

STEEPLE NEWS

Worshipping Christ... Welcoming All!



Studying God's Word
Connecting with Christ
Serving through Love

Pastor Rev. Thomas Zimmerman
Congregational Care..... Jeanette Brenner
Worship..... Tammy Schoenfeldt
Youth & Family Ministry..... Jay Leadley
Children & Family Ministry.... Linda Klepaczyk
Administrative Assistant Pilar Graden
Financial Secretary Michelle Grill
Office Assistant Jill Trokey
Phone 734.429.4730
Fax 734.429.3500
Email office@fumc-saline.org
Website www.fumc-saline.org

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Memory Verse

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Worship

9:00 & 11:15 am

Beginning September 16

Sunday School for all ages 10:10 am

Children are always welcome to remain in the worship service, but alternative options are available if desired:

Nursery care for age 0–3 is offered every Sunday in Room J.

Godly Play: Both services, 4 years–Kindergarten meets in Room N.

Worship Our Way: Both services; 1st–6th grades meets in Room G.

Sensory Bags: Sensory bags are available to check out for individuals who might find them helpful to use during worship services. Bags include noise cancelling headphones, weighted lap pads, and manipulative items. See an usher to check out a bag (found in a tote under the back pew).

Family Worship Sundays: The second Sunday of the month. Nursery will be provided for birth to 3 years old, but all other children will stay in worship with their family. Worship Bags & clipboards with developmentally appropriate activities are available in the back of the sanctuary.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

Dear Friends:

It's that time of year again -- the time when most schools hold their first open house or back-to-school night. My wife is currently preparing for hers later in the week. Experienced teachers know how important good first impressions are. Open houses give teachers a chance to meet their students, create a personal connection with them, meet their families, and share what will be happening in the coming year.

In many ways, September is "Open House Month" for our church. It's our opportunity to get the word out about what's happening here and it offers an invitation for people to check us out!

It seems to me that we have a lot of wonderful things to offer our community, but the only way people will find out is if we offer an invitation.

I hope all of us will take that opportunity. Prayerfully consider who God is nudging you to invite to church this month. One of the most impressive things I noticed about our church when we first came here was the welcoming spirit of the people here. Let's keep that going.

Issue the invitation to discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ.

See you in church...with a friend!

Pastor Tom

Church Conference—November 17

"Behold, I am doing a new thing..." Isaiah 43:19

Change is a part of life! With that written, the church conference has a completely new format beginning this fall. All churches, in the Heritage District (formally Ann Arbor) will meet within their Zones (approximately 10 churches in a zone) at one location (in our case, our church) and all church conferences will be completed on that day. And so, we will be hosting 9 other churches that day.

We will meet as a Zone for beginning worship and then break out to different rooms where the District Superintendent will oversee our business as separate churches. There will be much more involved, but we hope you will set aside time on November 19 beginning at 9:30 am.

Our Staff Parish meeting will be held a week prior at a different location. More information will be coming in our next newsletter.



JOY Lunch

If you are 55 and up join us for lunch and fellowship. We meet on the third Thursday of every month. We meet this month on September 20 at noon. We will have great food and fellowship. Everyone bring a friend and enjoy some fun. See you there! Cost is a \$5 donation. Sign up at the Opportunity Wall.

End the Silence

Mental Health Educational Programs and Presentations

Ending the Silence helps to raise awareness of and change perceptions about mental health

Join a support group in September

Family to Family- *For families of individuals affected by Mental Illness*

Family to Family is one of several signature programs developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. It is evidenced-based; there is quantitative research to support its effectiveness. Family to Family consists of a series of 12 weekly classes structured to help family, friends, and caregivers maintain their own well-being while providing support and understanding for those with a mental illness diagnosis.

Peer to Peer- *For individuals Affected by Mental Illness*

Peer to Peer is a 10 week recovery-focused course. Classes are led by individuals in a good place in their recovery from mental illness. They are trained to provide the most up to date critical information and life strategies in a supportive and confidential environment.

Call for more information about start dates and times. Registration is required and space is limited so please call NAMI Washtenaw County to start the process: 734-994-6611 or visit namiwc.org

Congregational Care Corner

Jeanette Brenner, Director of Congregational Care, jeanette@fumc-saline.org



Grieving Together

Grieving a loss of a loved one is such a hard and lonely journey. Why choose to go it alone when you can sit on the grieving bench with others who understand, support and pray with you? Stephen Ministry is facilitating a grief support group, on the first Monday of the month 12:30–2:00 pm and third Monday of the month 7:00–9:00 pm. All are welcome.



Neighborhood Groups

"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered...just one kind word to another person." Fred Rogers

Neighborhood Groups are on a roll. Every group has managed to meet this summer for a picnic, HIP, HIP, HOORAY! As we head into the fall we want to keep that momentum going. October's Chili Cook-off is going to be a **Neighborhood Chili Showdown** of FUN! Please think about hosting an event; a dessert night, campfire or a cider mill trip with your neighborhood group would be so fun. Keep an eye on what your Neighborhood Group is doing through group emails, bulletins, newsletters and the new Neighborhood Group Board in the church lobby.

Praying Together Tuesday Nights

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." [Colossians 4:2](#)

This year as part of my ministry to the church I am going to focus on prayer. Prayer is as vital to the Christian life as study and service. Praying together with your church family is one of the most powerful tools God gives us to combat sin, disbelief, fear, anxiety and isolation. Yet, many prayer groups are unattended, why?

- We don't think we have time.
- We don't think it is important.
- We don't believe that it makes any difference.

I would love to see the Holy Spirit work in all of our lives through prayer this year! I am going to start a class on prayer on Tuesday nights, beginning September 11, 7:00–8:00 pm in the sanctuary. We will begin with the book called "Adventures in Prayer, by Catherine Marshall. The book chapters are small and packed with testimonies and wisdom. Each week we will go over the chapter and pray at the end of the group. Sign up at the Opportunity Wall. Books are \$7.00 and will be available before class begins. Questions? Contact Jeanette Brenner. I really look forward to this prayer journey.

New Members Wanted

If you are ready to take the next step into church membership join us Sundays, October 7–28 at 10:10 am for membership class. This class is an introduction into our church. You will meet people from different ministries around the church and get to know the United Methodist Church a bit better. The classes led by Jeanette Brenner and Tom Zimmerman. Sign up at the Opportunity Wall. Hope to see you there!

F.I.S.H. FRIDAYS

FISH Fridays are an intergenerational gathering focused on small outreach and mission projects. No special skills are required and all ages are welcome to attend! Our first FISH Friday this fall is September 21 at 6:30 pm. We welcome a special guest all the way from India! We will learn about Anton Public School and the Living Hope Orphanage in Bangalore India. Rev. William John will work on a service project for Living Hope as well. We will end the evening with an ice cream social! Please join us for this special night.

Adult Ministries

Ray Vander Laan - Volume 16: Cultures vs. Conflicts

How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else.

In this sixteenth volume of *That the World May Know*®, discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth - an increasingly secular Western world - in a way that glorifies God. Experience the Bible in historical context as you walk in the footsteps of the second missionary tour of the Apostle Paul in Greece.

<https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/Cultures-In-Conflict>

Parenting - The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family: Over 100 Practical and Tested Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Kids

The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family addresses one of the top current concerns about youth and the church: the reality that nearly half of all young people raised in Christian families walk away from their faith when they graduate from high school.

This book arises from the innovative, research-based, and extensively field-tested project known as "Sticky Faith," designed to equip parents with insights and ideas for nurturing long-term faith in children and young people. Four of this guidebook's unique qualities make it a "must have" for families eager to point their young people toward long-term faith.

First, it's grounded in sophisticated, academically verified data.

Second, it is positive and empowering.

Third, it is practical with more than 100 ideas you can try today, this week, or this month.

Fourth, its "guidebook" format is accessible. For busy parents who don't have time and inclination to read, this format is a welcome resource that they can return to time and time again for fresh ideas and inspiration.

Books of the Bible - Jeremiah

Jeremiah reminds the people that the beginning of error in their lives was their failure to take God seriously. They looked lightly upon what he said. They did not pay much attention to what he had told them, and they did what was right in their own eyes rather than carefully examining their behavior in the light of God's revelation and word.

As we read in the historical books, they had sunk so low that they had actually lost the copy of the law. As far as we can tell, no one in the land of Judah any longer had access to the word of God, and the copy which was in the temple -- and which ought to have been in the central place of worship -- was lost somewhere in the back room.

But that is how far off base the nation had gone. They had actually lost contact with the word of God. They had adopted the dangerous principle of doing what was right in their own eyes. What they thought was right. Many people do what they know is wrong in the sight of God. That is bad enough. But it is equally dangerous to judge for ourselves what is right for we have no ability to judge properly -- and this is what was happening in Israel.

But Jeremiah also makes very clear throughout these passages of judgment that God judges with a sorrowing heart, a weeping heart, and then the prophet looks beyond the 70 years of captivity he predicts.

A new covenant was coming.....We have the advantage of the New Covenant through Christ today. But we must make the decision to accept it.....And when we take God's covenant seriously, and live in the Spirit, we gain the joy in life that the Spirit provides. Join us in Room C to learn about and apply the guidance delivered by the Lord to this heroic prophet.

Back to School Prayer Stations

Please join us in praying the Armor of God over our children returning to school. Whether you have kids or grandkids starting another year in grade school, college or yours are grown, come join us in praying for all kids returning to school. Prayer is so important and needed as we raise up Christ's warriors to do amazing things for His Kingdom! Prayer stations will be open from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm September 4 –9.

Handbell Director Position Available

FUMC Saline is looking for a qualified individual to direct our handbell choir. Please contact the church office if you are interested, 734-429-4730.

It's Acolyte Sign-Up Time!

All who wish to be an Acolyte this school year, look for a sign up soon at the Opportunity Wall. You must be in 2nd grade or older, able to arrive at the first service by 8:45 am and sit in the back pew the entire service. We welcome and train all newbies! Questions: Patsy Held 734-905-7851.

WISE AM

Our next WISE study will be starting soon. It's called Rachel and Leah: What Two Sisters Teach Us About Combating Comparison. It is a DVD/Workbook study. If you would like to join us Tuesday mornings we meet in Room F from 9:30–11:30 am. Childcare is provided for those who need it. For any questions, or to order a book call Mandy at 734-687-9824.



We invite all 5th & 6th graders to our first DEN 56 of the school year on September 28 from 6:30–8:30 pm. We will meet in our newly renovated DEN space! Please RSVP to Mrs. K by September 24 if you are interested in joining us. We will have pizza followed by time getting to know our awesome new space!

Parent Meeting

All families that have children in any of our children and family ministry programs are asked to attend a parent meeting on Sunday, September 16 at 12:30–1:30 pm (immediately following second service). Lunch will be served during the meeting and a movie will be shown during the meeting for the kids! This will be a time of information and sharing on ALL of our offerings for the coming year. Please mark your calendars and make sure you have at least one parent in attendance at this important meeting!

Family Worship

Please note, starting in September, Family Worship Sundays will be on the **SECOND** Sunday of each month. On these Sundays there will be no W.O.W (Worship Our Way) or Godly Play. These Sundays are intended as a time for families to worship together and for children to help lead in worship.

For 7th –12th graders



Sunday Nights
5:30 – 8:00 pm

Children & Family Ministry

Linda Klepaczyk, Director of Children & Family Ministry, lindak@fumc-saline.org



BRICK

BY

BRICK



Brick By Brick will be for 1st–4th Graders from 4:00–5:30 pm each Wednesday, beginning September 26. God wants our lives to be built on a strong foundation, and building a relationship with Him happens brick by brick. At Brick by Brick, kids will learn faith building lessons based on God's Word using LEGO.



TruthQuest will be for 5th & 6th Graders from 3:00–5:30 pm each Wednesday, beginning September 26. Each week, 6th graders (who are dismissed from school earlier) will start with a hangout & homework time in our newly renovated Den space. Once joined by the 5th graders at 4:00 pm, kids will have a time of fun & discussion that will challenge them to grow in their faith. This group will embark on a quest for the truth discussing topics like...

WHO IS GOD? – Exploring the attributes & holiness of God

GREED VS. GENEROSITY – How generosity makes us richer

SUPER HEROES OF FAITH – How to be a super hero in God's eyes

Youth & Family Ministry

Jay Leadley, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, jay@fumc-saline.org

Hello Everyone,

It's hard to believe that another month has passed and that we are coming up on the end of summer break. Reflecting back on this summer, God was active and doing big things in and through our youth ministry. It's such an honor to simply be a part of what God is doing!

On the heels of our summer trip to **CIY MOVE**, our high school students took it upon themselves to make the decision to become kingdom workers right here in our own community. They decided that the Underground needed a program that we call **Ascension** where we would ascend from The Underground 4 times per year and go out into the community of Saline to partner with families and individuals in order to tackle some pretty big projects. On August 4, we had our very first **Ascension Day**, and it was nothing short of amazing. Our kids and adult volunteers got A LOT of work done, but more importantly they developed some new relationships with the people in our congregation and our community that they may not have otherwise. It was an awesome day and God's love was on display throughout the community of Saline.

As we set our sights toward the fall, we have a lot of things happening. **Water Wars** (our Underground kickoff event) is happening on September 9, and our **Parents' Night** is scheduled for the following Sunday, September 16. The deadline to sign up for **MOVE 2019** is September 30 and you can sign up online on the youth website.

We are excited about what God has done throughout the summer, but we are even more excited about what God has in store for us as we transition into the school year routine. I know that God's got big things in store for our youth ministry, so continue to pray and look for ways that you can support your youth ministry at the church.

Grace & Peace,

Jay Leadley, Director of Youth & Family Ministries



Music Together Classes for Children

Hand in Hand Music will once again be offering family music classes for children ages infants – 8 years at SUMC this fall. We are grateful to be launching our 20th year of offering Music Together classes at SUMC! The popular Music Together and Rhythm Kids (drumming) classes are filled with singing, instrument play and movement activities all designed to encourage children to become active music makers. Registration has begun and the fall session will start the week of September 17. Both day and evening classes are available and sibling discounts are offered. New families are invited to attend a FREE demonstration class September 11 or 12 to sample the Music Together experience. Complete information on the family music classes and an easy online registration form can be viewed at www.HandinHandMT.com. Don't miss out on this opportunity to share the joy of making music with your children! Please contact Angela Schmidt for more information. akschmidt@frontier.com or 734-429-3385



Prayers



Prayer Concerns—Mike Walker, Lorah, Aunt Cheryl, Karen, Wanda Beard, Debbie Woody, Ryan Lampman, Steve Booker, Greg Hatch, Deb, Shirley Slagel, individuals seeking employment, those with mental health issues.

Continue to Pray for—Mark Thorpe, Caleb Nadig, Mary Jo Cox, Julie O'Keefe, Gayle Rogers, Nancy Bryan, Bill Doren, Ina May Doub, Jeanne Cogger, Charolette Becker, Mary Dinnan, Paulette Suchy.

Praises—Matthew Aungst's good medical check-up, Landon John Moss, grandson of Janet & Bruce Moss, and mom Shawn are home from hospital, UMW funeral luncheons crew, FUMC staff and volunteers.

Military—Erik Maddock, J.T. St. Dennis, Abby Jenks.

Special Living—Florence Belt (Texas); Helen Seitz (Oakmont Rochester); Norma Jean West, Jim Bowker, (Linden Square); Elaine Carter, Betty Sellers (EVH); Ihla Donaldson (Towsley Village CRC), Pat Boisvert (Brecon Memory), Nancy Adsit (StoryPoint).

Prayer Quilt: Please tie a knot and say a prayer for our dear friend Ryan Lampman.



Methodist Children's Home

Thanks to all of you who support The Methodist Children's Home with prayers and donations, recognizing that this residential home is a year-round ministry. We just delivered a large donation of back to school clothing and a few backpacks in time for the start of the school year.

We will, of course, post a wish list in November for clothing and Christmas gifts to be delivered to the home early December. We keep a donation box by the Opportunity Wall year-round and any gift cards can be turned into the office.

Thank You

Thank you to all that ordered cinnamon rolls. It was a big success and we raised around \$200 for Comfort Cases that will be used to provide a sense of dignity to Foster Children in need. ~UMW

Thank you to the youth and adults that came to our home and helped with projects around the house. Our youth are the greatest! Much appreciated! ~The Sekerkas

This I Believe

Some approach Christianity with suspicion and skepticism. A greater number lance at Christianity, shrug their shoulders and ask "so what"? The Apostles' Creed gives us a succinct summation of our core beliefs, but do we really believe them if we never turn the corner and ask how this impacts our lives? Beginning September 23, we're going to find out! ~Pastor Tom

WISE PM

Join WISE PM for a kick off Wednesday, September 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm. The group meets each week at this time and will be reading and discussing: Two Steps Forward: A Story of Persevering in Hope by Sharon Garlough Brown.

Lay Leadership

Leadership matters. Each year, our Lay Leadership committee is asked to nominate qualified, God-honoring leaders to serve in the various roles of the church for the year ahead.

This coming month the Lay Leadership (nominating) committee will begin their work of the group in Christ, as we seek God's will together for the church.

There is a lot of work that goes into finding those people whom God is calling. Please pray that God would help us discern His will.

First United Methodist Church
1200 North Ann Arbor Street
Saline, MI 48176

Address Service Requested

September 2018

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	1 Saturday
2 Sunday 8:04a Right Start Service-CH 9:30a Sanctuary Worship 3:00p EHS Service-offsite	3 Monday Labor Day Church Building Closed	4 Tuesday Back to School Prayer Stations 9:30a WISE AM - Rm F 6:00p Lay Leadership-Rm F 7:00p Troop 446-Rm O/P 7:00p SPRC- Rm A	5 Wednesday Back to School Prayer Stations 9:30a Pastor's Study- Rm F 12:30p Prayer Quilts- Rm F 6:30p Praise Team Rehearsal 6:45p Small Group-Offsite 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 Thursday Back to School Prayer Stations 9:30a Prayer Ministry-Oasis 1:00p Daniel Plan Forward- Rm E 7:30p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Flying Club-CLC	7 Friday Back to School Prayer Stations	8 Saturday Back to School Prayer Stations
9 Sunday Family Worship Sunday Back to School Prayer Stations 9:00a Traditional Service 10:00a Welcome Back Fellowship 11:15a Connection Point Service 12:15p Welcome Back Fellowship 5:30p Underground: Water Wars	10 Monday 9:30a Private Group-TOPS 12:30p Hannah Circle-Rm F 1:00p Shawl Ministry-Rm E 6:30p Open Prayer-Oasis 7:00p Community Care- Rm F 7:00p Susanna Circle-Rm E 7:30p Trustees-Rm A 7:30p Youth Worship Band	11 Tuesday 9:30a WISE AM-F 7:00p Planned Rec/Giv-Rm A 7:00p Adventures in Prayer-Sanctuary	12 Wednesday 9:30a Pastor's Study-Rm F 12:30p Prayer Quilts-Rm F 6:30p Praise Team Rehearsal 6:45p Small Group-Offsite 7:00p WISE PM-Rm E 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 Thursday 9:30a Prayer Ministry-Oasis Rm 6:15p Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30p Stephen Ministry- Rm E 7:30p Handbell Rehearsal	14 Friday	15 Saturday
16 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Connection Point 12:30p Children & Family Ministry Parent Meeting 5:30p Underground	17 Monday 9:00a Rummage Sale Drop-off 9:30a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:30a Private Group-TOPS 10:00a Bedore Memorial 6:00p Adult Ministries- Rm F 6:30p UMW Executive Board-E 6:30p Open Prayer-Oasis 7:00p Stewardship & Finance-A 7:30p Youth Worship Band	18 Tuesday 9:00a Rummage Sale Drop-off 9:30a Hand in Hand Music-O 9:30a WISE AM-F 12:00p Newsletter Due 4:45p Hand in Hand Music-J 7:00p Pack Meeting 446- O/P 7:00p Adventures in Prayer-Sanctuary	19 Wednesday 8:30a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:00a Rummage Sale Drop-off 9:30a Pastor's Study-F 12:30p Prayer Quilts-F 6:30p Praise Team Rehearsal 6:45p Small Group-Offsite 7:00p WISE PM-Rm E 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Thursday 9:00a Rummage Sale Drop-off 9:15a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:30a Prayer Ministry-Oasis 12:00p JOY Luncheon 1:00p Daniel Plan Forward- E 6:15p Orchestra Rehearsal 6:30p Pack Meeting-461-CH 7:30p Handbell Rehearsal	21 Friday 9:00a Rummage Sale Drop-off 9:15a Hand in Hand Music-Rm J 6:30p F.I.S.H. Fridays-O/P	22 Saturday 7:00a Youth Rummage Sale
23 Sunday Lake Louise Bake Sale 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Connection Point 5:30p Underground	24 Monday 9:30a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:30a Private Group-TOPS 1:00p Shawl Ministry-Rm E 6:30p Open Prayer-Oasis 7:00p Church Council-A 7:30p Youth Worship Band	25 Tuesday 9:30a Hand in Hand Music-O 9:30a WISE AM-F 4:45p Hand in Hand Music-J 7:00p Adventures in Prayer-Sanctuary	26 Wednesday 8:30a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:30a Pastor's Study-F 12:30p Prayer Quilts-F 3:00p Truth Quest-CLC, Den 4:00p Brick by Brick M,N,O,P 6:30p Praise Team Rehearsal 6:45p Small Group-Offsite 7:00p WISE PM-Rm E 7:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 Thursday 9:15a Hand in Hand Music-J 9:30a Prayer Ministry-Oasis Rm 10:00a Brecon & Memory Ctr 1:00p Linden Square Service 6:15p Orchestra Rehearsal 7:30p Handbell Rehearsal	28 Friday 9:15a Hand in Hand Music-Rm J 6:30p Den 56-Den	29 Saturday
31 Sunday 9:00a Traditional Service 10:10a Sunday School 11:15a Connection Point 5:30p Underground	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday