

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

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The Tower View

First United Methodist Church
The City Center Church
111 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49014
www.firstumcbc.org

Volume 13, Issue 3 March 2011

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

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 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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The TOWER View is published monthly.
Copy deadline is the 20th of the month.
Editor & Publisher: Jean Harvey-Clark

Worship Schedule For February

**9:00 a.m. Worship w/Praise
Band**
11:00 a.m. Worship

Billie's Musings...

“Reduce the human job description down to one phrase, and this is it: reflect God’s glory.” From- IT’S NOT ABOUT ME
Someone recently shared that “My life has no luster to it. The shine has gone out.” At first the statement was not easily understood but after a long conversation it was obvious that life had not worked out the way the person thought it would. Since we are leaving the season of Epiphany where we have had weeks and weeks of the possibilities of light, we are now going find out how much “shine” is left. The very human side of Jesus is going to be obvious during the next six weeks. We are going to find out where his limits were how he looked at human life. We are going to see his moments of pain and his moments of happiness. Why, we are even going to compare our own journeys with his. And, during that same time we are going to find out whether or not we are what we need to be as witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. It may even resemble pulling away the layers of the skin of an onion. Because the very thing that causes us tears might reflect the very thing that protects us as well. Will we look at the life of Jesus and learn what being completely human, completely whole, completely perfect, or being complete is all about? The possibility is we will look away and not find wholeness again for ourselves. Or, we will reflect that humanness and realize that we are reflecting God? It is possible that we will finally come face to face with God who made us and that we did not do it ourselves. Any level of awareness we gain in this journey will be better than no awareness at all. That awareness will be an indication of what we understand ourselves to be.

It is an opportunity for all of us pay attention to devotions every day and an opportunity for us grow spiritually every day. Maybe, just maybe, we will know more about ourselves and who God is when this Lenten (lencthen) season is over.

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

“Beholding leads to becoming. Becoming leads to reflecting.”

Mirror, Mirror on the wall who is the fairest of them all?

Oh, well, we can find out.

Shalom, Billie r.

Happy Birthday to You!

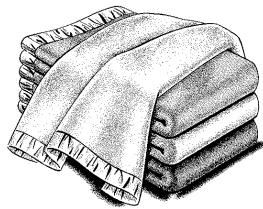
03/02 MaryLyn Smith 03/11 Allison Dolbee
 03/04 Diane Buckley 03/13 Violet Ballard
 03/06 Larry Anderson 03/13 Bill Lang
 03/06 Jack Brown 03/14 Jeanne Winer
 03/08 Tim Dolbee 03/22 Bettye Mobley
 03/08 Madeline Stagner 03/23 Mary Toliver
 03/10 Ruby Edwards 03/27 Jim Mobley
 03/11 Mary McMorrow 03/30 Jean Raley

March Anniversaries

03/20 George & Marjorie
 Robertson
 03/30 Bill & Layne Ticknor



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.



IT'S A WRAP!!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Blanket Month. Through your generosity, First United Methodist Church was able to send almost a thousand dollars to Church World Services for blankets. That means that 200 blankets will be available to someone somewhere in the world who has been effected by or displaced due to a disaster. It's a very good thing that you have done.

A HUGE THANK YOU! ...to everyone who helped make the Super Bowl Party a huge success, thank you! This was our eleventh annual party for the guys at The Haven and a great time was had by all. That a fun night. In whatever way you participated, please know that the Service Team thanks for your assistance. Particular thanks to Judy Brown and Nerva Tripp who fixed the mean and saw to the setting up of the tables, and also to Rich and his helpers who got the TVs up and running. We also need to thank Richard Kohlfield of PC Consultants for the TVs and the hook up. Many thanks to you all,



LIGHT THE CHURCH

The lit candles in the chancel area each Sunday symbolize your gift to "light" the church for a day.

Feb. 13th – In appreciation of everyone who contributed in any way at the Super Bowl Party.

Thank You!! ~Sharon Gawlak & the Service Team

Book Group for March

As spring approaches, we will read **Wading Home**, a novel of New Orleans written by Rosalyn Story.

"New Orleans natives struggle to recover their lives, as well as, their property after Hurricane Katrina. Story's musical background infused her novel with a lyrical rhythm...as engaging characters rebuild their relationships and their city."

-Kirkus review

"Wading Home is an important book about one of America's most important cities, veiled in the form of a captivating page-turner. Lyrical, accessible, compelling and populated by a broad, fully realized cast of supporting characters, its timeless story tells how this son strives to save his father. Shaken to the core by the devastation of a city, Julian discovers the true meanings of home, family, and history" taken from both the front and back flaps of the book. **Wading Home** giving us insight into the lives of Katrina survivors.



We will meet Sunday, March 13, 2011, at 5:00 pm in the home of Dorothy Bickford. Light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Carr at 269.282.4580.

Paintings by Fran Williams

An exhibit of paintings by Battle Creek artist, Fran Williams, will be on display in the parlor from February 1 through March 27. Fran has been painting in oils and watercolor for over 45 years. Her paintings have been exhibited and sold at art shows throughout Michigan. She has attended numerous workshops from well known artists, and has also taught painting both privately and through adult education programs.

Fran is currently a member of the Battle Creek Society of Artists and the Southwest Michigan Watercolor Society. Her favorite subjects are landscape and floral. Fran says of her work, "My goal is to capture a little bit of God's natural beauty in nature."

**Introducing Jean Harvey-Clark
Administrative Assistant**

Jean joins the staff with 15 years administrative support experience. She most recently worked at Kellogg Community College in the Switchboard Operator position. Prior to that Jean worked at the Battle Creek Calhoun County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce. Jean is a Battle Creek native and grew up in First United Methodist Church. She is married to Steve Clark, also a Battle Creek native, who works as a Quality Engineer at II Stanley Co. Inc. They have two sons, Trevor, a 2010 graduate of Lakeview High School. Second born Justin is in 8th Grade at Lakeview Middle School. She enjoys taking pictures, scrapbooking / graphic design, creating cards and gifts with rubber stamps, gardening, and is finishing up her 9 year career as a hockey mom.



Spring into Stewardship

March 16 - May 1 (letters will go out week of 3/14 and consecration Sunday 5/1)

Join a short term small group study (*The Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri Nouwen)

Contact Stacy Caballero or Marybeth Weiss for more information.

First Church Connection

March 2 - Stacy Caballero Chef! (Classes: Radical Hospitality - Carol Barr)

March 9 - Ash Wednesday (no FCC)

March 16 - Service Team Chefs! (Classes: Extravagant Generosity - Marybeth Weiss, Upper Room Devotional - Dale Kimball, Esther Women's Study - Beth Raymond)

March 23 - John and Linda Briggs Chefs! (Special Presentation: Build a School in Haiti - Risk Taking Service and Mission, Upper Room Devotional - Dale Kimball, Esther Women's Study - Beth Raymond)

March 30 - Partners in Prayer Chefs! (Upper Room Devotional - Dale Kimball, Esther Women's Study - Beth Raymond, Bible Study - Billie Dalton)

March Happenings at First Church

Sunday		SMALL GROUPS
9:00 am.	Praise Worship	Men's Group: Mondays 6:00 pm Media room
10:00 am	Sunday School for All	
11:00 am	Cornerstone Worship	Adventures Group: Please contact for meeting information- steamburg@aol.com
6:30 pm	Youth Group	Partners in Prayer:
Monday		March 7 at Mary Dolbee's home
5:30 pm	Center City Children's Choir	March 21 Gail Nawatny, Hostess
7:00 pm	Worship Design	
Wednesday		The Martha Circle 3/8 9:30 am Parlor
5:00 pm	Drama	
5:30 pm	First Church Connection <i>NO FCC March 9, 2011</i>	Euchre Club 3/12 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Youth Group	
7:30 pm.	Praise Band Rehearsal	
Thursday		
7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal	
TEAM MEETINGS		The 3E's
Church Council	03/14 7:00 pm	Next Styrofoam collection 4/29/11
Finance	03/15 7:00 pm	8:00 -11:00 am 4:00 -7:00 pm
Service Team	03/09 4:00 pm	Church and Society information can be found at the bulletin board and the top of the steps.
Staff Parish Relations	03/08 7:00 pm	
Trustees	03/08 6:00 pm	

The FUMC photo directory is being up-dated and we need new photos of our congregation!
Pictures will be taken March 23-26, 2011 at the church.

- March 23rd 2:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**
- March 24th 2:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**
- March 25th 2:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**
- March 26th 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

Everyone photographed receives a complimentary directory and 8 x 10 photo.

SCRIPTURES AND THEMES
MIRROR MIRROR
March 2011

March 13, 2011 **“The Time To Clarify”** **First Sunday of Lent**
2 Corinthians 3:16-18

We begin the Lenten (the lengthening of days) journey by starting to peel away the layers we added during the colder short days of Epiphany. We know that as we look ahead at the empty tomb and the empty cross we must begin to look at the layers we have placed around and over ourselves to keep out the light of God. What will we see when we really see ourselves or will we even be able to look??

March 20, 2011 **“Giving In to Trust”** **Second Sunday of Lent**
Romans 4:1-5

How often we think that Spirituality is “all about me” and what we trust and what we want. This journey of Lent takes us beyond that mentality and allows us to see that “It’s not all about me” but it is about our willingness to give up mistrusting. Can we begin to trust God to do what God will do without demanding that our agenda is what is important or that what we think is more important than God’s love and forgiveness. Or, will we do what is often heard in this modern era, “good luck with that” but leave me out.....again.

March 27, 2011 **“Expectancy Alert”** **Third Sunday of Lent**
Romans 5:1-11

Okay, mirror, the cross starts to come into focus. There is a sense that now we can be passionately patient. We no longer can only sit back and give intellectual assent to what God is doing for now there can be a relationship growing more personal with God through Jesus The Christ. Talk about scary!! We are increasingly being given to expose who we really are to God. We can no longer hide behind every obstacle imaginable to block the presence of God’ Spirit.

April 3, 2011 **“Watch Steppin’ Out”** **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
Ephesians 5:8-14

We have all we need. God has encouraged us to “be bold” as we step forward and peel one more layer off so we can see in the mirror more clearly. There is another image starting to emerge. God is present and maybe that new image is the God image rather than the image we have painted. We will see the way by God’s light.

Ou†break Ministries...Winter/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.

March 6th	Wii Night
March 13th	Game Night
March 20th	Pirate’s Island
	indoor water park \$TBA /Time TBA
March 27th	Movie Night & Hot Dogs & Brats

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

Fair Trade Special: Buy one, get second at 1/2 price.

Coffee, all kinds \$7.00

Tea \$3.00

Hot Chocolate, regular or spicy \$5.00

Chocolate Bars, all kinds \$3.00

Your purchase supports families around the world and increases opportunities for education, housing, and health.
 Contact Stacy Caballero, 965-0285 to purchase or for more information.

February General Fund Financial Picture
(as of March 1, 2011)

	February 2011	Year to Date
Total Income	\$17,083.96	\$35,732.85
Total Expense	<u>\$23,486.12</u>	<u>\$50,705.79</u>
	(\$6,402.16)	(\$14,972.94)

Why Go to Church?

If you're **spiritually alive**, you're going to love this!

If you're **spiritually dead**, you won't want to read it.

If you're **spiritually curious**, there is still hope!

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!"

I think everyone should read this! If you don't attend church right now - why not consider finding a bible teaching denomination?

Lenten "UPPER ROOM" discussion group

YOU ARE INVITED to join with others during Lent to build a closer relationship with God by discussing the readings in the *Upper Room* devotional booklet. There's no book to buy, and you can attend any session without having to know what happened the week before.

Beginning **Wednesday, March 16**, come at 5:30 p.m. for the First Church Connection dinner or at 6:30 p.m. for the discussion. Just pick up a free copy in the March/April *Upper Room* in the Atrium, read the brief daily devotions and join the group. The primary facilitator is Dale Kimball. The Inward Journey Team is composed of Linda Briggs, Dale & Judy Kimball, Carolyn Harvey and Rick McKelvey. The *Upper Room* is being made available without charge due to a supporting donation. Another option for spiritual growth will be in the form of a Lenten calendar with recommended scriptures for each day. They will be mailed to everyone with the hope that they will serve as a focus for individual or family devotions. They were also provided by a supporting donation.

It's time to plan the 2011 Spring into the Arts and I would like you to consider participating as a host venue for this annual event. This year Spring into the Arts celebrates 5 years and it could be one of the most important events to date.

As you know, construction will invade downtown this year and participating in events before, during and after construction is key in demonstrating downtown is open, why customers should come downtown during construction and of course to showcase what is changing.

Phase I will be underway during Spring into the Arts, but that is no reason for us to stop having events. In fact, it places even more importance on it.

The art walk will take place on **Friday, May 13, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

If you participate, you will be expected to host an artist and have a reception where wine is encouraged, but not required, free of charge. You will remain open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the night of the event. The artist you are paired with will be allowed to display their work in a manner that is accepted by both parties and to remain on display for three months. All proceeds from the art will go to the artists and businesses will not be expected to commission any sale.

One meeting will be scheduled with participating businesses and a date will be communicated at a later time.

Although it's hard to predict the number of attendees, estimates total over 1000 people attend this event however, not all of the attendees will be in your location. You must also help market the event.

If you would like to be a participating business and are willing to open your business to a local artist, please complete the attached form and return it to me no later than Monday, March 14, 2011.

Please send completed entry form to:

Battle Creek Downtown Partnership
Attn: Alyssa Jones
115 West Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017

269.441.1668 – Phone / 269.441.2274 – Fax

Email: alyssa@downtownbattlecreek.com

We look forward to another amazing event! Thank you in advance for your participation! If you have any questions on how you can participate, please feel free to contact me.

The registration deadline is Monday, March 14, 2011. Once we receive your registration form, you will be paired up with an artist. Both the host business and the artist will be notified of their assignments no later than **April 1, 2011**. Artists have been instructed to contact the host business to discuss their plans and how to best display their work in your location. Please note that the artists will only be assigned to business locations that agree to serve refreshments and keep their business open during event times.

The logo for "Spring into the Arts!" is written in a bold, red, stylized font. The word "Spring" is at the top, "into the" is in the middle, and "Arts!" is at the bottom, all in a similar font style.