



## THE FIRST GRAPEVINE

JULY  
2025

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PIGEON

P.O. Box 377  
7102 E Michigan Ave.  
Pigeon MI 48755  
(989) 453-2475  
pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com

#### 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

Galatians 5:1, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery."*

Greetings! Grace and peace be with you all.

I, Pastor David, along with Robin, would like to express our gratitude to the membership here at First United Methodist Church of Pigeon. Robin and I will be starting our fourth year of Mission and Ministry on July 1, 2025, here in the Village of Pigeon. We are so grateful for the love and care that you've expressed to us throughout the years. Soon, we will be celebrating the 4th of July, which is commonly referred to as Independence Day. It is a reminder for us of all the freedom that has been given to us, the reason for this freedom, and that it is a result of the service and sacrifice of many who have served and those who currently serve our country.

The first verse of Galatians 5 reads, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then. Do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* In the Letter from the Apostle Paul to the Galatians, he shares with them a different type of freedom. And that this freedom is a result of the sacrifice that our Lord has made for us so that we can be free of the sins of the past that keep us bound. Paul then offers suggestions for ways that we may live our lives differently in hopes that we will never be slaves and be bound to be slaves of sin again.

These past two weeks, we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to create relationships with a group of men who have an alternative living arrangement. Being able to spend some time with these men in conversation has given us an opportunity to learn a little bit about their lives. In return, they had an opportunity to learn a little bit about ours. It was truly a remarkable experience to hear their stories and the hopes that they too must be free. Not only free from their current living situations, but to be free from the choices they've made that resulted in their present living conditions and a freedom to move forward with their lives.

This team worked very hard around our property and did many great things for us. Not once were there any complaints from team members. They took a risk when they told their stories, spoke of their fears, and shared their hopes and dreams. I shared with them Galatians 5:13-14, *"You, my brothers, were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command. Love your neighbor as yourself."* An invitation to be part of our worship was shared with this crew who came and shared of themselves. It is my hope that they will return to us in fellowship and friendship in worship. What a truly wonderful experience it is when we can bring the scripture to life as we did this past week with this crew who gave of themselves and cared for our building and grounds and for us.

The month of July is a busy month here at First United Methodist Church of Pigeon. On July 13 at 11:15 AM, we will be celebrating an Ecumenical Outdoor Worship Service with the Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church, the Pigeon River Mennonite Church, the Elkton Missionary Church, and First United Methodist Church. We are hosting this service on our side lawn to kick off Pigeon's Farmers Summerfest activities. And then on July 14, 15, and 16, our Vacation Bible School will begin at 5:30 PM and run until 8:00 PM. The theme for this year's VBS is "Road Trip: On the Road with God." Dinner will be provided each evening. And once again, the community is invited to our church property for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Funfest on the Lawn on July 18 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. We are hopeful that this congregation will continue to participate in such a meaningful experience as we share the love of God and Christ with one another throughout the Village with love and laughter. And again, we gather in the Village on Saturday, July 19, to support the Summerfest Grand Parade with our float. We will be having a Closing Worship Service for this year's Pigeon Farmers Summerfest on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM at the Pigeon Park. This is something new, but the Lakers Ecumenical Group feels that it is important that we close Pigeon Farmers Summerfest the way we opened it by giving thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who has given us the opportunity to be set free.

This is a busy month in the life of our church but let us remember the words again from the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:9-10, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"*

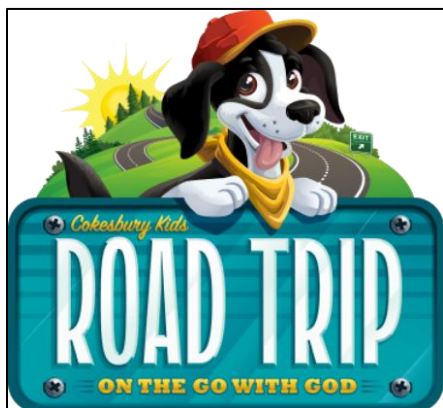
Peace and Grace,

*Pastor David*



### ECUMENICAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP

An Ecumenical Outdoor Worship Experience will be held on July 13 at 11:15 AM on the grounds of First United Methodist Church to kick off the week of events for Summerfest 2025. The community service is with these participating churches: Michigan Avenue Mennonite, Pigeon River Mennonite, Elkton Missionary, and First United Methodist of Pigeon.



### BE A PART OF THE FUN – JOIN US FOR VBS!

Please join us for the Cokebury VBS program, “ROAD TRIP: On The Road With God.” This interactive lesson is filled with songs, games, crafts, and teachings of God's love for everyone. The starting time is 5:30 PM, and closing at 8:00 PM. A meal will be served for those in attendance on July 14, July 15, and July 16. If you are interested in helping or know of children interested in participating, don't hesitate to contact the church office at (989) 453-2475 or email the at [pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com). You may also contact Jillian Steinman at [jsteinman@huronisd.org](mailto:jsteinman@huronisd.org) or (989) 553-0744.



### JOIN US FOR FUNFEST ON THE LAWN

Please join us for Funfest on the Lawn on Friday, July 18, 1:30-4:30 PM at Pigeon First UMC. There will be family-friendly games, activities, food, and drinks. This is a great outreach for Pigeon First UMC as we continue to build relationships with our neighbors.



### REPRESENT PIGEON FIRST UMC

Please join us again in celebrating with one another and walk with our First United Methodist Church Float for the Summerfest Grand Parade on Saturday, July 19. As we walk, we will pass out candy bags along with an invitation to join us in fellowship and worship. Please plan on being at the staging area of the Grand Parade at 10:00 AM. Please call the Church Office (989) 453-2475 or email [pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com) or use the connect cards located in the pews and leave in Pastor David's mailbox.





## OUTDOOR WORSHIP CLOSING SUMMERFEST

There will be an Outdoor Ecumencial Worship Service on July 20, 2025, at 4:30 PM in the Pigeon Park. This is a way to give thanks and celebrate the activities of the week of Pigeon Farmers Summerfest. The churches involved will be Michigan Ave Mennonite, Pigeon River Mennonite, and First United Methodist.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are needed for this year's Summerfest:



### Float-Building for Summerfest Grand Parade

Volunteers are needed to help build our float for the Pigeon Summerfest Grand Parade. Meet in the Pigeon First UMC Parking Lot at 4:00 PM on July 17 if you can help.

**Funfest on the Lawn at First United Methodist Church of Pigeon during the Pigeon Farmer's Summerfest, Friday, July 18, 1:30-4:30 PM.** Volunteers are needed for a setup team, a take-down team, a cooking team, a team to apply water bottle labels, and a team to distribute water bottles during the events in and around the community.

**Grand Parade Float for the Pigeon Summerfest, Saturday, July 19, 11:00 AM.** A volunteer is needed to drive a vehicle that can pull our float in the Grand Parade, which will take about three hours, as well as volunteers to walk with the float. Please reach out to the Church Office 989-453-2475, or email [pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com) or the connect cards in the pews and leave in Pastor David's box.

### Pigeon Band Shell Summer Concert Series 2025

We are looking for volunteers to pass out water bottles at the Pigeon Band Shell Summer Concert Series on July 10, July 24, and August 7. Please reach out to the Church Office 989-453-2475, or email [pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com) or the connect cards in the pews and leave in Pastor David's box.



## NURTURE, OUTREACH, & WITNESS COMMITTEE

The next NOW Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:30 PM



### **NOISY OFFERING FOCUS**

The Noisy Offering on July 13, 2025, is designated for our School Partnerships. Our local school partnerships benefit from annual school supply drives, reading in elementary classes, and funding for special programs benefiting students in our community.



### **FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOURS**

The July Open Hours for the Community Food Pantry of Pigeon are July 8 and July 22 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Volunteers are needed to help! If interested, please contact the Church Office at 989-453-2475, email [pigeonfirsttmc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirsttmc@gmail.com) or use the Connect Card in the pews.

The Community Food Pantry of Pigeon has been awarded a Capacity Partnership Grant from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in the amount of \$3,429 to purchase a stand up commercial freezer and new commercial shelving units.

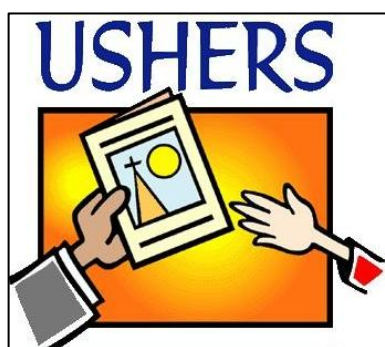


### **POP-UP PANTRY ON JUNE 28TH**

I, Pastor David, would like to offer a word of thanks to all who helped make this a life-changing event for many. We as the Church representing the Body of Christ, passed out 17,635 lbs. of groceries. There were 70 cars, 150 families, and 540 people in need that we the Church provided groceries to.

**GRACE SPACE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need folks to interact with our kids in the Grace Space area during worship. Please sign up for a Sunday on the list in the Narthex, contact the Church Office at 989-453-2475, or use a Connect Card in the pews.

**HELP GREET & GUIDE — JOIN OUR USHER TEAM**

Volunteers are needed to add to the current usher teams and/or make a new team or two. Contact Todd Dutcher if interested (989-385-6206) or use the Connect Cards in the pews.

**FOOD PANTRY ITEM FOCUS**

The Community Food Pantry of Pigeon needs non-perishable food items as well as cleaning and paper products, and personal hygiene items. Please put your donations in the designated basket in the Narthex. Thank you for all your donations.

**WE'D LOVE YOUR INPUT FOR THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER**

Articles are due by **Tuesday, July 15 at 5:00 PM** for the August 2025 Newsletter. You can submit by email to [pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:pigeonfirstumc@gmail.com) or drop off at the Church Office.



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING & UPDATES**

### **Church Tuck Painting**

The contractor working on the church tuck painting is sure that he can complete the work prior to the Summerfest Worship on the Lawn on July 13. He is planning to complete the work over the July 4 weekend.

### **Elevator Update**

The meeting with 101 Mobility and J2 Builders took place on June 16. We are considering adding tempered glass doors to the project.

### **Fellowship Hall Lighting Replacement**

The project was approved to replace the lighting in the Fellowship Hall. The bid from Maurer Electric was accepted and work will begin very soon.

### **Parsonage Landscaping Project**

The work on the Parsonage Landscaping Project is proceeding well. The stones and dead and/or dying shrubs and trees have been removed. Work is proceeding on replacement plantings and edging material.

Submitted by Karl Zeigler, Trustee Chair



## **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Hello, everyone! Just a quick note about what's happening.

The month of July is our annual "NO BAKE, BAKE SALE". A donation envelope is attached. There is no formal meeting scheduled for July.

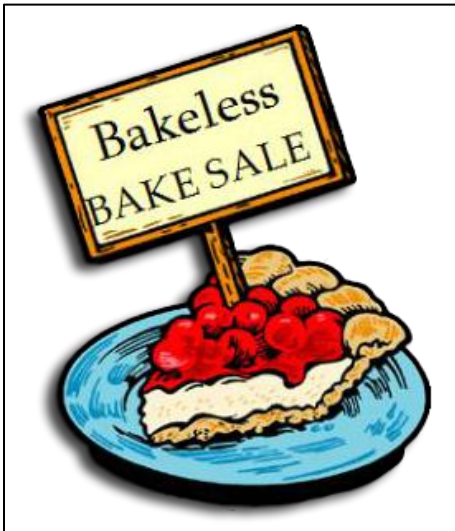
Please reserve August 7 for our annual MYSTERY LUNCHEON TRIP. Our leader for this trip is Deb Sturm. Information will be coming soon.

**CAMPERS:** This is just an informational piece. If you have a camper this year, both the NOW committee and the UWF have sponsorships available for campers. For information, please contact me at 989-550-7404.

Hope you're having a beautiful summer. ENJOY!

Rosanne Seemann, President  
UWF of Pigeon First UMC



**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BAKELESS BAKE SALE**

A bit of news we have today...

a BAKELESS BAKE SALE is on the way.

In these busy days, who wants to bake

a pie or cookies or even a cake?

You'd be surprised if you counted the cost

of ingredients, heat, and the time you've lost.

Baking for sales is extra work,

yet nobody really wants to shirk.

So, we've thought of a plan that's really grand,

and feel quite sure you'll understand.

In an envelope, if you like, please include the price...

of a pie or cake or anything nice.

Without fuss or bother, you've done your part.

We hope you'll give with a willing heart.

Wishing success for our BAKELESS BAKE SALE.

This is the end of our little tale.

Please make checks to "**UWF.**" Use the envelope attached below, return by July 31. You can also mail your donation to: UWF c/o Darlene Bush, PO Box 565, Pigeon MI 48755-0565. Please note "Bakeless Bake Sale" on the memo line.

(envelope attached here)



## JOYS & CONCERNS



3	Eli Salas	19	Randy Sturm	2	C. Michael & Jill Terrill
	Evan Salas	22	Carrie Damm	5	Fred & Donna Orr
5	Tyson Steinman	24	Robert Damm	7	Jordon & Lauren Gruehn
8	Chloe O'Connor		Joan Davis	21	Branden & Jennifer Anderson
12	Tiffany Salas	28	Larry Petrick		Vic & Karen Damen
15	Dave McCormick		Rosanne Seemann	24	Robert & Karen Damen
	Rylee Steinman	29	Kent Christner		
16	Robert Thiel, Jr.		Carmen Zeigler		
	Don Begg	31	Sandy Wisenbaugh		



Dave Anderson  
Leo Brancheau  
Lanny Andrus  
Mark Chapple  
Dale Christner

Hazel Good  
Karen Damm  
Brenda Dickason  
Marge Maurer

Lorraine Pillow  
Mike Pointsett  
Judy Valley  
Family of Arlene Wascher

## ATTENDANCE

JUNE	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29	JUNE TOTAL ATTENDANCE
Total Attendance	66	84	94	64	74	382
In-person	53	72	87	50	68	330
Online	13	12	7	14	6	52
Visitors	7	7	13	10	5	42

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PIGEON  
P.O. Box 377  
7102 E. Michigan Avenue  
Pigeon, Michigan 48755

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**



**2025 NEWSLETTER**

**CHECK IT OUT**  
**Summerfest Activities**  
(pages 3-4)  
**Vacation Bible School**  
(page 3)  
**News from Our Trustees**  
(page 7)  
**UWF "Bakeless" Bake Sale**  
(page 8)