



THE FIRST GRAPEVINE

FROM THE PASTOR

“Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near.”

Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV)

Grace and peace to you!

I, Pastor David, would like to invite you to be a part of the Lenten Study by Matt Rawle, *The Final Days*. The study is just getting started, and there is always room for more. We will meet after worship around 11:00 A.M. in the lounge, and again on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 P.M. in the lounge.

During this Lenten season, I will be preaching a series on how we can reconnect with God and Christ or deepen our connection to them. Lent is a significant period that encourages us to dedicate additional time for prayer, reflection, worship, and service. Yet for me personally, it is not so much about giving up things as it is about getting involved.



When we are willing to let go of harmful or hurtful behaviors and choose to be involved, we can improve our lives and positively impact the lives of others.

My hope and prayer during this Season of Lent is that we, as the church, will continue to work as one to spread the Good News of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone, and to remain alert to those who may have found themselves disconnected from God and Jesus.

During the month of February, we at First United Methodist Church have been involved in many wonderful ministries. We have started a new praise and worship service on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 P.M., where Chase Murphy provides inspirational music as we praise God and Christ together.

The Pigeon Community Food Pantry is open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The need is great, as we are up 220% from where we were a year ago. The Clothing Closet of Pigeon is a new ministry proposed to the Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Committee, approved by the Trustees, and supported by the Administrative Board. This ministry began when Laniel O'Conner recognized that if people need food, they may also have a need for clothing. In the short time the Clothing Closet has been open, we have served 140 families. The congregation also participated in an all-church potluck, which was well received and enjoyed by everyone.

First United Methodist Church also experienced loss with the passing of Joan Heron on February 10, 2026, and Dale Christner on February 14, 2026. The church held Services of Death and Resurrection for both Joan and Dale. Thanks to Nancy Smith and her volunteer team, our Funeral Luncheon Ministry served excellent meals. Both Joan and Dale will be greatly missed.

As we enter March, First United Methodist Church will once again set up the Prayer Vigil. The plan is to prepare the space after worship on Sunday, March 29, 2026. Last year, we brought this meaningful time of prayer and reflection back to our church. Sign-up sheets will be available next Sunday for those who would like to reserve a time slot to pray. We will also participate in the Community Maundy Thursday Service beginning at 7:00 P.M., hosted by Salem Global Methodist Church. On Good Friday, we will host the Community Good Friday Service beginning at 1:00 P.M. The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church at 7:00 A.M., with breakfast to follow.

I would like to offer a word of thanks to the membership of First United Methodist Church, to those who filled the pulpit, led children's time, and to all the volunteers who faithfully served here while Robin was visiting family and I was visiting other United Methodist churches in Florida.

In closing, let me share these words from the prophet Isaiah 40:30-31:

“Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Peace and Grace,

Pastor David Leineke



2025-2026 COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFASTS

Join us on March 4 for prayer, fellowship, breakfast, and guest speaker, Donald Faupel, Retired CPA & Lay Person at Elkton Missionary Church

- 7:00 - 8:00 AM
- First Wednesday of the month, November to April

PIGEON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7102 E. MICHIGAN AVE. PIGEON, MI 49875



Clothing Closet

Open Wednesdays
10am-4pm
7102 E. Michigan Ave. Pigeon
First United Methodist Church
located in lower level

Free clothing for those in need




Everyone is welcome

Praise to Worship

Every Wednesday Night 6pm

Pigeon First United Methodist Church
7102 E. Michigan Ave
Pigeon, MI
989-453-2475
www.pigeonfirstumc.org

COMMUNITY MEN'S BREAKFAST MARCH 4

You're invited to the Community Men's Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00 AM at Pigeon First UMC. Enjoy breakfast, prayer, and fellowship, and hear from our guest speaker, Donald Faupel, a retired CPA and layperson at Elkton Missionary Church.

COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET OF PIGEON

Matthew 25:36 " I was in need of clothes, and you clothed me." The Community Clothes Closet of Pigeon hosted at Pigeon First UMC continues to be an effective ministry in providing clothing to those in need in the Thumb. The Community Clothing Closet of Pigeon is open every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clothing donations are gratefully accepted at Bailey's Insurance in Pigeon, Pigeon Hardware, and Biff's Bar & Grill in Kinde, Michigan. Please do not bring donations directly to the church. Thank you for your generosity and support of this new ministry.

MARCH NOISY CHANGE OFFERING

The Noisy Change offering on March 11 is in support of Noah (Networking, Organizing, and Advocating for the Homeless) at Central, located in Central United Methodist Church in Detroit, MI. Noah at Central has supported Detroiters experiencing homelessness for over 25 years, beginning with a bag lunch program that continues to this day. Noah at Central serves as a central hub for services, resources, & relationships as they journey alongside individuals on the path to stable housing. They accomplish this through: Casework, Bag Lunch, Street Outreach, and Health & Wellness.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING

Pigeon First UMC invites you to join us every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM for a Praise and Worship Service. Enjoy live music, meaningful worship, and a welcoming atmosphere. All are welcome, and you are invited to come as you are.



THE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY OF PIGEON

The Community Food Pantry of Pigeon will be open on March 11 and March 25 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and welcomes walk-ins on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. If you or someone you know could use assistance, you are always welcome. If you feel called to serve, volunteers are greatly appreciated. To get involved, please contact the church office at 989-453-2475, email pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com, or complete a Connect Card found in the pews.

LATEST FROM THE N.O.W. COMMITTEE

The N.O.W. Committee of Pigeon First UMC is having a committee meeting on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 PM at the church.

The N.O.W. Committee wishes to thank everyone for their donations to the Laker Giving Tree, organized by Allie and Anna Leigh Siewert. Over \$1,000 worth of gifts were collected for needy families for Christmas. Thank you!

We have also achieved our "Cereal Challenge" goal of "Hiding the Pastor" by creating a wall of cereal boxes, collecting **175** cereal boxes! Thank you to everyone who donated cereal!



COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 29, 9:30 AM @ Pigeon First United Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 7:00 PM @ Salem Global Methodist Church

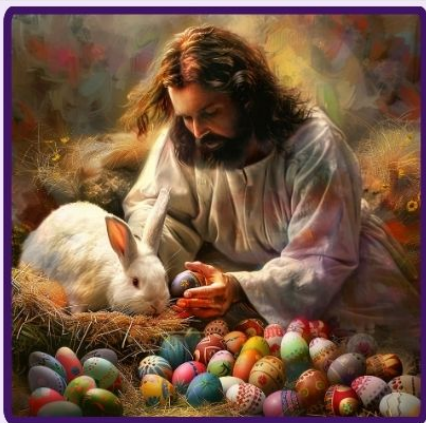
Overnight Prayer Vigil - Thursday, April 2, 8:00 PM to Friday, April 3, 12:00 PM @ Pigeon First UMC

Good Friday - April 3, 1:00 PM @ Pigeon First UMC

CONFIRMATION CLASS STARTING SOON

A confirmation class is starting Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 PM and continuing every Wednesday for four weeks. Interested youth may contact the Church Office at 989-453-2475, use the Connect Cards in the pews and drop in Pastor's mailbox, or speak with Pastor David.





COMMUNITY EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunrise Service & Breakfast - April 5, 7:00 AM @ Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church

Easter Worship - April 5, 9:30 AM @ Pigeon First UMC followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES SPRING 2026 EAST WINDS SATURDAY COURSES

The Lay Servant team is offering Saturday courses at Lake Orion UMC, 140 E Flint St., Lake Orion, MI 48362. Classes Saturday, March 7 from 9 - 2:30pm. There is no fee to attend, however participants need to purchase their own book. Please bring a sack lunch as no meals will be served onsite.

Lay Servant Ministries – Basic Course: Lay Servant Ministries Participant's Book • DR626 • 978-0-88177-626-3 • \$13.00 Participant's Book available in ePub and Kindle (\$9.99) Course book available at UpperRoom.org (ISBN 978-0-88177-626-3) Led by Brent Ruby.

For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts. Participant's Book • DR958 • 978-0-88177-958-5 • \$15.00 (ePub, \$9.99) Available at UpperRoom.org Led by Rev. Larry Wik and Pastor Kristen LePalm

Teaching Biblical Faith: Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies. Participant's Book • 978-1-63088-430-7 • \$10.99 (ePub, \$11.99) Available at Cokesbury.com. Led by Michele Rousseau

To register for a course, please complete the questions on the form at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wOerMKYTViulj6eEbrr15xnv7fVZoIHU/view>. Questions? Contact Kristen LePalm at 810-429-3269 or lepalmkristen@gmail.com.

UNITED CHRISTIANS IN PRAYER

The United Christians in Prayer is hosting a program on March 1 at 3:00 PM at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church, 25 Moeller St., in Pigeon. All are welcome.



United
Women
in Faith

Faith 
Action 
Sisterhood 

NEWS FROM THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our group met on February 5 for an afternoon of planning and a tasty Valentine Luncheon. Using the UWF guide “Mapping Our Way Forward,” we made great progress in scheduling our activities for the remainder of the year. ALL women are welcome to our next meeting on Thursday, March 5 at 1:30PM. We will be fine-tuning plans for our annual White Breakfast to be held here at Pigeon First UMC on Tuesday, March 31. Please consider helping with this beautifully reflective event.

Watch for the flyer for the White Breakfast and the new 2026 UWF brochure.

All the best,

Sue Kohl, Vice President
UWF of Pigeon First UMC

SAVE THE DATE: UWF WHITE BREAKFAST

The Annual UWF White Breakfast is scheduled for March 31 at 9:30 AM, and planning is already underway! Sue Kohl is the guest speaker. Join us for a special morning of prayer, fellowship, and breakfast. It takes many caring hands to create this spirit-filled and welcoming event—consider being part of it. For more information, to help, or to RSVP, contact Rosanne Seemann at 989-550-7404, Sue Kohl at 989-453-3556, or the Church Office 989-453-2475. Save the date—you won’t want to miss this inspiring and healing time together!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

If you are looking for a way to serve God and the Church, volunteering at Grace Space during worship and hosting a Coffee Hour are wonderful ways to serve. Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex. Thanking you in advance to your willingness to serve.





- 8 Brent Salas
- 9 Linda Schmidt
Audrey Steinman
- 10 Karen Steinman
Curtis O'Connor
- 14 Brittany Armbruster
Tracy Johnson
Rita Shantry
- 24 Peg McCormick
- 28 Dana Martin



- 19 John & Tracy Johnson
- 23 Scott & Nancy Smith



- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dave Anderson | Brenda Dickason | Lorraine Pillow |
| Leo Brancheau | Hazel Good | Bob Thiel |
| Drew Chapple | Marge Maurer | MaryLou Thiel |
| Karen Chapple | Sid Miller | Jane Walker |
| Mark Chapple | Rhonda Phelps | Bill Weitzel |
| Myrna Daniels | | |



COFFEE HOUR

- 1 Robin Leineke &
Rosanne Seemann
- 8 *No Volunteer*
- 15 *No Volunteer*
- 22 *No Volunteer*
- 29 *No Volunteer*

GRACE SPACE

- 1 Faith Deming
- 8 *No Volunteer*
- 15 *No Volunteer*
- 22 *No Volunteer*
- 29 *No Volunteer*

If you can help, sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

**TOTAL
FEBRUARY
ATTENDANCE
320**

FEBRUARY	1	8	15	22
Total	77	75	79	89
In Person	62	57	57	76
Online	15	18	22	13
Visitors	9	4	10	7

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PIGEON

P.O. Box 377

7102 E. Michigan Avenue

Pigeon, Michigan 48755

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Community Men's Breakfast, p. 3

Confirmation Classes, p. 4

Holy Week Service Schedule, pp. 4-5

UWF White Breakfast, p. 6

Volunteers Needed, p. 6