

# July Tidings



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Dear Friends

It was twelve months ago, June 27, 2022, when I backed up my car and left Nashville headed back home to Michigan. I had graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School in May and on June 26 preached my last sermon at Pegram UMC, ending a storybook adventure, preaching and living near the place where I grew up. It had been a year filled with reuniting with old friends and finding out that I was related to or somehow connected to most everyone in the community. In an odd way, I was leaving home to come back home. On Tuesday June 28, I pulled into the parsonage on Vernmoor and on Sunday July 3rd I preached my first sermon as the pastor of Troy First.

It sounds trite to say, but in some ways, it seems like all of this happened yesterday, and in many ways, I feel like I've been a part of the Troy First family for a long time. Through the various "meet the Pastor" lunches and dinners and gatherings, I started to get to know you all and you began to know me. My lunch with Terry Prichett is legendary. I had seen him working behind the scenes at a service and asked him to meet with me. He claims that I didn't even let the waters get to the table before I asked him to be lay leader. (I question that memory, but I do tend to move quickly as you all have come to know.)

Of course, there was the night when we finally fit the committee jigsaw pieces together, asking Rick Rhodes to lead finance and calling on Fred Dolehanty to step into the lead spot on SPRC. I remember saying to Fred..." there are only two full time employees, Victoria and me; how hard can it be?" I hope you are all laughing as you realize that was before Victoria resigned to pursue her life on the west side of the state and before we began to build a music department from the ground up.

Have I mentioned that God is doing a new thing at Troy First? Through the angst and growing pains, some beautiful things have happened. We welcomed 14 new members and welcome others who come and worship with us. We baptized three babies (another is coming this summer). We reopened the nursery. We welcomed Laynie Bryant, Corinna Olesen and Sharon Smith to the staff and then Tim Schoenherr joined as music director (there is at least one more great announcement coming.... )

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Join us as we study the Christmas story in the month of July. Lets see where God takes us, as we look at these familiar verses in the warmth of summer.

**July 2**  
**Kickoff of Christmas in July**  
Christmas is about giving and we will be collecting canned goods and nonperishable items for local food pantries. We are also collecting school supplies for Auburn Elementary  
\*See Page 3 for a complete list of items.\*

**July 9**  
**Celebrate the Children**  
Lets spread the word to invite children in the community to come and join us!



2ND ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION OF  
CHILDREN  
July 9  
SERVICE 10AM  
CELEBRATION TEAM  
BOUNCE HOUSE, FACE PAINTING, ICE  
CREAM, GAMES & MORE!

**July 16**  
**Extended Family**  
We are celebrating the extended family at the manger.

**5pm** Community Family Dinner in the CCL. Main dish/dessert provided please bring salad or a side dish to share.

**6pm** Glory Way Gospel Concert—free concert—love offering taken

**July 23**  
**Christmas in July**



outdoor  
WORSHIP

# Outreach Updates

## Auburn Elementary School Supplies

Women of Faith are sponsoring our church wide collection of school supplies for Auburn Elementary. Bring these school supplies and put them “under the tree” in the sanctuary.



Sign up to bring ice cream toppings in the CLC following worship, or contact Julie Olsavsky.



## Mark your Calendar

Monday September 11  
12-3:30pm

Have you been looking for a way to serve through mission work? A great opportunity is coming up. Details to come...

### Our Staff

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# Michigan Conference

## Save the Date

- July 3/4:** Office closed
- July 6:** Outreach Meeting  
7pm (in person only)
- July 8:** Men's Breakfast
- July 9:** Celebrate Children
- July 16:** Dinner 5pm CLC,  
Concert 6pm Sanctuary
- July 20:** Worship Design  
Meeting 7pm
- July 22:**  
Visitation, Memorial  
Service & Luncheon for  
Penny Laws,  
10:30 Visitation,  
11:30 am Service,  
12:30pm Luncheon
- July 23:** Outdoor Service  
10am
- July 30:**  
Noisy Sunday Worship,  
10am, Set up Bible School  
11:30-2:30pm

The 2023 Michigan Annual Conference was held in early June. The theme of the conference was "New Every Morning". What started as a blank canvas became this painting by the end of conference. Reminding us of the beauty of "New Every Morning".



To read full reports from our conference delegates, Jan Peacock and Marie Watson, visit <http://fumctroy.org/conference>

## Coming soon!

COKEBURY'S  
**HERO  
HOTLINE**  
Called Together  
to Serve God!

**REGISTER  
online  
FUMCTROY.ORG**

**VBS  
JULY 31-AUG 4**

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Thomas Domanski, Alan & Sheila Partington	Geist
4	Bob Schultz, Renee Weishaar	20 Bev Holmes
5	Barbara Strozynski, Jennifer Chambers	22 Julie & Steve Olsavsky
6	Steve Olsavsky, John Gardner	23 David & Amanda Ostergaard
7	John Wassel, Ian Luttrell, Morgan Michaux	24 Lou Wassel
8	Mark McNett, Gary & Cathie Jasionowicz	26 Joyce Henn, Barbara & Randy Strozynski
9	Marilee Kartje, Ann & Dan Sobey, Michelle & Jeff Schmitt, Elizabeth Barnes	27 Kevin Jakobiak, Terri Watson, Sherry & John King, Pam & Jeff Olesen, Randy Vavrick
10	Bill Wesp, Kristin & Ralph Truelove	28 Joyce Berard
11	Rose Marie Joseph, Karen Hursin	29 Tom Geggie
12	Dan Cardiff	31 Tristan Justice
13	Jeff Stover	
14	Fay Steiger Gardner, Dan Dooley, Sierra Ingrid Crandell	
16	Cheryl & Bill Russel,	
16	Merrick & Allyssa Rumel	
17	Lisa & Ken Head	
18	Ann Stevens, Emma Runke, Elise Norwood, Casey Baker	
19	Bradley Williston, Sheila Julian, Elijah John	

### Library Notes

The latest additions to our church library are Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws. Roger Steiger, Sunday School teacher extraordinaire, wanted to add this to our George Berquist collection of Adult study materials and courses (found on that shelf labeled HAM\*). The DVD set is by Adam Hamilton, well known United Methodist pastor and writer of Adult study materials. Especially if you didn't have a chance with Roger on Sunday mornings, this is your chance to study it on your own.

Roger also donated the latest Sunday School book he taught—this one by Amy-Jill Levine. have heard this professor of New Testament speak and she is really interesting. The title is Sermon on the Mount -we have the book, video and Leader's guide.

The third book was given to Troy First at Annual Conference in June. We received this book, along with a certificate from the Michigan Conference, for having donated \$600 to the Readers to Leaders outreach program. This money helps run summer reading programs in Flint and is also used for scholarships for children in Liberia to attend Bishop Judy Craig School.

Old Enough to Save the Planet (333 KIL) is for 4th graders and up to read on their own or can be read to younger ones. Our church library is housed on both sides of the chapel doors. There is a list (in Dewey Decimal order or author with fiction) on the shelves by the CLC. You sign the card at the back of the book and slip the card into the small box on the shelves next to CLC.

Happy reading!

Jan Peacock

# Pastor Letter Continued...

So many memories are imprinted on my heart, Christmas Eve, a packed house in the snowstorm. Easter sunrise service then a couple of hours later (a Sheryl Dukes production...) trumpets and bells and choirs celebrated "He is Risen!" The bonfire last fall, the ladies Caribbean cruise just a few weeks ago...great times of community. One of my favorite memories happened early into my ministry here... the First Annual Celebrate our Children. 19 children sat across the front steps of the altar in the service then had fun with facepainting and balloon animals. Guess what? We're doing that again on July 9 Help us get the word out; this year we have a bounce house...yeah we do.

As you can see... I'm not just looking back. I'm looking forward and I know God is calling us and challenging us in new ways. I'm excited for another year together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Myra

