



NOVEMBER 15, 2023

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARREN

### PASTOR'S PEN

Hello Church,

Yesterday (Wednesday the 15th), we held what has become our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service. This year, it involved an even more diverse group of religious organizations as we gathered together to offer gratitude to God for all God has done this past year. Along with the three Abrahamic faiths being represented (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity), this year, we were blessed with members from the Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu, and Baha'I faith communities. Each faith community shared a little bit about their faith as well as a message of gratitude.

Today, as we were celebrating Thanksgiving with the women of our international sewing group, I was asked how I could participate in such an event. This question led to a really good conversation. Her experience in her country of origin had led her to believe certain things about some faith communities that are not entirely accurate. In particular, that at the core of the Muslim faith is violence and hatred toward those who do not believe as they do. I shared that that had not been my experience and that as United Methodists, we believe in the validity of other faith traditions, that I currently sit as the chair of the Division of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations, that our Bishop has participated in the Interfaith Prayer service held by Iman Arif every Friday afternoon, and that we believe that Christianity is not the only path that leads us to God.

In a world that is so divided over imaginary lines and different belief systems, my prayer this Thanksgiving is that we will strive to see the piece of God that resides in others. It's there ready to be discovered. I see it every day in the diversity of our community and in the love I receive from the people I meet, even those from far off places. I am grateful for that diversity because I know that it opens me up to seeing God more clearly.

This next week, as you sit with family and/or friends around a table filled with more food than you can eat, I pray that you will be open to seeing God a little more clearly as you offer up prayers of gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed upon you. Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings, Rev. Melissa J. Claxton

### CHECK IT OUT!

- CURRENT WORSHIP, UPCOMING WORSHIP, ALL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING ON 11/ 5, ENGAGE
- NEW STUDIES BEGAN 10/4 & 10/5, THANKSGIVING COLLECTION, CAPUCHIN SERVICES CENTER ON 12/11, SEWING FOR MISSIONS, COFFEE AND CONVERSATION LUNCHEON ON 12/71
- DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS: READERS FOR LEADERS, LAY LEADERSHIP REGISTRATION , DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ANNUAL CONFERENCE MOVED TO 11/26,
- OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: CHURCH FINANCE REVIEW, CHRISTMAS TEA OSN 12/6, CHRISTMAS CARD FOR SALE, HAT AND MITTEN TREE
- UPCOMING EVENTS: WARREN CONCERT BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
- DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT THE 6 WEEKS AT A GLANCE ON LAST PAGE AND PICTURES THROUGHOUT.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION:  
PHONE: (586) 264-4701  
EMAIL:  
CONTACT@WARRENFIRSTUMC.ORG

# Worship

## LAY READER'S SCHEDULE:

11/19 JULIE LILLY  
11/26 CAROLE WESNER  
12/3 LINDA SADOWSKI  
12/10 KATIE BELLES

## AUDIO/VISUAL SCHEDULE

11/19 B PERMALOFF / T POHL  
11/26 HEAVINS  
12/3 B PERMALOFF / OPEN  
12/10 B PERMALOFF / OPEN

## Worship

### November 19

Praise Hymns: Blessed be Your Name, How  
Shall I Come Before the Lord  
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10  
Message: Blessed People Bless Others  
Closing Hymn: A Fire is Meant for Burning

### November 26

Praise Hymns: We Gather Together, Give  
Thanks with a Grateful Heart  
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:11-15  
Message: Overflowing Blessings  
Closing Hymn:

## Releasing God's Blessings

11/12—A Legacy of Blessings: "I Know Who I Am" 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

11/19—Blessed People Bless Others 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

11/26—Overflowing Blessings 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

Hope you will join us this November as we explore how we can  
release God's blessing in our lives.

## WORSHIP BY ZOOM:

YOU CAN CONNECT TO WORSHIP AND ONE ANOTHER THROUGH ZOOM, EITHER BY COMPUTER OR PHONE. FOR THOSE CALLING IN, PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROMPTS. WE WILL START THE ZOOM 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE SERVICE TO ALLOW YOU TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER. IF CONNECTING BY COMPUTER, USE THE ABOVE LINK.

IF CONNECTING BY PHONE:  
CALL (929) 205-6099  
MEETING ID: 820 6135 4083  
PRESS: 0# PASSWORD: 123

[Zoom Link for Worship](#)

*We've set up a computer in the  
narthex so that those in person can  
talk with those joining us on zoom.  
Stay on after the service and say  
hello to one another.*



# SONGS OF THE SEASON

The long awaited coming of the Messiah is certainly something to sing about. This year, we will be preparing for the birth of Christ with this song inspired series that will take us all the way through the Christmas season.



December 3 ~ Born to Deliver (Isaiah 40:1-5)  
December 12 ~ Path of Peace (Isaiah 2:2-5)  
December 19 ~ Rejoice! Rejoice! (Isaiah 35)  
December 24 ~ Lift Up Your Heads (Psalm 24)



## *Longest Night Worship Service*

**Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm  
First Presbyterian Church of Warren  
3000 Twelve Mile Road, Warren 48092**

If you are struggling with grief, loneliness, depression, hurt, anger, the loss of a loved one, the chaos of the world, or are simply

having a hard time feeling God's presence this holiday season, come as you are and worship with us.



It was a wonderful time of fellowship as we share the meaning of Thanksgiving with these women. We shared some of our traditional Thanksgiving foods with them and they brought some of their traditional foods. Yum!

Next Month ~ We will be teaching these ladies how to make a traditional American Pie. Starting the first of the year, they will be teaching us how to make dishes from their tradition: Thai, Japanese, Bangladesh, and so much more. We invite you to join us on the Third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.



# Opportunities to Connect

## Church Contact Information:

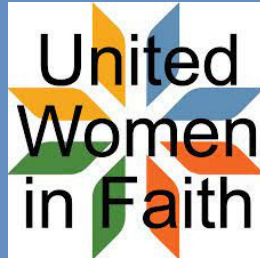
Phone:  
(586) 264-4701

Email:  
[contact@warrenfirstumc.org](mailto:contact@warrenfirstumc.org)

Website:  
[warrenfirstumc.org](http://warrenfirstumc.org)

Facebook:  
[Facebook.com/WarrenFirstUMC](https://Facebook.com/WarrenFirstUMC)

Youtube:  
[Youtube link](#)



The next Coffee and Conversation is Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am at Filippa's Restaurant.



## Our U.M. Men's Breakfast

At Kerby's Koney Island

On 12 Mile and Mound

Tuesday, September 12 at 9 a.m.

All of our men (and women) are welcome to come and enjoy food and fellowship.

.....  
Both the Men's and Women's group are great opportunities to pick up someone who may otherwise not be able to attend.

Check out the shut-in list and connect with someone today.



We received the following thank you for a layette that was donated to Macomb Foster Closet:  
Thank you so much for the work you do in the community, especially the supplies for foster parents! It was an unexpected blessing to receive such beautiful handmade gifts for our little one. Thank you!

## Annual Church Conference 2023

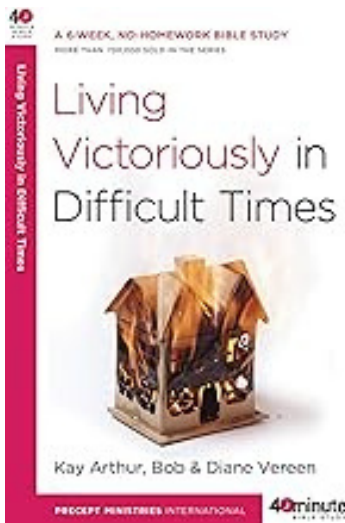
Date has been changed to Sunday, November 26 at 11:45.  
More information will follow.



# Opportunities to Grow

## Wednesday Noon Study Group Rescuing Revelation ~ beginning October 4

We will be looking at John's letter in the context of which it was written to see the beautiful truth it still has for us today. All are welcome to join us.



We are starting a new book study on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3:30 beginning October 5. The location will alternate between participants' homes. The book will be studying is "Living Victoriously in Difficult Times" and is available at the church office at a cost of \$5.50. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Renaud at (517)974.0588.

## Engage Worship

Long for something other than traditional worship? Engage may be for you. This is a new kind of worship where we engage in conversation with one another around our understanding of the scripture passage.

Invite a friend and join us Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

# Opportunities to Serve

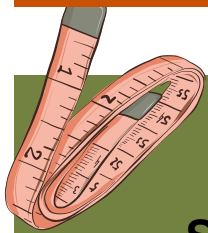
## Thanksgiving Collection

This year we have chosen Big Family of Michigan's Aging Out Program for our Thanksgiving mission.

This program assists individuals aged 18-23 who have "aged out" of foster care by providing them with the things they need to furnish an apartment or dorm room. Starting October 29, we will be collecting the following:

- ~ Cleaning supplies ~ Personal hygiene items ~ Laundry baskets
- ~ Bathroom towel sets ~ Kitchen towels ~ Dishes ~ Flatware
- ~ Bakeware ~ Pots and pans
- ~ Any other items needed for an apartment or dorm.

We will be collecting these items through Sunday, November 26.  
Don't forget - we still need your recipes!!



## Sewing for Missions

Meeting Saturday,  
November 4th and 18th  
10 a.m. to Noon.

Because of the upcoming holidays, Sewing for Missions will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Saturday's in November and December.

The sewing ministry is in need of plastic containers to store fabric in.

Approximately 6-8 inches tall by about 12 inches wide by up to 20 inches long.

If you happen to have any extra totes sitting around that you no longer need, we can put them to good use.



**Do you need cards for the holiday season? Look no further! Cards featuring the FUMC altar are available for sale for \$5 for a package of 20 with proceeds going towards future mission projects. They are available in the Narthex.**



*May God who loved the world so much  
That He gave His only Son,  
Grant you a year of Christmas days  
With a blessing in every one.*

**Just a reminder that the hat and mitten tree will be set up in the Narthex after Thanksgiving. If you're out shopping and see a good sale on hats, gloves, mitten and scarves, consider picking some up for our tree. Of course, homemade items are welcome as well!**

## **Capuchin Services Center Monday, December 11 from 1 to 3:30**

Join us for a fun afternoon of stocking shelves and sorting clothes at the Capuchin Services Center. We will meet in the church parking lot at 12:15 to coordinate rides. Sign up on the link or contact the church office if you are interested in attending.



[Sign Up](#)

## **International Cooking Class**

**December 21st  
10 a.m.**

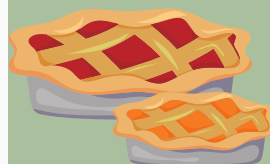
**In the church Kitchen**

**As an international Friendship Center, we are offering an International Cooking Class for anyone who would like to learn about a different culture.**

**This month, we will be learning how to make pies from scratch.**

**Everyone is welcome.**

**The cost is \$5 with the funds benefitting our sewing ministry.**





# Other Announcements

## **ONLINE***giving*

Supporting the church has never been easier than it is now. With on-line giving, you can offer your support in an easy and secure way. You can find this information by going to our website or clicking on this link.

**ON -LINE GIVING**

**The next Leadership Meeting is  
December 13 at 7 p.m.**

**On Zoom**

## **Helping Ministries:**

**AA meets:**

**Tuesdays at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday at 7 p.m.**

**N.A. meets**

**Thursday 7 p.m.**

**Friday at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday at 4 p.m.**

**S-Anon meets:**

**Monday at 7 p.m.**

**Please reach out to those in our faith community who are homebound or in assisted living/care facilities. A card, a call or even a ride to church would mean more than you know:**

**Jody Adams**

**Brigitte & Hayden Cutright**

**Arlene Johnson**

**Merle & Jan Loch**

**McFarland/Ethridge Family**

**Bill & Virginia Potts**

**Patrick Sims & Phyllis Gramza**

**Ruth Ann Anderson**

**Karen Failing**

**Lucy Latham**

**William Russell**

**Janet Waud**

**Change of Address**

**Freda Bakalis**

**36333 Garfield**

**Apt. 154**

**Clinton Twp, MI 48035**



# Our Church Finances

Our 2023 budget for ministry is: **\$235,000**

Needed each month : **\$19,583.33**

Received in September: **\$18,026.32**

Under budget in September: **\$-1,557.02**

Needed Year-to-Date: **\$195,833.30**

Received Year-to-Date: **\$159,952.69**

Under for the year: **\$-35,888.31**

We thank you for your continued support of the ministry God has called First UMC of Warren to in this community. Together, we can make a difference in our community.

**Challenge ends  
November 30th**

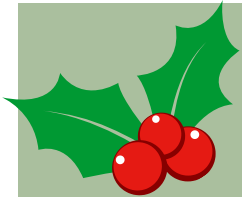
## DEFICIT REDUCTION CHALLENGE ~ WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Due to several factors over the past several years, we are currently working in a deficit. (See above report for reference.) To cover this deficit, we have had to tap into funds designated for other ministries. We would like to get back on track.

A generous family in the church, has offered to do a 2 to 1 match to make this happen. For every dollar given to reduce that deficit, they will give two.

**As of Sunday, November 12th, \$5,356 plus \$10,430= \$15,786.**

A reminder that this only works if it is above and beyond our regular offering.



**Coffee and Conversation Christmas Luncheon**

**Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am**

**At Fiippa's Restaurant**

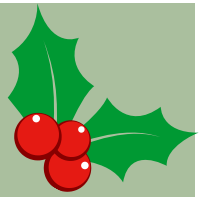
**45125 Mound Road, Shelby Township, MI 48317**

**(Mound Road just north of M59)**

**Everyone is invited to join in for fellowship and great food!**

**RSVP to Pat Conrad**

**(573)783-9757**



**MCREST  
week was  
a success!**





Oh My...it's not too early to be thinking about  
**CHRISTMAS!**



The Warren Concert Band  
Jeremy Duby, Conductor  
and  
The Motor City Chorale  
Eric Miller, Director  
Jointly Present A  
Holiday Concert and Sing A-Long  
Sunday December 10, 2023  
3:00 p.m.

Adults \$10  
High School students (grades 9-12) \$5  
Children grades 8 and under free with paid  
ad

Tickets will be available at the door  
Warren Woods Community Auditorium  
13400 12 Mile Rd. Warren, MI  
(Southwest corner of Schoenherr and 12  
Mile Rd.)



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Join us after service on  
November 26th as we enjoy  
lunch together and prepare  
for the Christmas season by  
hanging the greens and  
decorating the church.

Your leadership team will be meeting with the  
District Superintendent right after service for  
our annual charge conference. All are welcome to  
attend that as well.



## CHRISTMAS TEA

Wednesday,  
December 6th  
at 6 p.m.

A great opportunity to gather  
together as the church, enjoy a  
cup of tea and some holiday  
goodies and sing Christmas  
Carols with

**Matt Packard**

(formally Brother 2 Brother)

Freewill offering will be taken to cover  
Matt's expenses.







# District & Conference Happenings



"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."  
-Luke 10:36-37 NRSVUE

You're invited to attend the Greater Detroit District Hybrid Conference  
on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
*(Light refreshments will be provided)*

The Conference will be offered in-person or online via livestream.  
Hosted by:

**DownRiver Church**  
14400 Beech Daly Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

For more information, registration, and nominations go to  
[www.greaterdetroitumc.org](http://www.greaterdetroitumc.org) or scan the QR code below.

Please register by Monday, November 13



# Reader's to Leaders



Improving  
futures for  
hundreds of  
children is as  
easy as A-B-C

As of September 1st, we have received

**\$269**

FUMC of Warren

is committed to being part of the Michigan Conference's campaign to support children's education both here in Michigan and in Liberia.

Along with our commitment to donate at least **\$600** for the Liberia Scholarship and Michigan Children's Defense Fund, this year we will be walking alongside Green Acres Elementary school supporting their staff and offering a helping hand in whatever ways we can.

Look for ways you can volunteer to serve.

## REGISTER NOW!

Lay servants are called...

Lay Servant Ministries

*Equipping United Methodists  
for lay ministries of  
Leading - Caring - Communicating*



Lay servants are equipped...

Lay servants are sent...

Registration is now open for Lay Leadership Classes in the Greater Detroit District. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the United Methodist Church as well as explore your gifts for servant leadership. If you haven't taken a class, you begin with the *Intro to Lay Ministry Class*. Once that has been completed, there are many other classes covering several topics. Each class is \$25 and will be held on-line. For more information, you can go to:

<https://michiganumc.org/laity/lay-servant/>

# Six Weeks at a Glance

## Nov 12-18

- 12 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 13 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 14 - 9 am Men's Fellowship
  - 7 pm Leadership
- 15 - 12 pm Book Study
  - 7 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving @ St. Faustina's
- 16 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 18 - 10 am Sewing for Missions

## Nov 19-25

- 19 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 20 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 22 - 12 pm Book Study
- 23 - Thanksgiving

## Nov 26-Dec 2

- 26 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 11:45 Conference
  - Hanging of the Greens following Conf.
  - 6 pm Engage
- 27 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 29 - 12 pm Book Study
- 30 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir

## Dec 3-9


- 3 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 4 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 6 - 12 pm Book Study
  - Advent Tea
- 7 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 9 - 10 am Sewing for Missions

## Dec 10-16

- 10 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 11 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 12 - 12 pm Book Study
- 13 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir

## Dec 17-23

- 17 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 18 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 20 - 12 pm Book Study
- 21 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 23 - 10 am Sewing for Missions



*Heavenly Father, we come to you today with gratitude for all of the blessings you've given us, especially our friends and family members, and for the nourishment you provide. Amen.*

