

"A Symphony of Praise
and Service to God"



**105 E. Main
Street
Ionia, MI
48846**
**Service
9:30 am**
**www.ioniafirst.
com**

**October
2017
Newsletter**



From the desk of Pastor Jonathan

"The Lord Remembers"

... and the Lord remembered Hannah. In due time she conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord." (1 Sam. 1:19-20)

Dear Friends,

As most of you are already aware, Jessica and I are looking forward to welcoming a new person into the world this month. Our son will be born sometime around October 18th and will usher us into a whole new chapter of life. This gift has been long awaited and our child will forever remain a living, breathing answer to prayer.

Now, what does it mean that some prayers are answered and others are not? This is a deep mystery, but whether the deep desires of our hearts are fulfilled or not, God acknowledges all our yearning with the promise of eternal and flourishing life. We must look for this signs of this promise coming true in the midst of our grief and uncertainty. After a miscarriage in 2016, Jessica and I were unsure we would be able to have children. And we did not demand this from God; we did not put God to the test. Simply, we hoped, we waited, and we tried to answer God's call in our lives. My testimony is that God gave me the strength for the long periods of sadness and uncertainty in my life. This strength has come in the form of small signs along the way that I am not alone, and that God's love and salvation are, in the end, the only things that truly satisfy. Like Hannah, I have realized that my deepest longing is to be united with One who "knit me in my mother's womb," who "knows the number of the hairs on my head." Like Hannah, we will dedicate our son to the Lord, "in whom we live and move and have our being." In the end, we will turn over to God the gift we desired most to possess. For this droplet of time that we call life is awash in the ocean of God's eternity! What is 60 or 90 or 100 trips around the Sun in the unending life of the Holy Trinity? In the end, it will feel to us who wait upon the Lord as if all our prayers have been answered in a twinkling. In the end, we will fully know that God has not forgotten us... we will know that the Lord remembers all the promises made to humankind. In the end, we will be with Jesus, the lover of our souls; we will belong to him and he to us, and all of life will be a living, breathing answer to prayer.

Jessica and I look forward to sharing the joy of our baby boy with this church family. He is not given so we can feel fulfilled in our lives. He is given so that God's glory may be known among us. May his coming be a sign for everyone that the Lord is God, and that God is with us. And may each of you see and tell the signs of God's faithfulness in your lives. Meanwhile, if any are waiting for answers to prayer, let us encourage one another in the hope of God's salvation. "Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Inside this issue:

Pastor Jonathan's Letter	1
Reports	2
Opportunities	3
Sunday School News/Creative in Christ	4
Prayers & Operation Christmas Child	5
UMW & Cassie Stewart Circle	6
Financial Report/Pledge form	7
Birthday/Anniversary/Schedules	8
October Calendar	9

A publication of
**First United Methodist
Church**
**105 E Main
Ionia, MI 48846**
616.527.1860
www.ioniafirst.com
ioniafirst@gmail.com

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has been busy securing speakers and music for the time that Pastor Jonathan will be on paternity leave. So much depends on when Jessica gives birth. You know that babies have a mind of their own as to their appearance in this world. With that in mind, please be patient with this process. We do have speakers in place for October 29th and November 5th. We are also blessed to have Joe, Betsy and Greg Adamus (new to our community), and Sue, Mindy, Warren and Mary Cusack sing for us. Just enjoy this time with our community at First.

Missions News

Missions are on-going with the CROP Walk coming on October 1st. Look for those individuals that have envelopes for walkers. Generally, Al MacDonald and Marge Bowne lead our congregation, and this year Pastor Jonathan is also walking. Again, monies go to the Ionia County Commission on Aging and the CROP Organization.

The disbursement of the Endowment Funds should be soon. Once again the committee has decided to distribute \$500 to the Christmas Basket initiative, an undetermined amount to a local mission, with the rest to go to UMCOR, especially for fire and hurricane victims.

On Monday, October 16th, Sandy and Delbert Groves will be in our fellowship hall to explain their ministry. We support their New Life Program. It is believed they will set up their display around 11 a.m., with a potluck lunch at 12 noon. Their work is so interesting. Please plan to attend. All Methodist churches have been invited.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Trustees

As of this writing, the plumbing and mold situation at the parsonage has not been taken care of.

Ken Felice has secured a 3 year contract with the county for snowplowing the parking lot during the week. Randy Main will take care of snow removal on the sidewalks again this year. We are still looking for someone to plow the parking lot on weekends.

Joel Kilgore will repair the stairs on the west side of the church.

The organ needs tuning and maintenance. There was a special offering at the Hymn Sing/Organ Festival on Sept. 24th which will help a great deal with that expense.

Wilson's inspected the boiler, and that is now ready for use when cold weather comes.

recognitions and for the late summer "Trash and Treasure Sale." The pay is to feel the sense the satisfaction experienced when you reached out and improved someone else's life, knowing that you perhaps have been that "one little candle." The bonus is that you have bonded more closely with members of your own church family and enjoyed a priceless fellowship, that you have received a support to those with which you have worked.

OPPORTUNITIES

UMW BOARD

The UMW Board has openings for several new members. Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30p.m. No particular talents are essential. Input of new ideas and incentives are needed for traditional and new events.

BRUNCH POTLUCKS

On April 23rd we started what we hope will be a new tradition. There will be a potluck brunch at 10:30 following our church service. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. This will be a once a month meal, and beginning in May, it will take place on the 3rd Sunday.

THE IONIA COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

is looking for volunteer tutors to help adults improve their reading, math or English speaking skills. Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer project? if this sounds like you, please visit our website: www.ioniacountyliteracycouncil.org and call us at 616-389-8529 or email: ionialiteracy@gmail.com We are also reaching out to those who need our services!

St. Joseph, MO Mission

I have found a mission for prescription bottles in St. Joseph, MO. There is a large public clinic that is accepting used prescription bottles. Stripping the labels before washing the bottles makes the labels come off much easier without leaving the bottles sticky.

CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE

To volunteer to participate in Hands on Mission Projects, plan to join the Cassie Stewart Circle which meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Attendance at each meeting is not a requirement. Just come and assist whenever convenient. We promise a great fellowship, a time to share and get acquainted in addition to participating in a mission project. Activities vary each month.

NURSERY

We are in need of ladies to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The more volunteers we have, the less often you will be asked to help. Contact Marie in the church office (527-1860)

CHURCH GARDENS

If anyone would like to bring flowers and plant them around the church AND take care of them, you are welcome to do so. We will not be ordering geraniums this year.

DO YOU LIKE GARDENING?

Judy Rozeboom has been taking care of our church gardens and picking up around the property for a long time. She would like to have someone who could help with these projects. If you would be interested, please call the church office at 527-1860.

Sunday School News

We have had a great start this fall getting right back into His Word. We are studying Genesis, the Creation Story, Adam and Eve and then First Sin. They have changed the format for Faithweaver Connect and I am having a hard time finding the Congregation log in for this year, so you can stay astride of our lessons. When I get it figured out I will have it printed in the bulletin.

We are so happy to have the children together, eager to hear of God's love and the promise of their salvation! To date we have 3 teachers, however, we need several more if we are to conduct our class as instructed in the Book of Discipline. Each time we meet we are supposed to have 2 adults in class. Right now...we are not within these guidelines. Please give prayerful consideration to being a part of our Jr. Church studies. Your commitment would include meeting with the teachers, understanding and helping prepare the study time, (Bible passages, games, crafts) and joining in a very rewarding outreach. If you have questions you can speak with Pastor Jonathan, Jana Fedon, Amber Campbell or Eric Asher. This is our team right now. We are HOPING to make a Christmas float for the parade this year. We need 3 things: Garage to build it in and store for approx. 3 weeks, a flatbed trailer we can decorate and support...either financial or volunteering to join in the build.

Representing our children and church in our community may help bring other families to join us.

Christmas Program: we are in the early stages of planning a children's presentation of Luke 2 this Christmas. There is an option of joining the Lyons/Muir children with ours for fellowship, a more comprehensive program. And just getting to know each other better! Updates will be in the bulletin.

1st United Methodist Church was represented at the Bertha Brock Fall Festival this year! What a fantastic day! Phil and Jana Fedon hosted a "Paint a Pet Rock" table. We had taken almost 200 rocks and came home with 20 left! While the kids painted we took that opportunity to give their parents a pamphlet Pastor Jonathan had prepared, and introduce ourselves to them. We invited them to come visit, pray, praise and give thanks with us. Please pray the Holy Spirit moves them to seek us out.

Please keep all our children and teachers in prayer that we teach according to His Word, keeping true to the directions He gave us.

Thank You,

Jana



The Lakewood Area Choral Society will be putting on a concert At Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday October 1st. There will be a free will offering.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

With the beginning of October, our thoughts turn to the holidays ahead. Samaritan's Purse last year distributed 11,486,773 shoe boxes to children in 104 countries. (9,122,910 came from the United States with the other 2,363,863 from Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.)

Many times this is the first gift a child has ever received.

Here at First, our UMW is collecting items and filling shoe boxes, or you can take a shoe box and a brochure that explains what can and cannot be sent, and fill it yourself.

Samaritan's Purse volunteers deliver the shoe boxes along with biblical literature in the languages the children understand in each country. Then they follow up with classes for the children to learn about Jesus, and many of them accept Him as their personal Savior.

This is a very worthwhile mission, and we are excited to take part in it.

Please join us by filling a shoe box and, or helping with the shipping and handling cost of \$9.00 per box. They must be returned to the church no later than November 12th.

Let's help make this a very Merry and Meaningful Christmas for God's children all over the world.

Thank you,

The United Methodist Women

**PLEASE PRAY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD
FOR:**

(E-mail prayer requests to
sharron67@charter.net)

Prayers for those in the military:

Adam Cook-Green Beret, Afghanistan
Nick Murray-Aircraft Carrier, Bremerton WA
Andy Hoort-Nurse, Ret. Royal Oak, MI
Ross Marshall, Navy, Submarine, Groton, CT
**Daniel Zander-Major U.S. Army Ft. Lewis-
McChord**
Duane Baliff
Austin Campbell - Air Force

Prayers for:

Carol Newkirk	Mary Vernon
Stuart Weisgerber	Elizabeth Smith-
Bryant Adams	Steve Lampman-
Hunter Wagner	Julie Englehart
Joy Hood	Don Fell
Mark Workman	Gary Hanson
Elisha & Crystal Stock	Robert Zander
Barb Helmer	Katherine Ash
Scott Burkman	Nicole Rhodes
Carol Adkinson	Amanda Bishop
Jerry Lawrence	David May
Nancy & David Carle	Arlene Roland



UMW/CASSIE STEWART CIRCLE NEWS

Recently wherever we have gone, we have heard repeatedly discussions involving "change". Who? What? Why? When? How? Here at First, it is the same. **Who?--We. We** have been a part of the Heartland District which has been one of six districts in the West Central Conference. **What?** The West Central Conference and the Detroit Conference are now in the process of merging. The Heartland's District is being dissolved and absorbed by our three neighboring districts, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Lansing. **Why?** Because of the reorganizational plan voted to be accepted at the Annual Conference. **When?** The changes are now being made and the final reorganizational plan will be in place by January 2018. **How? How will it affect us?** We must wait and see. In the meantime, pray that this new alignment will be an improvement for all groups affected and **that** we here at First **may we continue to grow and strengthen as we endeavor to serve our loving God.**

And so, it is with us, Ionia First United Methodist Church's United Methodist Women and Cassie Stewart Circle. We have met and planned for the coming year not knowing exactly how we will be affected by the above described changes. **We must look forward to where we are headed in the future. Our priorities include a desire to serve our church, to support the missions advocated, and to be a positive influence in our community. Your UMW is looking forward to the future and how to plan for all that is changing, not only here at First but also in the economy and how it affects our membership, it's capability to contribute financially and time wise.**

The complete year is planned, but at this time I will project only the next three month's activities. **PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL BE COLLECTING FOR THE SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES IN OCTOBER. SEE THE DISPLAY IN THE NARTHEX. ALSO CHECK THE 2017-2018 CALENDAR BELOW.**

Peg

<u>October</u>		<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
1	Support CROP Walk			1	Church Women United 10:00 am
3	UMW Mtg. 1:30 p.m.	3	Church Women United 10:00 a.m.	5	UMW Mtg. 1:30 p.m.
6	Church Women United 10:00 a.m.	7	UMW Mtg. 1:30 p.m.	11	Cassie Stewart 2:30 p.m.
9	Cassie Stewart 1:30 p.m.	13	Cassie Stewart 1:30	18-23	CHRISTMAS BASKET CULMINATION
10*	Women's Night Out	18**	Bazaar	23	DELIVERY OF BASKETS
15	Women's Sunday	25	Gift Tree up		
21*	Annual Conference Mt. Pleasant SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOX MISSION		SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOX MISSION		

* District Event. If interested in going, contact Peg.

** If we don't have eight booths by Nov. 10, it will be canceled.

	Attendance	Giving	Needed
Aug. 11	Electronic giving	\$2,516.00	
Aug. 25	Electronic giving	\$ 720.00	
Aug. 27	60	\$1,612.50	\$3,000
Sept. 3	43	\$1,793.71	\$3,000
Sept. 10	58	\$1,360.00	\$3,000
Sept. 17	65	\$1,415.00	\$3,000
Sept. 24	69	\$1,957.00	\$3,000

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Our courageous giving is an act of discipleship: we give as an act of faith in the God who sees our suffering and responds; we give out of love for the God who first loved us; we give because there is hope in the God who promises eternal life in Jesus Christ. We give because we see a direct connection between this local church and the revelation of the kingdom of God.

**All are invited to pledge in support of what God is doing
at Ionia First UMC.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ (NAME) _____

CELL PHONE: _____ (NAME) _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOUSEHOLD PLEDGE AMOUNT: GENERAL FUND

\$ _____

PER MONTH _____

PER YEAR _____

If you have not turned in your pledge for 2018 yet, please take the time now and bring or send it in so we can set our budget for next year.

We also have forms at the church if you would rather pick one up here.

Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

October

- 1 James Batista
- 4 Philip Kahl
- 4 John Podoll
- 5 Chasity Fedon
- 8 Payton Batista
- 17 Mike Schumacher
- 17 Penny Wineman
- 22 Sharron Chapman
- 29 Joyce Masengale
- 29 Mitch Mercer
- 30 Joe Brown



October Anniversaries

- 15 Chris & Noelle Podoll*
- 26 Brian & Mindy Talbot*

So Happy You're Here!

Welcome new members Don and Virginia Washburn.

October

Greeters

- Oct. 1 Al & Joan MacDonald
- Oct. 8 Brad & Amber Campbell
- Oct. 15 Marge Bowne
- Oct. 22 Dick & Jackie Christiansen
- Oct. 29 Dave & Roxanne Stiles

Note: If you have agreed to serve as a greeter on a Sunday morning, but find that you cannot do so, please call Peg (527-2433) or the church office (527-1860).

October

Nursery

- Oct. 1
- Oct. 8
- Oct. 15
- Oct. 22
- Oct. 29

We can always use more people to help in the nursery. If you would like to volunteer, please call Marie Church (616-755-3207) or the church office (527-1860).

October 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion 2:00 pm CROP Walk	2 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen	3 9:30 am Friendship Committee 1:30 pm UMW	4	5	6	7
8 Noisy Offering	9 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 1:30 pm Cassie Stewart Circle	10	11	12	13	14
15 Mission Sunday 10:30 am Potluck Brunch	16 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 12:00 noon Potluck Lunch with the Groves 7:00 pm Ad Board	17	18	19	20	21
22 1:30 pm S.P.R.C. 2:30 pm Church Charge Conference	23 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen	24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28
29	30 6:00 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Missions meeting	31				Mission Enrich



**105 E. Main Street
Ionia, MI 48846**

Service 9:30am

Check it out!

www.ioniafirst.com

*Monday, October 16
At 12:00 noon
Potluck Lunch with
Delbert and Sandy Groves
Our missionaries from
New Life Center in Zambia*

