



# Our Life in the Church

Downtown & Green Wood

for the week beginning Sunday, December 23, 2018

Bulletin announcements are due by noon on Wednesdays. Send via email to [adele@fumc-a2.org](mailto:adele@fumc-a2.org) or call the church office, 662-4536.

**OFFICE & BUILDING HOURS** The church buildings and offices are closed on Tue., Dec. 25 and Wed. Dec. 26.

## Update on Commitments for 2019

We have received the following commitments:

Operating Budget: \$783,086

Mortgage: \$119,662

Households responding: 203

It's not too late to submit a giving pledge for the year ahead. Mail yours in today or submit your pledge online: <https://tinyurl.com/fumc2019pledge>.

**The United Methodist Women Christmas Sale**  
Featuring Bags, Beans, & Baked Goods—Crafts and gently used items also offered! **Today (Sunday)** is the last day we will offer our sale. Please visit us between services in the Social Hall at Connections. This Christmas sale continues the UMW support of local, domestic, and international missions. Help us by attending our holiday sales at Connections or making a check out to UMW and either put it in the offering plate or send it to: Betsy Kincaid, 235 Katherine Way, Dexter, MI, 48130. *Thank you for your support!*



**Grab a gift bag at the UMW sale and slip a bag of coffee beans inside!**

What a wonderful gift these coffee beans make for holiday hosts and gift-giving! The beans we sell benefit international growers, a Michigan roasting company, and those in need in our community! Fair trade organic coffee beans are available for purchase after the Sunday 9:30 a.m. service or through the downtown church office during business hours. Proceeds are forwarded to local mission projects.  
\$6k in proceeds have been forwarded to Washtenaw County missions! Thank you!



**In the display cases through January, enjoy crèches** collected from around the world by Letitia Byrd.

If you have artwork you would like to share with your church community in the display cases in the new year, contact Linda Brokaw at 734-255-5470.

## Try an Adult Faith Formation session in the new year!



All classes meet at 11:00am on Sundays.

Each Sunday features a different topic:

**1st Sunday:** Centering through Faith - January 6 is Viseo Divina or "divine seeing." Join Shonagh Taruza as she guides us in seeing the divine in images.

**2nd Sunday:** Conversations about Science & Religion - on January 13, Dr. Ioulia Kovelman, PhD., Assoc. Prof. of Psychology at U of M, will lead a session about cyberspace and the mind.

**3rd Sunday:** Vital Conversations - Join us January 20 as we continue with curriculum provided by the UMC Commission on Race and Religion; this month is a focus on refugees and immigrants.

**4th Sunday:** In January we have two opportunities:  
(A) Our Disability Awareness group will discuss depression with Janet Fogler  
(B) Pop-Up Book Club -- We will discuss Nadia Bolz-Weber's book, *Pastryx* ...

**Nadia is coming to FUMC!** Join us to hear Nadia Bolz-Weber's authentic and passionate words about bringing the church to the community instead of waiting for the community to come to the church. She will also introduce her new book, Shameless: A Sexual Reformation. Her talk will be at 7pm on March 19, in our downtown sanctuary. Tickets are not needed, but seating is on a first come basis. Mark your calendars!



## **Our Life in the Church**

**Share your holiday treats!** Connections on our last Sunday of the year will be potluck style, with YOUR (nut-free) treats. Freeze your leftover holiday treats and drop them off on **Sun., Dec. 30** prior to the 9:30am service. If you need to deliver items earlier in the week, please leave in the kitchen/refrigerator with a label. Provide nut-free snacks only, please.

**Several folks received prayer shawls** at the service of Light in the Darkness. Here is a prayer to use when you are wrapped in a prayer shawl:

*Thank you for the compassion woven into this shawl. When I am cold, help warm me, God. When I am uncertain, help me feel secure in you. When I am lonely, wrap me in your loving arms. When I am sick, remind me of your healing presence. When days seem dark, remind me of your inner light. Amen.*

If you know someone who could use the blessing of a prayer shawl, please contact Amy Kennedy in the church office (734-662-4536 or [amy@fumc-a2.org](mailto:amy@fumc-a2.org)).

**Spread some love**—Offer a gracious smile and a caring demeanor to someone who may need the warmth of Christian fellowship. You never know what your simple gesture could mean to someone.



**Rethink Christmas... Why not give to someone in need in honor of someone special on your Christmas list?** The perfect gift for someone who has everything might be to give in that person's honor to someone who struggles for the basics. There are many outreach opportunities that could use your help.

[First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor has created special Christmas cards that may be used to present such a gift to another.](#) We ask a donation of 25¢ each for the cards. You may purchase cards at Connections this Sunday morning or via the office during business hours. We hope you will give generously to those who have very little, so that the true spirit of Christmas is shared with family and friends this season.



**It's not too late to pick up a gift card at the Youth Scrip table during Connections.** There is a large variety of cards we have on hand so that you can cross that last item off your list. When you use scrip to purchase groceries and items for your holiday table, you help FUMC Youth earn money toward mission travel. Link your Kroger Plus or Busch's MyWay numbers to FUMC Youth and they earn from your grocery purchases.

• **Connect the Dots** — Have you missed seeing friends in your pew recently? Call them and let them know!

**Live Laugh Love Stamp Camp 8th Annual Stamp Camp**—Join us for a morning of fun and friendship and exploring your creative side to make cards for your family and friends on **Sat., Jan. 26**, 9:30am-12:30pm in Calkins Hall. No experience necessary! You will make six different birthday\* cards from prepared kits (\*other word options will be available). \$30 fee includes all supplies as well as refreshments. The net income from this event will benefit Justice for Our Neighbors. JFON's volunteers, attorneys, and staff work hard to protect human rights and support the families of our immigrant community. (Please write checks payable to JFON and give to Wendy.) Advance registration required. For more information or to register, please contact Wendy Everett at [wendy@fumc-a2.org](mailto:wendy@fumc-a2.org).



**What is Stephen Ministry?** Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry designed to help people going through tough transitions in life. Stephen Ministers are not therapists, but active listeners who walk alongside people experiencing grief, loss, or tense relationships. They are available for confidential one-on-one weekly visits, to be a presence of Christian love and caring for those who need support. With interest, contact the church office or email [amy@fumc-a2.org](mailto:amy@fumc-a2.org).

**Sign up to offer downtown altar flowers** for worship services in 2019 — The poster is hanging outside the downtown church office. Cost: \$50.



## 13 STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- 4** Take into consideration the just treatment of farmworkers; serve **healthy food and beverages.**



*Three-quarters of all pesticides in the United States are used in the agricultural industry, and nearly three-quarters of all acute pesticide poisonings reported are suffered by farmworkers.*

**Do you want to help those reeling from recent natural disasters?** Donations to UMCOR are used to respond to emergencies both domestically and abroad. Write a check to "FUMC", put UMCOR in the memo, and put it in the collection plate. Give generously: 100% of your donation goes directly to assistance.



## Access News

Did you know? There are two complimentary wheelchairs available for use at the downtown church. One is located by the elevator on the ground floor and the other is in the usher's closet in the narthex.

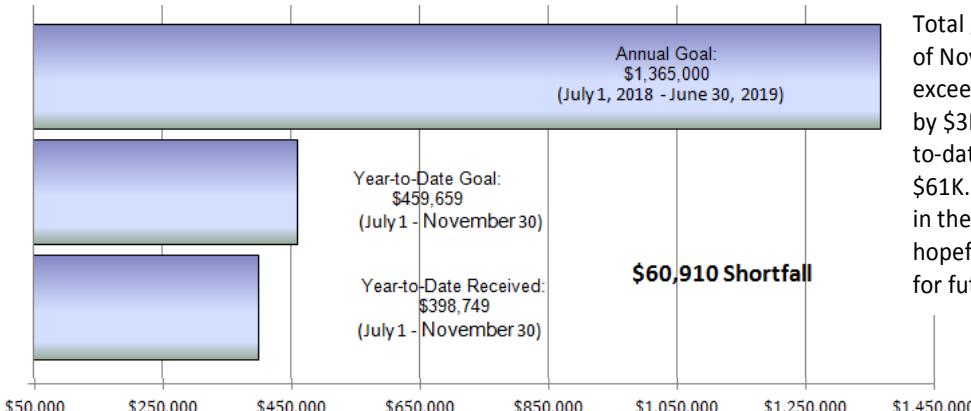


### Wheel Chair Etiquette:

- ◆ Respect a person's wheel chair or scooter as a person's personal body space. Avoid leaning or hanging on to their device.
- ◆ If conversation lasts more than a few minutes, consider sitting down or kneeling to get on the same eye level.
- ◆ Always ask the person using the wheel chair if she or he would like assistance before you help. If help is requested, listen to or ask for instructions.
- ◆ Don't assume that using a wheelchair or scooter is in itself a tragedy. It is a means of freedom that allows the person to move about.

## FUMC Income Progress Toward Our Goal

 **End of Year Giving** — As in past years, it is important that we receive your generous gifts in a timely manner to support our operating and mortgage expenses. In accordance with IRS regulations, end-of-year contributions must be in the business office or postmarked by **Mon., Dec. 31** to be counted as a 2018 tax year contribution; electronic donations via the church website should be made by Dec. 28 to insure that the funds are deposited into the church bank account by Dec. 31. *(Please note that the church office closes at 4:30pm on Dec. 31.)*



Total giving for the month of November has exceeded our expectations by \$3K reducing our year-to-date giving deficit to \$61K. This is a small step in the right direction and is hopefully setting a trend for future months.



## Notable meetings on our calendar

Meetings unique to the days ahead are listed below. Scan qr code at right for our full calendar.



### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23**

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 24**

#### **Christmas Eve worship services**

Family Candlelight Service (5:00p) Green Wood  
 Children's Christmas Service (5:00p) Downtown  
 Family Christmas Service (7:30p) Downtown  
 Candlelight Christmas Service (11:00p) Downtown

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Buildings and offices closed

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Buildings and offices closed

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27**

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28**

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

One Sunday service only at 9:30am

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**

Buildings and offices closed

**Coming up**

- Jan. 8 - Brown Bag Study of Acts begins
- Jan. 11 - Green Wood Coffee House: David Vaughn
- Jan. 18 - Green Wood Coffee House: Juggernaut Jug Band
- Jan. 20 - UofM Faculty Brass Quintet concert downtown
- Jan. 21 - Buildings/offices closed: MLK Jr. day
- Jan. 26 - Live, Laugh, Love Stamp Camp for JFON
- Jan. 27 - Pop up book study of "Pastrix" by Nadia Bolz-Weber  
New Member midday class  
Ann Arbor Camerata Orchestra II downtown
- Feb. 1 - Green Wood Coffee House: Greg Kihn
- Feb. 2 - FUMCN Open House  
Souper Euchre Bowl downtown
- Feb. 8 - Green Wood Coffee House: Good Little Giants
- Feb. 9 - Costa Rica Mission Team departs  
Global Music & Dinner

## **PRAAYER REQUESTS**

The FUMC Prayer Chain is here for all members, friends, and visitors. If you have a prayer concern, you may email your request, write the request and place it in the Prayer Request Box in the narthex, submit your request via the church website, or contact one of the pastors directly. To submit via email, contact Olivia Fanning at [olfanning@icloud.com](mailto:olfanning@icloud.com).

## **Drop-in Weekly Gatherings**

The groups below welcome visitors at any time.

Join one or more groups to enjoy fellowship while seeking to know God, love others, and serve the world.

For more information on a group listed, contact the church office or consult the website.

**SUNDAYS:** Global Issues (11am Chapel) This group meets to discuss timely and meaningful topics, Sept.- May. This class uses the "Great Decisions" text from the Foreign Policy Association ([fpa.org](http://fpa.org)). All are welcome to join us. No meeting until January 6.

**MONDAYS:** Monday Yoga (11:40am Calkins) One-hour beginning yoga class with Holly Vogtmann — bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and \$13 per visit. Please note: no meeting until January 7.

**TUESDAYS:** Brown Bag Bible Advent Study (12:00pm Chapel) A one-hour midday drop-in study. Starting January 8, we will study the book of Acts. Bring your lunch!

**TUESDAYS:** Paint Studio (3:30pm Asbury) A group of watercolor artists meets weekly to work on personal and group projects. People working in water-based media are welcome!

**NEW! WEDNESDAYS:** Alcoholics Anonymous for Women (4:30-5:30pm Green Wood)

**FRIDAYS:** Alcoholics Anonymous (9:30-10:30am Social Hall)

**FRIDAYS:** Debtors Anonymous (11:30am-12:30pm Chapel)

**FRIDAYS:** L.O.V.E. Thy Neighbor Bag Lunch preparation (6:30-7:30pm Kitchen) Prepare bag lunches for distribution to our community homeless.

**SATURDAYS:** Men Of Faith (8:00am Asbury) Gathering of men interested in exploring faith expression.

**SATURDAYS:** Alcoholics Anonymous (10:00-11:00am Social Hall)

## **Green Wood Coffee House Series**

*Join us for exceptional music, coffee, and dessert in an intimate setting at one of our Green Wood Coffee Houses.*

- January 4 - Reggie Harris (\$15)
- January 11 - David Vaughn (\$15)
- January 18 - Juggernaut Jug Band (\$15)

**All concerts begin at 8pm.** Doors open at 7:30pm.  
*Seating is first come, first served. Refreshments available.*

Reservations are highly recommended! (1) Online reservations/purchases may be made through the webpage ([www.greenwoodcoffeehouse.org](http://www.greenwoodcoffeehouse.org)).  
 (2) Conventional reservation method is to call Green Wood (665-8558) and leave a message with your name, no. of tickets, and performance date; then write a check to "FUMC" for the total, with "GW Coffee House" in the memo and send to: GREEN WOOD - 1001 GREEN RD., ANN ARBOR, MI 48105. We'll see you at the door at 7:30 p.m. on performance night. *Either way you make your reservation, tickets aren't mailed.*