



The Ambassador

June 2023

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From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I am so excited about our upcoming worship series – Summer Road Trip: A Journey thru Genesis. Summer is the perfect time for a road trip and it is the perfect time to journey thru Genesis. Practically nobody stays in the same place from one chapter to the next in Genesis! People are on the move, there are multiple fights between siblings, as well as detours, surprising discoveries, do-overs, new beginnings, and so much more. It sounds like a road trip, doesn't it?

There is one big difference though – sometimes we embark on a road trip like a tourist, someone who wishes to be entertained – and there is nothing wrong with that. But we don't approach our Journey thru Genesis with the mindset of a tourist, we undertake it with the mindset of a pilgrim, someone who wishes to be transformed. We encounter the Bible with the expectation that God will speak to us, call us, shape us, and move us. A tourist may have the desire to sit back and relax on a vacation, but as pilgrims we lean forward and engage, making ourselves open to be challenged and changed.

There are some worship series resources to help us keep the mindset of a pilgrim:

Summer Road Trip Passport – This is a way for you to track your progress as you journey. You can pick up your passport beginning on June 4th in worship or you can have the church office send you one. Each week, make sure you stop by the 'Park Ranger of the Day' to get your passport 'cancelled'.

Contact Us

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Spanish 513-420-7968
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Worship With Us

Online & In Person
Worship @10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9 am

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GPS Coordinates – Each week in the series you will receive GPS coordinates. For this series GPS stands for **G**o, **P**ray, **S**tudy. Your GPS coordinates will encourage you to go engage in an activity, offer you a prayer for the week, and give you a Bible passage upon which you can study and reflect.

And we also have some fun things too:

Road Trip Pictures – Please bring in your pictures from road trips past. We will place them around our sanctuary for people to see. No frames are necessary, just bring in a photo or print out a picture. If you are going on a road trip this summer, please take a picture on your adventure with your Summer Road Trip Passport and send it to the church office. We are going to do something special with these!

A Spotify Playlist – What is a road trip without great music? The staff is working on making this list but would love suggestions. Please let the church office know your favorite travelling song and we will see if we can include it. The playlist will be available early in June.

Monthly Road Trip Activities – On June 17th we will be showing the movie **Cars** at 4:00 p.m. downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided and you are more than welcome to bring your favorite snack. In July we are planning to offer a Road Rally and in August another movie. If you are interested in helping out with these activities, please let the church office know.

Writing all of this has made me even more excited than I was. I hope you are excited, too! Worship this summer is going to be an adventure!

Peace,
Pastor Kim

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Summer Preview

The Middletown Police Dept. will be host the 22nd Annual Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug. 1st. The event will be held at Smith Part from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We will have a table set up to hand out information about our different ministries. Look for more information in the July Ambassador on ways you can help.

Music and Worship Notes *by Mary Ellen Clinard*



Summer Choir begins in June

Many church choirs take the summer off, but our choir enjoys being together and participating in worship year round! Our rehearsals, however, won't be every Wednesday, so be sure to pick up a schedule in the choir room or contact Mary Ellen at the church and she will email you a copy of the schedule. We can't wait to get started on our Summer Road Trip thru Genesis!

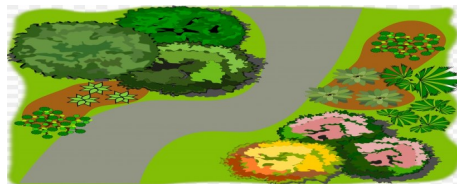
Father's Day Sunday

Father's Day is Sunday, June 18th. All men can enjoy a cold bottle of Root Beer after the service on this Sunday to celebrate your leadership in the lives of your family as well as our congregational family. Happy Father's Day to all of you! We appreciate all that you do!



Adopt-A-Spot Project

By the time you read this, our Adopt-A-Spot project is in full swing with groups and individuals volunteering to care for a garden spot around our church. In addition to working "as needed" in the spots, we look forward to scheduling a twice a year work day that involves all gardeners on one way. What a fun time to work together, fellowship, and care for our landscaping. A huge thank you to Barb Balsmeyer for her detailed gardening list and to Mark Frazer for heading up the project.



West Ohio Annual Conference

Pastors Kim & Daniel will be attending the West Ohio Annual Conference in Dayton OH on June 1st thru June 3rd. The office will be closed on Friday June 2. Please be in prayer for all clergy and lay delegates during this time,

Speaking of road trips

Pastor Daniel and Anahi' will be gone for the month of June. They will be attending Annual Conference in his home conference in Mexico. Then they will be truly on vacation and taking their own road trips! They leave on June 8th and return on June 28th.

Pastor Kim will be serving as Spiritual Director for the West Ohio Girls Chrysalis Weekend #72 from June 23rd-June 25th

Mary Ellen will be at a conference and out of the office from June 26th thru June 30th.

Philippians 2:2



“Have the Attitude of Christ”

Paul’s letter to the Philippians is full of love, thankfulness, and joy. We can read in it Paul’s happiness because this congregation keeps following God and growing in faith by giving and supporting Paul’s ministry. This church became partners during Paul’s service. Because of that, Paul showed his gratitude through this letter written with the deepest love and appreciation from him to them.

It has been a little more than a year since we have been here among this beautiful and wonderful congregation. We really feel the loving, caring, and supportive attitude toward us and our Hispanic ministry here at FUMC in Middletown.

As part of our connectional responsibilities, we must travel down to Mexico to attend the Annual Conference of the Mexican Methodist Church in the city of Durango. This trip is an amazing opportunity to visit our families and friends, and also, a great time to eat a lot of tacos and Mexican-style corn (you can imagine our happiness). We are going to be out of town for some days but Benjamin, our brother who is responsible for translating the Communion service every first Sunday of each month, will be helping us out with those services while we will be out of the country.

While we are away we would like to ask for your support once again for our wonderful Hispanic ministry. Please keep them in your prayers, help them as you always do, and even above the language and culture, *be agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. (Philippians 2:2)*

I know you will do this. You rock and you are the best, you have a giant servant’s heart, we are such a big family and we care for and love each other.

As the apostle Paul wrote to this church, I am writing this article to you with gratitude and my heart full of joy and happiness.

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit”

Philippians 4:23

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

A North Star Congregation

Dear Friends,

It has been several months since I have written to you about the current state of our denomination. The dates for General Conference (the only body that can make official decisions and set policy for the United Methodist Church) are set for April 23, 2024 thru May 3, 2024. Although no official decisions have been made, you may be aware that some United Methodist churches have voted to disaffiliate from the denomination because they are concerned about our denomination moving toward inclusivity.

You may be wondering, "What about us?" Whenever someone has asked me if we are going to take a vote, I ask them if they want us to leave the denomination. Nobody has ever expressed to me a desire to leave, all the people who have asked me about voting are insistent on wanting to stay United Methodists. We do not need to vote to remain what we already have declared ourselves to be.

Nevertheless, this is a time of uncertainty for many United Methodists. As some churches vote to leave the denomination, they are leaving behind members who wish to remain a United Methodist. To try to help these folks navigate these times, the West Ohio Conference has come up with the designation of North Star Congregations.

The North Star is the anchor of the northern sky. It can be a helpful light to those who are looking for purposeful direction. Historically, the North Star has always provided a beacon of hope in times of uncertainty. North Star Congregations are local churches in the West Ohio Conference that are prepared to welcome and care for anyone whose church has closed or disaffiliated. North Star Congregations are United Methodist faith communities that provide a haven of peace and grace.

At our Administrative Council meeting in May, the Council voted unanimously to become a North Star Congregation and in doing so committed First United Methodist Church to:

1. the mission of the United Methodist Church with no intentions of disaffiliating.
- 2, being a welcoming place for everyone to belong during a season of grief, transition, and uncertainty.
3. providing opportunities to engage in the ministries of worship, discipleship, and mission, without pressure.
4. connecting people with other North Star Congregations in the region if our church is not a good fit for them.

If you have questions about our denomination, the Administrative Council decision, or if you would like more information, please do not hesitate to ask me. In addition to Sundays, I am at the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and if those days are not good for you, I will be glad to set up a time to meet that works with your schedule.

Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world.*" – John 8:12. May we let our light shine, too!

Peace,
Pastor Kim

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Hello Church Family – As Treasurer of The Gathering I wanted to share some changes that are happening at The Gathering..

The UMC Gathering is working to renew their mission : "Through restorative justice, we strive to establish the kingdom of God for all who enter, here and now". The Sunday morning activities are moving to Saturday afternoons. Grace Baptist Church has open services on Sunday and The Gathering can fill the void since no other services are held for the homeless community. Saturday. June 24th at 1pm will be our first Saturday event. If the weather cooperates, we would like to do this event outdoors with live music, food and sharing the word of God.

This is what our church does best. When we join together to share God's love, the result is always amazing. Please consider helping us show our homeless neighbors what a life led by Christ can do for them. I know you are thinking, "I can't talk with people who I have nothing in common with." In the next couple of weeks, a training session will be offered so that we know what to expect and how to become comfortable in a new situation.

Matthew 25:35-40 tells us what we're to do. Please find it in your heart to try something new. Pastor David (513-297-1047) or I (513-465-4569) will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Blessings, Debbie Taylor

Read the Bible in a Year - Reading Schedule for June

This month we will finish up the book of Psalms, read all of the way through Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon, leaving us ready to start Isaiah in July. You will notice the difference in the feel of the passages – moving from the poetry of the Psalms to the wisdom of Proverbs (where we slow our pace to better absorb the nuggets of knowledge), to the memoir format of Ecclesiastes, and then the love poetry of Song of Solomon. At the end of this month we will be halfway through the Bible. Great job everyone – keep up the good work!

Remember that, as always, I am available if you have any questions or want additional resources or need encouragement. You are in my prayers

Peace,
Pastor Kim <><

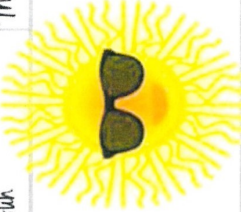
June 1	Psalms 127-130	June 11	Proverbs 10-11	June 21	Proverbs 25-26
June 2	Psalms 131-136	June 12	Proverbs 12-13	June 22	Proverbs 27--29
June 3	Psalms 137-140	June 13	Proverbs 14	June 23	Proverbs 30
June 4	Psalms 141-144	June 14	Proverbs 15	June 24	Proverbs 31
June 5	Psalms 145-150	June 15	Proverbs 16	June 25	Ecclesiastes 1-2
June 6	Proverbs 1-2	June 16	Proverbs 17-18	June 26	Ecclesiastes 3-5
June 7	Proverbs 3	June 17	Proverbs 19-20	June 27	Ecclesiastes 6-8
June 8	Proverbs 4-5	June 18	Proverbs 21-22	June 28	Ecclesiastes 9-12
June 9	Proverbs 6-7	June 19	Proverbs 23	June 29	Song of Solomon 1-4
June 10	Proverbs 8-9	June 20	Proverbs 24	June 30	Song of Solomon 5-8

June 2023

Birthdays

- Carolyn Callis 6
- Julie Urso 7
- Larry Fillnow 8
- Joni Turner 10
- Ron Davis 22
- Anne Sander 24
- Sharon Piper 25
- Norm Harsh 27
- Judy Spaulding
- Jackson Vance
- Tom Hazelbaker 29
- Susan Duff 30

Happy Birthdays!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Dates to Remember in July: July 4: Independence Day/Church Office Closed July 7: First Friday Concert at Noon</p>						
 4 COMMUNION/ TRINITY SUNDAY Peace w/Justice Sunday (UMC special offering) 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	5 8:00 Breakfast Club 2:00 Pantry	6 2:00 Pantry	7 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	8 2:00 Congregational Care 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	9 NO UWIF Mtg	10 9:00 Hope Circle @ Bob Evans
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:00 Immigration Clinic	13 2:00 Pantry	14 NO Choir Rhrls	15 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	16 AMBASSADOR ARTICLE DEADLINE	17 9:00 Hope Circle @ Bob Evans
18 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	19 8:00 Breakfast Club 2:00 Pantry 5:30 Finance Mtg 6:00 Council Mtg	20 2:00 Pantry 5:30 Finance Mtg 6:00 Council Mtg	21 NO Choir Rhrls	22 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26 8:00 Breakfast Club	27 2:00 Pantry No Trustees Mtg	28 3:00 & 7:00 Choir Rhrls	29 6:00 Sonshine Bible Study	30	



2023 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

June 2, 2023

The Flying Klezmerians

**High energy music from the Eastern
European Jewish tradition**

First UMC - Middletown

@noon

Free Admission