



Mailed on: 6/4/2026

Welcome All Love Deeply Serve Boldly

The Next Two Weeks at a Glance

Sunday, June 7th

8:15 am Wesley Chorale Meet
9:30am Worship
10:45am Seekers

Monday, June 8th

1pm Share the Warmth
5pm Adrian Majorettes
6:30pm Chiaroscuro Rehearsal
6:30pm Handicrafters

Tuesday, June 9th

8:30am Numbers Meeting
9:00am Building Meeting

Wednesday, June 10th

10:00am Onboard Meeting

Thursday, June 11th

1pm Stitch & Serve

Sunday, June 14th

8:15am Wesley Chorale Meet
9:30am Worship Service
10:45am Seekers

Monday, June 15th

9am VBS (same time all week)
5pm Adrian Majorettes
6:30pm Chiaroscuro Rehearsal
6:30pm Handicrafters

Tuesday, June 16th

9am VBS
10:00am Quilters
6pm Leadership Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 17th

9am VBS
10am Alpha Omega Picnic
12pm STW & Hot Meals
5:30pm WOW Dinner

The long green season has arrived.

In the church calendar, we call these the Sundays after Pentecost. We put up the green paraments and they stay with us for much of the summer and fall. Sometimes these months are called "Ordinary Time," though there is nothing particularly ordinary about them. During this season, we hear story after story from the life and ministry of Jesus. We listen to his parables. We watch him teach, heal, challenge, forgive, and invite people into a different way of living. It is a season devoted to discipleship, to learning again what it means to follow Christ in everyday life.

Perhaps that is why I have always appreciated these green Sundays.

The great celebrations of Christmas and Easter are wonderful and necessary. Pentecost arrives with fire and wind and excitement. Yet most of our lives are lived in the green season. Most of our faith is formed not in dramatic moments but in the daily work of prayer, worship, service, kindness, forgiveness, and perseverance. The green season reminds us that discipleship is less like a sprint and more like tending a garden. Growth takes time.

As I write one of my final articles for Tidings, I find myself reflecting on that truth.

This month marks the conclusion of twenty-five years of pastoral ministry in the local church. During those years, I have served wonderful congregations, walked alongside people through celebrations and sorrows, baptized babies, confirmed youth, presided at weddings, stood beside hospital beds, and entrusted countless saints into God's eternal care. I have witnessed moments of extraordinary grace and moments of deep challenge. The church itself has changed dramatically during those years. Our communities have changed. Our country has changed. The ways people understand faith, belonging, and religious commitment have changed as well.

Through it all, I have remained convinced that Jesus Christ is still calling people, still transforming lives, and still working through the church.

The language of Scripture often speaks about taking on the yoke of Christ. It is a fitting image for ministry. There have been days when the yoke felt light and joyful, and days when it felt heavy. Yet I can honestly say that serving Christ through the church has been one of the great blessings of my life. And serving alongside you has been among the greatest privileges of my ministry. As every season eventually gives way to another, so this season does as well.

Beginning July 1, Rev. Zack Dunlap will begin his ministry among you. During our time leading worship together, visiting, and preparing for this transition, I have become increasingly convinced that Zack is the right pastor for this congregation at the right time. He brings gifts, energy, wisdom, and a genuine love for people. More importantly, he brings a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and to helping congregations discover where God is leading them next.

Every pastor brings different strengths. Every congregation enters new seasons with both excitement and uncertainty. That is simply part of the life of the church. Yet I believe God has been preparing both Zack and this congregation for what comes next. My prayer is that you will welcome him generously, encourage him often, pray for him faithfully, and allow him the freedom to become your pastor just as you allowed me to become yours.

The future of this church does not rest in any one pastor. It never has.

The future rests in the God who has guided this congregation through generations of faithful disciples, through seasons of abundance and seasons of challenge, through moments of clarity and moments of uncertainty. The same Holy Spirit who has carried us this far will continue to lead.

That is, after all, what the green season teaches us. God continues to grow what God has planted.

Thank you for allowing me to share this chapter of ministry with you. Thank you for your kindness, your faithfulness, your patience, your generosity, and your love. Thank you for the countless ways you have helped me become a better pastor and a better follower of Jesus.

The green season stretches before us. There is still growth ahead. There are still stories to tell. There are still people to welcome, lives to touch, and ways to serve Christ in this community.

May God continue to bless this congregation, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ guide each step of the journey ahead.

Yours for the journey,
Rev. Alice Ford

Michigan Annual Conference

Jan Murley, Fran Kottke, and Sandra Harsh attended the Michigan Annual Conference as our church delegates on Thursday, May 28th till Sunday, May 31st. John Kottke and Bryan Bowers also attended as visitors. The delegates will be leading worship on Sunday, June 14th and sharing inspiration and information from the conference. Hope you can be there!



Church Garden: We will be setting up a raised bed Garden on the Church grounds, which will feature a 6 foot deer fence. For more information on the upcoming Garden and Grow a Row, please reach out to Janet Salzwedel.

End of Programming Year Picnic: June 7th after Worship!



Rainforest Falls VBS 2026
Join us June 15th-June 19th from 9:00am-12:00pm for a fun week discovering God's love! Registration is open now! We will also be accepting morning of registration as well.

Please take a look at our VBS donation board located in the Narthex. We now have our snack needs on the board as well, and if you have ever attended VBS you know how important Treetop Treats will be for the week! We could also use 1-2 more hands in the kitchen during the week of VBS. Please see Ms. Lainey if you would be interested!

We have also created a Amazon wishlist with some of our more specific needs and decoration needs. The wishlist can be found on our Facebook page.

We will be decorating the Sanctuary which is our Opening, Bible lesson and closing location on Sunday June 14th at the end of the service, please plan to stay and help if able! Decorating really takes a village! Thank you to everyone who has donated items and time to help make VBS such a success year after year! We are looking forward to a rainforest adventure!

Holy Land Ministry Visit: 6/7/2026 during and after worship, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting beautiful display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

Events

Migrant Meals : Our church will be serving meals to Migrant Workers in Blissfield this summer. Last year we found this to be a very meaningful ministry and we are excited to be doing it again this year! Our dates to serve are Wednesdays July 15, August 19, and September 16. These coincide with WOW and preparing Share The Warmth meals. We are in need of volunteers for meal prep in the afternoon (2:30-5 pm) and food transportation and serving in the evening (6:30- 9:30/10 pm). Please sign up to volunteer using the link for Sign Up Genius. If you have any questions, contact Sandra Harsh (517) 265-9284. We hope that you will consider joining us in this important ministry.

Congratulations to April Gutierrez on her ordination Sunday, May 31st! April will be preaching at Adrian First on June 21st. We are looking forward to both her message and the opportunity to congratulate her.



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:- Canned chicken, Ravioli, Cake mixes, Fresh eggs

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: Doug & Kathy Williams, Cythia Reddy, Sue Rockwell, Michaelyn Mankel, Ellie Herr, Abigail Romanelli, Sue Rockwell, Suzanne Kruse, Briar Alan Maerkle (Great Nephew of Judy Plotner) and his parents, 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, Kay Rorsina, Sarah Feeney, Pamela Powers, Jim Caldwell, J.Jay Pechta, Kesha, Blake, Benjamin Reid, Brett Reid, Michaelyn Reid, and Michelle Ann 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, 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

Rev. Alice K. Ford during and after the Transition

First United Methodist Church
1245 West Maple Avenue
Adrian, MI 49221-1313

TIDINGS

Pastor: Alice Ford

Phone: (517) 265-5689

E-mail:

adrianfumc@adrianfumc.org

Web site: www.adrianfumc.org

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-11am, and 4pm to 5:30pm 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 every 3rd Wednesday

STITCH AND SERVE: 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 1 - 3pm

PUB THEOLOGY: 4th Thursday of each month at Red Lobster@ 5:30pm.

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

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