



First Life

news from Ferndale First United Methodist Church

September 2018



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Deadline for the October issue is **September 20**, Please submit your articles to our office by that time. The late due date allows for more timely information but *requires your cooperation.*

Our Mission:

Believe: *We Know Christ*

Belong: *We love Christ*

Become: *We serve Christ*

The people of First United Methodist Church Ferndale believe in Christ, belong to Christ, and strive to become like Christ.

The View From Here

monthly reflections from Rev. Bob

Labor is More Than a Day to Jesus

Some years ago on Labor Sunday, as I nearly always do, I included an insert in the bulletin with the United Methodist Social Principles' statements on labor and the rights of workers. (The actual statements can be read here: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/economic-community>). In fact, the very first UM Social Creed of more than 100 years ago grew out of the movement for workers' rights. I undoubtedly mentioned something about labor in the message that day. One woman, a mid-level executive with a Big Three auto maker, decided that was the last straw and took her family elsewhere for the duration of my ministry there, even though I had only been their pastor for two months at the time. The Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, a newcomer to the committee and to much of church life, asked, "Can you say that here?" as if I needed permission to preach what the Bible teaches.

We've all heard often enough about Wall Street versus Main Street and the 1% and the rest of us. Most of the research shows that a raise in the minimum wage to a fair living wage would benefit the entire country, especially when so many working people are employed at two and sometimes three jobs just to keep a roof over their heads, food on their tables and a vehicle on the road. Many of the people who come to our church for assistance are employed, and several who once owned vehicles now rely on bus passes to keep getting to work.

The much-touted (by the administration) tax cuts of 2017 were sold as benefiting working people too. A recent analysis of where the cuts to the Fortune 500 went revealed that only 4.3% of employees would receive a one-time bonus or wage increase, and, in fact, 433 of those 500 companies had no plans to share their tax cuts with their employees. (*Newsweek*, April 10)

A June editorial in *Christian Century* magazine said, "... there is lots of evidence that in order to find and keep a job people need access to medical care as well as affordable housing, transportation and child care. The morally responsible society is one that gives struggling people the basic social supports they need to flourish."

What we don't often hear is what Jesus had to say, or we miss it because we don't catch his drift. The Hebrew prophets emphasized the rights of workers over and over in their writings, even while they were calling to account corrupt employers and uncaring leaders. *It's no accident that Jesus was regularly referred to as a prophet by the people in his society.* His message, so often missed today, was clear and troublesome to the powerful of his day.

Luke reminds us that for his first public sermon Jesus took as his text Isaiah 61.1-2 which he paraphrased like this: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.* (Luke 4.8-19, CEB)

So what does that have to do with labor? In Jesus' day most of those prisoners were there due to debt. Punishing struggling people just because they're poor isn't just a modern phenomenon. And once they were imprisoned their ability to work in order to pay the debt was on hold and maybe lost forever. It's also significant that his call to liberate the oppressed and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor are back-to-back. The oppressed were (and are) the powerless, those left behind or used and then discarded by powerful and privileged people, and sometimes in our day, corporations. Here, too, the rights of workers enter in. The year of the Lord's favor refers to the Hebrew concept of the Year of Jubilee, one of the great justice ideas in all of human history, thanks to God and Israel. Whereas every 7th year debtors were to be released from prison, on the 49th year all previous debts were forgiven and any land given in payment for debt returned to its original owner!

*we all live
together in this
world*

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

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The children of the debtor (as well as the debtor if still living) would get a fresh start and enough to begin again without begging. The ability to do work for a living wage and to keep what was one's own without losing it permanently was part of Jesus' first sermon!

Jesus was calling his people back to the idea that we all live together in this world and we are responsible to treat each other fairly and well. The fact that they frequently ignored Isaiah and decided to eliminate Jesus doesn't negate the fact that this is God's will: enough to thrive with freedom! Later in Luke's Gospel Jesus says, "... workers deserve their pay." Elsewhere in the Second Testament Paul and James join the chorus of workers' rights that began with the ancient Law of Moses and continued throughout the Bible.

No, we are no longer a land-based society, so the year of God's favor needs to be reinterpreted to fit a currency-based culture, but the basic principles of fairness to workers and people over profits are at least as important today when the disparity between the wealthiest and the rest is probably even greater than it was in Jesus' day. It is certainly similar.

It would all sound hopelessly naïve, except that there are examples of companies out there that have taken these principles to heart, and they have thrived because of it while earning the loyalty of their employees. Justice can apply in the workplace!

Sadly, Labor Sunday is no longer on the official UM calendar of special Sundays. I find that disappointing to say the least, so I continue to celebrate it wherever I serve. One wise workers' rights advocate said it well, "*When everyone gains, everyone gains.*" It's not just good business sense. It's the will of God.

Bob



Cassie & Michael being sent on a mission by Pastor Bob

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 have been hard at work preparing an apartment/hospitality room for guests. Thanks to Karen King, Kathy Arcese and Jill Warren who have put their purchasing and decorating skills to good use. (Meanwhile 7 of our members have received sanctuary training, others attended an informational meeting and more information is available online from Michigan United, www.miunited.org)*

Worship at Ferndale First

September

September brings a time of renewed energy and a sense of new life, even as fall descends on us. It's a bracing time to be alive and a wonderful time to renew our commitment to worshipping together with the rest of the Body of Christ, especially with so many good Sundays lying ahead!

September 2 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost; Labor Sunday; Please wear your “work” clothes to worship as we celebrate the labor we all do and the life that makes it possible. Jesus takes issue with the traditions of his religion; do we dare too? Message: *Wash Before You Eat*, Mark 7.1–8, 14–15, 20–23. *Holy Communion* and *Anointing* in dedication of our work, whatever that may be.

September 9 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost; two amazing and puzzling healing stories from the life of Jesus give us glimpses into how God operates and what God values. Did Jesus goof? We might be surprised. Message: *Ephphatha*, Mark 6.7–13. *All Church Picnic follows this service.*

September 16 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost; the book of Proverbs is a puzzle in many ways, but we can unravel much of it. Let's try to get a good start at understanding and growing in our own wisdom. Then we'll have something great to pass on to the next generation. Message: *Becoming a Spiritual Sophomore*, Proverbs 2.1–9.

September 23 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost; the Proverbs description of a godly woman is quaint by today's standards and probably even a bit offensive. But there's still a wealth of insight to be mined when we look at the “ideal” woman's womanhood. Message: *Wisdom and Wonder Woman*, Proverbs 31.10–31.

September 30 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost; Jesus' disciples were old enough to know better, but they argued over who would be greatest in Christ's coming kingdom. Jesus answered by taking a little child onto his lap. Then he spoke. Message: *Who's Greatest? What's Great?* Mark 9.30–37.

Who would you like to invite to worship with you next Sunday? (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.)

* All messages subject to change with circumstances or possible vacation Sundays.



Sue and Owen playing duet during worship.

Serving in September

Liturgists:

2 - Sam Carter
9 - Blossel Gordon
16 - Donna Siegmund
23 - Alison Hastings
30 - Norm Kern

Ushers:

Liz Nasser
Mollie Monroe
Milzie Murdock

Coffee Hour:

2 - Larry Saville
(Labor Day Brunch)
9 - Church Picnic
16 - *Volunteer Needed*
23 - Richard & Margaret Churchill
30 - *Volunteer Needed*

Counters:

(additional Counter needed; contact Karen King)

Karen King
Kathy Arcese
Natalie Baeckeroot

Greeters:

Margaret Churchill



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

FREE Community Dinners The Last Wednesday of every month

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

Next Dinners:

September 26

October 31

November 28

December 26



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. Cost can be reimbursed.**

Thank you, Mary and everyone who helps!

The Clothes Closet is also open until 7:00 pm on Community Dinner nights and is located in Room 105 at the end of the lower level hall.

The United Methodist Women

Dear Sisters of the UMW,

Here it is September already. Sure don't know what happened to summer. We have some interesting and fun things planned for you in September. First, on the 8th we have our fashion show and luncheon. We hope to see all of you there with your friends so we have a wonderful turnout and a fun time. If you found something special to wear at the rummage sale, don't forget to model it for us!

Monday, September 10, we will be sponsoring a potluck for the whole church at noon, and have the honor to host one of our missionaries sponsored by the Global ministries of the UM church. She is Mary Zigbuo and has spent years in the field, mostly in Liberia. We need to fill the social hall to show our support.

The district meeting of the UMW and the Conference meeting of the UMW are in October and all are welcome to go with us. If interested, see me, Blossel, Alison, Liz, or Dot for details.

Welcome to fall.

See you in church,
Kathy



Ms. Annie Mitchell's
Birthday and Anniversary
Cake celebration



I'm so lucky you are always so great to me! Thank you Church Family for all your prayers. Love you all.

Love Terry Smith



- 13 - Nicholas & Joyce Luxon
- 25 - Mark & Julie McManus
- 26 - Ronald & Jennifer Davis



September Birthdays

- 7 - James Shuller
- 7 - Ethan Sines
- 8 - Betty Nicholls
- 9 - Erin Semmelroch
- 10 - Richard Kachadorian
- 10 - Matthew Pauls
- 12 - Rosie Samuels
- 15 - John O'Rear
- 17 - Renee Polzin
- 17 - Christina Venable
- 18 - Matthew Jones
- 20 - Frances Eighmey
- 20 - Gus Siegmund
- 22 - Megan Little
- 24 - Trish Fry
- 25 - Brain Semmelroch
- 27 - Sheila Colvin
- 29 - Alex Pauls
- 30 - Lindsey Kinsman
- 30 - Lauren Kinsman

Christian Education

FFUMC Family and Friends Picnic

Save the date September 9, 2018 at Green Acres Park in Ferndale/Hazel Park

This is our Kick Off Sunday for Sunday School and Adult Class. We have pavilions 1 and 3 this year, which are very close to the rest rooms and our pavilions also have electricity. We will be at the park from 11am–5pm. The park has a volleyball net and a horseshoe pit. You will need to bring your own volleyball and horseshoes to use them. You can also bring any other games you like. There is a nice playground for the children. Join us for a fun-filled day at the park and bring your family and friends. Even if you can't stay the entire time, peek in on the fun to just say *Hi*. The park is located at 9 1/2 Mile west of I-75 Hazel Park, MI 48030. 620 W. Woodward Heights Blvd, Hazel Park.

Kids Club

Hello Families!!!

Hip Hip Hooray!!! Kids' Club Announcement!!!!



KIDS' CLUB!!!!!! An after-school program for kids ages 5 to 8. Includes Bible Stories, Songs, Snack, Craft

Thursday, September 13 @ 4:30-5:30 pm Kids' Club starts! (meet the teacher, registration, snack sign up)

First United Methodist of Ferndale/Education Wing/Room 205

Ms. Alison Hastings, 248-268-4616

Ms. Kathy Arcese, 248-635-5919

Ms. Natalie Baeckeroot, 248-739-0857

Worship, Music and Fine Arts

DSO at Ferndale First

DSO flautist, Jeff Zook, and friends will be performing in our sanctuary on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 7:00 pm. Join this DSO Trio for an evening of solos, duos and trios featuring music by a grand variety of artists. This entertaining group will share with you what it's like to have a life career playing in the Detroit Symphony: how they got there and what they do today to maintain their positions in this most prestigious ensemble. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

FUMC members can call the church office to reserve your complimentary ticket! 248-545-4467. We have 20 free tickets.

Artists

Jeff Zook, flute

Sheryl Hwangbo, violin

David LeDoux, cello

Coffee Hour



Hi Everyone,

Well how is it September — where did the summer go? It sure went by fast. Well it is back to school! (Happy Moms and Dads. Ha!)

Also, some committees are coming back together after time off, so now is a good time for them to ask, what Sunday are we taking for a Coffee Hour? I know some are thinking that they are on other committees or I do this or that in the church, well but so are the people who do coffee hour on a regular basis. I have a committee who signs up in November and each one on that committee is also on other committees. Please consider taking a Sunday, even if you are on several committees. You only have to bring in a snack like donuts, bagels, cupcakes, cake, cookies, brownies, cheese & crackers, or anything you choose.

I thank you in advance,
Shelia Colvin
Coffee Hour Coordinator



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.***

Giving and Living

There is a counter-cultural lifestyle that is gaining speed all over the world, and especially here in the U.S. It's called *minimalism*, and those who live as minimalists aim to live a different lifestyle than what society tells us we should be living.

Minimalism is about focusing on what matters most in life and intentionally removing everything else. ... If you had to distill your life down to what matters most, what would remain?

None of this is new. Jesus was all over it, because even in his time people were having a hard time focusing on what really matters.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:25, 31-33)

At the core, Jesus is freeing us from having to strive for what society wants. Jesus is freeing us from working *so hard* to be what we are told we *have to be* — we can let go from society's expectations of us, and trust that God will give us what we need. Jesus is reminding us: "I got this. Seek me first, and the rest will fall into place." It's so simple, yet much of the time we forget.

So what does this mean for our lives? What would it look like to be more intentional about how we spend our time, our money, our energy? What would life look like if we experienced the freedom Jesus offers us from societal expectations? How would we live differently if we trusted God's promise to provide what we need for the type of life Jesus is calling us to live? What would a simpler life look like? Congratulations. You are now thinking like a Christian minimalist! ...

Pastor Becca Ehrlich is an ELCA pastor serving as Associate Director of Admissions at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia, PA. She blogs about minimalism from a Christian perspective at www.christianminimalism.com.

Pastor's Discretionary HELP Fund

While we still give 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 shut-offs, 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, too.). 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.**

We have some funds, but rent and utility needs have depleted them, so current help is on temporary hold. Thank you for your generous support.



Guest musician Mr. Duncan

Opportunities Beyond the Local Church

Tiny Homes Tours Fundraiser: The Tiny Homes Detroit Community, a Ministry of Cass Community UMC, will once again host a progressive tour as we show off the 6 newest homes before residents move in at 1542 Richton, Detroit, MI 48206. The tours will take place Labor Day Weekend, Saturday 9:00 a.m – 7:40 p.m and Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:40 p.m. Participants must register in advance at casscommunity.org where you can select a ten minute time slot to view homes. Tickets are \$75.00, or 2 for \$100. The fee includes a progressive meal featuring Cass Catering chef Matt Prentice, one of Cass Community Publishing House's 4 available titles including Tiny Homes in a Big City by Rev. Faith Fowler and a donation to the Tiny Homes Ministry.

Women in Black is having silent protests against the war and violence at home and abroad. The vigils are held on the second Saturday of each month from noon-1 p.m. The locations vary and are as follows: (anyone is welcome to participate)

September 8, Detroit Cultural Center, Putnam & Woodward, Main Library

October 13, Hamtramck, Pop Park, Jos Campau & Belmont

November 10, Grosse Pointe, Kercheval & Notre Dame

December 8, Birmingham, Shain Park, Bates & Martin

60th Annual Men's Barbecue! Big Beaver UMC, Saturday, September 8th 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at 3753 John R. Road, Troy, MI. Tickets on sale now \$10 adults \$5 children (4-12) Children under 4 free. Proceeds fund camping scholarships for children and youth. For more info contact church office at 248-689-1932.

Lay Servant Training classes start Sunday, September 9 –October 21, from 2:30 p.m. –6:00p.m. at Hope UMC at 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48076. Registration deadline is September 9 and cost is \$45. Make check payable to Detroit Renaissance District LSM. See bulletin board for full details.

Think Before You Dial: A Conversation on #LivingWhileBlack, Ferndale Sept. 11 Ferndale, MI- Citizens for Fair Ferndale's Ferndale Inclusion Network presents "Think Before you Dial: A Conversation on #LivingWhileBlack." Come share and learn strategies to avoid racial profiling. Location: Ferndale Public Library Date: Tuesday, September 11th Time: 7:00-8:30 PM More info: <https://www.facebook.com/FerndaleForAll/>

The Greater Detroit District of the United Methodist Church Invites you to the: 7th Annual Hands4Detroit, Hands-with-Detroit October 6, 2018 at 8 AM - Check-In 9 AM - Opening 9:30 AM - Depart to sites 3 PM - Closing 4 PM—Head home. We're joining established community organizations this year! Bring food donations and volunteer for community clean-up, local repair and beautification projects, sorting donated food, hospitality, or give monetary donations and/or pray for the community. On-line Registration opens on 8/19 - go to: www.Hands4Detroit.org



Thanks to all who contributed to our Linking Literature drive: more than 110 backpacks & lots of school supplies were gathered, packed and given out at St. Paul UMC, our neighbor on 8 Mile.

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:

248-677-3903

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 rethink-church.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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First United Methodist Church of Ferndale 22331 Woodward Ave Ferndale MI, 48220-1816 Phone: 2485454467 Fax: 2485450238 E-mail: ferndalefirstumc@ameritech.net						1
2	3	4	5 5:30p Leadership Meal 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 3p Wedding Rehearsal Gage & Youkanna 7p DSO Concert	7 6p CGS ordination Rehearsal	8 10a CGS Ordination 11a UMW Fashion Show 12p Caller Lab 4:30p Wedding Gage & Youkanna
9 11a Church Picnic 11:30 a CGS monthly meeting	10 12 Noon Sisters Guest Missionary Speaker/Pot Luck 7 Trustees Meeting	11	12 5:45p Together We Can Meeting	13 4:30p Kid's Club starts back up	14 1p Nominating Committee Meeting	15 6p Game Night
16	17 10:30a UMW Board Meeting 7p Finance Meeting	18	19	20	21	22
23 1p Crop Walk	24 30	25 7p Ad Council Meeting	26 6p Free Community Dinner 6p Clothes Closet Open	27 7p Peace Action of MI	28	29

Regular Church-related Activities:

- Sundays:**
 9:15 am Sunday School/ Children Sunday School Room 204
 10:30 am Christ the Good Shepherd Church's Mass (Chapel)
 10:30 am Worship Service
- Mondays:**
 12 Noon Sisters Class
- Wednesdays:**
 12:00 pm Interiors Committee
 7:00 pm Christ the Good Shepherd Evening Mass
- Thursdays:**
 4:30 pm Kids Club
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Other Regular Activities:

- Sundays:** 8:00 pm
 Young People Can AA
- Mondays-Fridays:** 10:00 am
 Overeaters Anonymous
- Mondays & Thursdays** 8:00 pm
 Friendly Ferndale AA
- Wednesdays 2nd & 4th** 6:45 pm
 Indivisible Fighting #9
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays** 6:00 am
 D'Vine Cookies

OTHER ON GOING ACTIVITIES

First United Methodist Church of Ferndale
22331 Woodward Ave
Ferndale MI, 48220-1816

