



NOVEMBER 15, 2023

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARREN

### PASTOR'S PEN

Hello Church,

As we enter December, I would like to start by saying Happy Holidays! I know that phrase has been a point of contention over the past several years with people saying that it is part of the war on Christmas. As we enter this Advent season, I would like to remind you that it is not. We live in a very diverse world and there are people all around us who are celebrating a variety of holidays throughout this season, including us. We will celebrate Christmas and a New Year. As we live in a world full of conflict, some real and some imagined, may we always choose to be kind, compassionate, and loving in all we do, and not only during the month of December, but all year long.

Next, I would like to share a bit about what is happening in the Michigan Conference. This evening, we held a special conference for disaffiliation where we voted to allow 62 churches to leave the denomination. Although I grieve at the pain caused by the conflict within the denomination, my prayers go with those churches as I trust God is in the midst of all of this, already at work to make things new. I pray for those who have been hurt, who are struggling with the loss of their church (on both sides of the issue) and who are struggling to pick up the pieces and see a future. In times like this, I look to Genesis 1, the creation story where God created order out of chaos. God is the best Chaos Coordinator there is. God will create a new order out of this chaos as well.

Advent is a season of Hope. Jesus offered hope to the marginalized, struggling people of the world. Jesus continues to offer hope today through people like us. Advent also marks the beginning of the Church year. We begin our year by celebrating the birth of our Savior, the one who leads us back into right-relationship with a loving God. It is a season of Peace, as we remember that Jesus was the Prince of Peace. It's a season of Joy as we remember the Joy Jesus brought in the world. And most of all, it is a season of Love. God loved the world so much that God sent us a Messiah whose call was for us to love God and love one another, because God is love.

I do hope you take a moment to glance through the newsletter to see what's happening and where you may be called to connect, grow or serve in the weeks to come. I also hope you received the Celebration booklet for 2023 and have taken time to glance through that. God has been busy here in Warren through the folks called Methodist. May 2024 be just as fruitful. Advent is also a great time to invite someone to be part of what we're doing in 2024.

Blessings, Rev. Melissa J. Claxton

### CHECK IT OUT!

- CURRENT WORSHIP, CHRISTMAS CANTATA, LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE ON 12/21, ENGAGE
- NEW STUDIES BEGAN 10/4 & 10/5, THANKSGIVING COLLECTION, CAPUCHIN SERVICES CENTER ON 12/11, SEWING FOR MISSIONS, COFFEE AND CONVERSATION LUNCHEON ON 12/8, AV DESK SIGN UP, CHRISTMAS OFFERING
- 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 ON 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:

12/3 LINDA SADOWSKI

12/10 KATIE BELLES

12/17 DOUG BELLES

12/24 CHARLIE BELLES

## AUDIO/VISUAL SCHEDULE

12/3 B PERMALOFF / OPEN

12/10 B PERMALOFF / OPEN

12/17 HEAVINS

12/24 P HEAVIN / J MOORE

## Worship

### December 3

Praise Hymns: He Came Down, Come Though

Long Expected Jesus

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5

Message: Born to Deliver

Closing Hymn: Hope of the World

### December 10

Praise Hymns: Like a Child, Blessed be the

God of Israel

Scripture: Isaiah 2:2-5

Message: Path of Peace

Closing Hymn: People Look East



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)



## 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.*



# *A Song in the Air*

A Christmas Cantata presented by  
The Sanctuary Choir of Warren FIRST UMC  
December 17 at 10:30 am Service

Featuring music by Heather Sorenson, Victor Johnson, Michael W. Smith,  
Sarah Hart, Lloyd Larson, Bob Chilcott, Karl Harrington, and Joel Raney.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at  
First UMC!



**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.

# 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://www.facebook.com/WarrenFirstUMC)

Youtube:  
[Youtube link](#)



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



Thank you to everyone who stayed after church on Sunday to prepare for Advent. The building looks beautiful. A special thank you to Twylia and Julie for organizing everything.

Thank you to everyone who donated household items, hygiene items, cleaning supplies and recipes for our Thanksgiving collection for the Aging Out Program at Big Family of Michigan. This will have a such positive impact on those foster kids aged 18 to 23 who have "aged out" of the foster care system and need help establishing apartments or dorm rooms.



## 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.

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

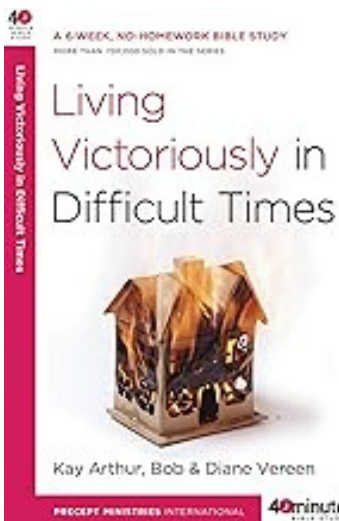
Check out the shut-in list and connect with someone today.



# 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

## Sewing for Missions

Meeting Saturday,  
December 2nd and 9th  
10 a.m. to Noon.



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.



## 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](#)

The Hat and mitten tree is set up in the Narthex. 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!



*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.*

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.



# Places to Serve

***“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”***

As we continue to live into our mission of ***Connecting people to God’s love, Growing disciples of Jesus Christ, and Serving God by serving others***, we need servant ministers doing the work of the church. There is a place for everyone to serve.

***Here are two places where you  
can serve now:***

## Front Desk Attendants

During worship, we need servant ministers to man the office desk during worship. The worship service is streamed to the office allowing everyone to fully participate in the service.

If you are interested in serving here, please let the office know at: [contact@warrenfirstumc.org](mailto:contact@warrenfirstumc.org). or 5860264-4701.

## Coffee Hour

On the first Sunday of the month, we gather together for fellowship after worship. Just pick a month and recruit a friend to help you.

This ministry includes:

- Providing treats (homemade or store bought)
- Making coffee (directions are in the kitchen)
- Setting up prior to worship
- Cleaning up after Coffee Hour is over.

The sign up for this is in the Program Center on the kitchen wall or you can contact the church office at: [contact@warrenfirstumc.org](mailto:contact@warrenfirstumc.org) or 586-264-4701.

## Green Acres Elementary School

(In the subdivision across from the church)

is looking for a few Christmas Elves to help in their Holiday Shop. Each elf will help assist a child while they shop.

**December 12th, 13th, and 14th**

**From 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**or 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Each volunteer will need to have a background check. If you are interested in helping, please let the office know.

P.S. I participated before. It’s great fun and easy work. All you have to do is escort a child around the room and assist them as they shop.



[Sign up](#)

## Sunday Worship AV Desk - January through June 2024

**We need you!**

If you’re interested and available to man the av desk during Sunday worship January through June of 2024, please use the link below to sign up.

# Christmas Eve Offering a gift for Baby Jesus

Every year, we take a special offering at Christmas. This offering is our gift to the Baby Jesus and is designated for the mission field. Our Christmas Eve offering will be split equally between two missions.



## UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Under its original name, The Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MCOR) was founded in 1940 by the Bishop Herbert Welch in response to displaced and vulnerable populations in the wake of World War II. In his address at the General Conference that year, Bishop Welch stated that MCOR would serve as a "voice of conscience among Methodists to act in the relief of human suffering without distinction of race, color, or creed."

Today, the goal of UMCOR is to assist the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need. This includes both natural and human-caused disasters. To do this work, UMCOR partners with local congregations as well as organizations such as Heifer International and Midwest Missions. UMCOR is currently at work in more than 80 countries around the globe.

**This year, 50% of our offering will go to support the work of UMCOR in offering help and hope to people across the globe.**

## Methodist Children's Home.

IMCHS (Methodist Children's Home Society), originally named Methodist Child Care, was founded in 1917, a year in which Detroit factories were busy turning out war material for the conflict in Europe. When a disastrous epidemic of influenza hit the city, children whose parents died were often left without friends or relatives to care for them. Such was the plight of numerous children discovered by members of the Order of Deaconesses of the Methodist Church when making their rounds in the residential sections of Detroit industrial areas.



Today, there are more than 13,000 children in foster care. MCHS is a vital tool in helping place children as well as providing support for foster/adoptive families. They also run a boys residential home where each boy has a space (bedroom) of his very own.

**This year, 50% of our offering will go to support the work of MCHS in this work as we continue to care for children in our community.**



# 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. All are welcome to attend. We will meet...[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

Mike Rivard  
has a new  
phone  
number. It is  
(586) 214-  
5518.



# Our Church Finances

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

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

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

Under budget in October: **\$-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.

## Thank you!

Thank you for your generous response to our Debt Reduction Campaign. Because of your generosity, we will be starting the new year on solid ground.

**As of Sunday, November 26**

**A total of \$29,082.25 has been given to get us back on track.**

### 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 adult

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.)

## 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.





# 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



## Please Return Your Estimate of Giving Card!

Your Leadership Team is hard at work planning for ministry in 2024, and they need your help to do that.

As we work to put together a budget for the coming year, we need some understanding of what our finances will be. We are asking that every who gives to the ministry of the church fill out an "Estimate of Giving" card and return it to the church. Please fill one out with your best estimation, and know that it is confidential. Only the financial secretary will see it.

We understand that this is an "estimate" of what you will give to support the ministry of the church next year, and that things can change.

We ask that they be returned by December 12th. We will be asking God's blessing over them on Sunday, December 15th.

## The FUMC Food Pantry

These past months, the church has received more calls asking for help. One way we are able to provide assistance is through our food pantry.

A great way to support the pantry is to look for good deals when you are out buying groceries. Take advantage of buy one get one deals. Some items to look for include:

**Cereal**

**Pancake Mix and Syrup**

**Pasta and Sauce**

**Pasta and Rice side dishes**

**Canned Meat such as tuna or chicken**


**Soups**

**Fruits and Vegetables**



## To our Choir Members:

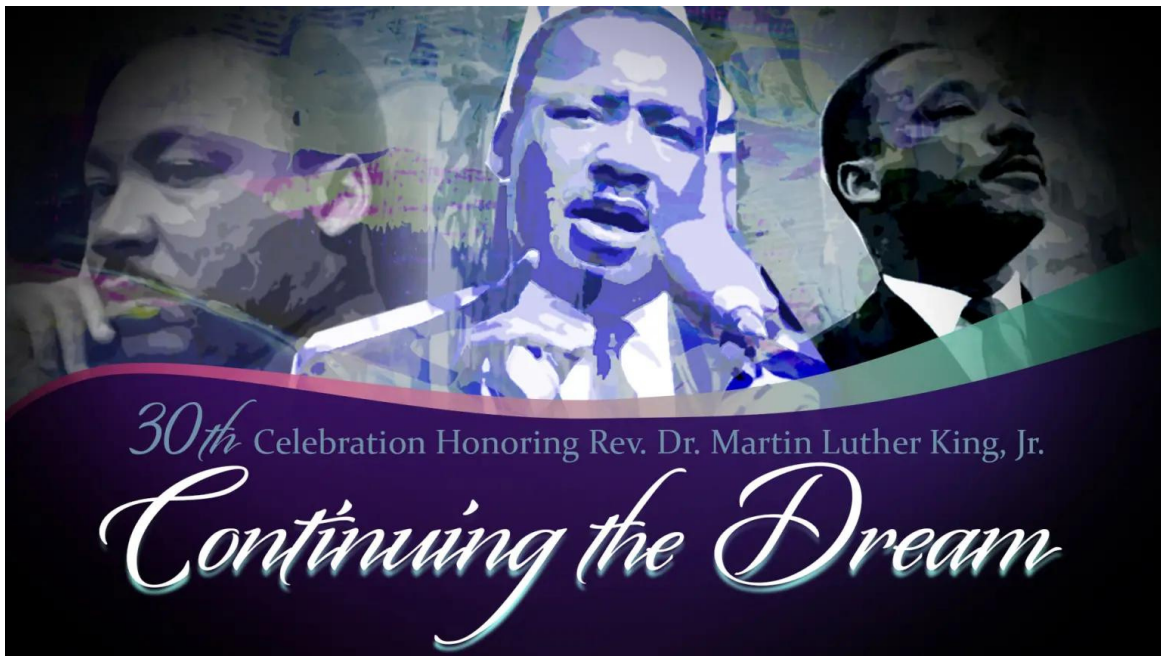
Rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata are right after worship on Sundays and Saturday, December 16 at 10 a.m.



Thanks to Peggy for sharing her Christmas Village with us, to James McIvor for helping her set them up, and to Jody Adams for the nativities she shared that will adorn our worship space.



# District & Conference Happenings



**30th Celebration Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
“Continuing the Dream”**

**Sunday, January 14, 2024 – 2:30 p.m. reception and 3:30 p.m. service  
In person and Livestreamed · Royal Oak First United Methodist Church  
320 W. Seventh St., Royal Oak, MI 48067 · 248.541.4100  
Rev. Jeff Nelson, Lead Pastor**



The Technology in Action workshop – an interactive discussion and demonstration of technology in use was at Dearborn First UMC on Saturday, September 16. If you look closely, you can see our very own Twylia and Gary Voshol in attendance!



# Reader's to Leaders



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

As of September 1st, we have received  
**\$289**

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

## 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
  - 6 pm Advent Tea
- 7 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 8 - 11:30 C&C Luncheon @ Fillipa's

## 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
- 16 - 10 am Cantata rehearsal
  - 10 am Sewing for Missions

## Dec 17-23

- 17 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship (Christmas Cantats)
  - 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

## Dec 24-30

- 24 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 7 pm Christmas Eve service
- 25 - Christmas

## Dec 31-Jan 6

- 13- 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 1 - New Year's Day
- 3 - 11 am Sewing Class

## Jan 7 - 13

- 7 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 8 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 10 - 12 pm Book Study
- 11 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 13 - 10 am Sewing for Missions

