip-n-Slide SPUD. We can also play basketball, corn hole, badminton, croquet; have a bonfire, and hot dogs. Come and join this slippery fun. Bring a change of clothes and a towel. You will get wet and soapy.

SUNDAY, September 25

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am ~ "Belief"

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 will choose together which one to watch.

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm ~ BIG Church Games

We have a BIG church with lots of nooks and crannies. It is a fun place to play a variety of hide and seek games. We are going to add some new games into our repertoire and maybe we'll play some of our old favorites. New ones to try: flashlight hide and seek, catch the firefly, cell phone hide and seek, black ops and kick the can.

SUNDAY, October 2

ASP Worship @ 8:30am and 11am. The ASP Team will lead worship. Be ready to volunteer how you can help.

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am ~ "Belief"

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm ~ "Movie Madness"

Christian Education is for Life

Learn and grow in faith together

No matter your age or stage, there's a place for everyone to grow in faith. Opportunities for adult Christian education abound at First Church, on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Most Academy classes are six weeks and discussion-based with lots of lively, open-minded, good-humored conversation. Our exceptional leaders and facilitators come from the congregation and from the Kalamazoo community.

Sept. 18 through Oct. 16 Classes

Jesus Is My Candidate: (Parlor) A Christian's Guide to the 2016 Elections

In November, voters will elect the next President of the United States. How can (and probably should) our Christian values guide our voting decisions? WMU political scientist and FUMC member John Clark will lead a consideration of some of the important issues facing the country at this critical time. Where do the candidates stand? Where does our denomination stand? Where do YOU stand? And, importantly, how can we as Christians model the behavior we would like to see from our political candidates and fellow citizens?

Bible Basics (Chapel)

Class will be led by Revs. Steve Charnley and Keith Treman. The opening class led by Pastor Charnley on September 18 is entitled, "Route 66: A Journey Through the Bible." A class for beginners as well as a refresher for mature Christians.

Family Foundations: Saving Jesus (Room 304)

Family Foundations is an ongoing Sunday school class designed for parents with young children – but all are welcome! They are continuing their study of "Saving Jesus," getting back to the Jesus of the Bible. This video series is a good mix of stories, study, theology, and personal testimony trying to answer the eternal question Jesus asked his disciples over 2,000 years ago: "Who do you say I am?" Led by Ron Grant, Jessica Grant, and Brian Grant.

Spiritual Formation Class begins September 27

*To journey without being changed is to be a nomad.
To change without journeying is to be a chameleon.
To journey and be transformed by the journey is to be a pilgrim.*

Mark Nepo, The Exquisite Risk

When you come to know something new, you come closer to yourself and to the world. In these times of challenge and difficult choices, Christine Valtner Painter presents eight guideposts to spiritual transformation in her book *The Soul of a Pilgrim*. This book study group will meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. beginning September 27 for eight weeks. There will be opportunities for sharing through discussion, for writing and reflection on familiar stories from Scripture, and even some artistic expression. Please join Jan Baker, Miriam Downey, and Nancy Hyde in this study. Books are available at the Welcome Center. Participants are asked to pay for the book on the first day of class for \$9.75.



COVENANT Bible Study

Wednesday evenings

Begins September 28 for 24 sessions

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Led by Rev. Dan Duncan

Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better. Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. And we invite you to join in it. Three 8-episode segments each explore a different aspect of covenant life. Each will examine what covenant means, and the progression of a covenant relationship with God. Sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to join this class.

JustFaith class

Starting Thursday, October 6 from 7-9 p.m., you are invited to join Ray Sweany in JustFaith, a program of study that explores links between our Christian faith and involvement in social justice. The program uses books, videos, conversation about the most difficult topics of the day, and face to face encounters with the poor. If interested in the course, please contact Ray Sweany, rasweany@charter.net, or sign up at the Welcome Center. Register as soon as possible so that you can receive the books that will help you explore.

Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

	Sept. 18 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Sept. 25 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Oct. 2 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Oct. 9 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Oct. 16 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Oct. 23 8:30 and 11 a.m.
8:30 Lay Reader	Carol Hodges	Molly Williams	ASP Team	Jan Schoenherr	Terry O'Connor	Carol Hodges
8:30 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
8:30 Greeters	need someone	need someone	ASP Team	need someone	need someone	need someone
8:30 Sound/Lights	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby
11:00 Lay Reader	Linda Winkelman	Mark Stucky	ASP Team	Laura Van Vlack-Ailes	Carol Holms	Lynne Corbus
11:00 Office/ Welcome Center	Joyce Treece	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
11:00 Greeters	Max & Ellen Brinkley	Wendy & Dave Arnold	ASP Team	need someone	need someone	need someone
11:00 Acolytes	Layla Eaton Alex Moon	Sean Willoughby Ryan Ernest	Layla Eaton Ella Adams	Sean Willoughby Alex Moon	N/A	N/A
11:00 Sound/Lights	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane

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!*

Important information from Building & Grounds regarding First Care rooms

by Buildings & Grounds Committee

First Care recently completed a new State of Michigan requirement for day care facilities to have a lead inspection. A lead inspection was done of the second floor and we want to share the results.

There were three rooms on the 2nd floor that had higher levels of lead than allowed by the state. The Buildings & Grounds Committee and First Care Director, Julie Meyers, have been working with a lead abatement contractor to get the situation cleaned up and taken care of for the safety of not only the First Care children, but our own children who use those rooms on Sunday morning.

The rooms affected were:

- Room 201 & 202 - lead-contained particles on windowsills and window wells (room primarily used for First Care)
- Room 203 - lead-contained particles on windowsills
- Room 204 - lead-contained particles found on windowsills, and deteriorating paint on north wall

We have determined that the main source of this lead is in the window wells that are outside. This lead can be carried in by water and wind because of poor window seals. Once the work is completed, the lead inspector will come back and retest. The affected rooms have been closed off and will not be used until we are under the acceptable limit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom Schaberg, chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee (327-1821), tgschaberg@sbcglobal.net); First Care Director Julie Meyers at 344-6147, or Ruth LaMachia, Church Business Administrator (381-6340, rlamachia@umc-kzo.org).

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Blood Pressure Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM JFON Anniversary Celebration 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	19 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 10:00 AM Missionary Presentation	20 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:00 PM Center for Transformation 5:15 PM Finance Team 6:00 PM Ruth Circle 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Worship Technology Implementation Team	21 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM Anna Circle 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 10:30 AM St. Andrew's Group 1:00 PM Lydia Circle 1:00 PM Miriam Circle 6:00 PM Wild Ones Board Meeting	22 9:30 AM First Stitches 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 12:00 PM Four Score and More Luncheon 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Emerging Worship Planning 6:30 PM NA 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	23	24
25 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	26 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 7:00 PM Justice Team	27 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 Church Council 7:00 PM NA	28 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM UMW Executive Meeting 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 7:00 PM MOM's Demand Action 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	29 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 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	30	1 OCTOBER 9:00 AM Handbell Workshop

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ASP Sunday 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	3 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors	4 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:30 PM ALS Support Group 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM SPRC	5 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM OLLI Curriculum Committee 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study	6 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 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	7	8 10:00 AM String Ensemble Rehearsal
9 Flu Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Emerging Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Youth Tribe 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers	10 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball	11 10:00 AM Northside Ministerial Alliance 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	12 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM Caring Committee 9:30 AM MOM's Demand Action 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Stephen Ministry 5:30 PM First Care Board Meeting 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	13 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	14	15



Staff Sharing

Jacqueline Stilger, Minister of Music

As the new season gets underway, I want to highlight an exciting development in our handbell choir. Last spring, our bell choir added five additional bells to our existing four-octave set of bells. The members of the bell choir raised this money to purchase the bells as it has been our hope to expand for some time.

These bells are very small; and in fact, are so small that they are often rung with two in the hand at one time. This technique is called 'four-in-hand' and some of our most experienced ringers have a very impressive technique and ability for ringing this upper octave. We have newer members of the group that are also learning this technique.

This past spring we submitted a proposal to the Dick Knapp Fund to expand and get the lower octave of bells that would put us at a full 5-octave handbell set. This request was approved and we look forward to receiving the bells in mid-September! These bells are bass bells. We will get a total of seven new bells, rounding out this lower octave. These bells weigh anywhere from almost 6 lbs to 8.25 lbs. The technique to ring these bells is very different from the upper bells.

Careful ringing and proper technique must be used in order to prevent damage to the hand and wrist. To learn this technique and many other things, the bell choir will be having a special retreat session on Saturday, October 1 with handbell guru Janet Van Valey of the Kalamazoo Ringers. Janet has literally written the book on handbell ringing and we are lucky to have her living here in Southwest Michigan.

These new bells will give us the opportunity to ring a wider range of music and allow us to continue to add to the service with beautiful reflective or invigorating joyful ringing. We can involve more

people in the ministry and continue to be challenged musically.

This addition of bells will also allow our children's handbell ensemble a more full experience. Usually we have the children only ring one bell, but now I can give our more experienced ringers two bells and really prepare them to ring with our adults. I have one ringer, Elise Warnicke, who grew up ringing in First Beats and is now ringing with the adult handbell choir. It is great to have this inter-generational group to work with every week.

We are excited to be expanding our bell choir with new bells and new members. We will be moving from an 11-member choir to a 14-member choir. At this time, we are blessed with enough players and even have a few substitutes. With people's changing schedules, the choir needs subs in order to ensure that there isn't a 'hole' in the music when a ringer is not there. If you have experience ringing and would like to be a sub, please let me know and I'll add you to the list. There are lots of opportunities for the subs to ring, both in rehearsal and on a Sunday morning.

I look forward to the first time that we will ring our full set in church and want to encourage the congregation to come see our new additions after the service. Our fall debut date is yet to be determined as we don't have all of the new bells yet; but I hope that when it happens, you will come and celebrate with us.

In peace,

Jackie



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 212 S. Park Street
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007
 (269) 381-6340



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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.



2016 First Word Schedule

Article Deadline	Mailing Date
September 21	September 28
October 5	October 12
October 19	October 26
November 6	November 16
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.



United Methodist Women

September Circle Meetings

Ladies are invited to join any Circle that meets their personal schedule!

TUESDAY, September 20

Ruth Circle, 6:00 p.m., Church Parlor
 Fall Pot Luck
 Program: TBA

WEDNESDAY, September 21

Anna Circle: 10:30 a.m., lunch, home of Lucy Welch
 Program: TBA

Lydia Circle: 1:00 p.m., Friendship Village A-1 Lounge
 Program: "Kalamazoo Literacy Council," by Michael Evans, Executive Director

Miriam Circle: 1:00 p.m., Church Parlor
 Program: "Our Travels," by Shelley Wisdom-Long



FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS!

"We are not Dairy Queen but we have great Sundays."

"Wrinkled with burdens? Come to church for a faith lift."

"A long time ago in a Galilee far far away."

Inquirers' Class

October 23 - November 20

Want to know more about Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church? Want to join our family of faith? FUMC's Inquirers' class is the first step toward church membership. Our next Inquirers' class will be five sessions on Sunday mornings, October 23 through November 20 at 9:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Steve Charnley will lead this class in the Chapel. If you are interested in participating, see Pastor Steve or e-mail him (scharnley@umc-kzo.org). Those wishing to gain strength from a dedication to sharing in the ministries of the church, will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, November 20 during our 11 a.m. service .