



# BIRMINGHAM FIRST

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## STEEPLE NOTES



January 11, 2017

Volume 76, Issue 2

### Introducing Our New Senior Pastor



**This past Sunday was a tremendous day in the life of Birmingham First UMC. The Rev. Elbert Dulworth was announced as our new Senior Pastor at each of our five worship services.** Bishop David Bard, who oversees 700+ churches here in Michigan, met with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee, prayed and worked

diligently, looking far-and-wide. Ultimately he chose an outstanding young pastor to lead our church.

**Rev. Dulworth is a leader.** He comes to us having already experienced many leadership roles in our Annual Conference. That he was chosen as the very first Dean of the new Michigan Conference Cabinet speaks volumes about his abilities. The 'Cabinet' is composed of Bishop Bard and eleven District Superintendents, each of whom oversees 70 churches or more. To lead this group is a major responsibility and a signal honor. Elbert is known for his ability to work collegially with others and for building teams.

**Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee specifically asked Bishop Bard to send us a young pastor.** They wished to have a pastor who was not near retirement age, one who would be committed to staying at Birmingham First for a long time. That wish was granted, and I think that's great! Rev. Dulworth is the same age I was when I was appointed with Laurie to one of the largest churches in the West Michigan Conference. We were young, but we were able. I spent a wonderful 20 years there, but that was only possible because I went there at a young age.

**I'm delighted that Rev. Dulworth is coming to Birmingham First.** He could well have caught the eye of another Bishop, in some other state, looking for a bright, gifted, young leader. Instead, he's coming here. When Pastor Zack Dunlap heard the announcement at the first "official" service at Berkley First, Zack declared **"He's great!"** When you have the opportunity to get to know your new pastor, I'm confident you'll agree!

By the way, our **Berkley First** campus had a great "first service" with over 150 people in the building. And our **Shine** service had to set up two rows of extra chairs. What a tremendous Sunday, indeed! I hope you're seen at one of these sites, soon!

Pastor Gary Haller

P.S. Articles from Pastors Dan Hart and Zack Dunlap can be found on page 5.

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## Our Church Family

**Our Christian Caring and Concern** are shared with the following persons, known to be in the hospital on Monday, January 9: Diane Garabedian, Dick Schoelch

**Our Prayers for Good Health** are shared with the following person, released from the hospital since Monday, January 3: Anna Dimick

**Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support** are shared with Bob and Rose Falberg and family on the death of her father, Norm Polhamus, on December 24.

**Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support** are shared with the family of Dorothy Willison, who died on January 4.

**Our Blessings** are shared with Emily Pfaff and Matthew Blanford, who were married on December 29.

## Intercessory Prayer



The Prayer Team would like to pray for you during times of need and also to praise the Lord during times of celebration. In addition to your concerns, please let us know of any answered prayers, family members in the military returning home, births, marriages and other special events. Contact Elise Norwood ([enorwood@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:enorwood@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3127) or use a Prayer Request Card, available in the Sanctuary pews and the church office. Cards may be dropped off in the Prayer Request box across from the Welcome Center or in the church office.

## Did You Know

....that this week's Voice of Hope message is recorded by Anita Barratt, and next week's message is by Lisa Lyon. To listen, call 248- 646-6407 and press 2 when your call is answered by our automated system.

....that Fair Trade coffee will be sold during the coffee hours on Sunday, January 15.

....that the annual Prayer for Christian Unity Service will be held at St. Regis Catholic Parish on Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for the day is "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us." Rev. Lindsey Hall will provide one of the meditations. This ecumenical service will be a celebration of our oneness in Christ. It is notable for all Christians as 2017 is the 500th anniversary year of the beginning of the Reformation. Join with our neighboring congregations in song, word and praise to celebrate our Christian bond.

....that Esther Circle will meet on Wednesday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Dan Hart will share with us. Call Claudia Crosby (248-549-0969) if you need a ride or have questions.

....that we are looking to add to our team of wedding coordinators. One or two more coordinators are needed to assist our pastors and couples during rehearsals and on the wedding day. Weddings are assigned as your schedule allows and you are paid for your time. To learn more, please contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121).

....that Cathedral Directories is publishing our annual member directory and is looking for advertisers in support of this publication. If you are interested in advertising this year or would like more information, please contact Heather Stewart at Cathedral Directories (248-545-1415 ext. 115).



## Children, Student and Family Ministries

**For information about our Children's Ministry activities (Crib through 5th Grade),** check out our website at [www.fumcbirmingham.org](http://www.fumcbirmingham.org), Facebook Birmingham First Kids, or contact us at [sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org) to receive a monthly email newsletter.

### **Want to get the inside scoop on First Student Ministries?**

"180Seconds" is our newsletter for middle school students.

"Make Your Mark" is our newsletter for high school students.

Get your free subscription today! Sign up under "[E-News](#)" on the church website.

**Parents of College Students! It's Care Package Time Again!** We'd love to send a care package to your college student. If you already submitted your student's address for the October mailing, you *do not* need to submit it again unless there are changes. If you have changes, please send an email to Beth Torrey ([btorrey@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:btorrey@fumcbirmingham.org)) by January 20. If your undergrad or graduate student didn't receive a package in October, it's not too late to add them to our list! Please e-mail Beth with your student's name, address and university/college name. If you would like to contribute to the packages, please contact Sue Smith ([sue.smith@beachcom.net](mailto:sue.smith@beachcom.net)).

## Prelude Early Childhood Music Classes



Parents and grandparents with children from newborns through 3 years old will want to take advantage of our early childhood music classes called *Prelude*.

Classes meet on Thursdays and are a delightfully fun way to help your child develop a high aptitude for music. Visit the [church website](#) for more information. Our winter session begins January 12.

## Some of the Best Reasons to Use the CLC...

George Dilgard finds it a pleasant environment with interesting, friendly people to interact with while walking or relaxing in the café.

"My husband and I were referred by a physical therapist. No one tried to convert us; we were welcomed by warm smiles and lots of introductions. It was the beginning of many friendships." Norinne Rozman

Wendy Cutler and her husband say they enjoy the exercise classes and camaraderie amongst friends.

"The Christian Life Center is a gem! Here you can pay cards, join an exercise class, play basketball and volleyball, or make new friends as you walk the track." Nan Bailey

"I really enjoy walking outdoors whenever the weather permits. However, on those rainy or cold winter days, our CLC walking track offers the perfect alternative. The staff and other walkers are always friendly, and the overall atmosphere is warm and inviting. Whether 'hugging the rail' while using a walker or moving at a faster pace in the outside lanes, there is room for everyone. And best of all, you might even meet a few new friends or walking buddies there." Dan Cragolin

Come and find your own reasons for walking or playing in the Christian Life Center!

## Intercepted Notes of Thanks

The Christmas flowers we received were beautiful, simply beautiful. They graced our dinner table for several meals. But sweeter still is being remembered and appreciated this many years after retirement. Thank you, ever so much, for your kindness and generosity. —Dr. Bill and Kris Ritter

Thanks for the wonderful Christmas centerpiece. Your thoughtfulness means a lot. —Dr. Bob Ward

Thank you to all who purchased evergreen wreaths, roping, porch pots and grave blankets from Boy Scout Troop 1032 in November and December. Funds raised will finance equipment and activities in the coming year. We really appreciate your support. —The Scouts of Troop 1032

## Opportunity for Fellowship

**Merry Mates....**Shine pastor Dan Hart and Berkley Campus pastor Zack Dunlap will share their successes, hopes and prayers for building these two communities and offering God's love to more and more people. Come to Merry Mates on Friday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. for social time and a catered dinner at 6:30 (\$13). RSVP to Sharon and Bob Pierce (248-364-4438 or [sharonbobpierce@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbobpierce@gmail.com)) by early evening on Sunday, January 15. Merry Mates is a social group for those in their fifties and up.

## Employment Opportunity

**Custodian, Part Time, Weekends Plus....**We are looking for a custodian with janitorial experience for weekends and time-off coverage. The church custodian is entrusted with the cleaning, maintenance, set up of the church building and property, and assisting all members or visitors with logistic and A/V needs. If interested, contact Tony Kotwicki, Director of Facilities (248-646-6407 ext. 3145 or [building@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:building@fumcbirmingham.org)).

## Opportunities for Seniors

**Sunday Social....**It's time to reconnect! Come see your friends, or meet some new ones, while you break bread together. Join us this Sunday, January 15, at 12:30 p.m. in Thomas Parlor. Cost is \$12. Call Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) to make a reservation.

**Living Your Best Life in Your Later Years....**This invaluable class, known as **Aging Ain't for Sissies**, addresses many of the situations we face as we grow older. By providing resources and solutions with humor and grace, this class has helped the participants forge together to make the most of this time in their lives. Our first class for 2017 will meet on Wednesday, January 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. Our own Kathryn Bartz facilitates this group, now going into its 10th season, and just listening to her is something you do not want to miss. Call Sue Anderson Dale for more information (248-646-6407 ext. 3160).



## Taizé Worship

Come worship in a quiet, contemplative and sacred way of communing with God, have a private prayer with Pastor Suzanne Walls, or experience Reiki healing touch. Taizé worship is Thursday, January 19 in the Runkel Chapel at 6:45 p.m.



## Shine: Trail Signs

What a blessing it was to be in worship with you last week. We had a great Sunday with Will Lobb starting as our worship leader, the start of a new series, the special announcement of our new Senior Pastor, and cake and fellowship following the service! It was a joy to be with you all, even in the cold.

Last week we talked about our journeys in life being unique, but also tied together in Christ. This week we will continue our series *Wandering* as we talk about looking for the signs in life that help lead us to where we are supposed to be. God's signs may not be as blatant as the burning bush, but if we pay attention we can find them. Join us on Sunday, meet Will if you didn't get to this past week, and come worship a God who walks with us no matter where we wander!



Pastor Dan Hart

## Berkley First: *The Good Life*



This Sunday at Berkley First we kick off our series on *The Good Life*, examining the makings of a life well lived. This week, we'll look at balancing the value of hard work with the need for Sabbath rest. For those who want to live the good life, laziness and overwork are not healthy options. Rather, balancing them both, we work and rest unto the Lord.

Pastor Zack Dunlap

**Ballroom Dance** is filling up fast! Beginning January 17, this six-week class will meet on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:15 p.m. in the Berkley First Social Hall. All levels welcome. Only \$60/couple or \$40/person. Register now with Katie Kirkpatrick (248-399-3698 or [kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org](mailto:kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org)).

**Craft & Crop for a Cause** returns on Saturday, February 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., this time benefitting Art & Soul. Bring your own supplies and join the fun as we work on a variety of crafts and scrapbooks together. Come when you can and leave when you must. Early bird rate: \$35/person if paid before January 18. After January 18, \$40. Includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register at [fumcbirmingham.org/craft-and-crop](http://fumcbirmingham.org/craft-and-crop) or pick up a brochure in the Birmingham or Berkley church offices. Registration closes January 29. Contact Katie Kirkpatrick for more information ([kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org](mailto:kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org) or 248-399-3698).



## Update your Contact Information

Work has begun on the 2017 Church Directory, and we need your help. Please notify us by February 5 of any permanent changes to your mailing address, telephone number, cell phone number or email address and whether we may publish them by picking up a form in the church office or contacting Karen Porter in the Membership office ([kporter@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:kporter@fumcbirmingham.org)). This would also be a great time to encourage your adult children to update their contact information.

In order to keep errors to a minimum, we *will not print* your previously-given email address in the directory unless we get a form and okay from you. Thank you very much!

## Summer Internships for College Students

Are you looking for a rewarding and enjoyable way to spend your summer helping others and earning money for college at the same time? The Baldwin Center in Pontiac runs a Summer Enrichment Program for elementary school students which includes traditional academic subjects, classes on healthy living and arts, crafts and sports. Our interns work with the teachers for these classes and accompany the students on weekly field trips. Compensation for the summer is \$3,100. For additional information and an application, please visit [fumcbirmingham.org](http://fumcbirmingham.org) and type Baldwin in the search bar. Applications are due no later than Tuesday, March 28.



## Opportunities for Outreach

**Art & Soul Art Exhibit....** You're invited to the Art & Soul "Windows to the Soul" art exhibit, January 12-16 at the Swords into Plowshares Peace Gallery at Central UMC in Detroit. There will be an Opening Reception to meet the artists and hear their stories on Thursday, January 12 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Other show times are January 12, 13 and 14 from noon to 4:00 p.m. and January 15 and 16 from noon to 2:00 p.m. We hope you can join us for this wonderful opportunity to see beyond the faces of homelessness and into the creative souls within. For more information, please contact Susan Greenhalgh ([sbgreenhalgh@gmail.com](mailto:sbgreenhalgh@gmail.com)).

**Pie Day!** Join us in supporting two of our wonderful children's missions. All profits will assist the Methodist Children's Home in Costa Rica and Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. You can [download order forms](#) from Upcoming Events on the church website or pick one up in the church office or during the coffee hours on Sunday. Turn in the form along with your cash or check by Tuesday, January 24 and we'll have your pies and quiches waiting for you on Sunday, January 29 in Fellowship Hall. All pre-ordered pies and quiches are \$13. Choose Cherry, Dutch Apple or Chocolate Chess Pie, or Ham and Cheese or Vegetable Quiche. We will also offer gluten-free quiches this year. Thanks for your support of these sweet children who benefit from your generosity.



**Empty Bowls Detroit....** Come enjoy a fun evening of painting bowls for Empty Bowls Detroit! On Thursday, February 9 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, you can paint a bowl for \$10. These bowls will then be given out to those attending this wonderful fundraiser at Eastern Market on March 3 as a reminder of those in Detroit who go hungry every day. All proceeds from this evening to go Cass Community Social Services. If you would like to sign up, please contact Karla Bole ([karla.bole@yahoo.com](mailto:karla.bole@yahoo.com)). If you would like to attend the event on March 3, please go to [emptybowlsdetroit.com](http://emptybowlsdetroit.com) for tickets.

## Happening This Week

### Wednesday, January 11

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis Men's Group  
 7:30 a.m. Word for Working Women  
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. GRIP  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 11:00 a.m. Aware!  
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon  
 12:30 p.m. Sisters  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Parent Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Christian Classic Book Club  
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### Thursday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study  
 9:30 a.m. Prelude: 24-36 Months  
 10:00 a.m. Desert Sisters Committee  
 10:15 a.m. Prelude: Walkers-24 Months  
 11:00 a.m. Prelude: Newborns-Walkers  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:00 p.m. Mahjong  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 2:00 p.m. Purl Girls  
 4:00 p.m. SPARK  
 4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Children's Bells  
 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Jr/Sr Youth Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Investment Committee  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women

### Friday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 11:00 a.m. Gentle Hatha Mat Yoga

### Saturday, January 14

9:00 a.m. PreBallet Iw/Tap  
 9:00 a.m. Unite 3 on 3  
 10:00 a.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance

### Sunday, January 15

8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 10:00 a.m. Worship (Berkley)  
 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
 12:30 p.m. Sunday Social

### Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Building Closed

### Tuesday, January 17

6:30 a.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study  
 8:00 a.m. W.O.W. Leaders Meeting  
 9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 9:30 a.m. Bridge  
 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Women's Study  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Handbells  
 9:45 a.m. C.O.W.  
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 10:00 a.m. W.O.W. Bible Study  
 10:45 a.m. Talking Helps  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 11:30 a.m. W.O.W. Coffee  
 1:00 p.m. Bridge on Tuesdays  
 1:00 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 5:30 p.m. Gentle Hatha Mat Yoga  
 7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dancing (Berkley)  
 7:00 p.m. Church & Society Ministry  
 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

### Wednesday, January 18

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis Men's Group  
 7:30 a.m. Word for Working Women  
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. GRIP  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Jeremie Haiti Meeting  
 11:00 a.m. Singing Bowls  
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon  
 12:30 p.m. Sisters  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 5:00 p.m. Unite Open Basketball

6:30 p.m. Young Adult Study (Offsite)  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032  
 7:00 p.m. Cubs Scout Den Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### Thursday, January 19

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study  
 9:30 a.m. Prelude: 24-36 Months  
 10:15 a.m. Prelude: Walkers-24 Months  
 11:00 a.m. Prelude: Newborns-Walkers  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:00 p.m. Caregiver's Support Group  
 1:00 p.m. Mahjong  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 2:00 p.m. Purl Girls  
 4:00 p.m. SPARK  
 4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Disciple Choir  
 4:15 p.m. Sonshine Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Cherub Choir  
 5:00 p.m. Children's Bells  
 6:00 p.m. Compass  
 6:30 p.m. Jr/Sr Youth Karate  
 6:45 p.m. Taize Worship Service  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women  
 8:00 p.m. Pub Theology (Griffin Claw)

### Friday, January 20

9:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 11:00 a.m. Gentle Hatha Mat Yoga  
 6:00 p.m. Merry Mates

## Sunday, January 15, 2017



### Traditional Worship

8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

[Matthew 5:40-42](#)

*That Radical Jesus:*  
"Go Also the Second Mile!"  
Rev. Gary Haller

#### Hymns

"How Firm a Foundation"  
"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"  
"He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

#### Anthems

"Give Me Jesus"  
"True Light"  
Chancel Choir

### Shine Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

[Exodus 3:1-12](#)

*Wandering:*  
"Looking for Signs"  
Rev. Dan Hart



### Weekly Worship

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

[Colossians 3:23-24](#)

*The Good Life:*  
"Work and Play"  
Rev. Zack Dunlap



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Gary Haller, Senior Pastor  
Zack Dunlap, Lindsey Hall, Dan Hart and  
Suzanne Walls, Associate Pastors  
John E. Harnish, William A. Ritter and  
Robert P. Ward, Pastors Emeriti



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Zack Dunlap, Pastor

**The Liturgists** are Dr. Todd Hibbard at 8:15, Rev. Barbara Lewis-Lakin at 9:30, and Rev. Lindsey Hall at 11:00.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Vicki Corwin and Doug Emig with gratitude for His amazing grace.

**The Rosebud** on the altar announces the birth of Eleanor Christine Curtis, born December 22 to Michael and Johanna Curtis. Proud grandparents are John and Karin Gorham.

#### Our Purpose:

To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Christ for ministry and mission in the world.

#### Our Core Values:

Welcome All  
Put Love Into Action  
Honor God Through Excellence  
Embrace Bold Vision  
Encourage Lifelong Spiritual Growth  
Support One Another