

First United Methodist Church  
 111 East Michigan Avenue  
 Battle Creek, MI 49014  
 firstumcbc.org

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**Your Church Staff**

Ministers ..... All Members  
 Servant Leader.....Billie Dalton  
 Visitation Pastor ..... Rev. Dr. Glenn Wegner  
 Music Director..... Steve Raymond  
 Organist ..... Kay Ensfield  
 Youth Director..... Steve Anderson  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Jean Harvey-Clark  
 Pastor Emeritus ..... Rev. Dale Brown  
 Custodian..... Michael Dixon  
 Child Care.....Stephanie Wilson

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm**  
 closed for lunch between 12-1 pm  
 Phone: 269.963.5567/ Fax: 269.963.6899  
 Office e-mail: jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org  
 Pastor’s e-mail: bdalton@firstumcbc.org  
 Website: www.firstumcbc.org

The *TOWER View* is published monthly.  
 Copy deadline is the 20th of the month.

Editor & Publisher: Jean Harvey-Clark  
 jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org



**Worship  
 Schedule**

**9:00 a.m. Worship  
 with Praise Band**

**11:00 a.m. Worship**



# The Tower View

First United Methodist Church  
 The City Center Church

111 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49014

Volume 13, Issue 4 April 2011

*The vision of First United Methodist Church is to be a Vibrant,  
 Diverse, Christ-Centered People.*

**Holy Week** “From Palms to Passion”

It's a wonderful thing to start a new project. But, finishing what we started takes intent and discipline. Holy Week is God 'closing the deal'. We celebrate the birth of Christ by lights, gifts and certainly the most beautiful of scenes one could possibly imagine! But Jesus' last days on Earth, we call Holy Week, makes it real, eternal and the single most important thing that ever happened in history! If we think of Christmas as a time a joy and celebration, let's think of this last week of Christ's life as the most important and the most meaningful.

To honor this most meaningful of times, our music department, along with our men's group, is planning a very special week of celebration and passion. Our prayer as leaders of this congregation is that your heart is not just stirred by the powerful and the passionate, but that this week of gravity and grace transforms us to do and to be all that God intended for us.

**Palm Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> services are at 9 am and 11 am.**

We have a very special processional planned, including the introduction of what we hope will be a new ministry of 'Liturgical or Sacred' dance. The City Center Children's Choir will sing, the rhythm section of the praise band along with many of the singers will join the adult choir at **both services** to present a special piece entitled “Son of David.”

**Maundy Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

This is a special meal and service led by the men's group. There will be a **Seder meal served @ 5:30 pm and Taize service @ 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.** The adult choir will present a special choral piece as well.

**Good Friday, April 22nd**

The Community Wide Good Friday Service will be held at noon at the First Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome.

**Easter Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 The passion is completed with Resurrection Sunday!  
**8:30 am: Pancake breakfast**  
**9:15 am: Easter Egg Hunt for the kids**  
**10:00 am: Combined Worship Hour**

The Choir will be joined by brass instruments for a rousing opening entitled “He is Risen” with brass and organ. The second piece of the morning will include a very special guest artist on Cello, Hanna Rumora, along with our excellent accompanist, Kay Ensfield at the Piano. The piece is called “Surely He Hath Borne Our Grief”. One of the most beautiful classical style pieces heard in recent years! Our City Center Children's Choir will present a special offertory on the Kristal Bells entitled “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”. Also, we will have another opportunity to see our Sacred Dance team.

## Happy Birthday to You!

04/04 Steve Bennett  
04/05 Monica Gray  
04/06 Lisa Goheen  
04/06 Renee Clair  
04/09 Judy Kimball  
04/12 Stacy Caballero  
04/13 Jack Schils  
04/13 Stewart Haadsma  
04/13 Roksane Coss  
04/14 Lewis Goheen  
04/14 Troy Rothwell  
04/15 Louis Szakacs  
04/15 Elsie Andrina  
04/15 Jerry Haadsma  
04/16 David Stanley  
04/18 Mary Holmes  
04/19 Mark Dolbee  
04/21 Kristin Sims  
04/22 Warren Moore  
04/23 Pat Bennett  
04/24 Marylene Tuck  
04/26 Ann Pulsipher  
04/26 Laura Smith  
04/27 Irene Bergman  
04/28 Jose Caballero  
04/28 Beth Chadwick

## April Anniversaries

04/14 Bill Bolton and Lisa Burkhead  
-Bolton  
04/15 John and Linda Briggs  
04/16 Phil and Tammy Clinger  
04/23 Mike and Sally Hoeksema



Do we have your birthday or anniversary listed? Please let us know so that we can correct our records. You are important to our church family, and we want to include your special day.

## FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE FOR FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY

The **Franklin Food Pantry** would like your support in meeting what is called the **Feinstein Challenge**. For the fourteenth year, Alan Shawn Feinstein is giving away \$1 million of his own money to encourage people to give to the fight against hunger. This is a national challenge, with Mr. Feinstein pledging to donate proportionally, not dollar-for-dollar. **However, from March 1 through April 30 for every donation made to our agency's account at the Food Bank, the Food Bank will credit our account by an additional 10%.** Your \$25.00 gift, plus the 10% match, will result in our pantry receiving a minimum of \$225.00 worth of food at wholesale prices. It's the most effective and efficient means to make a monetary contribution to **Franklin Food Pantry**.

Here's another good reason for you to give directly to the Food Bank. Individuals and married couples are eligible for a Michigan Tax Credit. This is how it works: Individuals donating up to \$200 may be eligible to receive a tax credit of up to \$100. Married couples filing jointly who donate up to \$400 may be eligible to receive a tax credit for up to \$200.

Wouldn't you like to see your charitable giving dollar be as efficiently used as possible? If so, just write a check or use your credit card to make a donation to the Food Bank. **Be sure you indicate that you would like the check to be credited to Franklin Food Pantry.**

**Please look for additional information and donation forms in the Tower View during April.**

*First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011*

## PACIFIC EMERGENCY

As you know, a massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake rumbled through northeast Japan on Friday, March 11, triggering a 33-foot tsunami wave. The earthquake is the strongest to hit Japan in 140 years, and it is the fifth strongest in the world. The disaster caused widespread death and destruction including loss of homes and livelihoods. The crisis is intensified with the threat of nuclear radiation.

United Methodists and friends are urged to pray for the people of Japan during these crucial hours and days and support this emergency effort through giving.

Please use an envelope in the pew and earmark the funds for the *Pacific Emergency* or send your donation directly to the church office.

## It's Time for Wesley Woods

It's that time of year again! The sign-up sheets for Wesley Woods will be out soon. This year we will be doing the cabin clean-up on May 14th. We will start at 9:00 am and go until we have finished the two cabins (Walnut and Nurse's). Usually this is somewhere around 12:00 pm.

Each cabin needs the usual stuff done, windows washed inside and out, decobwebbed, mattresses and beds washed down, and ...there are three more major things that need to be done this year as well.

Wesley Woods will have a lunch for those of us that wish to stay. We need to know who would like to stay so that the camp can be prepared for all the folk in attendance. Watch for the sign-up sheets at the Service Team Table and join in on the fun in a very beautiful setting.

*First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

Bus Trip to downtown Chicago  
Saturday, December 10, 2011

Bus will leave the FUMC parking lot at 7:00 am and the return trip from Chicago will be leaving at 7:00 pm (Michigan Time).

COST is only \$40/person!

Transportation only. You are on your own for a day of shopping, theatre, museums, etc.

This is a fund raising event for the Service Team's Haven Party.

For more information or to place your reservation, please contact Shirley Carr at 269.282.4580.

## Will You Help a Haitian Child?

We received a letter from the Marshall United Methodist Church asking that we become a sister church in the efforts to raise funds for the construction of a secondary classroom in the Tovar region of Haiti. The addition will greatly alleviate the crowding in the school that occurred after the January 12, 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince. After the quake many families returned to their home towns to live with relatives in order to escape the chaos in the capital.

The Methodist Church of Michigan and the Haitian Methodist Church have made a covenant whereby Michigan congregations have promised to support Haitian churches and schools. Since the earthquake, the already crowded rural schools have been flooded with the new students returning from the quake zone.

The Marshall Church has asked us to become a sister church in the project to add on to the school. There are five churches that have already agreed to help. This project will cost \$7,000 and each church is asked to contribute \$1,500, or if they are a smaller congregation \$750. Volunteers in Mission (VIM) are being recruited to go to Haiti and building the addition and also do other tasks such as painting and assembling desks etc. Local Haitian workers will be paid to do the concrete work.

This is a project that is recognized by UMCOR! While school-building is not a high priority with UMCOR, education is and this is about the education of the children. Restoring normalcy is also a very important goal and attending school in a building that is not grossly overcrowded would be a true blessing.

Marshall UMC is working with Curtis Bartz who founded the Haiti School Project in 2003. He is former school superintendent in the Detroit Area, and affiliated with the Ypsilanti UMC. He is an Executive Member of the Michigan Haiti Task Force and the 2006 VIM Volunteer of the Year. He has overseen the construction of 5 classrooms in Haiti already. Chris Wettle, of Marshall UMC and our speaker at 1st Church Connection, has been to Haiti and is strongly supportive of the Haiti School Project in the Tovar Province.

If all goes well, there should be some funds left with which to pay some of the retro-active teachers' salaries and also support the hot lunch programs in both the Tovar and Jeremie region of Haiti.

This is an exciting project. Can you help? Please give as generously as you are able. Indicate on your envelope that the funds are for the *Haiti School Project*.

For more information please stop by the Service Team Table or contact Sharon Gawlak at 963.4714.



## April Happenings at First Church

Church and Society information can be found at the bulletin board and the top of the steps.

<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 am. Praise Worship 10:00 am Sunday School for All 11:00 am Cornerstone Worship 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>Monday</b> 5:30 pm CC Children's Choir 7:00 pm Worship Design	<b>Wednesday</b> 5:30 pm First Church Connection 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm. Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>Thursday</b> 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal
<b>TEAM MEETINGS</b>			
Church Council	4/11	7:00 pm	
Trustees	4/12	6:00 pm	
Staff Parish Relations	4/12	7:00 pm	
Service Team	4/13	4:00 pm	
Finance Comm.	4/19	7:00 pm	

<b>SMALL GROUPS</b> <b>Men's Group</b> Mondays 6:00 pm <b>Adventures Group:</b> Tuesday 4/5 7:00 pm, Bettye & Jim Mobley <b>Partners in Prayer:</b> Monday, 4/4, 7 pm - Carolyn Harvey's Monday, 4/18, 7 pm - Cindy Leach's <b>3E's:</b> Please contact Stacy Caballero: 965.0285 <b>The Martha Circle</b> 4/12 9:00 am Charitable Union <b>Euchre Club</b> 4/09 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall <b>No First Church Connection on Wednesday, April 20th!</b>
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## SPRING INTO STEWARDSHIP

In the coming weeks you will be hearing more about the opportunity to consider giving from the perspective of the noted author Henry Nouwen's through his book, *The Spirituality of Fund-Raising*. Nouwen's says that "Fundraising is, first a foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission." There will be opportunities to discuss this in small groups and home settings followed by Consecration Sunday on May 15.

As we observe Lent and God's blessing of the resurrection of Christ, let us also be thinking about what this means personally as we respond in generosity to Christ's church.

## Billie's Musings...

INCUBATE means "To sit on (eggs) to provide heat so as to promote embryonic development and the hatching of young brood" or "To form or consider slowly and protectively, as if hatching, incubating the idea for a while and then announcing it."

In the spring of 2010 the idea of a school of diversity was formed and then slowly grew until the Albion District and the West Michigan Conference providing funding for the idea to become a reality. GET READY GET SET was formed to accommodate up to forty five students from the various sectors of the population of Battle Creek for seven weeks in a pre school setting for children before they went to Headstart or Kindergarten. Funding was found from local foundations and FUMCBC hosted a staff as diverse as the children for seven weeks. We successfully incubated an idea and then proceeded to form it into an actual ministry. This year that idea and program have been adopted at Woodlawn School. The program will be run there for a much longer period and will accommodate more children.

In 2009 and 2010 the possibility of having theatre performed here at First Church was floated and great musical performances were accomplished with some great performers being presented here during the summer and fall of 2010. In November of 2010 Ed Creech called and wanted to meet and discuss theatre. He had been referred to us by various business and professional people in Battle Creek. Ed Creech is the Managing Director of WHAT A DO professional non profit 501(c)3 theatre company and wanted to know if First Church would be interested in INCUBATING a professional theatre company. The Trustees and the Administrative Council considered the possibility and WHAT A DO theatre agreed to share one third of the proceeds with the church in order to maintain the facility. The first production was successful and the church received one third of the proceeds to help maintain our 103 years old facility. The next production has been cast and will be performed after Easter during May. The third production will be in July and the fourth production will be in October. We are an incubator for theatre.

Last fall the Men's Group in the church incubated the idea of using Taize as a form of worship expression in their group. And now the church and the community will participate in a Taize service on April 2 and Maundy Thursday at the church.

Three Lay Leaders; an Inward Journey Lay Leader, Outward Journey Lay Leader, and a facilitator Lay Leader began their duties in January. The entire church is presently urged and welcome to devote time to individual and corporate meditation during Lent. The entire church has the opportunity to grow spiritually during this season.

Incubation is occurring in us as we consider what God is doing in Jesus Christ. We could point to so many places that this happening in the youth; in the Service Team, in the Trustees, and in our lives. As we approach Holy Week and the Easter Season might we see all the opportunities to incubate the Holy One in the community of Battle Creek.

Shalom, Billie r



## Book Group Update

### Author Calls FUMC's Book Group

Sunday, March 13, our book group met at the home of Dorothy Bickford to discuss Roslyn's Story's Wading Home, a story based in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina. It is a story with strong character development based on relationships.

We were pleased to receive a phone call from Rosalyn Story. She spoke with us on speaker phone for 25 minutes. We were able to ask her questions regarding the book and we also learned about her career as a classical violinist with the Ft. Worth Symphony.



### May Book Group

We have chosen to read **AGAAT** by Marlene VanNierkerk.

The story I set in apartheid-era South Africa and portrays the unique relationship between Milla, a 67-year-old white woman, and her black maidservant, turned care taker.

Barnes & Noble has ordered 8-10 copies of **AGAAT**. They are being held under the name of *Carr FUMC book group* and are available at the parking lot registers. The cost is \$19.95 per copy.

We will meet Sunday, May 15, 5:00 pm at the home of Marybeth Weiss. She says that Jay is grilling!

For more information please contact Shirley Carr at 269.282.4580.

### YOUR NEED TO KNOW! LAW EXTENDED TO HELP THOSE 70 1/2 OR OLDER

For those 70 1/2 or older, if you make a donation to a qualified nonprofit organization, directly from your individual retirement account, you may do so without penalty. This is a valuable way for you to increase tax efficiency. The charity provision was first enacted by Congress in 2006, but expired at the end of 2009. The extension of the law was part of a big tax package passed in December 2010. The extension last through 2012.

### 2011 Community Prayer Breakfast

Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek  
Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
7:25 am

For information call: 969.2120

## ALBION DISTRICT UMW SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

You're invited to attend "The Tapestry of Our Lives" at Albion District's U.M.W. Spiritual Growth Retreat at Wesley Woods on Friday and Saturday April 29th & 30th, 2011. Sister Sue Tracy, will be the spiritual growth leader for the weekend. Participants will deepen their awareness of remarkable women who met struggles and grew through them. A registration form is available on-line at [www.albiondistrict.org](http://www.albiondistrict.org) under Resources-Events or call Linda Luce at 1.517.278.8443 to register or Sharon Burkart at 1.269.660.8881 with questions.

### AN OLD-FASHIONED CHURCH BAZAAR IS IN THE WORKS!

For those of you who remember our annual church bazaar we used to hold in October of each year, there is a small group of members working to bring it back! We have just begun to gather information, stir those memories and talk about ways to improve what many in our community remember as "one of the best"!

Having checked with Pastor Billie, we are gearing this revived event for October and welcome those who would like to help make it happen.

Please contact Diane Buckley at 962.2440 if you have questions or would like to join our planning group. It will be work, but it will be fun too!!

Dear Rev. Dalton and Congregation,

*This is a note of thanks and praise Jesus shout out for your hospitality during our recent Bishop's Day Event. People were inspired and felt treated well. Also, the willingness to house our guest speakers and the wonderful meal on the Friday before the event was fabulous! May God continue to bless you all in all you do for the cause of Jesus Christ!*

Blessing,  
Rev. Neil Davis

### Styrofoam Collection

The next collection will be Friday, April 29th from 8:30-10:30 am and 4:30-6:30 pm here at First United Methodist Church.

This recycling opportunity is sponsored by **3Es (Engaging the Environment Energetically)**. They meet the 2nd or 3rd Saturday a month. Call Stacy Caballero for information on getting involved, 269.965.0285.

First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011

## SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

April 2011

### April 10 "Play the Key of Breath" Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Breathe in and then slowly breathe out. Center. Now breathe in and out again. Not only does this exercise allow us to experience God at a different level but it also allows us to understand that in the beginning of humanity that Godself became known when Spirit was breath. Okay, start breathing God.

### April 17 "Oops!!Clarity Again?" Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus answered the question of survival. God gives us the courage to risk for the health of humanity. All of the foci of Lent has not been about survival but about faithfulness. The cross is becoming more clear to us so that now we can know that sacrifice was made completely for those did not deserve it.

### April 21 "No Share With Me" Maundy (Holy) Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-2,12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31-35

This evening will start at 5:30 pm with a Seder meal recognizing the simple act of Jesus washing the feet of the Disciples. We will share lamb, matzo ball soup, herbs, latkes(potato pancakes), salad and brisket. It will end with a Taize Service in the sanctuary starting about 6:30 pm. Take this opportunity to come closer to God by coming together as a community sharing food, ritual, prayer and music to get ourselves prepared for Good Friday and Easter.

### April 22 Good Friday Service at First Baptist Church Good Friday

### April 24 "Rise Up Self" Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-18

This combined worship at 10 am will be the Service of Resurrection where we acknowledge all that God has done, is doing, and will be doing in the lives of each of us and in all humanity. We are going to be witnessing the 'true love' that God has for humanity in Jesus Christ through the Resurrection. Come for food, inspiration and opportunity to experience the power of God in the Easter Story.

### May 1 "Witnesses to What?" Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:22-32 Psalm 16 1Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

There are some things we do not know. There some answers we do not have. We have been there and done that. One thing is sure, God's power comes now for us.

First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011

## Spiritual Growth Group celebrates 25 years

On May 1, the Spiritual Growth Group (SGG) will celebrate 25 years of meeting together to share their spiritual journey and their many joys and sorrows. The group originated at FUMC after six individuals attended a 1986 Small Groups Workshop in Grand Rapids. Each person agreed to provide leadership for a group. Later in the year two groups joined and the ongoing SGG was formed.

The congregation will have an opportunity to greet current and former members of the group at a reception in the parlor on May 1 at 10 a.m. Out-of-town guests are anticipated including former Youth Director Susan Callahan. After the 11 a.m. service, the group will gather for lunch and a time of reminiscing.

Over the years SGG has carried out many projects such as organizing a play for Ash Wednesday, wallpapering the pre-school rooms, planting a memorial garden and sponsoring a women's event called Deb's Day in memory of Deb Woodbury.

## RELATIONSHIPS RELATIONSHIPS RELATIONSHIPS

The importance of building relationships was strongly stressed on Bishop's Day. We are called to build relationships within our families, our church family, community and the world at large. As these relationships strengthen, we learn that others aren't really so different from us.

According to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008, "the rights of immigrants should be a concern for all United Methodists." The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church states that as a church, we recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all."

Pray daily for immigrants and their families!

First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011



## Outbreak Ministries...Spring 2010

### Here is the scoop on Youth Group Activities....

**Wednesday Nights – 6:00 pm ‘til 7:30 pm** After the First Church Connection meal we will continue our UP bible study. We will watch popular Christian music DVDs and talk about how they relate to the Bible and to our own lives.

<b>April 3</b>	<b>11:00 am-1:00 pm</b>	<b>Games</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>11:00 am-1:00 pm</b>	<b>Movie</b>
<b>April 15-16</b>	<b>8:00 am-8:00 pm</b>	<b>SPRING LOCK IN</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>11:00 am-1:30 pm</b>	<b>Wii and Pizza</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Easter – No Youth Group</b>	
<b>April 29-30</b>	<b>AQUIRE THE FIRE – Lansing, MI</b>	

Students in 7th -12th grade interested in joining all the fun, please contact Steve Anderson, 269.719.9973, sanderson@firstumcbc.org.



***In celebration World Fair Trade Day in May***

***All products 30% off***

Equal Exchange

Your purchase supports families around the world and increases opportunities for education, housing, and health.

<b>April General Fund Financial Picture (as of March 31, 2011)</b>		
	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	\$19,343.01	\$55,075.86
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>\$22,334.09</u> <b>(\$2,9991.08)</b>	<u>\$73,317.08</u> <b>(\$18,241.22)</b>

\*March balance has not been reconciled.

First United Methodist Church - The Tower View - April 2011