





INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2-3	The View From Rev Bob
4	Worship at Ferndale First
5	Mission & Outreach
6	Christian Education &
	United Methodist Women
7	Giving & Living
8	Other Opportunities
Q	Calendar



Deadline for the July-August

issue is June 20, Please submit your articles to our office by that time. The late due date allows for more timely information but *requires your cooperation*. NOTE: This is a combined issue, so please submit information for two months.

Our Mission:

Believe: We Know Christ

Belong: We love Christ

Become: We serve Christ

The View From Here

monthly reflections from Rev. Bob

What the Bible Says About ...

The Bible was never intended to be the easy answer book, divine or otherwise. What the Bible does give us is a glimpse into the heart of God — how God acts and what God values. Thus, verses of scripture aren't meant to be proof texts that give us the last word on this or that. They are simply windows through which we see flashes of what God wants for the world. The *how* God often leaves up to us.

Some would argue that these were written for ancient Israel or the early church; maybe they don't even apply. If that's so, then why bother with a Bible at all? Rather, subject to honest interpretation, most of the time we can be quite certain of what God wants for all God's people and our life together with God and all creation on this planet. Try some of these (taken from *The Common English Bible*):

Immigrants: (also translated as *aliens, strangers, sojourners, foreigners, refugees*)

- When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 10.33–34)
- There will be one set of instructions and one legal norm for the immigrant and for you. (Numbers 15.16)
- ... because the Lord your God is the God of all gods and Lord of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn't play favorites and doesn't take bribes. He enacts justice for orphans and widow, and he loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants ... (Deuteronomy 10.17–19) (and many, many more similar)

Justice:

- Don't undermine the justice that your poor deserve in their lawsuits. (Exodus 23.6)
- Appoint judges and officials ... they must judge the people fairly. Don't delay justice; don't show favoritism. Don't take bribes because bribery blinds the vision of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. (Deuteronomy 16.18–19)
- Doom to those who pronounce wicked decrees and keep writing harmful laws to deprive the needy of their rights and to rob the poor among my people of justice; to make widows their loot; to steal from orphans! What will you do on the day of punishment when disaster comes from far away? To whom will you flee for help; where will you stash your wealth? (Isaiah 10.1–3)
- But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5.24)
- He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6.8)
- Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7.12)
- ... I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me. (Matthew 25.40) (and many more throughout the Bible)

...most of the time we can be quite certain of what God wants...

First Life, a free newsletter, is published 10 or more times a year for member, friends and guest of **Ferndale First United Methodist** Church.

Our mailing address is: 22311 Woodward Ave. Ferndale, MI 48220

On the web at: www.ferndalefirstumc.org E-mail us at: ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net

Find and Friend us on Facebook

Phone: 248-545-4467 Fax: 248-545-0238

Editor: Stacy Bellman Minister: Robert Schoenhals

Military Build-up:

- God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. (Isajah 2.4 & Micah 4.3)
- ... I, the Lord their God, will save them; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen. (Hosea 1.7)
- On that day, I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the creeping creatures of the fertile ground. I will do away with the bow, the sword, and war from the land; I will make you lie down in safety. (Hosea 2.18)
- Kings aren't saved by the strength of their armies; warriors aren't rescued by how much power they have. A warhorse is a bad bet for victory; it can't save despite its great strength. But look here: the Lord's eyes watch all who honor him, all who wait for his faithful love, to deliver their lives from death and keep them alive during a famine. (Psalm 33.16–18)
- Then Jesus said to them, "Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26.52) (throughout the Bible an evolution away from violent solutions can be seen when we study in historical context)

We've barely scratched the surface and have plenty of food for thought. Next month we'll look at what the Bible says about some other issues that affect our planet. Meanwhile, I'm giving thanks that we have a generation of young people coming along, including some of our graduates, who really care about what is happening on this earth — the earth that we are constantly passing on to them. God guide our hearts and minds.

Bob

Kids Club Singers ready to sing for Festival of the Christian Home (Mothers Day)



Air Conditioning Update

Our project to air condition the sanctuary got off to a strong start with more than 10% of our initial goal raised on the first Sunday, May 21. This project has been considered for a long time and was accidentally left off our agenda at last fall's Church Conference, so we lost valuable time then, later approved by the Administrative Council. Our goal is to raise *at least* \$10,000 by October 1 and complete the project before next summer. The Trustees have capped the total expenditure at no more than \$100,000, and are seeking bids, and our Finance and Endowment officers are figuring the most cost effective approach for obtaining the remainder, whether it's borrowing from ourselves and temporarily losing that interest or borrowing from the United Methodist Union at a relatively low rate. The aesthetics of the sanctuary are a major consideration as well.

We are a Reconciling Congregation, which means:

The people of Ferndale First United Methodist Church are called to share God's love as we minister with and to all persons, providing worship, nurture, fellowship, and service. Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, family configuration, and economic condition, physical or mental ability. We embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation. We cooperate in ministry with other local churches and groups of God's people as we participate in the worldwide mission of Christ. (based on 2 Corinthians 5.18)

We are a Sanctuary

Church. Our Church Council voted to be a church where a family of immigrants and/or refugees could be housed temporarily in an emergency to prevent them from being deported or separated. This is a major step in the life of our congregation, so we will soon be offering a training/ information session on what it means to be a Sanctuary Church so our whole membership and Good Shepherd congregation can be aware of what is involved. (Meanwhile 7 of our members have received training and more information is available online from Michigan Unit-

ed, www.miunited.org)

Worship at Ferndale First

Worship at Ferndale First UMC in June *

Summer arrives, full tilt, with some of the best Sundays of the year before settling into what the Church Year calls *Ordinary Time*. Ordinary Time is simply the liturgical word for the Sundays after Pentecost, not because the days or the texts or the services are "ordinary," in the common sense of that word. Later in June a series of messages from Genesis will begin that will take us through much of the summer. God has surprises in June!

- June 4 Pentecost, celebrating the birthday of the Christian church and the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, to live in the world and empower Christ's people to even more than Jesus did during his earthly life. Several guest speakers will provide leadership while Sam Carter and Pastor are attending Annual Conference. Message: George Grant will bring the message, with others participating.
- June 11 Trinity Sunday, *Graduation Sunday;* our graduates (at all levels, HS and up) will be recognized (please inform our office of any you know). We'll also hear what the Bible has to say about caring for our planet, creation and the atmosphere around us all. Message: *Religion of the Ozone*, Genesis 1.1–2.2, Psalm 24 and 19 (portions), and other pertinent texts.
- June 18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost; *Father's Day;* we'll recognize dads and those father figures who have influenced our lives; Chancel Choir's last anthem of the season and *Holy Communion* for fathers. Message: *Sarah Laughed*, Genesis 18.1–15, begins a summer series of messages from the lives of the matriarchs and patriarchs of Genesis. *Holy Communion* in respect of fathers and families and *A nointing with Oil* will be offered.
- June 25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost; the families of Genesis give us insights into what it takes for families to thrive in the face of all kinds of pressures; sometimes you can do everything right and things still go wrong, but God brings hope and change. Message: Family Feud, Genesis Style, Genesis 21.8–21.

Who would you like to invite to worship with you next Sunday? (Depending on whose research you read, 65–85% of all people who attend a church for the first time come because they were invited by a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative.)

* Plans are to remain in the sanctuary for worship through June. After that, the weather will likely force us to worship in the Social Hall. All messages subject to change with circumstances.

Serving in June

Liturgists

- 4 Lu Downing
- 11 Bob Porter
- 18 Milzie Murdock
- 25 Marilyn Hart

Ushers

Richard Churchill Dot Carter Nikki Vance

Coffee Hour

- 4 Shirley Davis &
- 5 Coffee Hour Staff
- 11 Elizabeth Nasser & Beatrice Siwak
- 18 Bob & Mary Lenaway
- 25 Willie & Verdell Bell & Mildred Allwood

Counters

Karen King Margaret Churchill

Greeters:

Verdell Bell Annie Mitchell

Ushers Needed. We need a few additional ushers. We can work out a schedule that will fit your needs. If you are willing to serve the church in this way, please see Liz Nasser or Richard Churchill.

Greeters needed: We need people to be by the red door to greet people each Sunday morning. Would you be interested? If so, Margaret Churchill would love to hear from you. Contact her at 248-547-5769.

FLOWERS, FLOWERS,

FLOWERS!! This is just a reminder that all are invited to celebrate, honor and remember special people and occasions by dedicating the weekly altar floral arrangements. If you are interested in selecting a Sunday to "sponsor" the altar arrangement, please contact the office and let them know, or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. What a wonderful way to beautify our service and make someone feel special! The cost is \$15.00 for each arrangement

Mission and Outreach

Parents Night Out



Please contact Marilyn Hart or the church office or sign up at the volunteer table if you can help. All it takes is a love of children! If you want to do it regularly additional training and certification are available.

Next Parents Night Out Sessions: June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8

Community Dinners Continue

A time to come together as a community in fellowship and enjoy a delicious, nutritious meal. *Free.* No reservations required.

Next Dinners: Wednesdays, June 28, July 26, August 30, September 27, October 25, We need people to sign up for August and September. If you would like to help with set-up, clean-up or cooking the meal, please see the sign up sheets on the stand alone bulletin board in the social hall or please contact Mary Lenaway (248)229-5685. Thank you, Mary and everyone who helps! Cost can be reimbursed.

The Clothes Closet is also open until 7:00 pm on Community Dinner nights.



Summer is here and hopefully it can free up some of your time to do a Coffee Hour! The sign-up sheets are downstairs in the Social Hall or on the table upstairs between the office and the sanctuary. *Committees can sign up too*. For the next three months, we have open Sunday's June 4, July 9, 16, 23, & 30, and all of August.

Please use consideration when signing up for Coffee Hour — please do not take someone else's Sunday that they have chosen without clearing it with them first, well in advance. There are plenty of Sundays still available. (They have planned and prepared for that Sunday and may have spent money getting ready for their Sunday.) We do it graciously (and cooperatively) for the Glory of God.

We can learn from the UMW. They plan for the next New Year in the year they are in. The only thing that can't be planned is a funeral.

Thank you in Advance, Sheila Colvin, Coffee Hour Coordinator



Sympathy to the family and friends of:

Lori Stull, Karen's daughter, passed away unexpectedly. Please keep Karen Roberts & the Stull family in your prayers.

June Birthdays

- 1 William Johnson
- 1 Kyle Kaptur
- 1 Kyle Kaptul 1 – Jacob Knittel
- 2 Paul Shurtliff
- 2 Jenna Kinsman
- 2 Deanna Kinsman
- 4 Janice Liddicoat
- 6 Mary Jo O'Rear
- 14 Cheryl Sibthorpe
- 17 Lu Downing
- 20 Katlyn McDermed
- 21 Alana Lenaway
- 21 Joseph Lemelin
- 23 Melanie Sikes
- 23 Meredith Breach
- 24 Adelle Fry
- 25 June Pagett
- 27 Ronald Davis
- 27 Margaret Churchill
- 28 Ami Mansell
- 28 Hunter Nagy
- 30 Liam Voiles

June Anniversaries

- 2 Jeffrey Nahan & Annette DePetris
- 8 Andrew & Jamie Altman
- 16 Richard & Margaret Churchill
- 17 Nick & Florence Zulick
- 22 Gus & Donna Siegmund



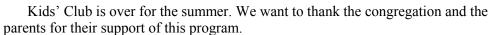
Newsletters by Snail Mail

If you get a hard copy of this

newsletter but would like to receive it by e-mail, please let us know your email address. We have discontinued mailing most, except homebound and those without internet who request hard copies so we encourage you to send us an email address for yourself or a family member or friend who can print it for you. A very limited number of printed newsletters continue to be available at the church. We are using sensible stewardship of our resources. Please contact our office if you need to continue receiving a hard copy via Postal Service. Otherwise we will assume you get it via email or pick up a copy at church.

Christian Education

Kids' Club Thank You



Kids' Club will return in September!! Watch for more information on parent meeting and start date!! It will run on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30 pm It will include kids ages 4 years of age to 7. It will also include music, Bible stories, snacks, and crafts or games. Ms. Kathy Arcese, Ms. Natalie Baeckeroot, & Ms. Alison Hastings.



All gathered around the piano at the Kids' Club Banquet



Pastor's Bible Study continues each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m., in the Lower Level Conference Room. We're currently learning about Bible backgrounds, the kinds of things we never learned in traditional religious education.

Class on Islam

We'll be offering a Wednesday night class on many aspects of Islam so we can truly understand our neighbors better. Class will be a 7pm in the Lower Level Conference Room and will be DVD-based, courtesy of gifts from the Islamic Community Center of West Bloomfield. Watch for details! Tentative start date, June 7.

The United Methodist Women

Dear UMW Ladies,

The month of May was very busy, between sister's class on Mondays and our week of rummage sale. We managed to make a little over \$3,000 on the rummage sale which will take care of our pledge to the district for the year. A huge thank you to all who worked so hard and long all week. It took us a week more to get rid of the leftovers and deliver items.

Thanks, also, to Jill for posting some of our larger items that didn't sell and selling them online for us.

As you read this we will also have been to Gleaners in Pontiac to do a local mission project.

On June 19 we will reward ourselves with a lunch out. We will meet at O'Mara's at Coolidge and 12 Mile to have lunch together. Please RSVP to Fran Eighmey, Kathy Shuller, or Blosel Gordon if you plan to attend. We will need to make a reservation for the group.

There will be no UMW meetings in July or August but we encourage you to join several of us when we go to Mission U July 22 at the Erie UMC. Let me or Liz know if you would like to do that.

Enjoy the summer ladies, and come again refreshed in September but don't forget to come to worship every Sunday.

Dot Carter says, keep reading!!!

Blessings to you all, Kathy Shuller



Weekly Meetings

Tuesdays @ 6 pm Fridays @ Noon Doors open 1/2 hour prior No reservation necessary. To join stop in during above meeting times.



Zumba Class
Saturdays,
11:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
Cost: \$5.00 per class
Amy Smith, the instructor, has
reserved space in our church to
lead a Zumba class.
This is open to everyone. Get fit!

Giving and Living

In my neighborhood, July and August are peak lemonade stand times. Last weekend, I counted no less than three within my block alone. Small entrepreneurs make their fortunes on loose change while I drink my fill of powdery water.

One six-year-old from my faith community named Meredith put out her own lemonade stand to make money, not for a personal goal, but to donate to her parish. Recently, Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church voted to sponsor a refugee family. News came this week that the family was coming, from Myanmar. With stories of millions displaced by war and violence, Saint John's felt called to live out their faith by caring for a family that for nine years lived in a tent in a refugee camp in Thailand. Meredith heard about the plight of refugees in church and her parents kept the conversation going at home, and she decided to do something to help. When her mom asked her why she felt inspired to give back, Meredith said "Because this family has nothing!" Her lemonade stand was a manifestation of her own faith and desire to care for others. Boldly she asked others to join her in giving-and it inspired generosity in return. By the end of the weekend, she had made over twenty-five dollars. Her mom reports that she even threw in two weeks of her own allowance. ...

Transformational giving, as a practice, isn't limited to our children.

Years ago I was working with a church on a capital campaign. Many in that community were on restricted incomes. Yet, that January, the roof quite literally fell in, and a capital campaign became a must. When thinking about giving to a capital campaign, potential gifts come from *extraordinary* sources of income. These extraordinary gifts don't take the place of a parishioner's ordinary annual gift. They are in addition to it.

Following my explanation of this to a group of leaders, a man approached me in his late 70's. He noted that he was living on his monthly social security check and that he pretty much gave as much as he could to the church in his annual pledge.

As I was thanking him for his sacrificial annual giving, his face brightened and he interrupted me. He stated that twice a week he went out for coffee with a group of local guys and threw dice. I admit that at that moment I was afraid of where he was headed with this train of thought.

"I'm willing to give up my coffee money for two years as a gift for the campaign."

Oh, he still would get together with his guys and bet his pennies. But he was willing to drink water instead of coffee and risk his friends' teasing. To this day, this man's gift serves as an example of giving for me.

Lemonade stands and coffee money. Beautiful manifestations of God's grace among us.

Erin Weber-Johnson works as Program Director for Strategic Resources at the Episcopal Church Foundation. In her current capacity she works with Church leaders to faithfully answer the following questions, "What is God calling this organization to be/do?" and "How do we respond?"



Mothers Day flower donations and Planting Day were a big success with help from

Pastor's Discretionary HELP Fund

While we still give some grocery cards and bus passes, these are limited in frequency and amount and require confirmation of their use. This is so we can save larger amounts for those who come with bigger needs, such as utility shutoffs, car repairs, rent, etc. Anyone can contribute an extra, designated gift to this fund at any time. We want to make the fund more effective and place it on a firmer footing by encouraging these extra gifts on each Holy Communion Sunday, (gifts at other times are always welcome). Again, these are "extra" gifts, for those who wish to do something more, over and above their regular, disciplined giving to Christ's church. We have extra envelopes available on which you may write: HELP.

Some people are simply trying to survive, often on the street. If you are approached by someone asking for money, please don't be embarrassed to refer them to Pastor and the HELP Fund. You are strongly encouraged to not give cash. That is why many of you support the fund, so we can help people directly and fairly.

Our goal is to maintain a healthy balance of \$1000 for major needs. We will not give out more cards or assistance funds until the fund is rebuilt. The fund is growing, and we hope to again have our base balance in the near future. Thank you for your generous support.

Empty used prescription

bottles can be sterilized and reused by the Ferndale Free Clinic. We have a box where you can deposit them in the area outside our offices. If you have out of date medications, FernCare Free Clinic will take them. However, please keep them separate from the empty prescription bottles. Try putting them in a clear, sealed plastic bag.

Opportunities Beyond the Local Church

Swords Into Plowshares Pease Center and Gallery presents Focus on the Mission: Diversity and Leadership. A photography exhibit by high school students form diverse backgrounds. May 19 - June 21, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, Enjoy live music and refreshments. For more information see their website. www.swordsintoplowshares313.org.

Camp Changes Lives

Walk in the woods, swim in the lake, and make s'mores over the campfire. Talk about God and how His love transforms us. Try new activities, make friends and sing silly camp songs! Yes! Michigan Area United Methodist Camping offers all this and more. Your children or grandchildren can have all the fun of summer camp and grow in their faith as well.

The new camp brochure is available *outside the church office*. You'll also find special events for adults and families (choir retreat anyone?), as well as RV/tent campgrounds you can visit on your own schedule.

Learn more and register online at http://www.umcamping.org.



FOR SALE: The First United Methodist Finance Committee has reduced the price of the cemetery plot that they would like to sell to \$400. If you are interested and would like to purchase the plot please contact Karen King at (248) 245-1087 or John Ptasznik (248)570-4228.

Need a twin bed (frame, mattress & box spring) Dot & Sam Carter have one to donate. It must be picked up from 3215 Hartslock Woods Dr., West Bloomfield, North of Maple, West of Middlebelt. Contact the Carter's for more information at 248-737-0622.

Contact us:

Regular Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Voice mail available 24 hours)

Minister's Hours:* Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 12:30 p.m. - 4 pm or later Wed., late afternoons/evenings by appointment *subject to change as pastoral and family needs dictate; appointments are always welcome

Ways to Connect:

Church Phone: 248-545-4467

Fax: 248-545-0238

Website:

www.ferndalefirstumc.org

E-mail:

ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net Find and Friend us on Facebook *Minister's Home Phone:*

248-268-2248

Minister's Cell Phone: 248-837-

5608

Minister's Church Email: rschoenhals@sbcglobal.net

People connections:

Rev. Robert D. Schoenhals Minister Joseph Rush Organist, Director of Music, Chancel and Handbell Choirs Stacy Bellman Office Manager Deb Gehart Special Needs Educator

Larger church connections:

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue District Superintendent Bishop David Bard Michigan Area Bishop

The United Methodist Church: www.umc.org General Bd of Church & Society: www.umc-gbcs.org **UM Communications:** www.umcom.org or rethinkchurch.org General Bd. of Discipleship: www.gbod.org or upperroom.org General Bd of Global Ministries: www.gbgm.org or umcor.org General Bd of Higher Ed & Ministry: www.gbhem.org **Publishing House & Online** Bookstore: www.umph.org or cokesbury.com **United Methodist Camping** (in Michigan): something for all ages

www.umccamps.org



JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First United Methodist Church of Ferndale 22331 Woodward Ave Ferndale MI, 48220 Phone: 2485454467 Fax: 2485450238 E-mail: ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net				1 Detroit Annual Conference	2 Detroit Annual Conference	3 Detroit Annual Conference
4 Detroit Annual Conference PENTECOST Sunday	5 6:30 p.m. DATC	6 6:30 p.m. DATC	7 Deadline for Parents Night Out 6:30 p.m. DATC 7pm Islam Study	8 6:30 p.m. DATC	9 6:00 pm. Parents Night Out	10
11 Graduation Sunday	12 6:30 p.m. DATC	13 6:30 p.m. DATC	14 6:30 p.m. DATC 7pm Islam Study	15 6:30 p.m. DATC 9:00 a.m. FemCare Free Clinic	16 9:00 a.m. FemCare Free Clinic	17 8:00 a.m. FemCare Free Clinic
18 Father's Day 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	19 Sisters luncheon to O'Mara's	20 7:00 p.m. Worship, Music, & Fine Arts Meeting	21 6:30 p.m. Together We Can 7pm Islam Study	22 7:00 p.m. Peace Action of Michigan	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:00 p.m. Free Community Din- ner & Clothes Closet Open 7pm Islam Study	29	30	

Regular Church-related Activities:

Sundays:

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Christ the Good Shepherd Church's

Mass (Chapel)

10:30 am Worship Service

Mondays:

12 Noon Sisters Class

Wednesdays:

7:00 pm Christ the Good Shepherd Evening Mass

Thursdays:

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (through June 8)

OTHER ON GOING ACTIVITIES

Other Regular Activities:

Sundays: 8:00 pm Young People Can AA

Mondays-Fridays: 10:00 am Overeaters Anonymous

Mondays- Thursdays: 6:30 pm

DATC Rehearsal

Tuesdays: 6:00 pm **Fridays** 12 Noon Weight Watchers

Saturdays: 11:30 am

Zumba Class

First United Methodist Church of Ferndale

22331 Woodward Ave Ferndale MI, 48220



