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## Heart Transplants



One of the most significant breakthroughs in medical history occurred back in 1967 when **Dr. Christian Barnard** performed the first successful human heart transplant. Years later, Barnard made an interesting observation. He said that often one of the first requests a patient would make after surgery would be to see their old heart. He would

respond by putting their old heart in a jar for the patient to see. The patient would regularly say to Dr. Barnard, **“Thank you, Doctor, for taking away my old diseased heart and giving me a new one!”**

That's what God can do for you and me as well, isn't it? Long before Dr. Christian Barnard performed his first heart transplant, God had been doing so for centuries. God has been in the business of taking out “old diseased hearts” and putting a brand-new heart in each of their places.

Some of our hearts have grown very old and diseased across the years because they are riddled with judgment and fear. Sometimes we have allowed ourselves to become bitter and resentful. Instead of becoming happier and more open across the years, we have shut down and become more narrow, unhappier and cynical. **Our hearts tend to become old and diseased, and we need a transplant!**

The babies I am privileged to hold during the Sacrament of Baptism are always so trusting and innocent. We will never find a little baby with a heart that is full of ugly feelings. It's something we **allow** to happen across the

years. The damage we do to our hearts is gradual and comes from the thoughts we harbor in our hearts. No wonder we need a heart transplant.

**Lent is a time to cleanse our hearts and minds.** Perhaps it's time for God to place a new heart within us. By the power of Jesus Christ, the gracious and loving heart of God can be born in you.

As we continue in our *Half Truths* series this Sunday, we will look at the centrality of Christ and how we are to understand our scriptures. **The theme is “God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It!”**

I hope to see you this Sunday at church...where new hearts are born!

Pastor Gary Haller

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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, March 20: Gwen Moore, Peggy Sayed

**Our Prayers for Good Health** are shared with the following persons, released from the hospital since Monday, March 13: Bob Lyle, Darrell White

**“And he took the little children into his arms and blessed them...”** We are pleased to announce that Lucy Michaela Hurst was baptized on March 19.

## 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 Lisa Lyon, and next week's message is by Greg LaBrake with the title "Follow in His Footsteps." To listen, call 248-646-6407 and press 2 when your call is answered by our automated system.

....that we offer a brief service of music, prayer, preaching and communion each Wednesday morning during Lent. Rev. Gary Haller will lead the service on March 29 starting at 7:40 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

....that we are now accepting orders for lilies to decorate the church on Easter. Please use the form in the Sunday bulletin or contact Janet Smylie ([office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121). Lilies are \$20 each. Orders must be received by Sunday, April 9.

....that the Missions Candle is available on April 2, 9, 23 and 30. Your \$30 donation to light the candle will support our Partners in Mission fund. Please contact Janet Smylie ([office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org) or 248-646-6407 ext. 3121) for more information or to reserve a date.

....that about 90 more new hymnals are needed to complete the replacement of all the worn hymnals on the main floor of the Sanctuary. Orders are always accepted in the church office if you would like to purchase a hymnal in memory or honor of loved ones. Cost is \$23. For more information, contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121).

....that items left in the church office must be marked to indicate who or what they are for. Many items are left with no note, and we have no idea what to do with them. We collect donations for many of our mission areas, plus we get "lost and found" items and things left for others to pick up. Your help is needed! Please make sure everything is clearly marked. It's also a good idea to leave your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Thank you!

....that if you aren't using the offering envelopes that come to your home, we can terminate your envelope subscription. Please contact Holly Pisano ([hpisano@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:hpisano@fumcbirmingham.org) or 646-6407 ext. 3133).



## 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?**

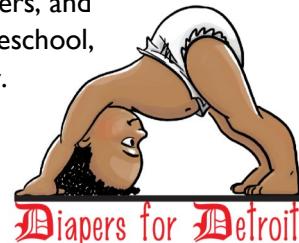
“180Seconds” is our newsletter for middle school students.

“Make Your Mark” is our newsletter for high school students.

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

**Diapers for Detroit....**Did you know government assistance programs do not cover diapers, and diapers cost over \$900 per year for one child? Children and Family Ministries, First Kids Preschool, Middle School Ministry, Shine and Berkley are teaming up to collect diapers for Brightmoor.

Diapers are a basic need for children, essential to their health, emotional well-being and educational opportunities. Our goal is to collect 14,000 diapers from March to May. Collection bins are available in the children’s wing, outside the Choir Room, the CLC, and the Berkley campus. Please help us provide this basic need to children and parents in Detroit. There is great need for diapers size 3 through 6.



## Baldwin Intern Applications Due March 28

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.



## Opportunities for Seniors

**Sunday Social: Amazing Food with Amazing People!** We have been unintentionally traveling around the world, food-wise, so in April, join us for a taste of England. The fact that it will be prepared by our own Hollie Kotwicki with love and the best ingredients makes this a “can’t miss”! Join us on Sunday, April 9 at 12:30 p.m. in Thomas Parlor. Cost is \$12. Please call Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) to reserve a spot.

**Baby Boomers, this class is really for you!** This invaluable class, known as Aging Ain’t for Sissies, addresses many of the situations we face as we grow older and how to plan accordingly. By providing resources and solutions with humor and grace, this class has helped participants forge together to make the most of this time in their lives. Our next class is Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. Our own Kathryn Bartz has facilitated this group for 10 years, and just listening to her is something you do not want to miss. Live your best life in your later years! Call Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) for details.



## Opportunities for Outreach

**UMCOR Sunday....**March 26 is the once-a-year offering for [UMCOR](#), formerly known as “One Great Hour of Sharing.” Our congregation is asked to participate by contributing to this special offering to support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Your generous gift supports UMCOR’s administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the program of the giver’s choice, ensuring UMCOR’s response in times of crisis. Please use the special offering envelope in Sunday’s bulletin or write “UMCOR Sunday” in the memo line on your check. Let’s reach out during this Lenten season by sharing our support to help UMCOR make a difference for those in need following a disaster.



**Calling All Gardens!** Birmingham First is preparing the roster of gardens for this July’s annual garden tour and needs volunteer gardens in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills, Royal Oak or Franklin communities. Please consider sharing your garden for our tour. All proceeds go toward our youth overseas mission trip scholarship program. Including your garden on our tour will really help a young person see and experience another part of the world. All you need to do is open your garden to our tour; we do the rest of the work. If you are an interested gardener or know of a garden we should include, please contact Jay Shell ([jay.shell@gmail.com](mailto:jay.shell@gmail.com)). Thank you, and see you in the garden!



**UMW Spring Rummage Sale is April 23-28!** It is well known that United Methodist Women donate Rummage Sale proceeds to help others. But did you know about the mission work that occurs during the sale?

- Volunteer church members and their friends experience fellowship and outreach by working together.
- 3-4 truckloads of usable items are donated to a local charity.
- Youth earn Community Service credit or money toward an upcoming Birmingham First youth mission trip.
- Free items are given to pre-approved charities on Thursday.
- Hundreds of people are welcomed to Birmingham First as they shop. Many shoppers depend on these quality goods at reasonable prices to outfit their homes and families.



The UMW Rummage Sale is about so much more than the funds generated. This church-wide effort is all about mission on many levels. Get involved! Details about the Rummage Sale are available on the [church website](#). To volunteer, contact us at [umw@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:umw@fumcbirmingham.org) or call Lisa Lyon (248-763-8056). To schedule a pick up of large furniture items, contact us by Monday, April 17 at [umwrummagetruck@yahoo.com](mailto:umwrummagetruck@yahoo.com) or call Debbie Berg (248-798-4898).

## Let's Get Social!

Browse our website: ([www.fumcbirmingham.org](http://www.fumcbirmingham.org))

Join our Facebook page: ([www.facebook.com/BirminghamFirst](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamFirst))

Follow us on Twitter: ([www.twitter.com/Birmingham FUMC](https://www.twitter.com/Birmingham FUMC))

Watch us on YouTube: ([www.youtube.com/FirstUMCBirmingham](https://www.youtube.com/FirstUMCBirmingham))



## Lindsey Hall to Be Ordained

Congratulations to Pastor Lindsey Hall, who has recently been approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry to be ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. We are proud of the work Lindsey has done and her tenacity in fulfilling the candidacy requirements while moving forward through the ordination process. We have witnessed Lindsey's growth in the work she has been called to do, and we are happy to see her promotion to the next level. Lindsey will be ordained in a ceremony at the Michigan Area Annual Conference in Traverse City on Sunday, June 4 at 2:00 p.m. We welcome your prayers but also your presence if you are in the area this summer.



## Shine: Thank You!

I have to start by thanking everybody for your enormous generosity and love. Autumn and I feel so blessed by all the support we have received along the way as we anticipate the birth of our daughter. We feel even more blessed after the kindness and joy we all shared during our shower this past Sunday. Thank you to all who spent time planning, preparing the space, making food, and serving everybody! Thank you to all who came and celebrated with us! Thank you to all who brought gifts, and to all who donated diapers! Autumn and I are humbled by the warmth of this church and all who selflessly serve. We are aware of the blessing to receive so much while not deserving it in any way, and that truly speaks to the abundant love in this place. Autumn and I can't wait to raise our daughter at such a supporting and caring church. Thank you so much!



As we continue to talk about *Half Truths* this week, we will contemplate the phrase "God said it, I believe it, that settles it." Just like the other phrases we have explored, we will talk about the truth and the complications of this belief. Hope to see you in Shine.

Pastor Dan Hart

## Berkley First: *Half Truths* Series Continues



This Friday, I head to Cuba as part of our Volunteers in Mission team. Please be in prayer as we build into our sister church relationship with the Methodists of Manzanillo, Cuba.

On Sunday, March 26, Pastor Suzanne Walls will preach at Berkley as we continue our series, *Half Truths*. Don't miss it! I'll be back to wrap up the series on April 2.

Pastor Zack Dunlap

**Social/Ballroom Dance** returns to Berkley First for another six-week class on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. beginning March 28. All levels are welcome. Only \$70/couple or \$50/individual for all six weeks. Registration is required with Katie Kirkpatrick (248-399-3698 or [kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org](mailto:kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org)).

## Opera Gala Concert

On Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m., the Live@First Concert Series presents an Opera Gala Concert. The Sanctuary will come alive with the magical sounds of opera, operetta, and even some golden age musical theatre. An extraordinary cast of professional opera singers will join us. MET baritone Stephen Hartley returns to our series after star turns in our opera concerts *The Barber of Seville* and *La Boheme*. Soprano Katrina Van Maanen and tenor Drake Dantzler also return to Live@First. Making her debut with us is mezzo-soprano Alta Dantzler. Doris Hall will accompany the singers at the piano. Tickets are \$25 for adults. Students are admitted FREE! Tickets may be purchased at [liveatfirst.org](http://liveatfirst.org) and in the church office.



## Church Tour

How did the rooms get their names? Where is the Memorial Garden? Where are the handbells stored? What happens in the CLC? Join Chris Boyle after the 11:00 services on Sunday, March 26 to learn more about our church facilities. We will gather at the west end of the main hallway, outside the Martin Room. If you have any questions, please contact Chris ([chrisboyle840@gmail.com](mailto:chrisboyle840@gmail.com)). See you there!

## Charge Conference

The Rev. Charles Boayue, our District Superintendent, has called a Charge Conference for the purpose of setting salaries for our ministers. The Charge Conference consists of all members of the Administrative Council and retired ordained and diaconal ministers whose charge conference relationship is here at Birmingham First. The conference will be held at the beginning of our Administrative Council meeting on Monday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

## Stratford 2017

Here is the schedule for our day trips to the Stratford Festival in 2017. Prices include your ticket, transportation, morning refreshments, and all taxes and fees. We will travel to Stratford via the comfortable Endowment Express II.

Thursday, May 18:	<i>Guys and Dolls</i>	\$85
Tuesday, August 8:	<i>The Madwoman of Chaillot</i>	\$100
Thursday, September 14:	<i>Twelfth Night</i>	\$75
All three plays in the series:		\$250



We gather at the church at 8:00 a.m. for coffee and bagels, with departure at 8:30. We arrive in Stratford, Ontario around noon, allowing time for shopping and/or lunch on your own before the 2:00 performance. We return immediately following the play, with a dinner stop in Port Huron, arriving back at the church between by 9:30 p.m.

We invite you to join our great group of Stratford fans! Passport required. For more information or to sign up, contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121 or [office@fumcbirmingham.org](mailto:office@fumcbirmingham.org)). Payment confirms your reservation.

## Happening This Week

### **Wednesday, March 22**

6:15 a.m. \* Arbon Dennis Men's Group  
 7:30 a.m. \* Word for Working Women  
 7:40 a.m. Lenten Midweek Service  
 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  
 10:30 a.m. Esther Circle  
 11:00 a.m. Aware!  
 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. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 6:30 p.m. First Nurses  
 6:30 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor  
 7:00 p.m. \* Lenten Study (Hart's)  
 7:00 p.m. Meditation Class  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 8:00 p.m. \* Men's Bible Study

### **Thursday, March 23**

8:30 a.m. \* Lenten Study (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Chair Yoga (Berkley)  
 9:00 a.m. Mother's Study  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 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. Ray Anger Memorial Service  
 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. Karate  
 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, March 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)

**Saturday, March 25**

9:00 a.m. Pre-Ballet 1w/Tap  
 10:00 a.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance  
 11:00 a.m. Daddy/Daughter Dance  
 7:30 p.m. Live@First Concert

### **Sunday, March 26**

**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**

11:00 a.m. \* Lenten Study – Adults  
 11:00 a.m. \* MS Lenten Study  
 5:00 p.m. HS Youth Group  
 5:00 p.m. MS Bells  
 5:30 p.m. Genesis Choir  
 5:30 p.m. \* MS Parent Lenten Study  
 6:00 p.m. \* Youth Lenten (Berkley)  
 6:30 p.m. MS Youth Group  
 6:30 p.m. IYOYC Choir  
 7:30 p.m. HS Bells

### **Monday, March 27**

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. Stretch 4 Life  
 12:30 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 12:45 p.m. \* Parents of HS/College  
 1:00 p.m. Front Porches  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 5:30 p.m. Hip Hop Enrichment  
 6:30 p.m. Ballet  
 6:30 p.m. Steeple Stock  
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate  
 7:00 p.m. Hospitality/Connecting Ministry  
 7:30 p.m. Charge Conference/  
 Administrative Council

### **Tuesday, March 28**

6:30 a.m. \* Tuesday Men's Bible Study  
 8:00 a.m. W.O.W. Leaders  
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym  
 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. W.O.W. Bible Study  
 10:45 a.m. Talking Helps  
 11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life  
 1:00 p.m. Bridge on Tuesdays  
 1:00 p.m. Tiny Tots Dance  
 5:30 p.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)  
 6:00 p.m. Tech Organizing Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Preschool Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Seminary Relations  
 7:00 p.m. \* Lenten Study (Berkley)  
 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

### **Wednesday, March 29**

6:15 a.m. \* Arbon Dennis (Murphy)  
 7:30 a.m. \* Word for Working Women  
 7:40 a.m. Lenten Midweek Service  
 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  
 11:00 a.m. Singing Bowls  
 12:30 p.m. Cards in the Afternoon  
 12:30 p.m. \* Sisters  
 1:00 p.m. Rummage Committee  
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball  
 5:00 p.m. Unite Open Basketball  
 6:00 p.m. Core Circuit (Berkley)  
 7:00 p.m. Audit Committee  
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #1032  
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. \* Lenten Study (Hart's)  
 7:00 p.m. Meditation Class  
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)  
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 8:00 p.m. \* Men's Bible Study

### **\*Lenten Study**

## Fourth Sunday in Lent



### Traditional Worship

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

[John 1:1-5, 14-18](#)

#### *Half Truths:*

“God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It!”

Rev. Gary Haller

#### Hymns

“I Love to Tell the Story”

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

“Forward Through the Ages”

#### Anthems

“I Love to Tell the Story” - Disciple Choir

“A Mountain Psalm” - Covenant Choir

“We Believe” - Chancel Choir

## Shine Contemporary Worship

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

[Deuteronomy 23:12-14](#)

#### *Half Truths:*

“God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It!”

Rev. Dan Hart

**The Liturgists** are Mark Swarthout at 9:30, Todd Hibbard at 11:00, and Rev. Lindsey Hall at Shine.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in celebration of Lee Gillett's birthday by Tony and the Sisketeers.

**The Missions Candle** is lit by Patti Bannasch in celebration of D'Ann and Fred Rohrbach.

**The Rosebuds** on the altar announce the births of Catherine Rose Currie, born February 11 to Jason and Jessica Currie; and Norah Christine Dawson, born March 19 to Brandon and Heather Dawson (proud grandparents are Bob and Sheila Smith).

## March 26, 2017



### Weekly Worship

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

[Matthew 5:17-20](#)

#### *Half Truths:*

“God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It!”

Rev. Suzanne Walls



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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