



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEEPLE NOTES



May 10, 2017

Volume 76, Issue 19

The Real Thing



Harvey Mackey says that what you **get** depends on what you **see**. He tells of a man who visited a small restaurant and remarked to his server: "I was just transferred to your town, and I've never been to this part of the country. What are people like here?"

"What are people like where you come from?"

asked the server. "Not so nice," the man replied. "In fact, they can be quite rude." The server shook her head and said, "Well, I'm afraid you'll find the people in this town to be the same way."

A second gentleman came in and sat at a nearby table. He called out to the server: **"I'm just moving to your area. Is it nice here?"** "Was it nice where you came from?" inquired the server. "Oh, yes! I came from a great place. The people were friendly, and I hated to leave." "Well, you'll find the same to be true of this town."

At hearing this, the first customer was irritated and asked his server, **"So tell me, what is this town really like?"** She just shrugged her shoulders and said, **"It's all a matter of perception. You'll find things to be just the way you think they are."**

Maybe that's why I have loved Birmingham First so much these four years. *Maybe* my own internal filters have shaped my perceptions. *Maybe*. I've seen a loving, generous, mission-focused, sacrificial church that cares for children, youth, and the least, the last, and the lost of the world. In part, I'm sure I've seen what I've expected to see in a church.

But there is a reality base to my perceptions. You are a church that "walks the walk." You do care for the downcast, for the stranger and immigrant in our midst. You walk beside people who are struggling, go to far corners of the world in mission, stretch yourselves in education, and provide great care for our children and youth. There's a saying I've heard recently. It says **"Real knows real."** You are the real thing. You put your love into action.

I am grateful for that. The truth is, **"As a church thinketh in its heart, so that church is."** Of course you grow weary—and that can shape your perceptions. Of course there are times when there aren't sufficient volunteers to go around. For two thousand years that has been the case. But that has never deterred you from doing what you feel God has called you to do.

Years ago, Laurie and I came across a copy of a church budget from 1950. The total budget was \$42,140, but it was the saying at the top of the paper that caught our eye: **"This is my church. Keep it strong in a needy world."** I'd offer the same advice today: **"Birmingham First is your church. Keep it strong in a needy world."** You keep it strong by seeing the world through eyes of faith, eyes of hope, eyes of love. Whatever Birmingham and Berkley First become will depend upon what you see and what you do to keep it strong.

This coming Sunday is "Mother's Day." It's a day for all of us to think on our mothers and to be grateful. My sermon theme will be "What I've Learned About Love." I've still got a lot to learn! I hope you'll join me on that journey this Sunday. Grace and joy to you!

Pastor Gary Haller

Our Church Family

Our Prayers for Good Health are shared with the following person, released from the hospital since Monday, April 30: Vida Owusu-Agyei

Our Prayers of Sympathy and Support are shared with the family and friends of Bill Brown, who died on May 9. A memorial service will be held in our Sanctuary on Monday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m.

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 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.

Food Drive Thanks

A huge thank you to our most generous congregation! The recent “Tag a Bag” food drive enabled us to donate over 280 bags of food to three selected food pantries: DORT in Flint, Lighthouse in Pontiac, and Cass in Detroit. We are so appreciative of the Boy Scouts for their help, too! Once again, thank you for your food donations!

—Heidi Geissbuhler on behalf of the Hunger Ministry



Did You Know

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

....that UMW Esther Circle members and interested guests are invited to our annual luncheon on Wednesday, May 24 at 11:30 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. This is a catered event, so please call Betty Emmert (248-646-8893) by Friday, May 19 for reservations.

....that our First Nurses sponsor a Lions Club box for eyeglass and hearing aid donations. Your unneeded equipment will help people in developing countries. The box is located outside the Sanctuary, across from the Welcome Center. No glasses cases, please.

....that just in time for Mother's Day, you can honor or remember your mother with a new hymnal for the Sanctuary. About 70 new hymnals are needed to complete the replacement of the worn hymnals on the main floor. Orders are accepted in the church office. Cost is \$23. For more information, contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121).

....that you can contribute to First United Methodist Church by credit card or from your checking or savings account through our website: www.fumcbirmingham.org. Just follow the link for “[Giving](#)” at the top of the home page to make one-time or recurring donations.



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, [Facebook Birmingham First Kids](#), or contact us at sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org to receive a monthly email newsletter.

Want to get the inside scoop on First Student Ministries?

The Middle School Newsletter has information 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.

Recyclable Materials Needed! Please drop off the listed materials in the designated box outside the Children and Family Ministry office. These items will be used during this year's *Maker Factory*-themed Vacation Bible School in June. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Bowyer (kbowyer@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3134).

- Clean plastic tubs with lids (18+ needed: Cool Whip, cottage cheese, yogurt, butter, etc.)
- Clean coffee cans (60 needed: plastic with lids or metal without lids)
- Stacks of newspaper in a paper bag (6 full bags needed)
- Brown paper grocery bags (60+ needed, solid brown color preferred)
- PVC pipes
- Leftover paint: **bright colors only** (i.e. red, purple, yellow, aqua, etc.)
- Dryer venting
- Old boxed fans (working or not)
- Wrapping paper tubes
- 3, 4, 5 lb. buckets
- Empty paint cans



Bringing Scripture to Life

Would you like to learn and practice a new way to read scripture and know that God is speaking to you and with you? The Faith Formation Ministry is hosting monthly sessions for participants to learn and practice the Lectio Divina method, an ancient form of Christian prayer that can consciously deepen your relationship with God through scripture. Please sign up in the church office for one or both of the upcoming sessions: May 23 and June 20 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Martin Room. Questions? Contact Jill Hockman (jillwh@scbglobal.net).

Opportunity for Fellowship

Merry Mates....El Camino de Santiago, known by the English name Way of St. James, is a major Christian pilgrimage route of 500 miles across northern Spain including Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. Member Susan Rieth will share a PowerPoint presentation of the history and her walking experiences on this trail which attracts thousands of people of various backgrounds from all over the world. Join our friendly, diverse group of all ages, singles and couples, on Friday, May 19. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 6:30 (\$13). RSVP to Sharon and Bob Pierce (sharonbobbierce@gmail.com or 248-364-4438) by early evening on Sunday, May 14.





Join us as we celebrate
Rev. Gary Haller's
Retirement and 39 Years of Ministry

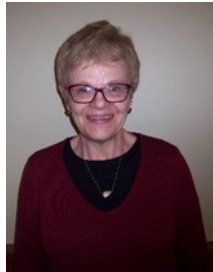
Sunday, May 21, 2017
12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Birmingham First
1589 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009

New Members From April 30

We hope you will give a big welcome to each one!



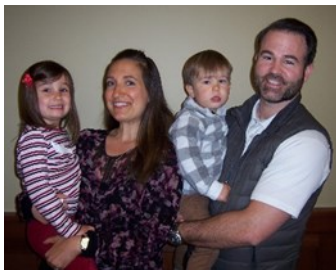
Jana Carney



Mary Cooney



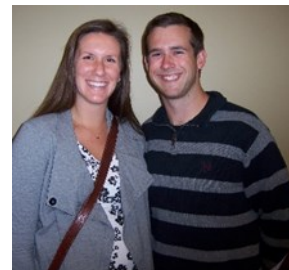
Christie Fromm



Sean, Melissa,
Elsa & Holden Hayes



Sara Kuhn



Matthew & Allison Tolkacz

Let's Get Social!

Browse our website: (www.fumcbirmingham.org)

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

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

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



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, May 18 in the Runkel Chapel at 6:45 p.m.



Shine: Welcome Rev. Cora Glass

Rev. Cora Glass is a deacon serving at the Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo as the Resident Director of the Wesley International Community and Director of Discipleship. She also works as Campus Ministry Fund Developer, overseeing generosity towards United Methodist College Ministries across Michigan.

Cora grew up at Birmingham First and is the daughter of Mike and Patty Glass. At Birmingham First, Cora came to find her call to ministry through participating in youth group, serving in the Hunger Ministry, and singing in choir. You can join Cora this August for a weekend of creativity and reflection. Learn more at RecreateRetreat.com.



Cora writes: “Commissioned at 24 years of age, I assume I am the youngest clergyperson on the Detroit conference rosters. How often do we use our age to dismiss our ability to do something? Come hear how God calls us all—young and young at heart—to follow our call.”

Berkley First: The Unforgiving Employee



This Sunday at Berkley First we continue our series on *A Different Kind of Kingdom* with a look at the unforgiving employee in Matthew 18:23-35. We're also commemorating Mother's Day and celebrating the baptism of Louis McDonnell, whose mother, grandmother and great-grandmother were all baptized at the former Berkley First United Methodist Church—one in the current sanctuary, one in the old sanctuary, and one when Berkley First Methodist Episcopal Church was still a church plant meeting in a storefront. The God who accomplished great things in the past still has more in store!

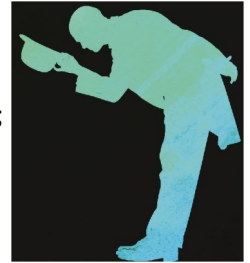
Pastor Zack Dunlap

Announcing the Berkley First Perennial Exchange.... Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Free and open to anyone interested in exchanging their extra perennial plants for new and different varieties. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions. Join us on the west lawn at Berkley First, rain or shine. Parking is available in our lot behind the Rite Aid. For more information, visit berkleyfirst.org or contact Katie Kirkpatrick (248-399-3698 or kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org).

Social/Ballroom Dance with Jim Berg is returning for Session 3! Beginning May 30, this six-session class will meet on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Berkley First Social Hall. All levels welcome; no experience necessary. Final class July 11, no class July 4. Only \$70/couple or \$50/person. Register now with Katie Kirkpatrick (248-399-3698 or kkirkpatrick@berkleyfirst.org).

Live@First: Doris Hall and Friends

The Live@First Concert Series is pleased to present **Doris Hall and Friends** on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature some of Metro Detroit's finest solo instrumentalists. Joining pianist/organist Doris Hall are Ann Lemke, oboe; Robyn Myers, flute; Karen Wingert, cello; and Lillian Dean, clarinet. Our final concert of 2017 is guaranteed to be a beautiful evening of chamber music. A Mother's Day treat for all! Tickets are \$25 for adults, and students are admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at live@first.org or in the church office.



Opportunity for Employment

Missions Administrator....We are looking for a detail oriented and communicative individual to provide access between our individual missions and church resources. This 10-hour-per-week position, reporting to the Missions liaison, Pastor Dan Hart, will include some Sunday mornings with the remainder of the schedule to be determined. Applications and job descriptions are available in the church office. Please send any inquiries to Susan Anderson Dale in the Human Resources office (sueanderson@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3160).

Opportunities for Outreach

Partners in Mission Appeal is this Sunday, May 14! Be a part of preparing Birmingham First's mission field for 2017 and contribute to the Partners in Mission appeal. Lend a helping hand to those in need by supporting our 22 task force teams working locally, national and internationally. This appeal provides the funding for much of the mission work of our church as we have lives touched—theirs and ours. This is your opportunity to be a Partner in Mission so we can continue to provide after school and summer enrichment experiences for kids at the Pontiac Baldwin Center, dig a well in Sneedville, Tennessee for people who have no running water, or support the Children's Home in Costa Rica, to name a few. Use the offering envelope in your Sunday bulletin or write "Partners in Mission" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support.



Tiny Homes Progressive Dinner....Cass with host a progressive dinner in their seven Tiny Homes on May 25, 26 and 27 at a cost of \$45 per person. This will be your chance to both see the new homes and taste the wonderful food from Cass Catering and Matt Prentice. For more information, check out casscommunity.org or contact Karla Bole (karla.bole@yahoo.com).



Blood Drive....Boy Scout Troop 1032 is sponsoring a blood drive to honor a fellow Scout with a blood disorder. Give blood on Sunday, June 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bloomfield American Red Cross (4190 Telegraph Road). For an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code BST1032 or call 1-800-733-2767.

6th Annual Birmingham in the Garden Tour for Missions....Plan to attend this year's self-paced garden tour on Saturday, July 15. Gardens are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available beginning May 14 during the coffee hours and in the church office. \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of tour. Proceeds help to fund church youth mission trip participation.



Happening This Week

Wednesday, May 10

Berkley Closed

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis
 7:30 a.m. Word for Working Women
 8:00 a.m. Strength Training
 9:00 a.m. GRIP End of Year Brunch
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 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. Cub Scout Pack Meeting
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thursday, May 11

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. 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. Faith Formation Ministry
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
 7:30 p.m. Unfinished Christian Women

Friday, May 12

8:00 a.m. Strength 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. Fantastic 5's Mother's Tea
 10:00 a.m. Zumba (Berkley)
 11:00 a.m. Hatha Mat Yoga (Berkley)
 6:00 p.m. Endowment Annual Dinner

Saturday, May 13

7:30 p.m. Live@First Concert: Doris Hall and Friends

Sunday, May 14

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
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group (Berkley)

Monday, May 15

8:00 a.m. Strength 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
 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
 7:00 p.m. Adult Karate
 7:00 p.m. Hunger Ministry
 7:00 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study

Tuesday, May 16

6:30 a.m. Tuesday Men's Bible Study
 9:00 a.m. Parent/Toddler Open Gym
 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Women's Study
 9:45 a.m. C.O.W.
 10:00 a.m. W.O.W. Spring Brunch
 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)
 7:00 p.m. Church & Society Ministry
 7:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

Wednesday, May 17

6:15 a.m. Arbon Dennis
 7:30 a.m. Word for Working Women
 8:00 a.m. Strength Training
 9:00 a.m. 4 Yr. Olds Donuts w/Dad
 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
 1:00 p.m. Rummage Committee
 1:00 p.m. Senior Volleyball
 6:00 p.m. Core Circuit
 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Study (off-site)
 7:00 p.m. Eagle Court of Honor
 7:00 p.m. Trustees
 7:00 p.m. Zumba (Berkley)
 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 8:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thursday, May 18

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. Caregiver's Support Group
 1:00 p.m. Desert Sisters Leadership
 1:00 p.m. Mahjong
 1:00 p.m. Purl Girls
 1:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 4:15 p.m. Covenant Choir
 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. 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

Friday, May 19

8:00 a.m. Strength 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

Sunday, May 14, 2017



Traditional Worship

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

[1 Corinthians 13](#)

I'm Still Growing:

"What I've Learned About Love"

Rev. Gary Haller

Hymns

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

"The Gift of Love"

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Anthems

"God is So Good" - Elementary Bells

"Thank You, God" - Cherub/Sonshine Choirs

"The Greatest is Love" - Genesis Choir

"Get on Board" - Covenant Choir

"I Choose Love" - Disciple/Genesis Choirs

"May I Love You, Lord" - Chancel Choir

Shine Contemporary Worship

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

[Luke 5:1-11](#); [Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)

Living Christ:

"God Calls Us All"

Rev. Cora Glass



Weekly Worship

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

[Matthew 18:23-35](#)

A Different Kind of King:

"The Unforgiving Employee"

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



2820 12 Mile Road • Berkley, MI 48072

248-399-3698 • berkleyfirst.org

Zack Dunlap, Pastor

The Liturgists are Rev. Suzanne Walls at 9:30 and 11:00, and Rev. Lindsey Hall at Shine.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and placed by Susan Davison in loving memory of her parents, Nelson and Hazel Jones.

The Missions Candle is lit in loving memory of Kate Hameister by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Rosebuds on the altar announce the births of Abigail, Kenneth and Ethan Friedman, born April 30 to Scott and Ashley Friedman. Proud grandparents are Gary and Linda Friedman.

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