



February 15, 2017

Volume 76, Issue 7

### For or Against



When I was visiting at **Lake Junaluska**, that great United Methodist Retreat Center in North Carolina, I heard a story of an interesting worship service, the type we don't run across here in Michigan.

It seems some folks were complaining about the noisy services that lasted into the night at the "**Holiness**"

**Church.** The issue came to blows and at least two shots were fired at a worship service. Fortunately, the only serious injury was to the county sheriff who was bit and spent several days in the hospital. His attacker was held by the police pending the completion of their investigation. After the usual round of interrogations, examinations and photographs, the assailant was transferred to a maximum-security facility and eventually sentenced to life...in a museum!

The attacker, you see, was a five-foot **canebrake rattlesnake**. Snakes that are five feet long are referred to as being "five foot," and that is one large snake. Canebrake rattlers are very irritable snakes, the largest found was just over "six foot" long. The sheriff was bitten by the large rattler when he and his armed deputies broke up a snake-handling service. The sheriff grabbed the snake from the "handler" and the canebrake took offense at being mauled by a less-than-holy man.

Another would-be attacker was gunned down by a deputy before he could get his fangs into anyone. Eight additional snakes were captured and the worshipers were told that the service was over.

I readily confess that our worship services can't match that one for sheer attention-grabbing qualities. **Nor do we strive to!** However, within the limitations of a quasi-traditional mainline church, I think that we do quite well. Our Chancel, youth and children's choirs are outstanding. Everything Doris Hall plays is imbued with beauty. And the preaching? Well, it passes muster most Sundays.

I hope to see you this Sunday for some uplifting worship as we tackle another of Christ's challenging teachings: "**Whoever is not against us is for us!"**

Pastor Gary Haller

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## Our Church Family

**Our Christian Caring and Concern** are shared with the following person, known to be in the hospital on Monday, February 13: Stephen Eisenhard

**Our Prayers for Good Health** are shared with the following persons, released from the hospital since Monday, February 6: Johanna Aulie, Karin Gorham, Fred Vici

**Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support** are shared with Ann O'Dell and family on the death of her father, Dr. Harry O'Dell, on January 20.

## 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 the altar flowers (\$60) are available on March 5. Please contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121 or [office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org)) for more information.

....that Fair Trade coffee will be sold during the coffee hours on Sunday, February 19.

....that Taizé worship is this Thursday, February 16 in the Runkel Chapel at 6:45 p.m. 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.

....that Margaret Suter will host the ever-popular Mixed Doubles Games Night, an evening of socializing, Trivial Pursuit, Scattergories, etc. We divide up into teams and keep the emphasis on fun, not winning. Saturday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Margaret (248-644-5925) by Thursday, February 16. Mixed Doubles is a social group for singles and couples in their fifties and sixties. All are welcome!

....that the 7th Annual Desert Sisters Retreat will be held Tuesday, September 19 through Friday, September 22 at the Northport Bay Retreat Center. This year's theme is "Holy Listening." Birmingham First women who have not previously attended are welcome to register February 21-28. Returning women may register on March 1. Call Ellison Overhardt (303-882-0492) to register per these registration dates.

....that you are invited to join the Rev. Elbert and Mrs. Dawn Dulworth along with others from the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church as we travel to the Holy Land, November 7-16. Together we will walk in the footsteps of Jesus as we spend time in Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. We'll learn and grow in our faith as the stories of the scriptures are revealed with fresh insights. For more information, please stop by the church office and pick up a brochure.



## Intercepted Note of Thanks

Thank you so much to all who purchased pies and quiche on Pie Day. We feel blessed to donate over \$3,000 to the children of Henderson Settlement in Kentucky and the Methodist Children's Home in Costa Rica because of the generosity of our congregation. We are also grateful beyond words for the helpful church staff and our wonderful pastors. —The Pie Ladies of Thursday night's Unfinished Christian Women

## 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.

**Calling all Middle School Students!** Join us July 9-15 for a week of mission work and fun in the city of Detroit! We will stay at the Metropolitan UMC and participate in various mission work throughout the city. Registration is open on the [church website](#) through February 15. Please contact Petrina Hone ([phone@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:phone@fumcbirmingham.org)) with any questions.



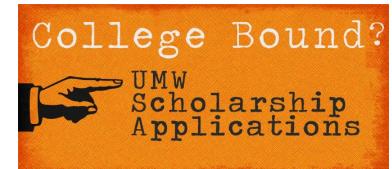
## Opportunities for College Students

**The Children and Family Ministries Department** is accepting applications for our summer intern position. You must be enrolled in college, have a love for children, and be ready for lots of fun this summer. The position is 20 hours per week, including Sunday mornings. Applications and job descriptions are available in the church office. Please submit your application by March 1 to Kelly Willian, Director of Children, Family, High School and College Ministries ([kwillian@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:kwillian@fumcbirmingham.org)).



**Baldwin Interns....**Are you a college student 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 the [church website](#) and type Baldwin in the search bar. Applications are due no later than Tuesday, March 28.

**UMW Scholarship Applications....**It's time to apply for a college scholarship from United Methodist Women of Birmingham First. The purpose of these scholarship funds is to assist Christian students in pursuing higher education while recognizing their involvement at Birmingham First and encouraging future church affiliation and participation. Applications are available in the church office and on the [church website](#), and must be submitted by March 15.



## Jesus at the Oscars

The very popular pre-Academy Awards event called “Jesus at the Oscars” will once again be held at Birmingham First. A stellar line-up of reviewers will look at these Oscar-nominated films:

**Arrival**  
**Fences**  
**Hacksaw Ridge**

**Hell or High Water**  
**Hidden Figures**  
**La La Land**

**Lion**  
**Manchester by the Sea**  
**Moonlight**

The date is Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. The theater will be our Fellowship Hall, and trailers from each of the movies will be shown on our marvelous large screen. All are welcome to attend. Admission is priceless and popcorn is provided!



## Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1

**Lent Book Study....** Consider joining our church-wide study of Adam Hamilton’s *Half Truths*, which explores popular sayings many Christians use that, unfortunately, miss the point. They sound Christian, like something you might even find in the Bible: “Everything happens for a reason.” “God helps those who help themselves.” “God won’t give you more than you can handle.” The book examines these half truths in order to determine whether they are Christian or as true as the reader supposes. Feeling as though these sayings are not true can make one question if their other beliefs about God are true. The goal is that examining these and other half truths will lead to the greater truths found in Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us this Lenten season as we study God’s Word together. For more information and to sign up, please contact Lindsay Gursky ([lgursky@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:lgursky@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3146) or see us during the coffee hours.



**Ash Wednesday Worship** will be offered on March 1 at the following hours: 7:00, 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., and 12:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Each 30-minute service is open to anyone who would like to attend and includes hymns, a meditation by one of our clergy, and the opportunity for imposition of ashes.

**Ash Wednesday Brunch....** Ladies of Birmingham First are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday Brunch sponsored by United Methodist Women. Join other women for worship and fellowship on March 1 to celebrate the beginning of Lent. Gather in the Sanctuary for worship at 9:00 a.m. Brunch follows at 9:45, and the cost of \$5 per person can be paid at the door. Invite a friend and sign up for brunch in the church office by Sunday, February 26.



**Empty Bowls Soup Supper....** Empty bowls remind us of hungry people in our metropolitan area and around the world. Our Hunger Ministry soup supper is an opportunity to fill those empty bowls. Over 20 local restaurants and bakeries donate their signature soups and breads. All proceeds go toward relieving hunger. Tickets will be sold during the coffee hours on Sundays, in the church office during the week, and at the door. Individual tickets are \$10; family tickets are \$25. Free refills! Carryout pints (\$5) and quarts (\$10) are available, as well as desserts for an additional contribution. You can also volunteer to help with the fun! See you on March 1 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.



## Staff Update

We welcome **Lindsay Gursky** as our new Connecting/Faith Group Coordinator. Lindsay is responsible for coordinating Connecting activities and Faith Group studies for our adult congregation. Please join us in welcoming Lindsay as part of the church staff.

I am very happy to share the good news that **Pastor Suzanne Walls** has accepted our offer to continue her part-time schedule as a member of our clergy team through June 2018. Although she will be moving to her new location in Holly over the summer, she will continue to share and support the ministries here as a member of our staff. Pastor Suzanne has been a wonderful blessing to our church and we are so grateful that she has agreed to stay on with us!

—Tove Jackson, SPRC Chair

## Shine: Living Our Faith

As we come close to the end of our *Wandering* series, we will spend our last two weeks reflecting on the most important lessons we can hold with us in our daily lives. This week, as we explore the story of Jeremiah, we find a literal example of what it means to live into the promise of God and live out our faith. We can stake our claim in our faith, knowing that God has empowered and equipped us. Come join us in Shine to hear more.

I am also glad to share that the Shine community will be blessed to hear from Pastor Lindsey next week (2/26) to close out our *Wandering* series. Autumn and I will be away for the week, taking some time off out of town for part of the week and spending the rest of our time getting ready for our upcoming bundle of joy, due mid-April! Thanks, Pastor Lindsey! Have a great week, and I'll see you on Sunday!

Pastor Dan Hart



## Berkley First: Luke's Story



This is a very special Sunday in the life of Berkley First. At our 10:00 a.m. service we will celebrate our very first baptism at the new campus. Praise God!

We'll also continue our *GOSPEL* series with a look at Luke's story. In the opening verses of his version of the Good News, Luke offers his purpose and methodology for writing the story of Jesus. He then goes on to fill 24 chapters with stories of Jesus reaching out to the least and the lost, the outcasts among us. Let us do likewise!

Pastor Zack Dunlap

**Children's Ministry at Berkley First!** Anyone curious or interested in supporting the Children's Ministry program is welcome to join the discussion on Wednesday, February 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We'll provide food as we assemble in the "Garden of Eden" room to review curriculum, brainstorm and more. Contact Rachael Dunlap (248-399-3698 or [rdunlap@berkleyfirst.org](mailto:rdunlap@berkleyfirst.org)) for more information.

**Third Sunday Potluck!** Everyone is invited to join us for great fellowship and food this Sunday, February 19, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Food donation is not required, but you can sign up to bring something to share by contacting Katie Kirkpatrick ([kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org](mailto:kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org) or 248-339-3698).

## Aging Ain't for Sissies

**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 next class is Wednesday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. Our own Kathryn Bartz facilitates this group, now in its tenth season, and just listening to her present is something you do not want to miss. Call Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) for more information.



## Bridges Out of Poverty

On Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Clarkston United Methodist Church and Birmingham First's Church & Society Ministry will present a "Bridges Out of Poverty" workshop. Of the 1.3 million people who live in Oakland County, over 100,000 of our "neighbors" live in poverty. The "Bridges" workshop will refresh our understanding of who these folks are. How did they come to poverty and what keeps them that way? What are the economic and social dynamics that cause poverty and create the "poverty trap" that keeps people from rising? And what can we do about it? We are called as Christians to love and care for our neighbors and "Bridges" will introduce us to specific tools and strategies that can produce improved outcomes for our fellow Oakland residents now living in poverty. With the right tools and strategies, each of us can extend our hand and help lift a person out of poverty and change the arc of their life. A Q&A session will follow the presentations. Our Church & Society Ministry is sponsoring this event and they encourage families to attend where possible. The information to be presented is suitable for middle school children and older youth.



## Employment Opportunities

**Music Ministry Administrative Assistant....**The Music Ministry is searching for an energetic, conscientious and detail-oriented administrative assistant to fill a vital role, 20 hours per week, on our Music Ministry team. The Music Ministry is led by a passionate team dedicated to creating a place where children, youth and adults can come to grow in their faith, create beauty, and transform the world through music. If you would like to fill a key role and facilitate this ministry of over 300 people, we want to hear from you. Visit the church office or the [church website](#) for an application and complete job description. Contact Music Director Casey Proch ([cproch@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:cproch@fumcbirmingham.org)) with any questions.



**Child Care Workers and Substitute Teachers....**Are you looking for a few hours of fun a week? Do you love children? We have just the place for you! Our child care programs continue to grow, and we are in need of caregivers for our Wednesday morning GRIP groups. Additionally, First Kids Preschool is looking for substitute teachers. Either of these would present a perfect opportunity if you have had some experience working with children. The main qualifications are a love for children and a desire to be the face of Christ for our littlest ones. Please contact Amanda O'Gorman (248-646-6407 ext. 3141) for more information regarding GRIP child care. Please contact Lori Handzel (248-646-6407 ext. 3154) or Sheila Smith (ext. 3124) if you are interested in subbing at First Kids. Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office.

## Happening This Week

### **Wednesday, February 15**

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  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 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  
 6:00 p.m. Blue & Gold Banquet  
 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Study (Offsite)  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032  
 7:00 p.m. Missions Task Force Teams  
 7:00 p.m. Trustees  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 8:00 p.m. Wednesday Men's Bible

### **Thursday, February 16**

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  
 1:00 p.m. Purl Girls  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 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  
 6:30 p.m. Jr/Sr Youth Karate  
 6:45 p.m. Taize Worship Service  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:00 p.m. HS Basketball  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women

### **Friday, February 17**

9:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 11:00 a.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)  
 6:00 p.m. Merry Mates

### **Saturday, February 18**

9:00 a.m. Preparation for Marriage  
 9:00 a.m. PreBallet Iw/Tap  
 10:00 a.m. Beginner Karate  
 10:30 a.m. Advanced Karate  
**Sunday, February 19**  
**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**  
 6:30 p.m. Book of David Study

### **7:00 p.m.**

Ballroom Dancing (Berkley)  
 Church & Society Ministry  
 Stewardship Committee  
 Men's Basketball

### **Wednesday, February 22**

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis Men's Group (Everson)  
 8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Aging Ain't for Sissies  
 11:00 a.m. Aware!  
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon  
 12:30 p.m. Sisters  
 1:00 p.m. Rummage Sale Committee  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 5:00 p.m. Unite Open Basketball  
 7:00 p.m. Faith Formation Sub Comm.  
 7:00 p.m. Jesus @ the Oscars  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 8:00 p.m. Wednesday Men's Bible

### **Monday, February 20**

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 11:30 a.m. Grief with Grace  
 11:30 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:00 p.m. Front Porches  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Adult Bible

### **Thursday, February 23**

9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:00 a.m. Desert Sisters Planning  
 10:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 11:00 a.m. MahJong  
 1:00 p.m. Purl Girls  
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **Tuesday, February 21**

6:30 a.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:30 a.m. Bridge  
 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Women's Study  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Handbells  
 10:45 a.m. Talking Helps  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:00 p.m. Bridge on Tuesdays  
 5:30 p.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)

### **Friday, February 24**

8:00 a.m. Cardio Weight Training  
 9:00 a.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 9:30 a.m. Mat Pilates  
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 11:00 a.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)

## Sunday, February 19, 2017



### Traditional Worship

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

[Mark 9:38-41](#)

*That Radical Jesus:*

“Those Not Against Us Are For Us!”

Rev. Gary Haller

#### Hymns

“Holy, Holy, Holy!”

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

“Jesus Shall Reign”

#### Anthems

“Shall We Gather at the River” - Wesley Men

“O God Beyond All Praising” - Chancel Choir

### Shine Contemporary Worship

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

[Jeremiah 32:36-44](#)

*Wandering:*

“Staking Our Claim”

Rev. Dan Hart

**The Liturgist** is Rev. Lindsey Hall.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Suzanne Kuecken in loving memory of Bryant Ewing.

**The Welcome Center Flowers** are placed in celebration of the marriage of Shirley Klipfel and Karl Kristen on February 18.

**The Missions Candle** is lit by Mary Pickett and Rich Teets, celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.



### Weekly Worship

**10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

[Luke 1:1-4](#)

*GOSPEL:*

“Luke’s Story”

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

#### 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