



# Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship at 8:30  
and 11 a.m.

April 9, 2017

Throughout Lent we have been worshipping around the theme: "Our Anchor-Hold: God's Love." We began by focusing on the word "memory," harkening back to the foundational story from the Garden of Eden where God set limits which humanity trespassed. The good news from the story is that whereas our love failed, God's love did not; it is our anchor-hold; it is limitless, unconditional, and everlasting. We next looked at the word "truth" and listened in on a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Finding truth is difficult today when strident voices raise falsehoods to the level of facts. **We are called to discover in Jesus, The Way, the Truth, and the Life.** In the coming Sundays of Lent we will focus on the words, "community," "suffering," and "solidarity." Through each we will be challenged to stand with others who are oppressed, marginalized and outcast. We will simultaneously be challenged to stand against evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves (as expressed in our baptismal covenant). All of this will lead us to Holy Week and the awesome wonder of that most sacred series of Christian days: Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ultimately, Easter!

On Palm/Passion Sunday, all are invited to meet at the Academy Street doors at 9:50 a.m., where palms will be distributed. We will then walk together to Bronson

Park to join other downtown churches for a short 15-minute liturgy. A simple brunch in Wesley Hall will follow the blessing of the palms. Then at the beginning of the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the children are invited to be a part of the palm procession parade. Plan to join us as we experience this special morning when the children wave palms and ring chimes with voices singing,

**"Hosanna, blessed is He!"**

## PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

*Join your friends  
for fellowship and  
a brunch on  
Palm Sunday from  
9:30-11:00 a.m.  
in Wesley Hall.*

Free-will offering

## MENU

Fruit  
Mini-quiche  
Sausage  
Donut holes  
Hot and cold beverages

WELCOME to *The First Word*, a bimonthly 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, **March 22, 2017**. The next newsletter will be mailed **March 29, 2017**. 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    | 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   |
| *Thom Victor         | Office Assistant   |
| *Denise Wilcox       | Contributions Assistant  |
| *Robin Entenman      | Office Assistant/Security  |
| Pamala Roman         | Custodian  |
| Todd Bloomfield      | Evening Custodian  |
| Ernesto Escobedo     | Custodian/Security   |
| Linda Winkelman      | JFON Legal Assistant<br>( <a href="mailto:kzoo_assist@jfonwestmichigan.org">kzoo_assist@jfonwestmichigan.org</a> ) |
| Sharon Bunker        | Lead Sunday Pre-School Teacher   |
| Julie Meyers         | First Care Director ( <a href="mailto:msjulie55@yahoo.com">msjulie55@yahoo.com</a> )                               |
| 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

**Virginia Stone**, who died February 26 in Houston, Texas.

**Carl Cooper**, who died March 3 in Novi, Michigan.

### Please keep these friends in your prayers

Bob Baker, Doris Ball, John Boekhout, Skip Decker, Hyesuk DeRoo, Sharon Dougan, Emerson Eidson, Sandy Elfring, Russ Gabier, Derek Geerlings, Bob Goodwin, Brenda Haan, Paula Hall, Marge Hastings, Carl Hausermann, Mildred Hedrick, Dolores Heidanus, Nell Holland, Barbara Hughey, Rueith Lewis, Art Mann, Jim Martin, Dave Martin, Marsha McKenzie, Mandy Morrill, Joan Rohs, Ham Scharf, Mary Helen Thomas, Arlene Triestram, Lucy Welch, Lois West, Anne Wolfe, Don Zuidweg

### It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Dustin and Caitlin Bunker on the February 23rd birth of their daughter **Molly Marie Bunker**. Proud grandparents are Sharon and Dan Bunker.

### April Emerging Worship

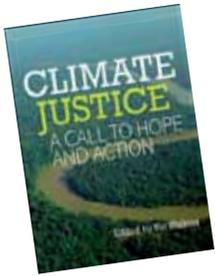
Due to Palm Sunday falling on the second Sunday of April, Emerging Worship will be the FIRST Sunday of the month in April ONLY. Please mark your calendars to be with us for an Emerging Worship experience at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 2.

### No Pub Theology in April

There will be no Pub Theology at Olde Peninsula Brewpub in April due to area schools on spring break. Join us on May 4!

2017 Lenten Book Study

# CLIMATE *justice*



## "Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action"

Edited by Pat Watkins. Published by United Methodist Women, 2016.

There are two opportunities for you to join in the study/discussion!

- 1) **Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor**, co-led by retired UM pastor Jerry Toshalis and Dr. Kay Gross, Director of the Kellogg Biological Station. Class goes through April 9
- 2) **Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. in room 304**, led by Rev. Steve Charnley. Continues through April 12.

**Books available at the Welcome Center for \$10**

## Palm/Passion Sunday Brunch Volunteers Needed Sunday, April 9

Brunch will be available in Wesley Hall from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday (free will offering). We will need volunteers to help with set up from 8:00-9:30 a.m., serving from 9:15-11:00 a.m., and clean up from 10:30-11:30 a.m. If you would like to help, please sign up on the clipboard located at the Welcome Center. Questions? Please contact Pastor Dan Duncan, dduncan@umc-kzo.org.

*Thank you for your donations of goodies for our Sunday morning Perks! We continue to need cookies, donut holes, fruit, cheese, and crackers. Please sign up on the board in the Perks area if you can share some goodies.*

# Easter Memorial

Members and friends of First United Methodist Church can remember loved ones on Easter morning in three ways this year. Those wishing to contribute to one of the three below should



complete the purple Easter Memorial bulletin insert with a check to the church by Sunday, March 26. Your memorial information will be published in an "Easter Memorials" bulletin insert on Easter.

- 1) Purchase a tulip plant for the sanctuary's floral design on Easter morning for \$5 each.
- 2) Make a monetary contribution to the church's Memorial Fund.
- 3) Make a donation to Ministry with Community's ID

# Easter Offering

As we approach Easter, it is appropriate that we look forward to new beginnings of resurrected life, spring, and new relationships. With that thought, this year's Easter offering will be directed to three areas. First it will be used to fulfill this year's financial commitments to our three new missionaries: Desiree Segura-April, Will and Ella Faircloth, and Donna Pewo. Second, after these commitments have been satisfied, \$1,000 will be utilized to complete the church's commitment to the Wesley Foundation's "Widen the Welcome" capital campaign. Any monies received above and beyond this will be allocated to two of our missionaries' Children at Risk programs. For Desiree Segura-April, these funds will provide food and christian education opportunities for the children of Nicaragua. For Donna Pewo, the funds will allow her to furnish needed school supplies for those students

who cannot afford them. Please consider giving generously to support both our missionaries and the children that they minister.



**Feeling Useful: A Lifelong Quest**  
**Guest Speaker Patti Stratton**  
**Wed., April 12 @ 9:30 a.m.**

by Laura VanVlack-Ailes, Caring Committee Co-Chair

Everyone wants to feel useful—to feel they are making a difference. But as we age, our reduced energy or abilities may make it harder. Patti Stratton from Area Council on Aging will address this issue at the April Caring Committee Meeting. She will be speaking at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday April 12 in the parlor. The congregation is invited.



**Mission of the Month thanks**

by Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Team Chair

The Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for supporting the February Mission of the Month. While we have had an unreasonably warm winter, there still remains a need for hats and gloves to stay warm. During the month of February you donated:

- 6 Scarves
- 5 Sweatshirts or sweaters
- 32 pairs of gloves and or mittens
- 1 pair of ear muffs
- 30 hats and or headbands
- 2 pairs of socks

Thank you for keeping many in our community warm.

**March Mission of the Month**

by Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Team Chair

Our Bronson Park Food Pantry is in need of items that are not normally available from Loaves & Fishes. Please consider donating any of the following items during the month of March: canned fruit (peaches, fruit cocktail), tuna, laundry soap (liquid), granola type bars, cereal, soup (not tomato), hygiene products (bath soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.), and diapers. Please drop your donations off at the food pantry window.

**ORGAN  
 RECITALS  
 2017**

Featuring professional organists from Michigan and Indiana, the Organ Recital Series provides the community an opportunity to hear some of the greatest sacred and secular works for pipe organ, performed on our own Letourneau Opus 51, a three-manual, fifty-five rank organ built and installed in 2000

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March @ noon

**KORY HEITZIG**

Organist and Children’s Choir Director

**DAVID ACTON**

Organ Intern and Scholar  
 First Congregational Church  
 Kalamazoo, Michigan

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March @ noon

**STEPHEN WARNER**

Organist  
 Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church  
 Detroit, Michigan

Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March @ noon

**DAVID HEINZE**

Edwards Organ Scholar  
 St. John’s Episcopal Church,  
 Detroit, Michigan

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April @ noon

**KEVIN VAUGHN**

Director of Music & Organist  
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,  
 South Bend, Indiana

**Concerts are open to the public**  
**Free will offering**



## Listening in Lent: acts of reconciliation

Based on a suggestion from a United Methodist pastor in North Carolina, we are encouraging members of our congregation to participate in a listening project. Find individuals outside our congregation who have a different point of view about current issues than you do. Ask each individual if he/she would be willing to tell you about their point of view and how they arrived at it. Then simply listen. When the individual is done talking, try to summarize what was said to make sure you heard correctly. Then offer your thanks for their willingness to explain.

### Possible current issues to ask about:

- the recent presidential election
- gay marriage
- abortion
- gun ownership
- another issue of your choosing



Every good conversation starts with listening

That's it. Don't give your point of view or try to correct misconceptions. Would you be willing to try this with one person? With five? In the context of Lent, this is an exercise in reconciliation and humility, a way to reconnect with others during a time of national division. Praying both before and after a listening session will help ground you. **On Wednesday, March 29, at 7 p.m., there will be a session at the church when people can discuss what they experienced.** Questions? Talk to Carol Hodges or email her at [chodges.kalamazoo@charter.net](mailto:chodges.kalamazoo@charter.net).

## Meet Will & Ella Faircloth, Costa Rica missionaries

by Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Team Chair

*This is the last of three bios of the missionaries our church will begin supporting in 2017.*



Ella and Will Faircloth

Our third missionary couple are already known to many in our church. They are Will and Ella Faircloth, our main contacts for FUMC's Costa Rica mission trips.

Will Faircloth is from Ocean Springs, Mississippi and is a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church. In Costa Rica, Will is a professor at the Methodist Seminary, working both at the central campus and at several regional centers. He has given classes on the Old and New Testaments, prophetic books, Christian ethics, and liturgy and worship.

Ella Faircloth is from Columbus, Georgia, and her home church is Christ Community Church. Her experience with Latin American missions began at age fourteen with a trip to Venezuela, followed by a trip to Ecuador. In Costa Rica, Ella is a board member and has served as Assistant Director of the Methodist Children's Home. She also participates actively in the life of the local church, especially with children's activities.

Will and Ella are involved with the development of the Methodist Children's Home, a project of the Costa Rican Methodist Church. The purpose of the Home is to provide a safe, nurturing environment for children who have been declared legally abandoned. This project fills a particular need for loving homes among those children who have moved through the child welfare system yet have not been

adopted. For this reason, they place an emphasis on receiving sibling groups.

Currently, there are two houses operating with sets of house mothers and 23 children who have been placed in the home's care by the child welfare agency. The goal is eventually to have five houses operating in the same way, for a total of sixty children.

All of the children's basic needs are met in the Home; but beyond this, they seek to instill in them a deep sense of God's love for each of them, as well as to promote social and personal behaviors that will help them towards a better future.

Additional information related to the Faircloths can be found on their Costa Rican web page as well as Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/Methodist-Childrens-Home-of-Costa-Rica> and [www.fairclothcostarica.com](http://www.fairclothcostarica.com).



# Children & Families Ministries

by Rev. Dan Duncan

[dduncan@umc-kzo.org](mailto:dduncan@umc-kzo.org)

**Palm Sunday.** We will once again join with the other Bronson Park churches for a Palm Sunday celebration (April 9) during the Sunday School time. We invite you to stay together as a family and join the congregation on the main floor by the Welcome Center where we will depart our church at 9:50 to walk over to Bronson Park for a Blessing of the Palms with other downtown congregations. Then, we will return to our church where we will share in a brunch in Wesley Hall. A wide variety of tasty and nutritious treats will be featured. Join us for brunch either after the 8:30 worship service, or after the gathering in the park (free will offering).

**Sunday School** (9:30-10:30 a.m., beginning in the Arches on the second floor, Pre-K through 4th grades). Upcoming Bible lessons using our United Methodist “Deep Blue” curriculum will be:

- March 19: At the Last Supper
- March 26: In the Garden
- April 2: Cock-a-doodle-doo!

**Godly Play Stories** (11:15 to noon)

**4 -5 year olds—Room 203**

- |   |                                    |               |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| March 19: “Mary and Martha”                 | Storyteller: Julia L.              | Guide: Shondo |
| March 26: “Jesus’ Entry into Jerusalem”     | Storyteller: Pastor Dan            | Guide: Margie |
| April 2: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet” | (both groups combined in Room 200) |               |

**6-8 year olds—Room 200**

- |  |                                    |                 |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| March 19: “The Mustard Seed”                 | Storyteller: Jennifer Wright       | Guide: Brian    |
| March 26: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet” | Storyteller: Jocelyn               | Guide: Mary Lee |
| April 2: “Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet”  | (both groups combined in Room 200) |                 |

**First Bells.** Our youngest bell ringers will not ring in worship on March 20, but will be part of the “Palm Procession” during the opening hymn at the 11 a.m. service on April 9. Please have your child meet me in the narthex before the service! Next rehearsal: 9:30 a.m. on April 3.

**Baptisms.** Our next date for baptisms is April 30. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or a child, please contact me, or Pastor Julie or Pastor Steve to make arrangements.

**Family Fun Night.** Our Family Fun Night in March will be bowling on Friday, March 17 (reservations were due before this deadline; we’ll see you at Airway Lanes if you signed up!) In April we will see you at Rollerworld on Friday, April 21, from 6-7:30 p.m. Cost is only \$5/per person, which includes skate rental!

**VBS is coming —with a different name!** Save the dates of Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30 for a “Christian Day Camp for our Community”! The theme is “God’s Garden, God’s City” and will help our children understand the “big picture” story of God’s care for us both through the Bible and right here in west Michigan! Hosted by First Congregational Church, we will join with friends from the other downtown churches for learning, fun, and friendship!



## One Great Hour of Sharing

March 26, 2017

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. Your gift to this special offering on March 6, 2016 will help benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and their work to respond to these natural disasters.

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope. Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover their costs of doing business. UMCOR does not receive UM World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist. Thank you for supporting our One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

## Building Fund Update

by Molly Williams, Finance Chair

Our building debt continues to decrease. As of the end of January, the loan balance was \$297,000. The matching gift offer announced in January provides a 50% match on any new contributions (beyond any pledged amounts). So far, the match has been applied to new contributions totaling ~\$22,000.

We plan to fully retire this debt during 2017. To do so will require the completion of any outstanding Forward in Faith III pledges (due June 30) plus the generosity of those who are able to make additional donations. Please help us to meet this goal of becoming debt free by the end of this year.

## 2017 Special Sunday Offerings

| 2017 DATE                             | OFFERING DESCRIPTION                   | GIVEN IN 2016      | GIVEN IN 2017     |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>January 15</b>                     | <b>Human Relations Sunday</b>          | 571.00             | 322.00            |
| (Feb. 21, 2016)                       | Wesley Sunday                          | 2,861.35           | --                |
| February 26                           | Camp Sunday                            | 525.47             | 782.00            |
| <b>March 26</b>                       | <b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>       | 1,446.80           |                   |
| April 16                              | Easter Offering                        | 7,233.00           |                   |
| April 16                              | Easter Outreach Offering               | 1,328.00           |                   |
| <b>April 30</b>                       | <b>Native American Sunday</b>          | 557.00             |                   |
| May 21                                | Pastor's Discretionary Fund            | --                 | 1,150.00          |
| <b>June 11</b>                        | <b>Peace with Justice Sunday</b>       | 710.00             |                   |
| July 16                               | Michigan United/Justice Team           | 2,080.36           |                   |
| September 10                          | Christian Education Sunday             | 419.25             |                   |
| September 24                          | ASP Sunday                             | 1,795.33           |                   |
| <b>October 1</b>                      | <b>World Communion Sunday</b>          | 140.00             |                   |
| October 22                            | UMW Sunday                             | 1,799.18           |                   |
| <b>November 26</b>                    | <b>United Methodist Student Sunday</b> | 150.00             |                   |
| (Nov. 20, 2016)                       | You Are Not Alone (YANA)               | 5,991.00           |                   |
| December 10                           | Bishop's Advent Appeal                 | 989.00             |                   |
| December 24                           | Christmas Offering                     | 17,047.08          | 550.00            |
| <b>SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS TOTAL</b> |  | <u>\$44,854.82</u> | <u>\$2,804.00</u> |

## Rohs Scholarship Deadline Approaching March 31

Youth and young adults who are active participants at First UMC and pursuing a course of study at a college, university, or seminary in the U.S. are eligible to apply. Scholarships of up to \$1000 are available. Application can be downloaded from the church website. Click the "Children & Youth" tab, and choose the "David Rohs Scholarship Application"

## January 2017 General Fund financial picture

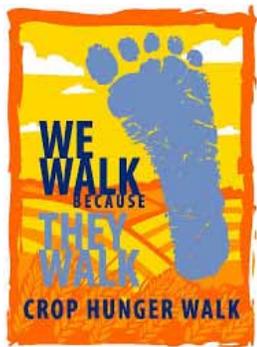
Note: Building Fund and special offerings are not included.

|                 | Month of January | Year to Date  | 2017 Annual Budget | % of Annual Budget |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Income    | \$212,139*       | \$212,139     | \$956,638          | 22%                |
| Total Expense   | <u>76,177</u>    | <u>76,177</u> | 936,638            | 8%                 |
| Net Income/Loss | \$135,962        | \$135,962     |                    |                    |

\*January income includes \$120,310 paid in 2016 toward the 2017 budget.

# Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

|                                    | <b>March 19</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m | <b>March 26</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m | <b>April 2</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m | <b>April 9</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m<br>Palm Sunday | <b>April 16</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m<br>Easter | <b>April 23</b><br>8:30 and 11 a.m |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>8:30 Lay Reader</b>             | Molly Williams                     | Jan Schoenherr                     | Laurie Nelson                     | Carol Hodges                                     | Deb Search Willoughby                        | Molly Williams                     |
| <b>8:30 Office/Welcome Center</b>  | <b>need someone</b>                | <b>need someone</b>                | Robin Entenman                    | <b>need someone</b>                              | <b>need someone</b>                          | <b>need someone</b>                |
| <b>8:30 Greeters</b>               | Bill & Mary Lee Dimond             | Ron Moore                          | Jennifer Stupica                  | <b>need someone</b>                              | <b>need someone</b>                          | <b>need someone</b>                |
| <b>8:30 Sound/Lights</b>           | Greg Anderson                      | Jim Willoughby                     | Greg Anderson                     | Jim Willoughby                                   | Greg Anderson                                | Jim Willoughby                     |
| <b>11:00 Lay Reader</b>            | Mark Stucky                        | Dawn Wheaton                       | Judy Aardema                      | Carol Holms                                      | Derek Wheaton                                | Janice Brown                       |
| <b>11:00 Office/Welcome Center</b> | <b>need someone</b>                | Shirley Palmer                     | Robin Entenman                    | <b>need someone</b>                              | <b>need someone</b>                          | <b>need someone</b>                |
| <b>11:00 Greeters</b>              | Jerry & Margie Bultema             | Allison & Matthew Bland            | Mary Duncan                       | Marjorie Burns                                   | Jill & Dan Christian                         | Don & Harriet Chalker              |
| <b>11:00 Acolytes</b>              | Sam Ledlow<br>Ryan Ernest          | Collin Bland<br>Andrew Hampton     | Ella Aams<br>Andrew Wright        | Collin Bland<br>Sean Willoughby                  | Emma Hampton<br>Alex Moon                    | Layla Eaton<br>Sam Ledlow          |
| <b>11:00 Sound/Lights</b>          | Jonah Bolton                       | LuKas Bolton                       | Bob Lane                          | Jonah Bolton                                     | Lukas Bolton                                 | Bob Lane                           |
| <b>Van Driver</b>                  | Fred Corbus                        | Jay Gross                          | Jake Lisak                        | Dave Russel                                      | Mike Cooper                                  | Jay Gross                          |



## SAVE THE DATE!

Kalamazoo Valley

# CROP WALK

Sunday, April 30

We hope to see all our supporters walking once again to help fight poverty and hunger. Our youth will once again be active participants! If you would like to help sponsor a walker, stop by the table in the Marketplace beginning in April.

**A gift of \$10 will be shared with the walk for every walker who raises at least \$100.**

**WALK.  
GIVE.  
CHANGE THE  
WORLD.**

You can help to provide people with food, safe water, employment, tools, blankets, healthcare and more.

## Interfaith Service for Peace

Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 5 P.M.

**First Presbyterian Church**

**321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo**

The First Presbyterian Church will host the 15th Annual Peace Service at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 13, 2016. The keynote speaker is **May Ye**, whose talk is titled, **A Jewish Voice for Peace**.

Refreshments and dialogue will follow the peace service. Free childcare is provided. There is no admission charge. Voluntary contributions to support "Jewish Voices for Peace" organization are welcome.

### MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS!!

Are you interested in joining a movement, being a voice in this ever changing world? We are looking for young adults like you. Our fellows are inspired and sustained by the place where faith meets justice. They are dynamic and diverse...and you could join them! If you would like to speak to someone that's been part of the program, email Mission Advocates at [mayams@umcmmission.org](mailto:mayams@umcmmission.org). You can also visit [www.umcmmission.org/gmf](http://www.umcmmission.org/gmf) to learn more about the application process. The submission deadline for the US-2 Track is March 31, 2017, so please act quickly if you're interested in being a part of a life changing program.

## New outreach ministry: International Child Care (ICC)

by Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Team Chair



Over the past several years, the Outreach Team has been investigating new ways in which the congregation may choose to be involved in both local and foreign missions. Did you know that Kalamazoo is the U.S. base for International Child Care (ICC) that provides health care for children and individuals in Haiti? Also, were you aware that Keith Mumma, a member of First UMC, is the former National Director of ICC? Below you will find a short description of Grace Children's Hospital and International Child Care and the work that they carry out in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

International Child Care is a ministry serving the most vulnerable in Haiti and the Dominican Republic by providing health and hope for the future. It all began 50 years ago when James and Virginia Snavley opened a small clinic to care for children with tuberculosis in Port-au-Prince, Haiti—the start of our flagship mission, Grace Children's Hospital. The hospital has since expanded to include HIV treatment and counseling, general pediatric and adult health services, family planning, a state-of-the-art eye clinic, x-ray and lab services, an on-site pharmacy, a training lab for staff and student nurses, and a children's inpatient ward. Celebrating its 50-year anniversary this year, Grace Children's Hospital

is a great resource to the community and never turns a child away, regardless of ability to pay.

In addition to the hospital, ICC Haiti oversees half the tuberculosis clinics in the country, provides a consistent Community Health Program to more isolated and poorer areas of Haiti, and regularly hosts classes to teach about the importance of nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation. ICC Haiti's 100% local Haitian staff works at the community level to empower and uplift to accomplish the International Child Care mission of health and wholeness for children and families.

Please watch future issues of *The First Word* for additional information concerning International Child Care and possible opportunities for us to become involved with this organization. For a more detailed description of the organization please refer to their website:

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

Or visit the Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic (Advance #418520) web page on the United Methodist Global Mission website.

[www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/418520](http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/418520).

## Confronting Michigan's climate change

15th Annual Keep Making Peace

Saturday, April 1, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

1120 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, Michigan



The 15th Annual Keep Making Peace Day on Confronting Michigan's Climate Change will be Saturday, April 1 from 9am-4pm at University UMC in East Lansing. With global warming rapidly accelerating toward a key tipping point, we all have to deal with climate change. Find out the environmental impacts on Michigan and the peace and justice issues they engender. You will discover next steps you can take to care for God's creation. Register by March 24 at [msuwesley.org/kmp2017](http://msuwesley.org/kmp2017)

Coffee, juice, etc. at 9:00 a.m. and a vegetarian lunch at 12:15 p.m. are included. You can pay at the event (cash or check). \$25 per person or \$50 per carload of three or more persons by March 17 (early bird discount). \$30 per person or \$60 per carload of three or more persons by March 18-24. Students are free.



# Youth Tribe

## SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING YOUTH EVENTS

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

### SUNDAY, March 19

**Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am – Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice!**

Reduce. Do Less to Do More. Sabbath. That’s what we are going to talk about today. Living simpler so that we can live more fully. Stopping, pausing, recreating with God so that God can recreate us. Sabbath keeping reconnects us with creation.

**Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm – Mindful Missions**

In February during our “Kindness Matters” worship series we made kindness rocks in Emerging Worship. We are going to go around town and find special places to put these so that people can find them and hopefully, be inspired by their messages. We will have some other projects for people, too: a shopping trip to help Eleanor House, notes to Abby Kopf, and maybe a few more. Come let’s be mindful and be on a mission to serve the world.

### SUNDAY, March 26

**Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am – Green Church: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rejoice!**

Reuse. Life in a Throw Away World. The average person in the United States generates 4.4 pounds of trash each day. That trash has enormous consequences for our environment and will continue to have an impact on generations to come. How can we throw away less, reuse more, and really claim the identity of being good stewards of God’s creation.

**Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm – NERF TAG & Candlelight Vigil**

Our community has been deeply impacted by gun violence from the Kalamazoo mass shooting to students in KPS, to the every day violence inflicted by guns. We will have serious fun and then we will go to the chapel and have a prayer service for all the toddlers who have been shot or have shot someone else this year. We know that Nerf guns are toys and can bring a lot of fun but real guns are deadly serious. Let’s pray about it.

## Only kindness matters: A day of caring and stitching

by Linda Lueth, First Stickers

While we heard "only kindness matters" during our worship series in February, a group of 15 co-workers from the Retirement Plan Division at Greenleaf Trust in downtown Kalamazoo put words to action during a recent "Day of Caring."

As Jennifer Reisterer-Brand of Greenleaf Trust explained, "Every year Greenleaf Trust gives us Presidents Day off to go make a difference in our community. We are encouraged to pick something that is near and dear to our hearts. All of us have children and wanted to make a difference to a few children in the area."

They found out about our need for blankets for children in crisis (a mission of First Stickers/Warmed by God's Love) on the Volunteer Kalamazoo website and gave us a call. We knew the children at the Eleanor Street House could use warm, cozy, comforting blankets.

The Greenleaf Trust employees bought all the fleece and spent Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> cutting fleece into large squares and tying knots. By the end of the day, they had made 19 blankets! "We had a wonderful time coming together and making the blankets," Jennifer said.

We at First Church know their blankets will indeed make a difference to a child in crisis. The blankets were delivered by the First Stickers to Eleanor Street House a few days later. THANK YOU to the team in the Retirement Plan Division of Greenleaf Trust!!!





# The View from my window

**Rev. Steve Charnley  
Senior Pastor**

This is Women’s History Month and I have been inspired anew by the conviction and courage of the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the Methodist tradition: The Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw.

She was born on Valentine’s Day in 1847 in Newcastle, the coal industry capital of England as well as a center of early Methodism. Her family moved to America, first to Massachusetts and then to Michigan. They lived out in the wilds, 60 miles north of Grand Rapids. As a teenager, she would go out in the woods around their cabin, find a stump on which to stand, and give speeches. Some of them were influenced by the abolition movement and her reading of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

When she was just 14, she was hired as a teacher in a one-room school, caring for 14 students in exchange for room and board and \$2 a week. She moved to Big Rapids to attend high school and lived with her sister. It is there she became active in the Methodist Church, where her passionate speaking ability caught the attention of the local District Superintendent who invited her to preach. Her sister’s husband was so upset when he heard the news that he put his displeasure into print in an announcement in the local paper.

Perhaps the uncomfortable feelings at home urged her on to enroll at Albion College, even though she hadn’t finished high school. Once at Albion she blossomed becoming an area wide speaker for the Temperance Movement, earning the great sum of \$5 per speech!

After four years at Albion she sought to attend Boston University School of Theology, where she would be the only woman among 42 men. The room and board was only for male students and was provided to them for free. She, however, was to search for and pay for her own lodgings. To that end, the school gave her \$2 a week. She almost died of exposure and malnutrition in the coming term as she shivered in an unheated attic with no running water. Fortunately, the

Foreign Missionary Society (the forerunner of the UMW) discovered her plight and pledged enough support to revive her in body and spirit and she completed her studies.

Now to seek ordination. She was refused by the leaders of the Methodist Church. Not one to waste time and inspired by her brother who was a medical doctor, she enrolled in Boston University’s School of Medicine. While serving two congregations as a local (unordained) pastor, working three nights a week in the slums of Boston, she attained her medical degree in three years, a year sooner than her male classmates!

At last the door to ordination opened to her persistent knocking, albeit, not in the Methodist Church but the Methodist Protestant Church (a 19th century off-shoot of Methodism). She was ordained a minister in the church on October 12, 1880. The rest of her story is interwoven in the women’s movement in American History. She was a successor to Susan B. Anthony in heading up the suffrage movement. One newspaper lauded her work with the following praise, “Dr. Anna Howard Shaw! The name stands for character, courage, intelligence, patriotism, and greater than all, service!”

In closing, I remember fondly, another great woman of faith in the Methodist tradition who comes from Michigan: The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Swank Matthews. She was the first woman bishop in the UMC, consecrated in 1980, a century after Shaw’s remarkable accomplishment. She was the bishop who, 35 years ago, ordained me as an elder in the church.

How grateful I am for the women who have led the church with courage and conviction. Their numbers are ever increasing and their light is shining ever brighter. Praise God! And all of Her children said, “Amen!”



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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.



## 2017 First Word Schedule

| Article Deadline | Mailing Date |
|------------------|--------------|
| March 22         | March 29     |
| April 5          | April 12     |
| April 19         | April 26     |
| May 3            | May 10       |
| May 17           | May 24       |
| June 14          | June 21      |
| July 12          | July 19      |
| August 16        | August 23    |
| September 6      | September 13 |
| September 20     | September 27 |
| October 4        | October 11   |
| October 18       | October 25   |
| November 8       | November 15  |
| November 22      | November 29  |
| December 6       | December 13  |

**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.**

***One great, strong, unselfish soul in every community would actually redeem the world.***

ELBERT HUBBARD



## EMERGING WORSHIP

**DIFFERENT DATE! APRIL 2 @ 9:30 a.m.**  
**in Wesley Hall**

### "Called to be Creators of Justice and Joy"

**The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.**

*You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything. 1 Corinthians 12: 25-27*

"God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy!" We will sing these words, break bread together and be reminded that there is a place at the table of Christ for all. Creators of justice and joy desire to be in solidarity with all people, committing ourselves to their dignity and well-being. Pursuing justice and joy is intricately linked to the sustainability of creation and helping to protect the most vulnerable among us. Climate justice is a commitment to the common good and recognizes the truth found in 1 Corinthians 12: 27, declaring that we are "Together the body of Christ, and each one is a part of that body." Come, and celebrate a Spirit-filled soul feast!