



Plymouth First United Methodist Church

Message from Pastor Bob

*“All this also comes from the Lord Almighty, whose plan is wonderful, whose wisdom is magnificent.”
(Isa 28:29, NIV)*

I would like to share with you a reading I recently came across that I found particularly striking for me in the book, A Guide to Spiritual Discernment, by Janet Wolf:

Our Wednesday night Bible study group has become a rather odd community of sorts. There are usually six to ten of us—two or three people who are struggling with mental health problems, three men who are homeless, several dealing with time in prison, and others wrestling with emotional and physical scars. Folks come with a hunger for healing, wanting food for the body and soul and a place to be at home.

John, one of the men who is currently homeless and staying, as the others who are homeless do, at the downtown mission, started out one night: “Stayed down at the mission again last night—house of pain for real. Woke up this morning and my shoes were gone. Somebody stole my shoes. I didn’t even have to think about what to do—I pulled out my knife and I went looking. I was walking all up and down the dining hall, table by table, and I meant to get my shoes back. Kept thinking: in the old days wouldn’t anybody tried to touch my shoes—‘cause they’d know I’d get ‘em ‘fore they could ever put ‘em on. Oh, yeah. I was mean and folks knew it. Didn’t care. And that’s how it was this morning. It’s one thing to give up drinking and drugging. It’s another thing when they steal your shoes.

“And I’m hollering, threatening, and walking up and down with my knife out where everyone can see. I’m going to get my shoes. Then old Jim here (points to another homeless man in the group) starts hollering from the other side of the room: ‘Bible says if they take one cloak give them your other one; if they took your shoes, give ‘em your socks. Put that knife away and give ‘em your socks.’

“And I’m swearing and getting madder. Ain’t givin’ nobody nothin’! I want my shoes! And old Jim, he just keeps hollering: ‘Give ‘em your socks, John!’

“Folded up my knife. Took a long time doing it, too. Walked barefoot to the service center this morning—and got me some more shoes—but ain’t it hard to live this stuff out!”

This reading is filled with learning opportunities and “jumping off” points that could keep a preacher busy for weeks. But what struck me the most, was that last phrase of the very last sentence: “but ain’t it hard to live this stuff out!”

Do you ever find yourself thinking similar words? I’ll be honest ... there are times when I do. Usually, it’s just before God is about to realign my perspectives, habits, or beliefs. And to be honest, often it *is* hard—change does not come easy for most of us, me included. But also to be honest, I always find myself ultimately being grateful that God took the time and made the effort to guide me into those new directions. Thank you God for your wisdom, and that you do not give up on us!

I believe that 2022 is going to be one of those opportunities to listen, receive, embrace, and act on God’s wisdom, as both individuals and as a congregation of Christ’s Church. And if you’re like me, you may find yourself just a little nervous at the thought of that (I know I usually am). But I am then reminded that we cannot be in any better stead than when we are most aligned with God’s wise will for us. We may not know when starting out all the details of where we are heading, but we do know it will be a good place, and we will ultimately be grateful. Will there be times when it will be hard living all this stuff out? I expect there will ... always are. But hard work is not at all foreign to us here at PFUMC. And even more, our strength and endurance is in a steadfastly faithful and wise God, whose plan is wonderful, who loves us beyond measure, who will be with us every step of the way, and in whom we can put our complete trust. God is good!

Blessings and peace to you always ... Pastor Bob

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Have a 4th, 5th, or 6th grade student?
We have a group for them!
Date: January 9th & 23rd
Time: 3:30pm—5:30 pm

Bring \$3 for pizza and come ready to have FUN!!!!

To be added to our mailing list,
contact Sarah @ christianed@pfumc.org

FUSION

January dates and times TBD—stay tuned to the Eblast and the weekly Fusion email for updates.

Have a 7th –12th grade student and want to be added to our mailing list? contact Sarah @ christianed@pfumc.org

KIDS KINGDOM CLUB

Calling all Kids Kingdom kids, Kids Kingdom Club is back for the month of January! We will be meeting Thursdays on ZOOM from 4:30 pm—5:15pm. Look for the link in the weekly Kids Kingdom email. Mark your calendars and save these dates:

January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

To all of you who donated, helped, shared, cared, and invited during the month of December. Thank you for making it a month to remember!
You are a blessing!



**Members of
Festival Bells
ringing for Salvation Army at
Hiller's on December 14th.**



Upcoming NOTEworthy Concerts at PFUMC

Stay safe while listening to great music!

Audience members are required to wear masks for all events

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

for tickets and required safety protocols visit dso.org

the DSO requires proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test

Friday, January 7th, 8:00 pm

Vivaldi's Violin Concert in C major and Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony, along with select arias from the Baroque era with conductor, violinist, and countertenor Dmitry Sinkovsky.

Friday, March 25th, 8:00 pm

Ari Peltó conducts a program featuring Prokofiev's Classical Symphony and Ravel's poignant Baroque-inspired suite, Le Tombeau de Couperin. Making his DSO debut with Boccherini's B-flat major Cello Concert, Zlatomir Fung is the youngest musician ever to win First Prize in the cello division at the International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Plymouth Community Band

Friday, February 11th, 7:00 pm

free admission

Michigan Philharmonic

Friday, March 11th, 7:30 pm

for tickets michiganphil.org

A Night in the Tropics – our tropical adventure features the pulsating rhythms of dynamic steelpan soloist Josanne Francis – especially highlighted during Jan Bach's unique Concert for Steelpan and Orchestra.



For all ticketed events, complementary tickets are available for those who are unable to afford to purchase them.

Contact Marcia Van Oyen

marcia@pfumc.org or 734-453-5280 ext. 115.



Message from Pastor Suzy

Dear friends -

Friends - Hear the Good News - Christ is born! Hear the Good News - 2022 is here! Hear the Good News - whatever 2022 turns out to be, Christ will continue to be present in the midst of it. It is good to hear the Good News! Good Christian friends rejoice!

When we hear the Good News and embrace it in our lives, it is that almost faith we've been talking about throughout Advent. When we take that Good News and allow it to transform the way we live, we are almost Christian. When that Good News takes root deep in our souls, when it changes who we are and how we are, when it so overflows our hearts that it spills out into the lives of others then we become altogether Christian.

Evangelism. There, I said it. It's the E-word. Terrifying, right? But it doesn't have to be. Evangelism is not accosting people with your faith, it is being in relationships with people so that they know you by your faith. It's being in relationships with people so that when they suffer, when they question, when they wonder, they will trust you when you tell them

about how God has transformed your life. Evangelism is embodying the Good News of Jesus in such a way that it is magnetic for people who are searching for meaning in their lives.

Beginning February 1, I will be teaching the history and church building power of Wesleyan evangelism. We will look at how to use our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness as means of transforming the world for the Kingdom of God. This class will meet from 6-8PM for 5 weeks. You will come away feeling empowered and excited about how God can use you.

I hope to see you there!

Pastor Suzy

Learn about
TRANSFORMING
EVANGELISM
A WESLEYAN WAY
OF SHARING FAITH
on Page 10.
Mark your calendar
and plan to join.

Thanks and New Year Wishes To All My Friends, Neighbors, and Leaders of PFUMC



As I sit in the quiet of my apartment reflecting on this past year, I am so grateful for my church family and for the love and tender care you have extended toward me. I am especially heartened when I reread the multitude of cards that you took the time and wrote from your hearts especially on my 100th birthday. What a blessing, and you made that day oh so memorable for me. Know that you all are always in my thoughts and prayers, and may you all be blessed in the year ahead.

May God Bless you and Keep you ... Jack Tornga

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

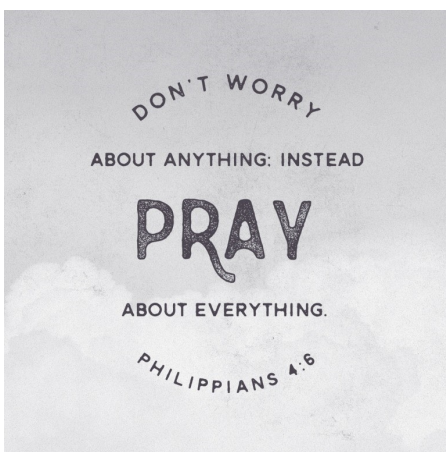
We find ourselves near the end of 2021. As I type that sentence, it doesn't seem real. We have come a long way since January, yet some of the same uncertainties and concerns we had then seem to still be here. Many of us hoped things would be different by now, and while they are, they just aren't as different as we want them to be.

I think about some of the stories in the Bible and a lot of them are stories of people who hoped things would be different, and then God showed up. He did things these people never expected and guess what? Things were different! A lot of times they were different; but not in ways they anticipated them to be different.

Look at Moses; his entire life was different than expected. His mom and dad expected to raise him. That didn't happen. He was spared from death and adopted into the very family of the person who made the decree to kill him. He grew up, started realizing who he really was, and saw the injustices his people were facing, and in anger lashed out and killed a man. He ran away to Midian where he lived until God spoke to him from a burning bush when he told him to go free His people, which he eventually did. I am willing to bet that none of this was what Moses's mom pictured his life would be like while she was waiting for him to be born.

What about Hannah? She hoped she would be a mom and her life would be one full of kids. Instead she was childless for a long time. When she finally did have a child, she promised to give him back to the Lord when he was old enough. She did, her son went to live with the priests and his life was dedicated to the Lord. God honored her with more children for staying true to her promise. Again, this was not how she initially pictured her life, nor how she originally hoped it would be.

As we head into 2022, it might not be exactly what we hope it will be or what we want it to be. It is going to be exactly what we need. As wild as that may sound, I believe it with my whole heart. I may not understand it, I may not like parts of it as it is happening, but I believe it. I also believe not a single thing that happens will take God by surprise. For me, that brings a lot of peace. That peace gives me confidence as we go into January. I am trying not to worry too much about what might be coming, that is not easy for me. Just today in my morning devotion, I was reminded that God doesn't want me to be anxious, he wants me to trust Him. John Piper said "We have a Father in heaven who meets all of our needs." We need to lean into the peace of God instead of the anxiety and fear that our worry brings. Worry can propel us into the land of "what if" and that can be a very difficult place to reside.



When I went on my Emmaus Walk back in the early 2000's, one of the best pieces of advice I was given was "don't anticipate." Not anticipating takes the worry away from what might happen next, it frees you to be in the moment God has placed you in. I am not saying we shouldn't prepare for things, there is a very distinct difference between being prepared for what you know is coming and preparing for what you think might happen. For example (at the time I am writing this article), I need to prepare to deliver canned goods to the Salvation Army next week. That is something I need to prepare for because I have taken on that project. I don't need to prepare for the possibility of a flat tire on the way to the Salvation Army, or a confrontation with a worker at Salvation Army because I brought something I shouldn't have brought, or for a blizzard, or for about 10 other things popping into my mind right now. That is the difference between being prepared for what I know is coming and preparing for what I think might happen.

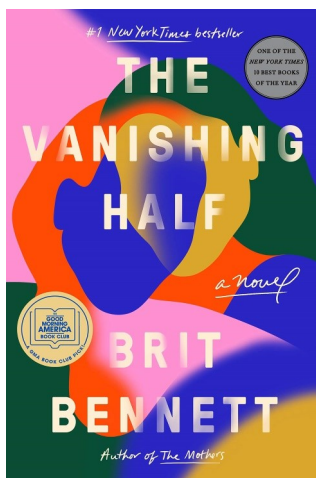
Don't anticipate. I think for me personally I will add to that; don't anticipate, pray. That is the approach I am going to try and take with 2022. If you know me well, you know that this is going to be a challenge for me (if you don't, you're just going to have to take my word for it). Each day I am going to do my best to be open to whatever God puts in front of me for that day and be present in it. Maybe that sounds like a good plan for you as 2022 gets under way as well. Sarah

Anti-Racism Book Club event! All are welcome to attend.

Monday Night, January 10th @ 6:30 pm on zoom

Members from the Garden City Anti-Racism group will be joining us for this event.

Arrive ready to engage in a discussion around topics raised in this book.



Weaving together multiple strands and generations of the Vignes family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

Contact Pastor Suzy suzy@pfumc.org for more information and to get the zoom link.

Sermon Series January 2022

Is That in the Bible?

Exploring popular sayings that miss the point. They are simple phrases: "God helps those who help themselves," "Love the sinner, hate the sin," and others. They sound Christian - like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. Discover the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture.

Jan 2	Everything Happens for a Reason	Deuteronomy 30:19-20a
Jan 9	God Helps Those Who Help Themselves	James 1:22-27
Jan 16	God won't give you more than you can handle	Romans 8:31-39
Jan 23	God said it, I believe it, that settles it	Mark 2:23-28
Jan 30	Love the sinner, hate the sin	Matthew 7:1-5

5 week Small Group ~ January 2022

Tuesday's

Jan 4, 11, 18, 25 & Feb 1

1:30 pm

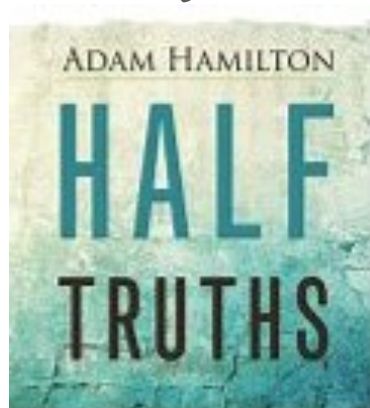
On Zoom

Contact Toni Hartke
tonikhartke@comcast.net

6:30 pm

On Zoom

Contact Cathy Montgomery
cathym@pfumc.org



EXPLORE The Bible



EXERCISE your faith by joining a small group



EXTEND the gospel by inviting a friend to church.

Intentional Faith Development



What is your *NEXT STEP*?

Have you heard any good news lately?

The word *gospel* means “good news.” So what is the good news that we as disciples have to share about Jesus?

The New Testament is clear that we are called to share the good news of what God has done in Christ with others. Jesus’ last command was to go into all the world and make disciples of all people. (Matthew 28:19) In our United Methodist membership vows we promise to participate in the mission of the church through our witness.

Witnessing is about building relationships and sharing our stories of what God has done for us in a genuine and natural way. It’s often been said that sharing Christ is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.

You may be thinking, NO way! Maybe you don’t feel that you have much of a story to tell. Yours may not seem very dramatic, compelling, or special. Maybe you don’t feel that religion is something that ought to be brought up in conversation. It’s too private, too personal, and too individual. Maybe you have too much baggage associated with previous church experiences that have warped the meaning of the *e* word—*evangelism*.

Your anxieties are real, but the solution is much simpler than

you think. Evangelism is sharing your story in whatever way God has uniquely wired you to do so. It’s about doing the work of Christ and being his witness in the way you live your life. Regardless of how you do it, the important thing is *that* you do it. In the end, that’s all Jesus calls each of us to do.

Believe it or not your story is important. It includes joy, sorrow, pain, faith, and love. You know it better than anyone else, and it is important to God. God wants to use it to continue God’s greatest ongoing project: the transformation of the world! It will make an eternal difference!

(James A Harnish, A Disciple’s Path Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church Daily Workbook, (Nashville, Abingdon Press 2012), 93-99)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19 (CEB)

THE JOURNEY



The membership vows serve as guideposts for our Journey.

EXPLORE

- Participate in the ‘Love Feast’ and join Pastor Suzy’s class on “Transforming Evangelism A Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith.” (See page 10)

EXERCISE

- Practice sharing your faith story with a trusted friend.
- Invite someone to coffee and build a relationship with them that may open the door to sharing your faith.
- Read ‘Walk Across the Room’ by Bill Hybels

EXTEND

- Read “Meet the Good People; Wesley’s 7 Ways to Share Faith” by Roger Ross
- Develop and practice your elevator speech for sharing your testimony.
- Ask the pastors for an opportunity to share your testimony in worship.

How can I help? Contact me and let’s sit down for coffee, tea, breakfast or lunch. I would love to share in a conversation with you about God and your *NEXT STEP* that will take you deeper in your faith. Cathy Montgomery, Intentional Faith Development (734) 560-3498 (cell) cathym@pfumc.org.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS 2021

IN HONOR

Healthcare workers and teachers, given by Joan and Dave Barrett

Wynn Good, given by Brian and Holly Good

Our children: Jennifer & Andy Hetzel, Brandon & Amanda Hartke,

Our grandchildren: Zoe, Lily, Sydney, Jack & Luke, given by Mike & Toni Hartke

Our grandchildren, Finnley & Decaney, given by Jerry & Mary O'Shaughnessey



IN MEMORY

Robert DeVries, given by Jill DeVries

Jim Edwards, given by Donna Edwards

Virginia Taylor, given by Brian and Holly Good

Marilyn Good, given by Dale Good

Marilyn Good, given by Clay, Lauren Good

Frank and Sally Busha and Jo Baker Hoy, given by Rich and Sue Hoy

Thomas & Glendora Rice,
also my cousins, Joe, Paul, Wayne, Larry & Chuck, who died during COVID 2020-2021,
given by Brenda Rice

Harry & Joyce Roebuck, given by Charlie Roebuck

Spencer Padden, given by Jerry & Mary O'Shaughnessey



FINANCIAL UPDATE
November 2021

Income \$ 48,989
Expenses \$ 59,507

YTD 2021

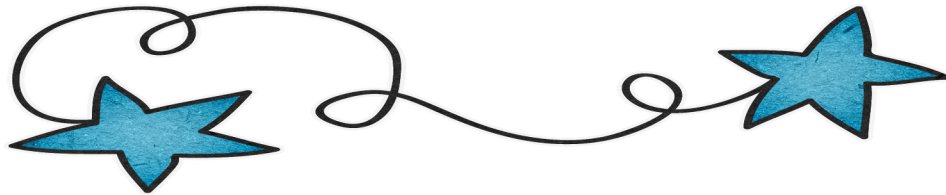
Income \$ 688,700
Expenses \$ 625,827



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DONATE YOUR IRA ASSETS TO THE CHURCH ?

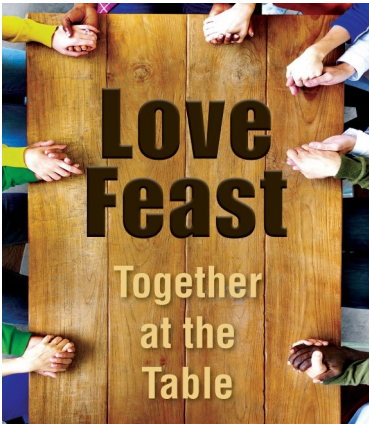
IRS rules mandate that individuals age 72 and 1/2 and older take a required minimum distribution from their IRA each year. (This doesn't apply to Roth IRAs which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions.) You are allowed to make charitable contributions from your traditional IRA to a church or charity at age 70 1/2. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from your traditional IRA to the Church or Charity. You can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

Ask your IRA administrator or tax consultant what steps you need to take.



Fast Easy Secure		VANCO FAITH	
Online	Text	Mobile App	Check/Cash Direct Bank Bill Payment
www.pfumc.org/give/ To set up and manage your one-time or recurring gifts.	1-844-208-0637 the amount you want to donate.	Download the Vanco Mobile app to make contributions.	Drop off or mail check/cash. Set up automatic giving through your bank provider.





**Monday
January 24
@ 6:00 PM
Garden Café**

Come to a Love Feast. This is a time of community, food, praise and thanksgiving. We'll gather around a table, offer prayer and thanksgiving to God. We'll sing and share how God is active in our lives.

The United Methodist Discipleship website writes of the Love Feast:

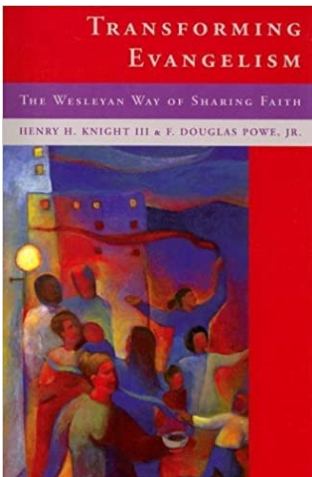
The modern history of the Love Feast began when Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John

Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. His diary notes: "After evening prayers, we joined with the Germans in one of their love-feasts. It was begun and ended with thanksgiving and prayer, and celebrated in so decent and solemn a manner as a Christian of the apostolic age would have allowed to be worthy of Christ."

We'll be celebrating this traditional practice of eating, praying and sharing stories of faith on January 24, at 6PM.

Contact Cathy Montgomery, Intentional Faith Development
@ cathym@pfumc.org or 734-560-3498 to reserve your spot at the table.

TRANSFORMING EVANGELISM THE WESLEYAN WAY OF SHARING FAITH



Because of the more aggressive and confrontational tactics we hear about, evangelism has developed a bad connotation. Doors are shut hurriedly, phone calls end abruptly and emails left unanswered. After all, isn't this a task better handled by the pastor? Perhaps it's time to re-examine John Wesley's model of evangelism as a full, natural circle - where it's a communal beginning point rather than a solitary end. The central motive of authentic evangelism is: Having received a message that's made all the difference in our lives, we desire to share that message with others in the hope it will transform their lives as well.

Wesley models an evangelism that reaches out and welcomes, invites and nurtures, and speaks to both head and heart. "Evangelism is about relationship. How we are in relationship to God, who is able to transform us into new beings and how we are in relationship to our neighbor, whom we must love like ourselves



**Tuesday Nights
@ 6 to 8 pm on Zoom
February 1–March 1
with Pastor Suzy**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

Jeff Berliner
Gene Best
Marge Brown &
Tom Brown
Lorraine Demyre

Sandy Fine
Dawn Harrison
Carol Lewis

Military

Suzanne Gyde—Hall
Brian Krautler (Ramsay)
Andrew D. Piggott

Lois Maiorana
Vincent Maiorana
Bill & Mary McCully
Richard Moore
Dennis Piggott
Ruth Slade
Peter Slazinski
Ron Turner

Members Shut In

Anna Fowler
Cleo Pappin
John & Sydney Paul
Jim Walk

Family & Friends

Rich Brown, friend of George Thompson
Matt Carter, family of Stella Smith
Clay Good, Dale Good's son
Robert Nulty & Phyllis Nulty
Mike Petri and family, friend of Dale Good
Kristen Zander, Ken Zander's sister

Missionaries

Hannah Kappler
South Korea

Our deepest sympathy to the family of
Bill Brooks who passed away
November 28th.
Celebration of Life service will take place
at a later date.



EMMAUS
OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN



The Walk to Emmaus is coming to Plymouth First UMC!

What happens on the Emmaus
Weekend?

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy three busy days singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping, and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. The theme of each talk is God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and bring grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to understand more fully the body of

Christ. You will experience God's grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community. You will leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.

If you are interested in experiencing an Emmaus weekend contact Cathy Montgomery 734-560-3498 or cathym@pfumc.org

Emmaus Weekends

Men's Walk
February 24 - 27, 2022

Women's Walk
March 3-6, 2022

Learn more about an
Emmaus Weekend:

All are welcome to attend

Emmaus Gathering
Friday, January 21
6:30 pm
Impact Center

We will share in a time of
worship, singing, share in
communion and hear
a testimony.

Check out the Emmaus of
Southeast Michigan web site
for more information.

faithwalk.us or emsem.org

RETURN ADDRESS

First United Methodist Church
45201 North Territorial Road
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Fax (734) 453-0375

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM—3 PM
OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAY

PERIODICALS

Printed December 2021

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS 2022

1/1 Chase Best
1/2 Martha Giles
Samantha McDaniel
1/4 Janet Mason
Justin Muse
Christine Schilling
1/6 Mike Bush
Chelsea Kocher
Krista Shuler
1/7 Hayley Rodriguez
Jacob Zdrodowski
1/8 Marsha Franklin
1/9 Julianna Christenson
Brian Good
Muriel Gyde
Tom Kuzak
Cathie Siegler
1/11 Karen Blunden
Jacob Little
Virginia Stefan
1/15 Stephen Rowley
1/16 Derek Blunden
Leo Magee
1/17 Andy Lehmann
1/18 Autumn Siddall

1/19 Lois Maiorana
Valerie Murray
1/20 Linda Calzone
Mary Pauline
1/22 Julie White
1/23 Joshua Patterson
1/24 Whitney Stevens
1/25 Mike Paulsen
1/26 Nina Nabozny
Rosalie Salter
1/27 Dot Kornegay
1/28 Jim Groat
1/30 Bob Mason
1/31 Carol Saunders
Gabe Van Oyen

