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# The First Connection

a publication of Mason First United Methodist Church

May 2019



## Sermon Plan for May

- May 5 Third Sunday of Easter**  
Focus Passages: II Corinthians 1:18-22;  
Psalm 36:5-10  
Theme: *Yes and No*
- May 12 Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Focus Passages: I Peter 1:17-23;  
Acts 2:14a and 36-41  
Theme: *Family Values*
- May 19 Graduation Sunday**  
Focus Passages: Luke 12:16-21  
Theme: *Don't Forget Your Lunch*
- May 26 Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Focus Passages:  
Ephesians 4:29-5:2; Romans 10:8-17  
Theme: *Feathers*

## Graduation Sunday - May 19, 2019

Our high school graduates will be recognized and scholarships will be awarded during the worship service on Sunday, May 19. (The scholarship deadline is Friday, May 3, at 4:00 p.m.)



If you have a graduating high school senior, please call or e-mail the church office (517-676-9449, [info@masonfirst.org](mailto:info@masonfirst.org)) to

make sure that he or she will be included on our list of graduates.

## Youth Group

The first Sunday of each month, the youth group will be having an activity night at the church, indoors or



outside in the parking area if weather permits.

Please alert your youth—grades 6-12 to join us for fun, games, fellowship, and a good

time from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be Sunday, May 5.

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## Change for Change

Fun fact! Do you know how much Mason First UMC has raised for clean water initiatives since we began collecting "Change for Change" in 2012? Hint: It is probably more than you think.

Pastor Dwayne Bagley began this program in 2012, using metal buckets to collect change during each month that had a fifth Sunday. The initial funds were directed to the Living Water International charity. In 2018, the finance team made the decision to switch to the official UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) supported initiative called Water for Life (UMCOR advance #3020811). This is our eighth year of collecting for this mission to provide clean water to those who need it most. We should be proud of the fact that over these eight years, our church has sent a total of \$27,793.05 to these mission efforts.

# Pastor's Notes

by Rev. Donna Minarik

Second Peter three, verse eight observes, "...with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day." This has never felt so true as it does right now. As my time as pastor at Mason First United Methodist Church draws to a close, these three years seem to be subject to just this kind of fluctuation. At times, it feels like I just arrived yesterday, and at other times it feels like we have been serving the Lord together for, well, maybe not a thousand years, but for a very long time. It has been my privilege to serve as pastor of this congregation during all of our sacred times.

On June 30, my pastoral appointment at Mason First UMC officially ends, and Rev. Suzanne Goodwin's appointment begins. Since I will no longer be your pastor, I will no longer be available for any pastoral duties. I have had the privilege of being with you in the milestones of your life and faith – baptisms, weddings, confirmations, and funerals – and through these sacred moments and more we have become pastor and people. Now it is Rev. Goodwin's turn to have the privilege to walk with you in these times. I am confident that you will be in good hands.

Know that your church will always be in my prayers. As Paul wrote in II Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." Amen and Amen.

Pastor Donna

## Tai Chi Coming Soon

A Beginning Tai Chi class will start Monday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the lower level youth room of the First United Methodist Church. Please call Connie Doss (244-1080) if you have any questions.



## Cookie Reminder

Thanks to all who provided cookies last month. Just a reminder that if your last name begins with *P*, *Q*, or *R*, we would appreciate it if you would provide cookies in May.

# 2019 Financial Audit Summary

In 2018, the Mason First UMC Finance Committee identified the need for a complete external audit of the church finances, since a complete audit had not been performed in many years. The chair of Finance contacted the West Michigan Conference Treasurer's office and obtained the name of an auditor to contact. This contact was made, and arrangements finalized for an audit to take place in March of 2019.

Sue Nielsen was the recommended auditor who performed the 2019 audit. She contacted Glenn Darling several times by e-mail and sent a list of required information. Glenn worked with various church personnel to assemble the required information. Sue Nielsen came to the church on March 19, 2019 to interview Glenn and obtain the gathered records. She took the records with her and performed most of the audit off-site.

She returned all the materials on April 3, 2019 when she visited the church to wrap up the audit.

This was a very thorough audit and included all the various church accounts and funds. The audit verified checking account reconciliations, verified that all counted monies were included in deposits, that all Federal and State taxes were paid, that bank signatories were up-to-date, that deeds are on hand and reviewed annually, as well as the procedures used by office personnel.

The only formal recommendation to come out of the audit was to have the Office Administrator (Marilyn Lautzenheiser) open all the mail instead of passing bills directly to Glenn upon receipt. This is to assure that there are no bills that only one person sees and adds another validation that all the bills are being paid in a timely manner.

The conclusion from the audit reads as follows: **"I believe that all accounting and recording methods used are appropriate. All accounts balance and all monies appear to have been accounted for."**

The auditor did have a suggestion for our balance sheet. She said that we should separate out all the fixed assets so we could better see how the value of our various church funds fluctuates. This was done on April 4, 2019.

## News of Our Church Family

Jeanette Strickland is recovering at home following a recent hospitalization. Beth Grosshans and John Dodge are recovering at Holt Senior Care Rehab following recent hospitalizations.

Congratulations to Joel and Megan Goss on the birth of their daughter, Sienna Mae Goss, on April 5.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Joann Waterstradt on the loss of her husband, Jack; and to the family of Doris Olsen who passed away on April 8.

Please note: The hospitals do not notify the church when someone from our church family is admitted. Please ask a family member or a friend to let us know!

Our members or friends who are in assisted living, nursing homes, or hospice care:

Dimondale Nursing Home

Carolyn Whipple

Grand Haven Living Center, Lansing:

Gayle Gunns

Green Acres

Bev Eccleston

Ingham County Medical Care Facility, Okemos:

Char Bush

Jack Kammeraad

Vi Ramey

## Lake Louise Work Camp

Our 2019 spring work camp at the Lake Louise Camp near Boyne Falls will be from Tuesday, May 14 to Friday, May 17. Please sign up at the Caring Table. We will drive up on Tuesday morning, arriving before lunch. We will return following lunch on Friday. Lodging and meals are provided. There are many tasks around the camp to work on, for all skill levels, before the camping season begins. Please contact Kathy Aldering or Bud Arehart with any questions.



## Annual Conference Offering

Each year, our church takes an offering to Annual Conference. This year, annual conference will be begin on Thursday, May 30, and conclude on Sunday, June 2.

The 2019 Ingathering during the Thursday Opening Worship Service at The Michigan Conference will be divided among Grace Children's Hospital (Haiti-45%), the Bishop Judith Craig Children's Village (Liberia-45%), and the Disaster Recovery Fund (Michigan Conference 10%).

During the ordination service on Sunday, a second conference-wide offering will be taken. This offering will benefit the Ministerial Education Fund. This fund supports our seminaries, provides scholarships to students as well as Continuing Education Grants.

If you would like to donate to either of these offering opportunities, please have your contribution to the church office by Friday, May 24. Make your checks payable to Mason First United Methodist Church. You may designate which offering you would like to support by indicating either Opening Worship or MEF (Ministerial Education Fund) when you donate. We will accumulate all the donations and take a single check for each of the Conference worship offerings.

## Are You Interested?

UMW is seeking volunteers (men and/or women) at Alaiedon Elementary School to listen to a small group of children practice their reading skills for a short time once or twice a week. This program is very much like the Book Buddy program that many of you participated in previously. If you are interested in helping out children, please contact Nancy Nay (676-3024) for more details.



# Scholarship Applications Available

(Due in the church May 3, 2019)

Our church is blest to invest annually in young people by providing educational grants to qualified students. Our scholarship funds assist us in helping our youth with the tuition, books, room and board, and specific fees associated with pursuing a college education.



Applications for scholarships are available in the church office and must be turned in by Friday, May 3, at 4:00 p.m. It is recommended that, if interested, you pick up your application as soon as possible, as late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Consideration will be given to students who have demonstrated faith and faithfulness within the First United Methodist Church of Mason and the community. We will also consider educational and vocational goals, financial need, and academic history. Graduating high school seniors as well as college students are eligible to apply.

All recipients will be acknowledged at the Graduation Sunday service on May 19. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Lautzenheiser in the church office (676-9449).

## United Methodist Church Camp

If you'd like information and/or to register for a United Methodist Church camp, go to [www.umcamping.org](http://www.umcamping.org). Church scholarships to a United Methodist Church camp are available for children and grandchildren of members and regular attendees. Please call the church office (676-9449) for more information.



# Mason Christian Child Care Center

Our center is currently experiencing many student changes. We have recently added a new infant and another child will be starting next month. We also have two siblings joining us in the near future. The toddler room is full with eight current students. Our preschool room has nine students with a sibling joining us next month.

Bible stories for the toddlers and preschoolers have included: The Blind Man and The Miraculous Catch both from Hebrews and the story of Easter from John. The infants heard the Easter story from Matthew. On Fridays our children can purchase a special pizza lunch. On that day the children from both rooms sing their luncheon prayer together. They sing: *God our Father, we thank you, for our many blessings. Amen.* The children at the center say a prayer before morning and afternoon snack and before lunch.

As a state licensed facility we are inspected each year. Every other year we receive an interim inspection, then the next year we receive a full inspection. This year we will receive the full inspection. This includes an inspection of the physical facility, the paperwork and verifies we are following licensing rules. We are expecting our licensing consultant some time in the next few months.

Finally, we offset some of our office supply costs by collecting old ink and toner cartridges. The collection box is across from the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate your old cartridges, please deposit them in the box. We are grateful for your support.

Tami Boyic, Director

## Tuesday Night Potluck

The Tuesday Night Potluck continues Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Come and join us in the fellowship hall for food, fellowship, and fun. Let's make this a community outreach by inviting friends and neighbors. The more, the merrier! Bring a dish to pass. The Hospitality Team provides tableware and beverages.

# United Methodist Women

## Spring Rummage Sale

Last month in the newsletter we wrote about the anticipated proceeds from our Spring Rummage Sale; usually UMW makes \$1500-\$2000 at each of our rummage sales. Imagine our surprise—and joy!—that this spring we raised over \$3900. Our 2019 budget anticipated total proceeds from both of our annual rummage sales as \$4000. Thanks to all who worked and donated—our gifts to mission this year will reflect your generosity!

## Spring Fling Bake Sale

May 4, 2019 -

### Calling All Bakers!

UMW is hosting the church's booth for Spring Fling. All donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your breads, cookies,



muffins, etc. to the church before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3. If your goodies include nuts, please attach a note to the package indicating this. It is a good idea

to include a list of ingredients on all items. We'll be at the church's regular booth on the corner of Ash and Barnes from 9:30 a.m. until the baked goods are sold—please stop by!

## Save the Date

May 6, 2019

10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.

Income and wealth inequality in the United States impacts women and communities of color, which, in turn, further marginalizes those who may already be vulnerable. Decades of poor policy choices got us to this point. Fair and just policy changes now could reverse the income and wealth gap. United Methodist Women are called to act locally and in national efforts to begin to bridge the inequality gap.

Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr. will be at the church on Monday, May 6 to talk with us about his work on raising the minimum wage in Michigan. We'll have a chance to hear from the Senator and to share our views with him. This event is open to all church members as well as others in the community.

# Lavender and Lace Luncheon

The Lavender and Lace Luncheon will be held Thursday, May 16, at 12:00 noon to honor our octogenarians and nonagenarians. Jim Mulvany will give a power point program on "God's Fundy Creatures." Invitations will be sent to our honorees. All women of the church are welcome to attend. Please sign up at the Caring Table.

## Children's Ministry News

Thank you to everyone who donated goodies for our Easter Egg Hunt. It was a great success and the children had a great time.

Another important date coming up is Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will be held at Mason First Presbyterian Church. The dates are Monday, June 24-Wednesday, June 26, from 6:00-8:15 p.m. We need lots of volunteers for this event, so please let me know if you would like to participate. Registration will be online and will be posted on our church website or you may use this address:



<https://vbspro.events/p/events/polar-blast-2019>

If you would like me to register your child, please send me an email.

Brittany Beaune, [brittany@masonfirst.org](mailto:brittany@masonfirst.org)

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## Memorial Bricks

If you would like to purchase a Commemorative Brick for the Prayer Garden, there are forms available in the church office. The cost is \$85 for a 4" x 8" brick or \$150 for an 8" x 8" brick.

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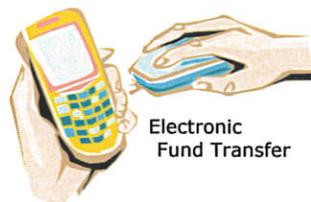
# Relay for Life

The 2019 Relay for Life will be held at Corrigan Oil Speedway (formerly known as Spartan Speedway) on June 14 beginning at 6:00 p.m. until noon on June 15.

If you would like to purchase a luminary in honor of or in memory of someone, they will be available for \$10.00 each through May 28. You may purchase a luminary bag and decorate it or you may purchase a bag which will be decorated for you. A sample of the generic decorated bag is at the Caring Table along with order forms. Your form and payment may be turned in to the church office or mailed to the name and address on the form. Please make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. Thank you for your support and for making more birthdays possible!

# Electronic Giving

Since Mason First began offering the automated giving program more than 30 members have chosen to participate. These members have told us how much they like the program for its convenience. They also mentioned how much they appreciate that their financial gifts continue even if they are out of town and unable to attend a worship service.



## Kid's Puzzle & Craft



### A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

*Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.*

She gets            while it is still            ;




she provides            for her            ....




Her            rise            and




           her blessed.



**PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)**

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

## HEART-SHAPED breakfast

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

Treat Mom with this yummy, beautiful yogurt parfait.



**What you need:**

- Large heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Greek yogurt (any flavor)
- Toppings (mini chocolate chips, granola, shredded coconut, chia seeds, oats, slivered almonds, blueberries, sliced strawberries, raspberries, bananas)
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup

**What you do:**

1. Place cookie cutter on a plate. Spoon in yogurt, spreading it to the edges of the cookie cutter.
2. Add toppings, making a nice design. Remove cookie cutter.
3. Drizzle syrup around the edge of the plate.
4. Serve to your mom on Mother's Day!



# May

## BIRTHDAYS

Grant Giguere.....	1
Henry Day.....	2
Pat Fackler.....	2
Aaron Dickinson.....	4
Jenny Armstrong.....	5
Bill Cornish.....	5
Marge Talboys.....	5
Thomas Weber.....	5
Ashley Baker.....	6
Joanne Guettler.....	6
Allison Langschwager.....	6
Janet Brewer.....	7
Theodore McCully.....	8
Julie Spyke.....	8
Liam Bagley.....	9
Joan Mills.....	9
John Richard.....	9
Colleen Leonard.....	10
Diane McDonald.....	10
Elaine Ferris.....	11
April Kirk.....	11
Andrew Bayer.....	12
Sam Calhoun.....	12
Evelyn Darling.....	16
Chase Parker.....	16
Bob Beaune.....	17
Matthew Naeyaert.....	17
Ann Tucker.....	18
Ralph Beebe.....	19
Nickolas Rogers.....	19
Grace Ann Whipple.....	19
Adrienne Moulton.....	20
Nathan Shaw.....	20
Corey Reed.....	21
Payton Ball.....	22
Carol Peek.....	22
Mark Carmer.....	23
Betsy Colburn.....	23
Zach Kribs.....	23
Jeff Lautzenheiser.....	23
Mark Wolfgang.....	23

Bob Bartlett.....	24
Alex Darling.....	24
Mackenzie Gunns.....	24
Nick Fox.....	25
Kari Nelson.....	25
Colin Whipple.....	25
Brooke Hedglen.....	26
Mark Howe.....	26
David Gunns.....	27
Chris Fox.....	28
Ted Rogers.....	28
Tara Ball.....	29
Nancy Nay.....	30
Vic Whipple.....	30
Connie Ireland.....	31



# May

## ANNIVERSARIES

Brian and Kristin Howe.....	15
Gary and Connie Ireland.....	25
Marty and Betsy Colburn.....	26
Matt and Susan Gardner.....	29

Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. A thank you note has been received from the Ingham Festival Chorale.



## May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00am UMW Mission Team 9:15am Great Start 10:30am Great Start 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 11:00am Tai Chi 4:00pm Carolier Choir 5:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>3</b> Scholarship applications due.	<b>4</b> Spring Fling Bake Sale
<b>5</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Faithlink 11:00am Youth Gathering 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>6</b> 10:00am UMW Event "Economic Inequality" 2:00pm Tai Chi	<b>7</b> 1:30pm Clothing Bank 4:00pm Carol Choir 5:30pm Potluck Dinner 6:00pm Clothing Bank	<b>8</b> 9:15am Great Start 10:30am Great Start 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 11:00am Tai Chi 4:00pm Carolier Choir 5:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>10</b> 11:00am UMW Reading Program Book Club 1:00pm CACS Commodities	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Faithlink 11:00am Youth Gathering	<b>13</b> 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 2:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Church Council	<b>14</b> Lake Louise Work Camp 4:00pm Carol Choir 5:30pm Potluck Dinner	<b>15</b> Lake Louise Work Camp 12:00am Newsletter Deadline 9:15am Great Start 10:30am Great Start 11:30am Rachel Circle meeting at City Limits 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> Lake Louise Work Camp 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 11:00am Tai Chi 12:00pm Lavender and Lace Luncheon 4:00pm Carolier Choir 5:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>17</b> Lake Louise Work Camp 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 9:00am Chrysalis Walk Training 11:00am Eagan/Nelson Wedding 2:00pm "Dinner in the Park" at Mason's Rayner Park
<b>19</b> Graduation Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:45am Faithlink 11:00am Youth Gathering	<b>20</b> 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 2:00pm Tai Chi 5:30pm Alzheimer's Support Group 6:00pm MCCCC Board Meeting	<b>21</b> 1:30pm Clothing Bank 4:00pm Carol Choir 5:30pm Potluck Dinner 6:00pm Clothing Bank	<b>22</b> 9:15am Great Start 10:30am Great Start 1:00pm Quilting 1:00pm Deborah Circle 7:00pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>23</b> 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 11:00am Tai Chi 5:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 3:00pm Kirstin Kribs's Recital/Open House
<b>26</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am Faithlink 11:00am Youth Gathering	<b>27</b> Memorial Day--office closed	<b>28</b> Church office hours 8-3 9:00am Ruth Circle 5:30pm Potluck Dinner 6:30pm Naomi Circle	<b>29</b> Church office hours 8-12 9:15am Great Start 10:30am Great Start 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Handbell Choir 8:00pm Chancel Choir	<b>30</b> 12:00am Church office hours 8-12 10:00am Arthritis Exercise 11:00am Tai Chi 5:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>31</b> Church office hours 8-12	