



MARCH 30, 2024

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARREN

### PASTOR'S PEN

**“May the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ fill your heart with hope and purpose this season.”**

The miracle of Easter is upon us. Tomorrow, we will be gathering together to celebrate the gift of resurrection and new life we have in the Christ. It will be a celebration of God’s love and grace for all people. Grace—the unmerited, unconditional love of God. That’s was the Cup Jesus offered us in his willingness to journey to the cross. He understood the power love had to change the world, and he wasn’t willing to abandoned the journey.

Tomorrow (for those of you getting this on Saturday), we will be gathering together to celebrate the resurrection. The celebration begins with breakfast. You need not bring anything. Our kitchen team has been hard at work preparing several breakfast casseroles. You simply need to show up and enjoy. Then, at 10:30, we will truly begin our Easter celebration as we explore one final cup, the cup that never runs dry.

I would also like to thank all of your generosity in supporting our Easter offering. Jesus’ life was dedicated to teaching us about the kingdom of God. That kingdom is a place where the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, and the oppressed are set free. The Easter offering will go to hands on ministry all across the globe allowing us to be part of touching lives and ushering the kingdom in. It’s not too late to be part of that work.

Starting next week, we will dig deeper into the life of Jesus as we explore some of his parables and miracles. It’s a great opportunity to invite a friend who is interested in learning more. And don’t forget, for those who want to be able to engage in conversation rather than listen to a sermon, let them know about Engage.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Easter. May you feel the love of God surround you as you celebrate that empty tomb.

Blessings, Rev. Melissa J. Claxton

### CHECK IT OUT!

- CURRENT WORSHIP, EASTER WEEK WORSHIIP, EASTER BREAKFAST, EASTER OFFERING, NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY, ENGAGE, BIBLE AND BOOK STUDIES
- CAPUCHIN SERVICES CENTER, SEWING FOR MISSIONS , VISITATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, HANDS WITH DETROIT ON 4/27
- DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS:
- OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: CHURCH FINANCE REVIEW, EASTER FLOWERS, LIFE LINES SCREENING, UWF CLUSTER LUNCHEON, CAMP BELOVED
- 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:

3/31 LINDA SADOWSKI

4/7 JULIE LILLY

4/14 DEB CUSMANO

4/21 SUSAN FERRARO

## AUDIO/VISUAL SCHEDULE

3/31 OPEN

4/7 OPEN

4/14 J MOORE / B PERMALOFF

4/21 HEAVINS

## WORSHIP BY ZOOM:

FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T JOIN ON YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK, WE HAVE ZOOM.

IF CONNECTING BY PHONE:

CALL (929) 205-6099

MEETING ID: 820 6135 4083

PRESS: 0# PASSWORD: 123

[Zoom Link  
forWorship](#)

## Worship

March 31

Praise Hymns: What a Beautiful Name It Is,  
Hosanna, Lout Hosanna

Scripture: John 12:12-19

Message: From Empty to Overflowing

Closing Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory

April 7

Praise Hymns: Ancient Words, To What can the  
Kingdom of God be Compared

Scripture: Mark 4:30-34

Message: The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Closing Hymn: We Walk by Faith

April 14

Praise Hymns: Ancient Words, How Great is our  
God

Scripture: John 6:5-15

Message: The Miracle of Jesus Feeding the 5000

Closing Hymn: They'll Know we are Christians  
by our Love

## Easter Sunday

March 31st

We invite you to join us for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. We will gather  
to celebrate a C

***up That Never Runs Dry (John 20:1-18)*** at 10:30.

No need to bring anything. The kitchen ladies have planned a  
wonderful breakfast for your enjoyment.



MIRACLES +  
PARABLES

4/7 ~ Parable: The Mustard Seed (Mk 4:30-34)

4/14 ~ Miracle: Feeding the Masses (Jh 6:5-15)

4/21 ~ Parable: Specks and Logs (Mt 7:1-5)

4/28 ~ Miracle: The Bleeding Woman (Lk 8:43-48)

5/5 ~ Parable: A Lost Son (Lk 15:11-32)

5/12 ~ Miracle: Calming the Waters (Lk 8:22-25)

## Engage Worship

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

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



## Can't join us in person? Join us on YouTube or Facebook!!

If you are unable to join us for worship in person on a Sunday morning, you can still worship with us. The best part, it doesn't have to be on Sunday morning.

Each Sunday, we stream the service to both YouTube and Facebook. It can also be found on our website. Look for **First United Methodist Church of Warren** or click on our YouTube Link

[YouTube](#)

## Easter Offering

This year's Easter Offering will be split between 3 non profit organizations:

- ~ UMCOR who provides disaster relief, disaster response training, supplies, physical and behavioral health support, and other services in the United States and around the world.
- ~ Macomb Foster Closet, a volunteer operated organization that provides clothing and other essential items free to children in foster care and the families that care for them as well as additional services throughout the year such as loaded school backpacks, birthday bags, Easter baskets, and holiday gifts.
- ~ Vets Returning Home, a volunteer operated 11,000 square foot facility with 43 beds and commercial kitchen that provides a stable and sober living environment to veterans in crisis including employment readiness training, aid with job placement, disability benefit connection, legal support and life skills training.

## Native American Ministries Sunday, April 14

Native American Ministries Sunday is celebrated the Third Sunday of Easter and recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. The observance was approved by the 1988 General Conference. Approximately 15,000 United Methodists identify themselves as Native American. About 200 United Methodist churches, fellowships, and ministries relate to this population.

The funds collected allow The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries and create programs on behalf of Native Americans. Money collected also supports seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans.



# 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, April 5 at 10:00 am in the Program Center, with Shirley Terry and Louise Frazier hosting. All are welcome!

*thank you*

Thank you to everyone who delivered the Easter treats to our church family who aren't able to get out and about. They really appreciated it!



## Our U.M. Men's Breakfast

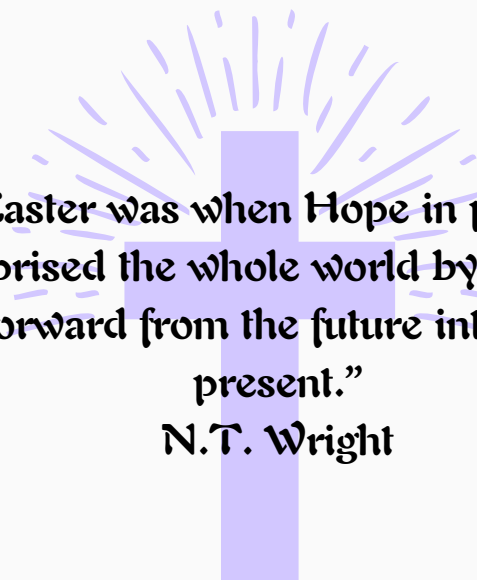
At Kerby's Koney Island  
On 12 Mile and Mound  
Tuesday, April 9 at 9 a.m.

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

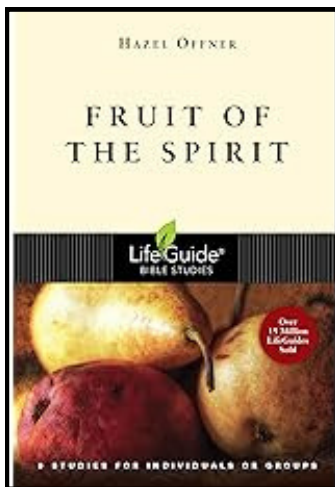
.....  
Both the Men's and Women's group are great opportunities to pick up someone who may otherwise not be able to attend.

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

"Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present."  
N.T. Wright



# Opportunities to Grow



## Beginning Monday, February 12 from 2-3:30 pm

Again, it's not too late to join in on a wonderful conversation about the Fruit of the Spirit as outlined by the Apostle Paul.

**When:** Monday's from 2-3:30 p.m.

**Where:** This is an in-home study and takes place in the homes of the participants

**Cost:** The cost of the book is \$11 and can be picked up in the office.

If you have questions or would like more information, please call: Mary Ellen Renaud at (517) 974-0588.

## Beginning Wednesday, March 20th Talking Across the Divide

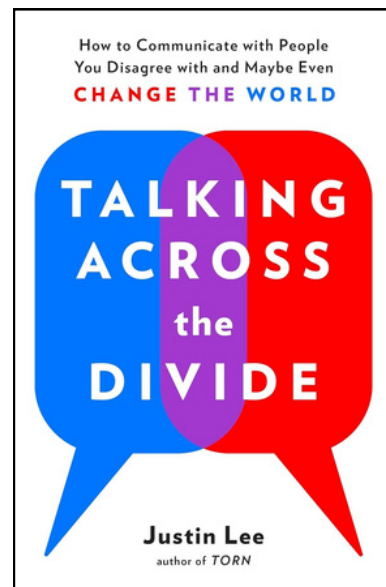
As the division in our nation continues to rise, we as followers of Christ are called to be instruments of peace. In his book, Haidt strives to shed light on why people are divided and how we can help heal that division.

**Book Study beginning March 27, 2024**

**Meeting in the Church Parlor from 12-1:30 p.m.**

**Cost of the book is \$10 and can be picked up in the church office.**

*We understand that not everyone can make a noon study. If you are interested in this book and would like to meet in the evenings, please contact the pastor to see if we can get another group together.*



# Opportunities to Serve



Every year, we put together layettes for struggling mothers. This year, we will be putting these items together after church on Father's Day, June 16th.

It is not too late to start gathering items together or to join the Sewing for Missions group as we make crib blankets for this ministry.

## *Another Serving Opportunity*

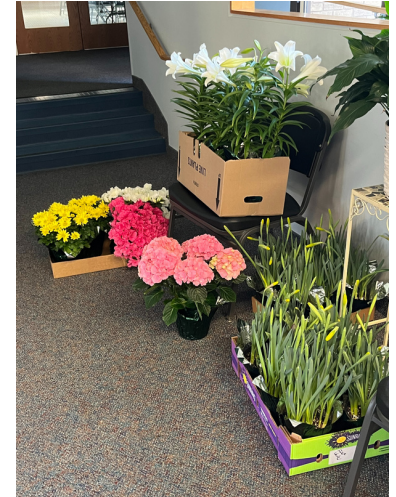
Do you have the gift of gab? Do you have availability in your schedule to spend some time with someone who would appreciate it?

Do you want to share God's love through action? If so, we have an opportunity for you! We are looking for people to join our visitation team and spend a little time with our members who aren't able to get out easily. You can visit as little or as much as you'd like. If you're interested in this important and meaningful ministry, contact Pastor Melissa.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

**Our Easter flowers are here and ready for their big day!**



## **Capuchin Services Center**

**Our next service date: Monday, April 8 from 1 to 3:30 p.m**

We meet in the church parking lot at 12:15 to carpool there.

**There's room for you to join the fun!**

Contact the church office for more information: (586) 264-4701

[Sign up](#)



## **Sewing for Missions**

Sewing for Missions has offered us the wonderful opportunity to combine teaching with serving.

The beauty of this service opportunity is that you don't have to know (or even want to learn) how to sew. We have several people who come in to help cut and iron fabric.

**Working together to create HOPE!  
Join us on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10 to noon.**

# 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 April 9 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We will meet... [On Zoom](#)

## PLEASE HELP US STAY CONNECTED!

Congregational care is the work of the entire body of Christ. All of us can be part of this vital ministry and all it takes is a phone call, a card, a visit, or even offering to pick them up for church. You can decide what you are able to do.

Please take time this week to reach out to those in our faith community who are homebound or in an assisted living or care facility. These people include:

**Jody Adams**  
**Brigitte & Hayden Cutright**  
**Bill & Virginia Potts**  
**William Russell**  
**McFarland/Ethridge Family**  
**Patrick Sims & Phyllis Gramza**

**Ruth Ann Anderson**  
**Karen Failing**  
**Merle & Jan Loch**  
**Arlene Johnson**  
**Janet Waud**  
**Lucy Latham**

Contact information is in the church directory. If you need one, they can be picked up in the church office.

## Helping Ministries:

**AA meets:**

**Tuesdays at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday at 7 p.m.**

**N.A. meets**

**Friday at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday at 4 p.m.**

**S-Anon meets:**

**Monday at 7 p.m.**

## Holy Communion

We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. If you are joining from home and would like Communion elements, we can provide them. Please contact the church office. (586) 264-4701



**Life Line Screening will be at FUMC on Tuesday, April 9. For more information, flyers are located in the welcome area.**

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S-Anon meets:

Monday at 7 p.m.

## Easter Flowers

The following people purchased the flowers that will grace our Sanctuary for Easter Worship:

~ Judy Bird in memory of Scott Daniel Bird

~ Ed & Melissa Claxton in memory of Gaius Putman, Edward Claxton & Glenda Claxton

~ Sherry Descamps in honor of children & grandchildren

~ Susan Ferraro in memory of Fred & Shirley Belcovski

~ Louise Frazier

~ Walt & Margaret Kaupilla in memory of loved ones

Dave & Julie Lilly in memory of Sylvia Wilson & Bette Lilly

~ Peggy McIvor in memory of Husband Leslie, Son John & Karen

~ Beth Permaloff in memory of our grandparents

Kingsley & Lurline Sears in honor of our family

~ Mary Sylvester in honor of our families

~ Carole Wesner in honor of family and memory of Herb Wesner





# Our Church Finances

Our 2024 budget for ministry is: **\$258,856**

Our Leadership Team continues to work hard to use your tithes and offerings responsibly, cutting costs where possible. In order to meet our budget, we need approximately **\$21,571** in giving each month. In an effort to keep you informed, we will continue to offer monthly updates as to where we stand each month.

Received in February: **\$16,468.36**

Received year to date: **\$36,097.90**

Budget shortfall for the year: **-\$7,044.10**

We thank you for your continued support of the ministry of this church and all that you are doing to live into our mission.



## CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Where Transition Begins!*

Indeed, congratulations and happy anniversary to Warren First United Church, 2024 being year 25 of serving MCREST, the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, the homeless in Macomb County. We have housed women and children in our building, provided meals during Covid to those housed in a motel and most recently served in the Women and Children's Center in Mt. Clemens. We have often said that each year is different because each year we serve a different group. This year is really different, as we will be serving MCREST MAY 5-12 instead of our usual week in November. Our responsibilities will be the same, breakfast, lunch and dinner each day of the week.

We are blessed to have members of the church who are willing to prepare and serve these meals, but they need help from you. On April 14 there will be a "pop-up" coffee hour during which you can reacquaint yourself with the MCREST program, sign up for special needs and any services for the week.

Because it is easier and more economical for the "kitchen crew" to shop for necessary items for the week, we are again asking you to consider donating what you might be willing to spend if you were doing some of the shopping. Any amount will be greatly appreciated (and graciously accepted)

Traditionally a month before MCREST WEEK we have officially begun finalizing plans for our week, celebrating with hot dogs and chips, so on April 14 be in church for an additional coffee hour and see what you can do to help make another successful MCREST Week. Remember that YOU are important in this endeavor because- NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING.

**The MCREST Team**



# District & Conference Happenings

## General Conference

GC will be from April 23rd to May 3rd at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

With the cancelation of the last GC due to Covid, there will be a lot going on this year, especially around human sexuality and disaffiliation. If you would like to learn more or have questions you would like to ask, you can attend the forum.

**PLEASE ATTEND**

**A Forum on the 2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church**

**April 11 from 7:00PM – 9:00PM at Hazel Park UMC**



## HANDS WITH DETROIT

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT UMC

**SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024**

**@ Cass Community Social Services**

**Kitchen Help :: Grounds Clean Up :: Maintenance Projects**

**Document Destruction :: Doormat Construction**

**Offsite Collections (Ages 10+ are welcome!)**



**"SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLLY IN LOVE."**  
-GALATIANS 5:13

**Registration opens March 11th!**

## UWF Cluster Luncheon



April 11, 2024

Come at 11:30am—Potluck luncheon at noon  
Bring a dish to pass

First United Methodist Church of Troy  
6363 Livernois (between Square Lake and South Boulevard)

Program: O.A.T.S.  
(Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles)  
Speaker: Doug Rohrabough, Director of O.A.T.S.

Bring a friend. It's open to everyone.  
We will be collecting a Love Offering for O.A.T.S.

RSVP: Nancy Cameron, 245.933.4495  
ncam0091@yahoo.com

United Women in Faith



## Hands with Detroit at Cass Community Social Services

CCSS is a Detroit-based agency run by UMC pastor Faith Folwer. They hold a person-centered philosophy, dedicated to providing food, housing, health/mental health services, and job programs in areas of concentrated poverty.

This year, the Greater Detroit Conference has organized a work day where you can see first hand what this amazing organization is doing to help people throughout Detroit. There are lots of places to serve. You can pick what works best for you.

**Open to ages 10 and up.**

**Contact the church office and we will get you registered. Office: (586) 264-4701**

**CAMP BELOVED** YOU BELONG HERE.



UNIQUE. AUTHENTIC.

*Just as you are*

### WHAT IS CAMP BELOVED?

A week of summer camp for youth in 9-12th grade to be affirmed emotionally and spiritually.



JUNE 16TH-22ND  
2024

LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

### WHY IS CAMP BELOVED DIFFERENT?

To develop healthy self-love and self-care strategies, build supportive relationships, and initiate healing from rejection of unwelcoming faith communities, friends or families.

There is no expectation for youth to adhere to traditional gender norms with clothing and appearance.

### HOUSING OPTIONS

To ensure all youth are comfortable during their time at camp, the housing options are as follows:

- Gender Neutral
- Identifying Female
- Identifying Male

(all with private showers)

### TESTIMONIALS

"Camp Beloved was an awesome experience. It was a week where everybody got to be themselves. I didn't have to worry about making somebody uncomfortable or angry. Everybody was accepting."

-Camper

"My child interacted with other LGBTQ children and adults and was able to see God loves him despite the hate directed toward these youth."

-Parent

"I think I can give God another chance. I have found out that some believe that God is loving and caring instead of just judgmental"

-Camper

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

REGISTER TODAY!



# Six Weeks at a Glance

## March 31-April 6

- 31 - 9:am Easter Breakfast
  - 10:30 am Worship
- 1 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 3 - 12 pm Book Study
- 4 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir

## April 7-13

- 7 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 8 - 1 pm Capuchin Services Ctr
  - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 9 - 9 am Life Lines Screening
- 10 - 12 pm Book Study
- 11 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 13 - 10 am Sewing for Missions

## April 14-20

- 14 - 9:30 Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 15 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 17 - 12 pm Book Study
- 18 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir

## April 21-27

- 21 - 9:30 :am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 22 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 24 - 12 pm Book Study
- 25 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 27 - Hands with Detroit
  - 10 am Sewing for Missions

## April 28-May 4

- 28 - 9:30 am Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 29 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 1 - 12 pm Book Study
- 2 - 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 3 - 10 am Coffee & Conversation

## May 5-11 MCREST WEEK

- 5 - 9:30 Prayer meeting
  - 10:30 am Worship
  - 6 pm Engage
- 6 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 8 - 12 pm Book Study
- 9- 11 am Sewing Class
  - 6 pm Bell Choir
  - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 11 - 10 am Sewing for Missions



**Morning has broken like the first morning**

**Blackbird has spoken like the first bird**

**Praise for the singing**

**Praise for the morning**

**Praise for them springing fresh from the Word**