Reflections on Our Journey

Well, that went fast! Summer is coming to a close and the fall season is upon us. The slower pace of this special time of rest and relaxation has been replaced with the sprint to school and work that begins to fill our lives again.

At Birmingham and Berkley First, our fall schedule is gearing up quickly. I hope that by now you’ve had a chance to sign up for a few of the opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service that are listed in our fall program guide. If not, please make sure to check it out and register. It’s a great blessing to be a part of a church that has so many ways for us to be involved and to grow in our faith with one another!

As we head into this fall season, I’ll be starting a series this coming Sunday entitled, The Journey. In 2015, I was blessed to spend a portion of my renewal leave walking from southern France across northern Spain on the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage of almost 500 miles. The people, the stories, and the lessons that I encountered along the way were transformational. In many ways, our own faith journeys are like a pilgrimage. Even as a church, we have been on a journey of faith together. As we discover where we are headed in the future, what might we pack with us to sustain us on the way? What will we leave behind? How do we embark on the journey that God has in store for us now? I can’t wait to share insights together as we discern where God is leading us into the future.

Following worship, from 4pm to 6pm, you are also invited to join us as we Embark on the Journey at our welcome back event on the front lawn. There’s going to be music, fun, games, food, fellowship, a dunk tank for missions, and much more. Clear your Sunday afternoon schedule because you won’t want to miss out on all the fun!

In fact, we’re even blessing the disaster response supplies we’ve collected for flood buckets and hygiene kits for those affected by the hurricane and floods in Texas and Louisiana. Thank you for your continued generosity in your response to the work that UMCOR is doing to bring relief and hope. As you give financial gifts as well as supplies, you are participating in making God’s love real in Jesus Christ and transforming lives. I can’t wait to see you on Sunday and to celebrate together what God is doing through us together!

Blessings,

Pastor Elbert Dulworth

September 10
4:00-6:00 pm
Games ♦ Fun ♦ Food ♦ Missions
fumcbirmingham.org/embark
Our Church Family

Our Christian Caring and Concern are shared with the following persons, known to be in the hospital on Tuesday, September 5: Ken Cooper.

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 Christian Classic Book Club meets monthly for discussion of great books from a theological perspective. Join us tonight (September 6) from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to discuss Year of Wonders by Geraldine Brooks. A complete list of dates and titles is available on the church website. $10 fee.

….that we return to our Regular Office Hours on Monday, September 11. The main church office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

….that the Fall Program Guide will be distributed with your worship bulletin again this Sunday. Please take this opportunity to look at all we offer at Birmingham First and Berkley First and see what may interest you and your family. Just mark whatever piques your interest and return the booklet to the church office. Someone from that area will then contact you. Simple! You may also indicate your interest via the online form found on our website. Try something new this fall as we Gather, Learn and Serve together!

….that students of all ages are invited to share their pets with assisted living residents on the second Sunday of each month beginning in October. Puppy Love Orientation is Sunday, September 17. For more information, contact Karen Porter (kporter@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3126).

….that Esther Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 27 at 10:30 a.m. in Thomas Parlor. Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin will share his story with us. All women are welcome to visit or join our Circle. Call Claudia Crosby (248-549-0969) if you have questions.

….that the Altar Flowers ($60) are available on October 1, 8 and 22. Please contact Janet Smylie (248-646-6407 ext. 3121 or office@fumcbirmingham.org) for more information or to reserve a date.

….that we are hiring! Positions are open for a part-time Human Resources and Caring Ministries Administrative Assistant and a part-time Technology Assistant. Full job descriptions and applications are available in the church office and online.

….that Unfinished Christian Women meets on Thursday nights at the Birmingham Campus from 7:30-9:00 p.m. beginning on September 14. Each lesson stands alone and all ages are welcome to join us.

….that the UMW Fall Rummage Sale for Missions is coming up! You are needed! Be one of the Rummage Sale volunteers needed to keep this sale running smoothly. Join the fun October 15-20 and keep the funds flowing to charities that depend on Rummage Sale proceeds. More details about the Rummage Sale are available on the church website. To volunteer, contact us at umw@fumcbirmingham.org or call Lisa Lyon (248-763-8056).

….that “Discover First” Join Rev. Elbert Dulworth for “Discover First”, a one session class that will provide you with the knowledge, resources and relationships needed to take your next steps here at Birmingham and Berkley First. The session will be relaxed, informative as you learn more about The United Methodist Church and Birmingham and Berkley First. Near the end of the session there will be a short joining ceremony for those who decide to become members followed by a church tour. We will meet at the Berkley First campus on Sunday evening, September 17th, from 5 to 7 p.m. Contact Mary Feldmaier for more details 248-646-6401 x3142.
Children, Student and Family Ministries

For information about our First Kids 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 e-newsletter for high school students.
Get your free subscriptions today! Sign up under “E-News” on the church website.

Turning Artists Into Readers….We are excited to invite you to an evening of learning with Michelle Burkhard. Did you know that artistic activities help to unlock the brain’s potential? This fast-paced event will allow you the opportunity to see children’s artwork from infancy through school age while giving you important information about how to prepare your child for the next step in the journey to being a reader. You’ll learn, you’ll laugh, and you’ll leave with new appreciation of the art your child brings home from school and why it’s so important to your child’s development. You can visit www.growby1.com to learn more about Michelle! Thursday, September 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please RSVP to sheilas@fumcbirmingham.org or 646-6407 ext. 3124.

Fall Classes for Adults

Most of our classes begin the week of September 11. Look for the Fall Program Guide or go to the church website to see all we offer. The list is too extensive to include in Steeple Notes.

Monday Night Bible Study will meet on September 11 in Room 230 at 7:00 p.m. to begin our seven-week study of Part 1 of the book of Isaiah with a video lecture from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, whose lecture on Amos and Hosea we enjoyed so much. Regular and new members, please let class leader Mike Barrass know you plan to join us for this study (call or text Mike at 248-977-9786). In preparation, please read Chapters 1-24 of Isaiah, Chapters 18-23 of 2 Kings, and Chapters 6, 12 and 22 of Deuteronomy. Cost of the Kerygma Resource Guide is $21, payable in class.

Aging Ain’t for Sissies….For six years and thirteen seasons, with a great amount of knowledge and great sense of humor, Kathryn Bartz, MA, CTRS, ACC-1, has been teaching, sharing and guiding us through the opportunities and challenges of getting a little older. From caring for our parents to our own changes in circumstance, it seems that these subjects are an integral part of all our lives. On Wednesday, September 13 we are blessed to have Kathryn back again. Please join us at 10:00 a.m. in Thomas Parlor to learn from the best on how to live our best lives, no matter what our age. Contact Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160 or sueanderson@fumcbirmingham.org) with questions.

Visio Divina

Faith Formation Ministry is excited to share an opportunity for you to participate in our Visio Divina art exhibit in October. At one time or another, we have all looked at something and been struck by the thought that there was a message from God within or the recognition that God was in that place. Recognizing this is the art of Visio Divina, opening our minds to God’s presence. We hope that you will share an experience you’ve had that has been meaningful for you. Please visit the church website and search for “Visio Divina” for participation details, or call Sue Csernits (248-321-9362). Entries are due by September 28. The exhibit will be displayed in Fellowship Hall on October 1, 8 and 15.
Shine: Embark on the Journey

Here we Go!

Join us this Sunday as we Embark on the Journey together. This week we will set ourselves up for a great year of ministry together as we seek to follow the vision that God in Christ has set before us. I also want to invite you (again) to bring some supplies for our item drive for Hurricane Harvey relief. We are gathering items in the lobby of the CLC. See our website for more details.

Following the service we will hope to see you at our church-wide celebration in the afternoon from 4-6pm. Come hear part of our Shine band, come dunk me for fresh water wells, and join in the fun and fellowship. It should be a great time. I hope to see you and your neighbors there. All are invited!

-Pastor Dan

Berkley First: Following God’s Lead

This Sunday at Berkley First, we’re embarking on a new series. Looking back on my travels through England, Cuba, and the Middle East, I’ll pull lessons from the journey that apply to each and every one of our lives. This week, we’re talking about following God’s lead by looking at the call of Samuel and asking, “What do we do when God calls? What will we do when God is silent?”

Thanks!

-Pastor Zack

At Berkley First in September

Financial Peace University begins on Wednesday, September 20 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Get out of debt and get your finances in order with Dave Ramsey’s excellent class. It really works! Nine week class with materials is $93. For more information or to register, visit FPU.com/1043292.

Social/Ballroom Dance with instructor Jim Berg is back! Learn traditional styles of ballroom dance from tango to waltz. No experience or partner required! Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Six-week sessions runs Tuesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., from September 26 through October 31. $50 per person.

GRIP launches a new group at Berkley First on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:45 p.m. beginning September 12. This moms group will meet weekly for personal and spiritual growth, fellowship and book discussion. Rachael Dunlap will lead the discussion beginning with The Five Love Languages of Children. Childcare provided.

The Artist’s Way will help develop your creative side through the study of Julia Cameron’s The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity. Mixie Hockman leads this six-session class beginning Tuesday, September 12 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. (No class on September 19.)

Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, September 28 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Save up to three lives with one donation! Be a hero and sign up to donate at berkleyfirst.org or redcrossblood.org/give (sponsor code “berkleyfirst”).
Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 10

8:15 a.m.  **Traditional Worship** in the Birmingham First Sanctuary including choirs and sermon. A quiet setting for early risers.

9:30 a.m.  **Traditional Worship** in the Birmingham First Sanctuary including choirs and sermon. Nursery and Sunday School for children, 6th Grade Sunday School, 7th Grade Confirmation, 8th Grade Sunday School, High School Sunday School, and classes for adults are offered at this hour.

10:00 a.m.  **Berkley First Worship** in their Sanctuary including a live band, sermon and communion. Nursery and Sunday School through the 5th grade.

11:00 a.m.  **Traditional Worship** in the Birmingham First Sanctuary including choirs and sermon. Nursery and Sunday School for children through the 5th grade and classes for adults are offered at this hour.

11:00 a.m.  **Shine Contemporary Worship** in the Christian Life Center including the Praise Band and sermon. Nursery and Sunday School for children through the 5th grade and classes for adults are offered.

Embrace on the Journey: Sunday, September 10

The journey will embark on the front lawn of Birmingham First from 4:00-6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join the celebration as we look forward to all God has planned at and around our Birmingham and Berkley campuses this fall. This is a no-cost celebration of reconnection and fellowship. You will enjoy delicious food prepared by Tony’s Wife and Ray’s Ice Cream. There are sandwiches to be made for the NOAH Project and a dunk tank for dunking the clergy and staff for a donation to our Sneedville mission. There’s something for everyone—a bounce house, music, Arts & Scraps, and lots of great fun.

Interested in volunteering at the event? Contact Mary Feldmaier (mfeldmaier@fumcibirmingham.org) or Angela Marcantonio (angelaanddavid@me.com) to sign up.

Looking Forward: God’s Plan for our Church

Traditionally, every ten years for the past 50+ years our church conducts a temperature check, part of tending the soul of our church. We ask questions such as: What should we preserve? What is God calling us to become next? Where should we put our energy and focus? This process helps us re-orient our goals as well as foster growth for the future.

We need your help! All congregation members will be invited to participate in:

1.  **Survey**—during all worship services on September 24
2.  **Listening Circles**—small group feedback sessions, mid-October through early November
3.  **Leader Summit**—January 26-27, 2018

Your input will help us clarify when we are at our best. We will also glean your hopes and dreams for the future! Stay tuned for more information. Please contact any of our team members with questions: Pastor Elbert, Pastor Shawn, Julie Work, Zeno Windley, Mick McClelland, Ron Reynolds, Liz Waldman and Katie Davis.
Opportunities for Outreach

Disaster Relief Birmingham First and Berkley First are working to provide assistance for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Throughout this week this community has been lifting up prayers, and supporting the effort through giving online or through our finance office to Support the UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (that is what it means when you hear the name UMCOR). Starting this Sunday through next Sunday, we invite you to also give by bringing supplies to create flood relief buckets and hygiene kits. These are essential to aid families who are trying to recoup from the flooding, and also those who are currently displaced. Information on the specific supplies needed, when we are collecting, and how you can volunteer to help can be found on our website, fumcbirmingham.org, or by visiting our information table in fellowship hall after church. Supplies will be gathered in the lobby of the Christian Life Center. After a blessing at our Embark on the Journey event, we will gather again on Monday Sept. 11th to sort and pack all we have received to send it on to those in need. Through prayers, gifts, supplies, and volunteering we invite you to be part of making a difference for those in need. Supply list and more information online.

Hunger Sunday is the second Sunday of the month, and all loose change in the offering goes to feed the hungry. Please remember to bring your loose change to add to the offering this Sunday. For checks and bills, use an offering envelope and mark the Hunger line. The money donated will be credited to our Hunger Ministry, which benefits local food providers for feeding the hungry. Also, please donate or purchase produce and plants at the weekly Hunger Ministry Produce Table. All proceeds go to feed the hungry.

Hands 4 Detroit Food Collection Drive.....Who has the most school spirit? The Hunger Ministry is once again sponsoring this friendly competition between U of M, MSU, and all the other colleges/universities who are near and dear to their alumni. Our food donations will be joined with those from other Metro Detroit churches to stock local food pantries. Grocery bags will be handed out on Sunday, September 17 after all worship services. Then return your filled bag(s) to Birmingham First on two Sundays, September 24 or October 1, where they will be tallied and we'll determine just who has the most spirit! And don't forget to visit the Hands 4 Detroit table during the coffee hours where you'll receive the information needed to volunteer for the October 7 work day. For donation list and more information, click here. You can also visit their website at hands4detroit.org.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Merry Mates.....What happens when you combine carrying a knapsack on your back and wandering in the South American wilderness for 40 days? Long-time members John and Karen Carter will share some experiences of their recent adventure of a lifetime, including audio visual. Join our diverse and friendly group of all ages, singles and couples, on Friday, September 15. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by our annual potluck ($9). Just bring a salad or vegetable; the meat and dessert are furnished. RSVP to Sharon and Bob Pierce (sharonbobpierce@gmail.com or 248-364-4438) by early evening on Sunday, September 10.

Let Us Break Bread Together! “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Sunday Social is much more than breaking bread. For all Seniors (defined as 55 and older at McDonald’s), this is a time to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and learn about new opportunities to come, all over an amazing meal prepared by our own Hollie Kotwicki. Our next event is Sunday, September 17 at 12:30 p.m. in Thomas Parlor. Please contact Sue Anderson Dale (sueanderson@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3160) to reserve a spot.

Okay, all you Sunday Social Tiger fans! You asked for it, and the time has come. On Wednesday, September 20, we will leave the church at 12:00 p.m. for a 1:00 game. The seats (in the shade) and parking (handicap lot) are set, so no one has to do a lot of walking. Tickets and transportation are $25. Contact Sue Anderson Dale (248-646-6407 ext. 3160) ASAP to reserve a spot. All seniors are welcome to join us!
Happening This Week

Wednesday, September 6
6:15 a.m.  Arbon Dennis Men’s Group
8:00 p.m.  Strength Training
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
12:30 p.m.  Bridge in the afternoon
12:30 p.m.  Mahjong
1:00 p.m.  Rummage Committee
1:00 p.m.  Senior Volleyball
6:00 p.m.  Endowment Committee
7:00 p.m.  Boy Scouts Troop #1032
7:00 p.m.  Christian Classic Book Club
8:00 p.m.  Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 7
9:00 a.m.  Chair Yoga (Berkley)
9:00 a.m.  Mother’s Study
9:00 a.m.  Preschool Meet the Teacher
11:00 a.m.  Stretch 4 Life
12:30 p.m.  Bridge in the afternoon
1:00 p.m.  Mahjong
1:00 p.m.  Purl Girls
3:00 p.m.  SPARK Training
6:00 p.m.  Preschool Parent Seminar
6:30 p.m.  Jr./Sr. Karate
7:00 p.m.  Adult Karate
7:00 p.m.  Desert Sisters
7:00 p.m.  Strategic Planning
7:30 p.m.  Chancel Choir
7:30 p.m.  Unfinished Christian Women

Friday, September 8
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
5:00 p.m.  Drop Off—Disaster Relief
           Berkley / Birmingham
7:00 p.m.  Faith Formation Discussion

Sunday, September 10
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
9:30 a.m.  Baptism Class
12:00 p.m.  Confirmation Parent Meeting
4:00 p.m.  EMBARK
7:00 p.m.  Women of the Word—

Monday, September 11
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m.  Preschool Parent
9:30 a.m.  Information Meeting
10:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
11:30 a.m.  Canasta
12:45 p.m.  Stretch 4 Life
1:00 p.m.  Parents of HS & College
10:00 a.m.  Mexican Train
1:00 p.m.  Senior Volleyball
1:00 p.m.  Stewardship Committee
6:00 p.m.  Monday Night Bible Study
7:00 p.m.  SPRC Committee

Tuesday, September 12
6:30 a.m.  Tuesday Men’s Bible Study
8:00 a.m.  WOW—Leader’s Meeting
9:00 a.m.  Preschool Parent
9:00 a.m.  Informational Meeting
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:00 a.m.  Bridge
9:00 a.m.  Tuesday Women’s Study
9:45 a.m.  COW/Children of the Word
10:00 a.m. WOW/Women of the Word

Thursday, September 14
7:30 a.m.  Stratford Trip
9:00 a.m.  Chair Yoga (Berkley)
9:00 a.m.  GRIP
9:00 a.m.  Mother’s Study
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:00 a.m.  Thursday Morning Study—
           Berkley
11:00 a.m. Stretch 4 Life
1:00 p.m.  Mahjong
1:00 p.m.  Purl Girls
2:30 p.m.  High School Hang Out
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
6:30 p.m.  Young Adult Group—
           Berkley
7:00 p.m.  Adult Karate
7:00 p.m.  Faith Formation
7:30 p.m.  Chancel Choir
7:30 p.m.  Unfinished Christian Women

Friday, September 15
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
9:00 a.m.  Parent/Toddler Open Gym
9:30 a.m.  Mat Pilates
6:00 p.m.  Merry Mates

Wednesday, September 13
6:15 a.m.  Arbon Dennis (Murphy)
7:30 a.m.  Word for Working Women
8:00 a.m.  Strength Training
8:45 a.m.  GRIP Child Care
9:00 a.m.  GRIP/GRIP Elementary
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. Singing Bowls
**Return Sunday**

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

-Luke 9:1-6-

**The Journey:**
“Embark on the Journey”
Rev. Elbert Dulworth

**Hymns**
“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”
“Marching to Zion”
“God Who Sets Us on a Journey”

**Music**
“Building on the Vision”
“Go Out with Joy”
Chancel Choir

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

-Luke 5: 1-11-

“Embark on the Journey”
Rev. Dan Hart

**The Liturgists** are Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin at 8:15, Rev. Suzanne Walls at 9:30, Rev. Lindsey Hall at 11:00, and Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin at Shine.

**The Altar Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Theodoshia Burnside by Sara Burnside and Sylvia Hagenlocker and family.

**The Welcome Center Flowers** are placed in honor of Jennifer Williams by Molly Wetzel.

**The Missions Candle** is lit in gratitude for Phyllis Holmes’ artistic gifts through fabric art that have often enhanced our worship for decades.

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**September 10, 2017**

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

-First Samuel 3:1-11-

“Embark: Following God’s Lead”
Rev. Zack Dunlap

**Steeple Notes** is published weekly by First United Methodist Church.
Notices should be in writing and submitted to Janet Smylie in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday.