



APRIL 15, 2024

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WARREN

PASTOR'S PEN

Alleluia! The tomb is empty. Christ is alive! It was a joy having so many people join together to celebrate the Risen Christ together. We offer our gratitude to all of those who came early to fix breakfast. It was a wonderful way to start our Easter celebration. Now, we set in the Easter season as new life bursts forth all around us, reminding us of how God can take what is old and often broken and make something new out of it.

When Covid hit four years ago and turned the world upside down, the 2020 General Conference of the UMC was postponed. It was at this conference we as a denomination were supposed to address some very divisive issues, including the issue of human sexuality. In the wake of that postponement, a split happened with the more conservative churches choosing to leave. Now, as delegates from around the world prepare to gather together for that long-awaited conference, the conversations that need to happen have shifted. These conversations are complicated by the cultural differences that exist within a global church.

I would like to ask that over the next several weeks, you keep the bishops and delegates of the 2020 GC in prayer. Please pray for safe travel for those traveling from far off places. Pray for wisdom. Pray for calm spirits as they engage in hard conversations. Pray that God's Spirit and God's will is made known in that place. And as you pray, may we remember the words of David as he wrote, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) as we trust that God is at work making all things new.

You can keep track of what's going on at GC and learn more about the work unfolding there: [GENERAL CONFERENCE](#). All the links we add to the newsletter are safe to follow.

Blessings, Rev. Melissa J. Claxton

CHECK IT OUT!

- CURRENT WORSHIP, EASTER ENGAGE, BIBLE AND BOOK STUDIES
- CAPUCHIN SERVICES CENTER, SEWING FOR MISSIONS , LAYETTE MINISTRY, HANDS WITH DETROIT ON 4/27
- DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE HAPPENINGS
- OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: ADOPT A POT, CHANGES OF ADDRESS, MOTHERS DAY PHOTO NOOK, WILLIAM POTTS OBITUARY
- 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:

4/21 CAROLE WESNER

4/28 MARY ELLEN RENAUD

5/5 CHARLIE BELLES

5/12 DOUG BELLES

AUDIO/VISUAL SCHEDULE

4/21 HEAVINS

4/28 HEAVINS

5/5 T POHL / OPEN

5/12 J MOORE / B PERMALOFF

Worship

April 21

Praise Hymns: Ancient Words, Amazing Grace

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

Message: Specks and Logs

Closing Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee

April 28

Praise Hymns: Ancient Words, Blessed be Your Name

Scripture: Luke 8:43-48

Message: The Bleeding Woman

Closing Hymn: How Great Thou Art

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](#)

The Parables & Miracles of Jesus

- 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)

As of April 15th, our Easter Offering total is:

\$9767.75.

Thank you for your generosity. We will be distributing this offering at the end of the month to Vets Returning Home, Macomb Foster Closet, and UMCOR.



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](#)

He has Risen, He has Risen Indeed! Easter at Warren First



Opportunities to Connect

Church Contact Information:

Phone:
(586) 264-4701

Email:
contact@warrenfirstumc.org

Website:
warrenfirstumc.org

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

Youtube:
[Youtube link](#)



The next Coffee & Conversation is Friday, May 3 at 10:00 am in the Program Center, with Sue Adamski and Donna Chandra hosting. This will be last time we meet until September. All are welcome!



Our U.M. Men's Breakfast

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

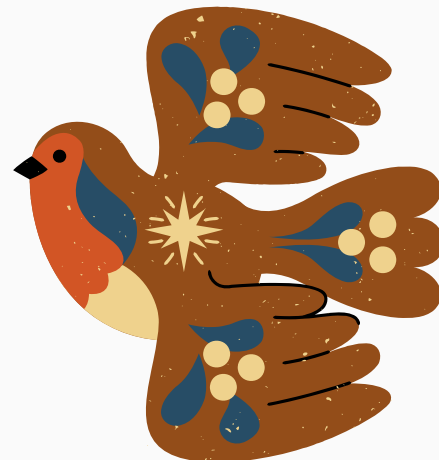
All of our men (and women) are welcome to come and enjoy food and fellowship.

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

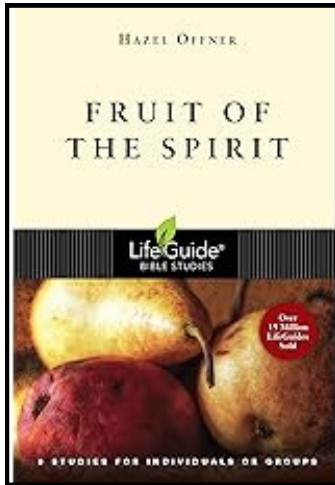
Check out the shut-in list and connect with someone today.

thank you

Our Easter breakfast was a wonderful prelude to Easter Worship. Thank you to the folks who planned and executed a delicious meal!



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

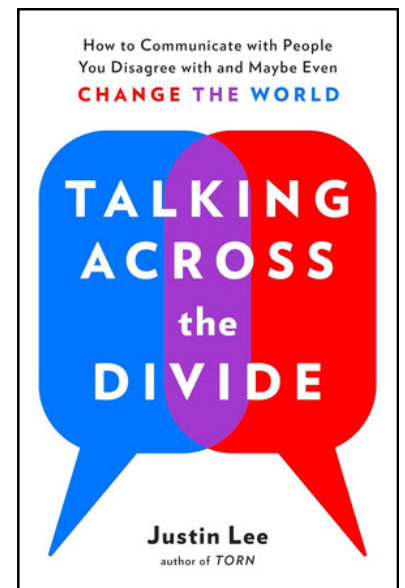
As the division in our nation continues to rise, we as followers of Christ are called to be instruments of peace. In his book, Haidt strives to shed light on why people are divided and how we can help heal that division.

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.



**On Sunday, April 7 our
Sunday Schoolers
learned about The
Parable of the Mustard
Seed**



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.



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.**

The April visit to the Capuchin Services Center was a busy one. Our volunteers stocked shelves in the food pantry, bagged produce and baked goods donated from local stores, sorted through canned goods and watched the eclipse with everyone that was at the Center.

Our next visit is May 13 from 1 - 3:30 (leaving the parking lot at 12:15). If you're able, join us for this meaningful and fun volunteer activity!

[Sign up](#)

We need your help!

Spring has arrived! With spring comes a season of spring cleaning. We need help cleaning out spaces in the church as well as getting the gardens ready. If you are interested in helping, please let us know. You can call the office.

Other Announcements



Adopt a Pot at FUMC

In order to keep our entrances both welcoming and eye pleasing this spring and summer, consider adopting an “entrance.”

We have 2 pots by the main entrance, 2 pots by the stained glass windows at the front of the church and 1 pot by the Pastor’s entrance that need someone to adopt.

If you would like to help beautify our outside space, please contact the church office and let Donna know which entrance (and all pots there) you would like to adopt.

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.



Changes of Address:

Arlene Johnson
1967 Maple Ridge
Manistee, MI 49660

Arthur & Bonnie
Newman
20952 Wakefield St.
Clinton Twp., MI
48035

If there are changes to your contact information, please contact the church office.

Other Announcements



We will have a photo nook set up for Mother's Day on May 12. Come to worship in your Sunday best and take some pictures with mom, grandma or your special people!

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.

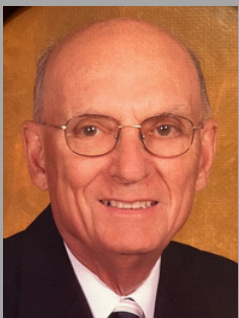
S-Anon meets:
Monday at 7 p.m.

The next Leadership Meeting is May 7 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. We will meet... [On Zoom](#)

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](#)



William John Potts, age 93, of Warren, Michigan passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024. Loving husband of Virginia for almost 67 years. Dear father of Joanne (Thomas) Bely. Beloved grandfather of Jacqueline Bely (Ken Steplitus), Alexandria (Luis) Dimech and Danelle Bely. Cherished great grandfather of William and Abigail Dimech. Brother of Gene, Kenneth, Mary June and James. He leaves many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Hencie and Mabel and his siblings, Haynes, EmmaLee, Carl and Mike.



District & Conference Happenings

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 HUMBLY IN LOVE."
-GALATIANS 5:13

Registration opens March 11th!

APRIL 23 - MAY 3, 2024

GENERAL CONFERENCE



PSALM 46

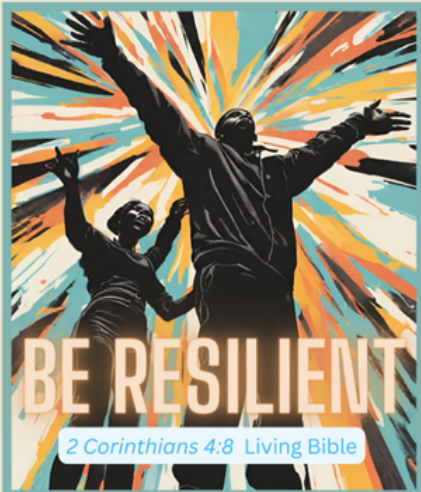
...and

KNOW that I am GOD

The United Methodist Church General Conference
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Greater Detroit District
Urban Methodist Youth Camp 2024
August 4 - 9, 2024

Michindoh Camp & Retreat Center



[Click for more info](#)



[Click for more info](#)

Six Weeks at a Glance

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

May 12-18

- 12 - 9:30 Prayer meeting
 - 10:30 am Worship
 - 6 pm Engage
- 13 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 15 - 12 pm Book Study
- 16 - 11 am Sewing Class
 - 6 pm Bell Choir
 - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir

May 19-25 MCREST WEEK

- 19 - 9:30 Prayer meeting
 - 10:30 am Worship
 - 6 pm Engage
- 20 - 6:45 pm Zumba
- 22 - 12 pm Book Study
- 23- 11 am Sewing Class
 - 6 pm Bell Choir
 - 7 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 25 - 10 am Sewing for Missions