

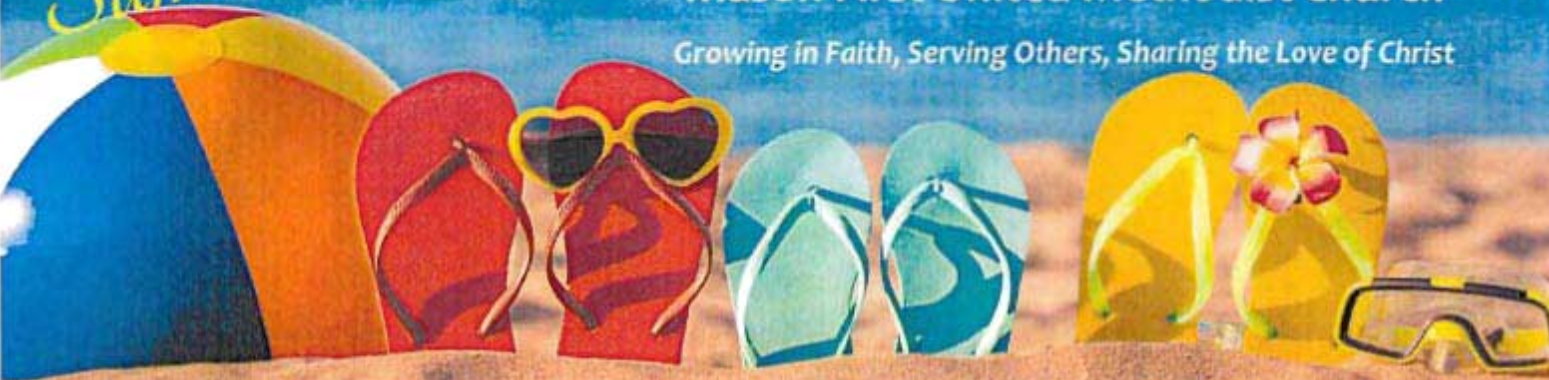
*Summer Edition!*

# The First Connection

a publication of

Mason First United Methodist Church

*Growing in Faith, Serving Others, Sharing the Love of Christ*



## WHAT'S NEW...

*A Word from the Pastor*

*UWF Lavender & Lace*

*Making Plans to  
Grow in Faith*

Summer Sermon Schedule

Joyful Noise Begins 6/13

Potluck Continues

Back to School Jubilee  
Plans in Progress

Youth Mission Trip  
Team Departs 6/25

Town Halls to Include  
Safety Plans

Church Family News

School's Out Celebration

We're an Engage Church!

TOWN HALL DATES:

June 18

July 16

August 20

## *Ahhh, Summer!*

It's here at last and it seems like we've waited soooo long for it! It's so nice to feel the sunshine on my face and to quit dragging a jacket around with me everywhere I go! Many of you have rushed out into the yard and started planting flowers with a level of passion that has left bruised knees and sore backs—but the results will be stunning as the season unfolds.

Summer is a fine time to relax and enjoy the beauty of God's creation, and we've structured our lives to be able to do that. Kids and teachers break from school; people take vacations from their jobs. We allow room in our lives for backyard barbeques and lazy times at the lake. And that's all good—God reminded us to take a break and to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

But we were never intended to take a break from our relationship with God, or to cease our appreciation of the fruits of God's labors! Our relationship with God is not seasonal. God doesn't take the summer off to go to the lake and leave us high and dry. God does not cease to hear our prayers while he enjoys a game of golf. God does not refrain from blessing us while he goes fishing. That's just not how loving relationships work! Just as we tend our flowers all through the summer, it's important for us to remember to tend our relationship with God just as faithfully.

I was thinking about this with some degree of sadness as I've watched all the activities for summer begin to dry up. Bible studies and choir rehearsals go on hiatus, office hours are (thankfully) reduced, and worship attendance drops as people leave for beachier places. There's not a lot happening on the church calendar... but that doesn't mean that we've ceased our mission to *Grow in Faith, Serve Others, and Share the Love of Christ*.

In fact, here are just a few things that *are* going on during the summer. Potluck gatherings on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 are still going on. If you're in town, come out and share a meal with some good church friends. Then stay and make some Joyful Noise with our summer music ensemble. Our Youth are headed out on a Mission Trip and we're collaborating with the Presbyterians to offer another exciting Vacation Bible School experience to the children of our community! The Missions Team is making plans to hold their annual Back to School Jubilee and we'll need lots of hands for that! And I'm putting together a summer sermon series called *Packed to GO!* I hope you'll worship with us when you're in town!

Wherever you are this summer—remember that God loves you and still wants to hear from you! Enjoy the season and remember to stay faithful!

*Pastor Suzanne*





### UWF closed their season with a lovely Lavender and Lace Luncheon!



United  
Women  
in Faith

Thank you to all who worked on the Lavender and Lace luncheon. It was an event to honor our octogenarian and nonagenarian of our UWF. We all enjoyed seeing the wedding pictures of our friends. What fun it was trying to guess who was who. Extra thanks to Cheryl Howe and Bonnie Stalnaker for all of their work and leadership.

We will be having a baby shower at our summer picnic on Thursday, June 15, at 12:00 noon to help with supplies for those mothers in our area who are in need of assistance for their babies. (Suggested supplies are diapers, onesie garments, layette blankets, etc.) Bring a dish to pass—we'll provide tableware and drinks.

FYI: Our UWF Conference Leaders have told us that we can still be known as the UMW. So, if you slip up and say UMW instead of UWF, you are still legal. Now that summer is upon us, our programs slow down and we look forward to September and our first circle meeting. We'll still be busy working this summer on programs for the fall along with cleaning the kitchen and other needs that arise. Have a good summer and we'll see you in the fall.

Claudia Ireland, UWF President



### *Making Plans to Grow in Faith*

Summer is a season to kick back and relax a bit. Sometimes just being outdoors in God's gorgeous creation is enough to have us growing in faith! But summer is also the season where your staff and leaders are looking ahead to the programming to be offered when we get back from the beach and our more steady routines.

One of the offerings we are planning for the fall will be a class that offers insight into understanding the Bible. Many folks have confessed that they just don't know what to believe about the Bible. This class will not tell you what to believe, but will offer some

education about how the Bible was put together and what was going on in the lives of the people who were trying to be faithful to God's commandment to teach the next generation about who God is. Our hope is that out of this study, you will gain some confidence and understanding about how to process what you read in scripture so that you can experience God's word for yourself.

If you have other ideas about what you'd like to study this fall, please see Pastor Suzanne or any of the other members of the Education Team. (Mike Buckner, Dennis Howe, Gerry Tibbits, Marti Abbott) We look forward to growing in faith with you!



## COMING THIS SUMMER...

Sunday, June 11

### *A Celebration*

*of*

### *Service and Song*

Honoring the Retirements of  
Chris Bement and Ruben Droscha

## BUILT ON A ROCK

A Message for Father's Day

Sunday, June 18



# Packed to GO!



### *A Summer Sermon Series Beginning June 25*

June 25 *A Spirit of Adventure*  
July 2 *Your Best Binoculars*  
July 9 *Quality Footwear*  
July 16 *Don't Bring It!*

July 23 *Relax and Peace Out*  
July 30 *Tunes to Travel By*  
Aug 6 *Enough to Share*

## Let's Make Some Joyful Noise!

During the summer months, the choir usually takes a well-deserved break, as does the handbell choir. But the music plays on, and God's praises still need to be sung! This summer we're gathering on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 to make some joyful noise together, and we need your joy and your noise! We'll be doing a variety of different kinds of music, and our hope is to share it in worship from time to time. Joyful Noise begins Tuesday, June 13 and will meet in the sanctuary. Bring a friend, bring your guitar, bring your love for music! Sign up at the Connection Point to let us know you're coming.

## Mm m m m m m. POTLUCK!

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.



There's nothing tastier than Methodist Potluck cuisine, and no one friendlier than a well-fed Methodist! Our Tuesday Potluck fellowship has decided not to break for summer. So look up your favorite recipes and get cookin'! Bring a friend and enjoy the pleasure of good food and good company. Then wander on over and make some Joyful Noise!



A graphic for the Back to School Jubilee. It features the title "Back to School Jubilee" in blue and red cursive fonts. Below the title is the date "Saturday, August 12" in blue. The graphic is surrounded by school supplies: a red backpack, a yellow spiral notebook, a ruler, colored pencils, a green alarm clock, a yellow pencil sharpener, and a red apple.

# Back to School Jubilee

Saturday, August 12

Our Missions Team is already hard at work making plans for our annual Back to School Jubilee. This important event invites children of families in need to come and collect needed back-to-school supplies, receive a free backpack, pick out back-to-school outfits and shoes, get a haircut, enjoy a hot-dog lunch, pick out books to read, and much more. We are pleased to partner with the clothing bank, Mason Community Services, and other community organizations to provide all that we can in order to give kids the boost they need to be successful as they go back to school.

### Here's how you can help:

- We need "stuff." We need back to school supplies and kid's clothing and shoes and socks and underwear. As you see items on sale and want to pick things up—we'll take whatever you want to donate. If you'd rather not shop and want to make a financial donation, we'll shop for specific items that we know we need. We have created a wish list on Amazon that includes many of the items we need. Items donated may be placed in the collection baskets below the Connection Point.  
Amazon Wish List link: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SQODBWKWSLOQ?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SQODBWKWSLOQ?ref=wl_share)
- We need lots of helpers. Preparation and staging will begin in the weeks prior to the event, and then we'll need many hands on deck on the day of the Jubilee. Watch for the sign-up sheet to appear at the Connection Point for specific duties.

We are all one family of mission and service and we are so glad to have your help as we do this wonderful work together. Thank you for your contributions and support!

### Helping Hands!

If you have a small project or need a ride to an appointment, feel free to contact Helping Hands, led by Brian Hankey. You may contact Brian at 517-676-2463 or call the church office at 517-676-9449.



### Noisy Bucket Offering Supports Back to School Jubilee

Our June and July Noisy Bucket offerings this Summer will go to help defray the cost of our *Back to School Jubilee*, helping to purchase food for the event, and to provide items that were not received through donations. Your generosity through the Noisy Bucket offerings makes a difference and helps us to *share the love of Christ!*







### Youth Mission Trip 2023: Niagara Falls, New York



Niagara Falls, New York—it's more than just a vacation spot. It's also a city where people live and work and try to make ends meet. On Sunday, June 25, Ignite Youth Mission Team is headed to Niagara Falls to offer the love of Christ through hands-on work projects coordinated by YouthWorks. YouthWorks has partnered with Niagara Falls for 20 years and has built relationships within the community in order to restore and bring hope and assistance to those in need. Niagara Falls experienced a major economic decline following a detrimental chemical explosion in the 1970s. As a result, the Falls area struggles with large urban issues of poverty, homelessness, and addiction. We will have the opportunity to see both the strengths and struggles of the community while serving through social service organizations and hands-on work projects.

Our group from Mason First is small but mighty, with four returning students and two leaders, but we look forward to seeing what BIG things God has in store for us. This congregation has been very supportive of our Mission Trip fundraising efforts and helped us to raise almost \$4,000! We ask for your continued support in prayer as we head out into the mission field. Please pray for:

- † Our safety as we travel
- † That we may serve with humility, open hearts, and open minds
- † That we may find a deeper connection with God
- † That we may build meaningful relationships
- † That our impact will carry over into our own community

We look forward to sharing our experience with you in July! *Ignite Mission Team 2023 is: Laurie Reed, Mike Buckner, Lara Adolphson, Erika Jachalke, Hadley Keith, & Colin Sutberry*

### PRACTICING SAFETY TOGETHER

This summer, our leadership team is working to put together plans and procedures to make sure that we are as prepared as we can be for any emergency. However, procedures only go so far if we haven't communicated them to you! Our Town Hall meetings each month will feature a particular aspect of safety to help you know what to do in case of an emergency. Last month we featured a video on our AED device so that you would know what to do in case of an apparent heart attack. We will also be talking about what to do in case of a tornado, and how to respond in case of an active shooter event. Of course, we hope we'll never have to use these

instructions, but it's always best to be prepared!

To that end, we are offering a community event put on by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office:

#### ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE TRAINING

Wednesday, June 28 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Courtesy of the Ingham County Sheriff's Office

*Open to all members of the community*

Let us work together to be safe together!

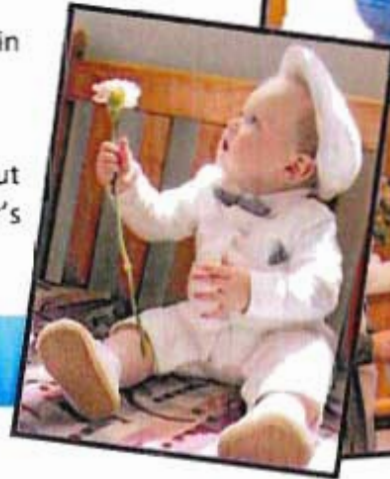


# IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

## Welcome Cooper Powless!

Mother's Day was extra special this year as we baptized young Cooper Thomas Powless, son of Emily and Kevin Powless and grandson of Deanna Bartlett, into the life of our church. Cooper was a delight as he intently watched the children pour the water of his baptism into the font. After being baptized, he took great joy in splashing around in the water, much to the delight of the congregation!

After worship on Sunday, the children passed out carnations to all the women in honor of Mother's Day, and Cooper, not to be left out, offered a flower to his mom as well!



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### Our sympathies are extended to:

- Lois Archbold on the death of her sister.
- Martha Allen on the death of her husband, Ron.
- Claudia Ireland on the death of her brother

### Prayers & Healing Wishes to:

- Rick Archbold, home after suffering a stroke
- Howard Doss, recovering from surgery
- Ina Lyon recovering from surgery at Holt Senior Care and Rehab Center
- Our shut-ins and friends in assisted living/rehab
- Those who have been battling COVID

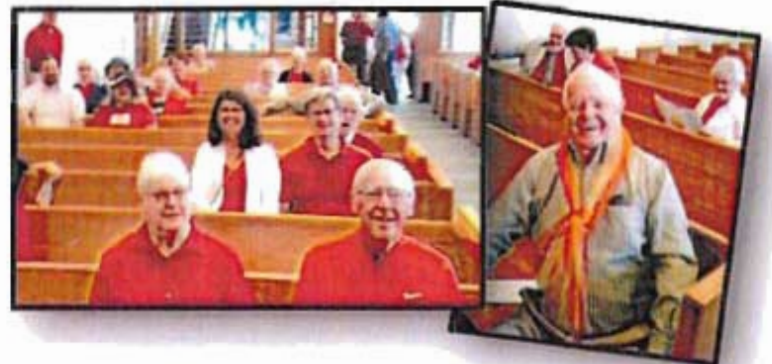
*Please note: Hospitals do not notify us when someone from our church family is admitted. We appreciate you keeping us informed.*

### Thinking of members/friends in assisted living, rehab/nursing facilities, and hospice care:

- The Bickford, Okemos: Larry Howe
- Dansville Country Care Assisted Living: Dick Magsig
- Divine Nest, Leslie: Joyce Darling
- Grand Haven Living Center, Lansing: Marilyn Murthum
- Green Acres, Mason: Beth Grosshans and Jeanette Strickland
- Ingham Co. Medical Care Facility, Okemos: Char Bush and John Dodge
- Island City Assisted Living, Eaton Rapids: Don Dickinson
- The Willows of Okemos: Lew Tibbits

### Decked Out & Dressed for Pentecost!

Sunday, May 28 was Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. Folks came dressed in red and for those who didn't... (Bob Booher), they just made do with the pew decorations! It was a lovely morning of worship topped off with red velvet cookies made by Marti Abbott.



## IT'S OFFICIAL! PER ANNUAL APPOINTMENT LISTING: PASTOR SUZANNE TO RETURN FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

(Bishop says, "Where else would I put her?")

### MANCHESTER.

- First - Susan E. Dittz (EE)
- Staron - (Thomas J. Waller)
- Mason First - Suzanne K. Goodwin (FD)
- Milan Marble Memorial (Matthew J. West)
- Milford - David E. Humelting
- Deacon - Sheryl A. Foster (FD) (LFT '1)



# Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers.  
Use the references for help, if needed.



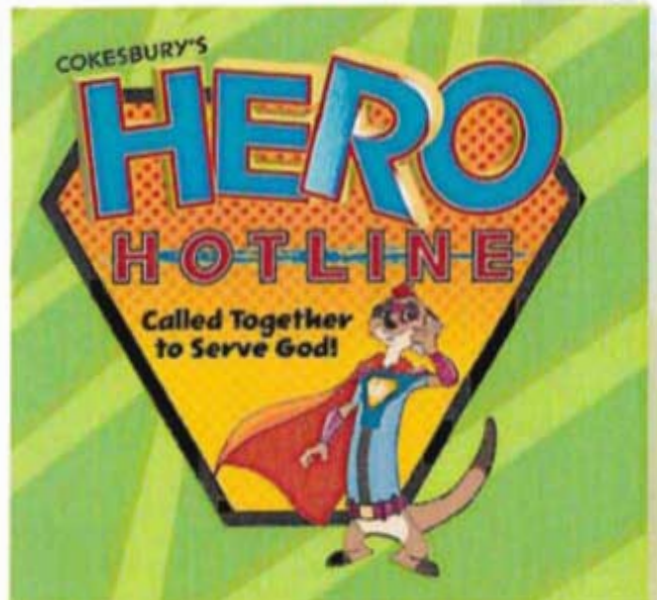
1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul



Sundays during the worship service kids meet with Miss Laurie and will enjoy stories, games, snacks, and fun in the sun!  
Bring a friend and worship in the Summer Fun!



## Mason Area VBS

July 11-13

at Mason First Presbyterian Church

For children Pre K—6th Grade

Registration opens May 30th:

Scan the QR code below or follow the link at [masonfirst.org](http://masonfirst.org)

Mason Area VBS is sponsored by:

Mason First UMC and

First Presbyterian of Mason

with support from

All Saints Lutheran Church







Lynda Crandall..... 3  
 Jerry Spink ..... 3  
 Jan Dodge ..... 3  
 Jordan Page ..... 6  
 Janelle Lautzenheiser ..... 6  
 Ella LoVette ..... 6  
 Alexander Nay ..... 8  
 Bryce Forester ..... 9  
 Marjorie Pulver ..... 9  
 Mary Ruttan ..... 9  
 Judy Husband ..... 10  
 Don Dickinson ..... 11  
 Linda Plyler ..... 12  
 Garrett Giguere ..... 13  
 Pauline Stanton ..... 16  
 Claire Boynton ..... 19  
 Jane Karlzen ..... 19  
 Wyl McCully ..... 19  
 Mark Merchant ..... 20  
 Bonnie Howe ..... 21  
 Misty Lautzenheiser ..... 21  
 Larry Ried ..... 21  
 Natalie Baker ..... 23  
 Diane Murray ..... 23  
 Mary Lou Keenon ..... 25  
 Leo Walter ..... 25  
 Daniel Crackel ..... 26  
 Brian Crackel ..... 26  
 Kathy Aldering ..... 26  
 SueAnn Nims ..... 26  
 Chris Bement ..... 27  
 Don Sherwood ..... 27  
 Marcy Wilson ..... 27  
 Mike Place ..... 28  
 John Hepfer ..... 30

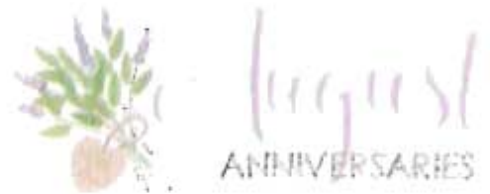
Karen Page .....1  
 Devon Ireland .....3  
 Lucas Barnes .....6  
 Terry Zanger .....7  
 Bruce Hedglen .....10  
 Craig Barnes .....11  
 Pete Stid .....11  
 Pat Mentzer .....12  
 Janice Rogers .....12  
 Kaleigh VerHage .....12  
 Phyllis Armstrong .....13  
 Howard Becker .....14  
 Betty Engle .....14  
 Peggy Riggs .....14  
 Char Bush .....16  
 Ken Carlson .....16  
 Curtis VerHage .....16  
 Diane Hitzler .....17  
 Carole Bosshart .....17  
 Angie Banister .....19  
 Judy Jewett Lamphere .....19  
 John Smith .....21  
 Steve Baker .....23  
 Colleen Ireland .....23  
 Claudia Ireland .....24  
 Cailin Ireland .....24  
 Lois Smith .....24  
 Cameron Etzel .....25  
 Abigail Lautzenheiser .....25  
 Deanna Bartlett .....26  
 Bonnie Stalnaker .....29  
 Kathy Dewey .....30  
 Colleen Sutberry .....31

Jennifer Cornell ..... 1  
 Analiese Guettler ..... 1  
 Nicholas Englander ..... 1  
 Jim Hudgins ..... 1  
 Timothy Forche ..... 2  
 Miranda Bliss ..... 2  
 Cheryl Howe ..... 2  
 Rhonda Crackel ..... 4  
 Sophia Lange ..... 4  
 Cheryl Ghandi ..... 6  
 Scott Etzel ..... 6  
 Gary Strickland ..... 7  
 Mary O'Connor ..... 9  
 John Akers ..... 9  
 Stephen Armstrong ..... 9  
 Chelsea Schanz ..... 10  
 Lucas Nay ..... 12  
 Tyler Baker ..... 13  
 Sylvia Rogers ..... 13  
 Rebecca McKimmy ..... 13  
 Cali Pulver ..... 14  
 Sharon Morgan ..... 14  
 Kaylyn Gunns ..... 14  
 Suzanne Goodwin ..... 16  
 Rita Roost ..... 16  
 Nolan Whipple ..... 17  
 Jim Goodwin ..... 18  
 Patrick Ireland ..... 18  
 Jeane Stebleton ..... 19  
 B.J. Spyke ..... 20  
 Dennis Quinn ..... 22  
 Morgan Kirk ..... 23  
 Roger Nelson ..... 24  
 Wayne Sodman ..... 25  
 Lydia Whipple ..... 25  
 Dan Kribs ..... 26  
 Doug Cole ..... 27  
 Carol Whipple ..... 27  
 Helen Kashenider ..... 27  
 Danielle Robson ..... 28  
 Olive Berridge ..... 28  
 Lew Tibbits ..... 28  
 Phyllis Baisch ..... 29  
 Sherry Barnes ..... 30



Thank you notes have been received from Tara and Brian Ball and their family, and from Sharon Whipple.





Brian & Char Hankey .....1  
*\*Celebrating 55 years this year!*  
 John & Heather VerHage .....1  
 Wayne & Carol Peek .....4  
 Howard & Joann Becker.....7  
 John & Jane Hepfer .....9  
 Larry & Bonnie Howe .....9  
 Gary & Cheryl Howe.....12  
 Ken & Lynda Carlson .....13  
 David & Peggy Gunns.....16  
 Brian & Julie Spyke.....16  
 Bart & Glenda Crider .....17  
 George & Martha Hosek .....19  
 Brian & Tara Ball .....21  
*\*Celebrating 20 years this year!*  
 Don & Phyllis Dickinson .....24

Dick & Jan Magsig ..... 7  
 Mark & Linda Carmer ..... 7  
 John & Jennifer Richard..... 8  
 Mark & Karen Page..... 10  
 Dave & Lyndsay Aldrich ..... 12  
 Brian & Carol Whipple ..... 18  
 Mike & Dorothy Stebleton ..... 19  
 Tim & Lori Colby ..... 25  
 Glenn & Debra Darling..... 28  
 Bill & Judy Husband ..... 28  
 Bob & Betty Beaune ..... 31

Dennis & Cindy Howe ..... 2  
 Tom & Carol Harper..... 5  
 Russ & Judy Whipple ..... 5  
 Jim & Anne Hudgins ..... 8  
 Derek & Mary O'Connor..... 10  
 Joe & Rita Comer ..... 16  
 Duane & Judie Marlan..... 16  
 Kevin & Sheri Gunns ..... 16  
*\*Celebrating 20 years this year!*  
 George & Jen Harnick..... 16  
 Thad & Jennifer Baker ..... 17  
 Colin & Allison Whipple..... 18  
 Pete & Sara Stid..... 21  
 Bryce & Judy Forester ..... 22  
 Joe & Linda Pulver ..... 23  
 Dan & Rhonda Crackel..... 24  
 Bud & Rece Arehart..... 25  
 Steve & Jenny Ireland..... 25  
 Bill & Judy Campbell ..... 26  
 Kaleb & Janean Belman..... 29



- **Worship:** Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m., In-person in the sanctuary and live streamed.
- **“School’s Out” Celebration:** Wednesday, June 14, 12:15 -1:45 p.m., drive-through event in church parking lot.
- **Euchre Night**—Third Friday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (June 16, July 21, August 18).
- **Vacation Bible School:** July 11-13, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.
- **“Back to School Jubilee”:** Saturday, August 12, Missions Team Celebration in church parking lot.
- **Committee and other meeting** notices will be emailed to those serving on those committees.
- **Reminder:** Summer Office Hours (Memorial Day to Labor Day) are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Closed 4th of July)





## Mason First United Methodist Church

Growing in Faith,  
Serving Others,  
Sharing the Love of Christ

201 E. Ash Street \* Mason MI 48854

Phone: (517) 676 9449

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

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### School's Out Drive-Thru Celebration!

**Wednesday, June 14**  
**12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**In the Mason First UMC parking lot**

Please come out to wave and cheer the kids on as they pass through on their way to get some ice cream.

Make a poster, bring your pom poms, wave a pennant, bring your best Mason First smile of encouragement! Let's have a great turn-out of



**CONGRATULATIONS MASON FIRST UMC**  
on being an  
**ENGAGE MI CONGREGATION!**

Mason First UMC received recognition for being an "Engage MI" Congregation having met the Conference requirements of paying our Ministry Shares in full, while supporting mission projects at home, in our district, in our conference, and globally. We also gave generously to disaster relief and provided support for a serving missionary—all while providing active hands-on and financial support for major missions in our own community. Congratulations Mason First—you have been faithful to our mission of *Growing in Faith, Serving Others, and Sharing the Love of Christ!*

### Congratulations to our 2023 Graduates!

And to Scholarship Recipients: Lara Adolphson, Payton Ball, Claire Boynton, Julia Droscha, Lillian Droscha, Erika Jachalke, Elizabeth Mosher, and Danielle Raiche