



tidings

Mailed on: 4/9/2026

Welcome All Love Deeply Serve Boldly

The Next Two Weeks at a Glance

Sunday, April 12th

- 8:15 am Wesley Chorale Meet
- 9:30am Worship
- 10:45am Seekers
- 10:45am Family Ministry Team Meeting

Monday, April 13th

- 1pm STW
- 6:30pm Handicrafters

Tuesday, April 14th

- 8:30am Numbers Meeting
- 9:00am Building Meeting
- 10:00am Quilters
- 4:30pm Adrian Majorettes Practice
- 6:30pm Chiaroscuro Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 15th

- 12:00pm STW & Hot Meals
- 1:00pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm WOW Dinner
- 7:00pm LCC Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16th

- 6:45pm Wesley Bell Choir Meeting

Friday, April 17th

- 7:00pm Carrie Newcomer Concert

Saturday, April 18th

- 8:30am UWF Gathering
- 11:00am Evie Gonser Memorial (At Wagley's Funeral Home)
- 5:30pm Parent's Night Out
- 6:30pm Neighbors of Hope Banquet

Sunday, April 19th

- 8:15am Wesley Chorale Meet
- 9:30am Worship Service
- 10:45am Family Ministries Team Meeting
- 10:45am Seekers

Tuesday, April 21st

- 10:00am Quilters
- 6:00pm Leadership Board Meeting
- 6:30pm Chiaroscuro Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 22nd

- 1:00pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm WOW Dinner
- 7:00pm LCC Rehearsal



We are now in the second week of Easter, the week that centers on Thomas, the disciple who needed to see for himself before he could believe.

Thomas often gets labeled as "doubting," but his response is an important part of the Christian life. Faith that is never questioned is usually not very deep. Our tradition makes room for asking honest questions, bringing doubts before God, and saying, *Show me, Lord.*

The good news in this story is that Jesus meets Thomas exactly there. He responds with compassion and love, giving Thomas what he needs in order to believe. This is an important reminder for all of us during Easter: faith grows not by pretending certainty, but by remaining open to where Christ is at work around us.

This has been a meaningful Easter season already for our congregation.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated the blessing of the organ and heard its first notes and musical pieces offered by Laura Langley. It was a special moment in the life of the church and a clear sign of what the *Miracles on Maple* campaign has made possible.

We are also pleased to share that support for the building campaign has been so strong that no money needed to be borrowed from the endowment. Once the final invoice is received, the organ project will be fully paid for through the generosity of this congregation and community.

That is something worth celebrating.

We will continue that celebration through the opening recital on **May 24 at 4:00 p.m.** featuring Todd Wilson, one of the country's leading concert organists. Mr. Wilson is Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland and Curator of the E.M. Skinner organ at Severance Music Center. His visit will be a major event for both our church and the Adrian community.

Before that, we are excited to host Carrie Newcomer on **Friday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m.** This is a unique opportunity for our church and for Adrian. Please also make note of **CeCe Benz at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets are available now, and as always, if cost is a concern, please let us know and we will gladly make them available free of charge.

As we move through Eastertide, Thomas offers us a helpful posture for faith: keep paying attention, keep asking where God is at work, and remain open to what is being shown to us.

Yours for the journey,

Pastor Alice K. Ford

Blessing of the Sewing Work

The efforts of the church's two sewing groups will be blessed this Sunday, 4/12/2026. The quilts will be donated to the Catherine Cobb Center. The other items will be taken to "Midwest Mission" located in Pawnee, Illinois. In 2000, after several mission trips to Haiti and witnessing the 1993 floods in the Midwest, Jack Trelstead created Midwest Missions. "Tangible resources are sent to people in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope & empowerment." Please take a look at their website www.midwestmission.org for much, much more information. If you would like to join either sewing group, please contact Jan Murley.

Events

UWF Women's Retreat: April 18th, 9am-noon in Fellowship Hall. The topic for this retreat is Mindfulness, and feature Dominican Sister Esther Kennedy, Op as the presenter for the Retreat. More information to come!

REA Spelling Bee: The Adrian Rea Literacy Center is hosting our first-ever fundraiser at 5:30 pm on April 16th, 2026 at the Adrian Armory Community Center. An Adult Spelling Bee! \$50 tickets include food, soft drinks, beer and wine. The Vibe: It's the school classic, evolved. Join us for a night of high-stakes spelling and low-pressure fun! Team Up: Grab 1 or 2 friends to form a spelling squad- or -Show Up: Sit back, enjoy the food and drinks, and judge from afar. Participation is optional—having fun is not!

Hoodies for Lenawee Farmworkers: Our Church is collecting new or gently used sweaters or sweat shirts for the arriving migrant guest workers who will be coming to Lenawee County and Monroe to prepare our food and make ready for the summer season. We are looking for Adult sizes of S,M, and L. Collection ends 4/15/2026.

AN EVENING WITH
CARRIE NEWCOMER
FRIDAY APRIL 17TH @ 7:30PM
WARM-UP WITH CECE BENZ @ 7:00PM

AT ADRIAN FIRST UMC
1245 W. MAPLE AVE
ADRIAN, MI 49221

ADULT TICKETS \$25*
YOUTH \$10
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

For more information:
WWW.ADRIANFUMC.ORG
CALL US: (517) 265-5689

ADRIAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1245 W. Maple Avenue
APRIL 18TH FROM 6PM - 8:30PM
ANNUAL SPRING Banquet

NEIGHBORS OF HOPE

FEATURED Guest Speakers

STATE SENATOR Joe Bellino
STATE REPRESENTATIVE Nancy Jenkins-Arno

MUSIC BY
Larry Rothman

REGISTER NOW EITHER BY:
Email: info@neighborsofhope.com OR Telephone: (517) 265-4019
DON'T FORGET TO INDICATE: (1) Your name & your guest's and (2) Choice of entree: Pork Tenderloin OR Chicken

AFUMC Outreach in Our Community

Our Outreach Team has several activities planned. We would love for more members of the congregation to join us! If you are interested, please either call or text Sandra Harsh at 517-265-9284. These are great opportunities to grow in your faith while serving others.

Outreach at Lincoln School

The Outreach Team is helping at Lincoln Elementary School this Spring, and we hope you can join us! The dates are April 30th for their Science Day either a half or full day. The other event is their family fun day on May 22nd in the morning. Please contact Sandra Harsh for more information.

Opportunities to Give

Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry- We are seeking helpers for this new ministry of Adrian First. We need help with food items provided, stocking shelves, greeting clients, helping to bag food for clients. Please let the office know of your interest. We have an urgent need for: Instant Mashed Potatoes, Instant Oatmeal, Canned Fruit, White Minute Rice, Hamburger and Tuna Helper, Pancake Mix, Canned Chicken, Vegetable Oil, Maple Syrup, Spam, Ketchup, Spaghetti Sauce, Creamy Peanut Butter, Mayonnaise, Toothpaste, Grape and Strawberry Jelly, Ranch Dressing, and Toilet Paper and Paper Towels. Donations are welcome M-F 9 am to 4 pm in the foyer of Fellowship Hall or MWF 10 am to 3 pm in the pantry.

Little Food Pantry- Drop off in the Red Box outside of the nursery/ preschool rooms, or in the office. Take what you need and add as you are able.

St. Mary's Food Pantry- Open:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We can use mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans and variety of soups.

St. Mary's is an emergency food pantry. We appreciate your continued support and generosity, which helps us to purchase fresh produce, bread, milk and any items we can't find at the Foodbank.

Share the Warmth- Donations of items as well as volunteers are always needed. Top needs are disinfectant, toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, printer paper, eggs, whole milk, breakfast bars, coffee, sugar, creamer, non-perishable food items, cereal, bottled paper, frozen meat, Advil/ Tylenol, cold/flu meds, blankets, pillows, twin sheet sheets, and bath towels/ washcloths. Please contact Heather at heather@stwlenawee.org or call 734-625-005.

Prayer Requests & Updates

Please contact the church office with your prayer requests by phone, email or note on your connection card. Prayer requests will be shared with the congregation through the bulletins and Tidings. If the prayer request is private, please note at the time of request. We also invite you to share your joys and celebrations. Just email the church office.

Please know that prayer is our foundation and everything we do is surrounded in prayer.



Current Prayer Concerns:

Prayer Concerns: Suzanne Kruse, Briar Alan Maerkle (Great Nephew of Judy Plotner) and his parents, Tom Gilbert, Nick Whited, Carol Hoag, LoAnn Smith and her Family, Todd Clark, Martha Melcher, Karen Knisel, Jackie Freeman, Marcia Lengnick, Mary Kelly, Dave Perry, Howard Pennington, Tim Sauter, Lisa Cornwell, Jim Walsh, Tim Clark, Pastor Steve Palmer, Tony Lorenzi, Kay Rorsina, Sarah Feeney, Pamela Powers, Jim Caldwell, J.Jay Pechta, Kesha, Blake, Benjamin Reid, Brett Reid, Lorenzo, Russell Cowen, Latrice, Jayce & Zaniyah McKellar, The Soto Family, Christopher Jackson, Oliver (Cheryll Leonard's Nephew), Kelli Bullock, Casey Gray, Rev. David Morton, The Grandson of Fred Smith, Lynn Wheelock, (sister-in-law of Marty Schoonover), Ralph Marsai (brother of Carolyn Siler), Yvonne Raleigh, Greg Dumars, Ron Harwick, Pat Dunlap, Shirley and Bill Ehnis, Vicki King, Fred Kruse, John Thurman

Rev. Zack Dunlap and his family during and after the transition

Pam and Gerry Burg for the passing of Pam's brother, Ed Linhart, who came to rest on March 25th, 2026

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TIDINGS

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Tidings is a biweekly publication. Please get your information to the office, by the Wednesday most convenient.

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SCAN ME



Ongoing Ministries

HANDICRAFTERS: 6:30 pm 2nd and 4th Mondays

GARDENING : 9:30am in the Memorial Garden Tuesdays
(weather permitting)

QUILTERS: every Tuesday from 10am-2pm in the Lounge

MEN'S BREAKFAST: 7:00am first Wednesday of month at Family Kitchen

W.O.W. (Wednesdays of Wonder): 5:30pm -7:30pm weekly

HANDBELL CHOIR: Every Thursday at 6:45pm in Room 13

Stitch and Serve: 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 1 - 3pm

PUB THEOLOGY: 4th Thursday of each month at Aubree's @ 5:30pm.

CHORALE: Every Sunday at 8:15 am in Room 18

Please check the online calendar for all information & current updates.

Leadership Board

Kay Allingham

Bill Bachman

Gerry Burg

Shirley Ehnis, Lay Leader

Sandra Harsh, Lay Delegate

Matthew Herr, Chair

Fran Kottke

Daryl Moore

Scott Morton

Janet Salzwedel

Team Leads

Connie Benz, Congregational Care

Cheri Easler, Family Ministry

Sandra Harsh, Outreach

Dawn Matzkows, Kitchen Manager

Marty Schoonover, Hospitality

Staff

Steve Antalek, Wesley Chorale Dir.

Bryan Bowers, Treasurer

Lainey Caldwell, Dir. of Children &

Family Ministries

Amy Deline, Financial Secretary

Rev. Linda Farley, Dir. of Children's

Music

Ethan Harris, Youth Ministry Intern

Kristina Kidney, Worship Video

Ministry

Laura Langley, Organist/

Keyboardist

Conner Raymond, Office/

Communications Manager

Howard Stukey, Dir. of Bell Choir

Dawn Vogel, Pantry Manager

Mike Zwolinski, Custodian

Ministers

The Congregation!

Rev. Alice K Ford, Senior Pastor