



THE FIRST GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER
2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PIGEON

P.O. Box 377
7102 E Michigan Ave.
Pigeon MI 48755
(989) 453-2475
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PASTOR

Rev. David Leineke
(313)-820-9258
d.leineke@hotmail.com

WEBSITE

firstumcpigeon.org

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/pigeonfirst

OFFICE HOURS

M/T/W/Th 10am-3pm
Friday CLOSED



FROM YOUR PASTOR

Isaiah 40:31 (NLT):

*"But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint."*

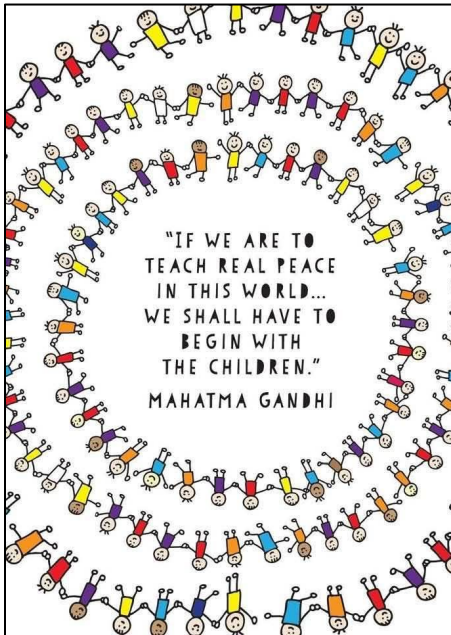
Greetings, and grace and peace be with you. As we enjoy the summer holiday of 2025 with Labor Day picnics and parties, Robin and I wish you a safe, healthy, and peace-filled holiday.

As summer ends and a new school year begins, we live in hope of great things to come. We hope for the safety of our children, teachers, custodians, bus drivers, and all the volunteers who will make this year a meaningful experience for everyone. We must hold on to hope, and this passage from Isaiah gives us clear direction, reminding us where we should place our hope: *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."*

Along with the start of a new school year, this also marks the beginning of the liturgical year of the church. I, Pastor David, would like to thank the membership of First United Methodist Church of Pigeon for your passion and willingness to serve our God and Savior, Jesus Christ, during this past year. My hope is that we, at First United Methodist Church of Pigeon, will continue in this partnership with God and Christ as we work together to build the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

First Church will host a confirmation class on Thursdays, starting September 25, in the evening. It is encouraging that these young people want to become more involved and grow in their understanding of church teachings and Scripture. The youth of First United Methodist Church of Pigeon represent an important part of both the church and the community's future. Please continue to support youth events and consider helping them with their extracurricular activities, both in and out of school.

Matthew 19:14–15 (NLT): *Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.” And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.*



Several events are scheduled for September. Beginning September 14, we will offer a six-week Bible Study titled *“The Parables of Jesus”* following worship services. Study books are available in the Narthex. Also, join us on September 14 at 4:30 p.m. for a benefit concert featuring Michael Emshwiller, followed by salads and cold cuts. This event will help raise awareness of the needs of the Community Food Pantry of Pigeon. Michael and Brent have been with us before, and they are good friends of our very own Deb Sturm—please mark your calendars for this special evening. Be sure to check the website for many more events planned for this fall. Great things are ahead, so let’s not lose hope.

In closing, let me share these words from Romans 15:13 (*The Message*, Eugene Peterson): *“Oh! May the God of great hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!”*

May God’s Grace, God’s Peace and God’s Power and Love be with you!

Pastor David

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDANT

With great gratitude, I commend Pigeon: First UMC for living into your giving plan toward paying 100% of your 2025 Conference Ministry Shares. This represents your commitment not only to the Michigan Conference but also to God and the greater Church as we seek to complete our mission to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ. As we give faithfully, God promises to bless abundantly (Malachi 3:10).

May you know God’s abundant blessing.

DS John Kasper





GRANT TRAININGS AND UPDATES

Here are some of the grants and grant trainings available through the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church:

- 1). Grant searches with Grantstation, Wednesday, September 3rd from 9:30-10:30 AM ET or 6:00-7:00 PM ET. Same content, two times. [Registration is now open.](#)
- 2). Fund Development 101, Monday, October 13 at 12:30 PM or 6:00 PM ET. [Register Now!](#)

NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

1. **The Citizens Bank Corporate Giving Program** supports nonprofit organizations in the communities where the company does business through charitable grants, sponsorships, and a recognition program. The primary focus is to support programs that: fight hunger and reduce food insecurity; teach money management through financial literacy programs that provide individuals and small businesses with the tools needed to be fiscally healthy; and, strengthen communities through economic development, job training, and small business development. <https://www.citizensbank.com/about-us/community.aspx>
2. **AARP Foundation**- We support projects that can become sustainable solutions to the challenges facing older adults with low income. Generating Income/Earnings, Gaining Access to Benefits, Securing Refunds/Credits, Supporting Disaster Relief: <https://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/grants/>
3. **The Núhi Grant** is a new initiative from the Walker Youngbird Foundation that centers Native artists working within and for their own communities. Named after the Hidatsa word *núhi*, meaning “to uplift,” this \$7,500 grant honors creative work deeply rooted in place, tradition, and lived experience—projects that are not only inspired by Indigenous culture, but actively serve the communities that shape them. <https://walkeryoungbird.org/nuhi>

Remember to connect with your local community foundation for additional grant opportunities! You can also find more information at michiganumc.org/grants.



CHOIR REHEARSALS TO BEGIN

Choir rehearsals will begin September 8 on at 7:00 PM at the church. Their first Sunday back at worship will be September 14. Please contact Bill Weitzel, choir director, if you are interested in joining the choir. Reach out to the Church Office pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com or 989-453-2475, or use the Connect Cards in the pews.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MEET

There is a Board of Trustees Meeting on September 9 at 6:30 PM at the Church. See you there!



UPDATES FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

Last week, we received news from 101 Mobility that the new Savaria Elevator will be arriving in mid-September. We have informed J2Builders, who are reconstructing our shaft. 101 Mobility has also been in contact with them. In addition, we have been in contact with Bob Kelly at Maurer Electric to proceed with the electrical work needed for the elevator. They will also work with us in redoing the electric lighting in the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and the Pastor's office.

Work has been completed in the Community Food Pantry refurbishing the walls and the floor. A special grant was received from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for additional shelving. We are looking forward to more refrigeration for additional meat and perishables. It's been surprising that the usage of the Community Food Pantry has risen by over 100% since 2024. Thank you for all your gifts which help keep the shelves stocked!

Thank you for all your support!
Karl Zeigler, Chair



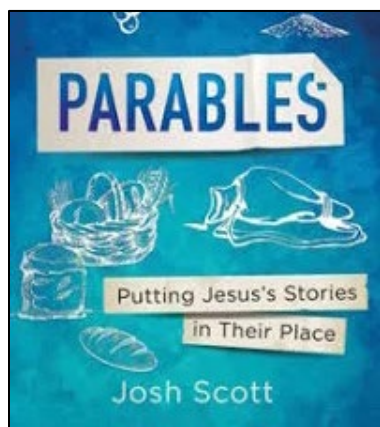
NURTURE, OUTREACH, & WITNESS COMMITTEE

The NOW Committee will be meeting on September 9 at 6:30 PM. We look forward to seeing committee members for this meeting.



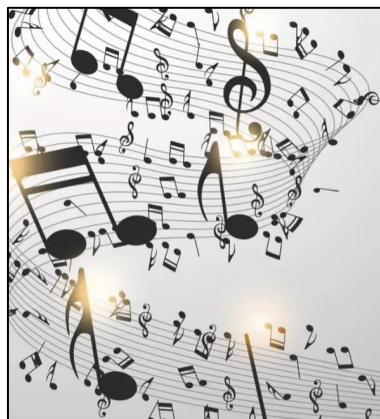
NOISY OFFERING FOCUS

We are continuing to support our School Partnerships with the Noisy Offering on September 14, 2025. Our local school partnerships benefit from annual school supply drives, reading in elementary classes, and funding for books and special programs benefiting students in our community.



PARABLES: PUTTING JESUS' STORIES IN THEIR PLACE

Our next bible study begins Sunday, September 14 after worship for six weeks. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex along with the study books.



BENEFIT CONCERT SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a Benefit Concert featuring Michael Emshwiller on Sunday, September 14 at 4:30 PM at Pigeon First UMC. A light meal will be served following the performance. All proceeds will support the Community Food Pantry of Pigeon. Michael is a good friend of Deb Sturm and Cheryl Wascher.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 25

First United Methodist Church of Pigeon will have Confirmation Classes on Thursdays, beginning September 25, 6:00-8:00 PM. Contact Pastor David to sign up, call or email the Church Office 989-453-2475 or pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com, or use the Connect Cards in the pews.



FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOURS

The Community Food Pantry of Pigeon is open to walk-in assistance on September 10 and September 24 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Church Office at 989-453-2475, email pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com or use the Connect Card in the pews.

SHELF BY SHELF, LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Community Food Pantry of Pigeon is currently in need of donations of cereal, paper towels, toilet paper, and personal hygiene items. Please place your contributions in the designated basket located in the Narthex. Donations to the Community Food Pantry of Pigeon can be sent to Pigeon First UMC. Please make checks payable to Community Food Pantry of Pigeon. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



PLANS UNDERWAY FOR POP-UP PANTRY Plans are underway for a Fall Pop-Up Food Pantry. Please watch the weekly bulletin and the Newsletter(s) for more details.



KICKOFF SUNDAY & CHOIR BARBECUE

Kickoff Sunday & Choir Barbecue is scheduled for Sunday, October 5 immediately after worship at Pigeon First United Methodist Church. Wear your favorite amateur or professional football gear that day! Activities on the lawn will be available for youth of all ages, weather permitting. There will be hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, brats, salads and ice cream sundaes.



PUMPKIN PATCH OUTING IN THE WORKS

The date for a visit to Johnson's Pumpkin Farm in Saginaw is October 12 and meeting there at 2:00 PM. This fun fall outing is a great activity for the whole family. Please look for more details in the weekly bulletins, the newsletter, or our website pigeonfirstumc.org.



GRACE SPACE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have an interest in volunteering for Grace Space, please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, use a Connect Card in the pews, or contact the Church Office at 989-453-2475.



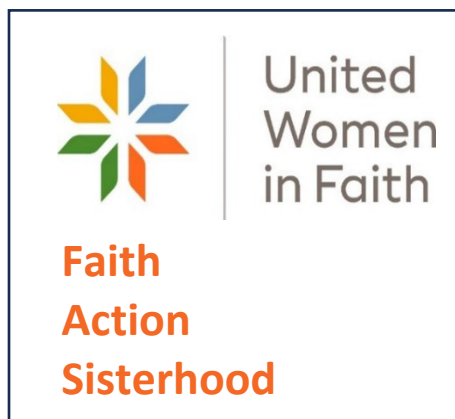
EAST WINDS DISTRICT CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars! The East Winds District Conference will be held on Saturday, November 1, at First United Methodist Church of Bad Axe, 216 E. Woodworth St. Watch for more details and a registration link coming soon.



2025 CHARGE CONFERENCE DATES SET

The 2025 Annual Charge Conference is scheduled for November 16 as 2:30 PM at Sebewaing Trinity United Methodist Church, 513 Washington St., Sebewaing. Forms will be available by August 15. The PPRC Zoom Meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 8:00 PM. Please make note of the dates.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Hello everyone!

Summer is almost done (ugh.)

July's "No Bake, Bake Sale" made over \$1,400. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Deb Sturm led us on our "Mystery Luncheon" on August 7. We had a group of 14 ladies and went to Verona Tavern.

Nobody left hungry! I forgot to take pictures. If anybody took some, please let me know! Great job this year, Deb!

September 4, 2025, is our next UWF Meeting. I hope to see a lot of you there. We will be meeting at 1:30 PM. We are to turn in our "Blessing Boxes". Darlene and Nancy are doing the program. It should be good.

Looking further ahead: October will be when we are holding our Annual Rummage Sale. More details to come.

Everyone please take care!

Rosanne Seemann, President
UWF of Pigeon First UMC

JOYS & CONCERNS



1 Steven Christner	14 Pat Farver	10 Kent & Karen Christner
Joel Thick	21 Reneé Anderson	17 Todd & Muriel Dutcher
5 Cheryl Wascher	27 Shawny Renn	26 Bill & Carol Weitzel
12 Myrna Daniels	Mary Lou Thiel	
14 Dave Anderson	Carol Weitzel	

Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed? Please contact Linda in the Church Office, 989-452-2475 or pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com.



Dave Anderson
Lanny Andrus
Leo Brancheau
Mark Chapple

Dale Christner
Karen Damm
Brenda Dickason
Hazel Good

Marge Maurer
Lorraine Pillow
Bill Weitzel

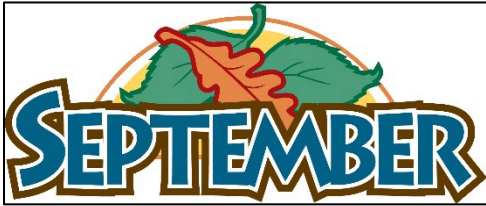
ATTENDANCE

AUGUST	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24	Aug 31	AUGUST TOTAL ATTENDANCE
Total Attendance	66	No	65	62	56	249
In-person	55	Attendance	57	54	48	214
Online	11	Taken	8	8	8	35
Visitors	10		9	5	3	27

Articles for the October 2025 Newsletter are due by **Monday, September 15 at 5:00 PM.** You can submit by email to pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com or drop off at the Church Office.

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P.O. Box 377
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



2025 NEWSLETTER

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CHECK IT OUT