

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

Address Service Requested

### 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  
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The *TOWER News* 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 News*

First United Methodist Church

The City Center Church

111 East Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49014

Volume 1 Issue 1 - May 2011

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

## SPRING INTO STEWARDSHIP

### **Henri Nouwen: *Spirituality of Fundraising***

In his book, *The Spirituality of Fundraising*, Henri Nouwen says that ministry is receiving God's blessing from those to whom we minister and this blessing is a glimpse of the face of God. When we understand fund-raising or financial support as ministry, we invite others to participate in our vision and mission at First United Methodist Church, and both the giver and the receiver are blessed. But how freely do we really give? Where do our treasures lay? Does our giving build community? Your Finance Ministry Team invites you to join one of the two-part small group studies being offered during the first two weeks of May for an opportunity to share, reflect, and grow in our stewardship ministry together. With prayer and gratitude, we anticipate a wondrous season of ministry! For more information, see page 7.

### ***Celebrating the gifts of Our Time, Our Talents, Our Treasures***

We are fortunate to be a part of a church community that follows Christ's command to "Feed my sheep." Members of our congregation are God's representatives to those in need in our community, and we share in that ministry through the gifts of our time, our talents and our treasures.

Did you know that FUMC:  
**Monthly**

- Prepares and serves at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, 16 people for 3-4 hrs. (This has been done for 27 years.)
- Provides 30 volunteers working a minimum of two hours for the Franklin Food Pantry located at FUMC. (The Pantry served 5003 people in one year.)
- Provides 8-10 volunteers from the Adventures Group twice a month at the Food Bank, working for 2 hrs. packaging bulk food for distribution

Continued page 6

## Happy Birthday to You!

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 05/01 Jim Davis         | 05/17 Morgyn Clair        |
| 05/03 Bill Rahn         | 05/19 Julia Newman        |
| 05/05 Audrey McBride    | 05/19 Katie Moore         |
| 05/06 Andrew Nordstrom  | 05/21 Mike Myckowiak      |
| 05/07 Karol Henegar     | 05/21 Kathy Tubilewicz    |
| 05/10 Becca Anderson    | 05/22 Mary Brigden        |
| 05/11 Wilma Standish    | 05/23 Georgia Dalton      |
| 05/12 Michael Dixon Jr. | 05/23 Christopher Gardner |
| 05/14 Lindsey Owens     |                           |
| 05/15 Billie Dalton     | 05/24 Allison Raymond     |
| 05/16 Richie Ford       | 05/26 Karina Moore        |
| 05/17 Harold Creekmur   | 05/27 Dsidra Jansohn      |
| 05/17 Carol Disler      | 05/28 Pierce Roberts      |
| 05/17 Todd Stagner      | 05/29 Sue Anderson        |



### Happy Birthday

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.

### E-mail Addresses

As the cost of doing business continues to rise the use of e-mail as a way to communicate increases. It would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for all of our members and visitors. Please forward your e-mail address to [jharveyclark@firstumcbc](mailto:jharveyclark@firstumcbc) so that we can build a reliable database! *Thank you!!*

### Sunday School Update

There will be NO Sunday school for children on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, so that the kids can spend the day with their moms. The nursery will not be open on Mother's Day either. The last day of Sunday school for kids will be May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will begin again the Sunday after Labor Day. Please plan to send your child or grandchild, aged 5th grade or younger to Vacation Bible School. Look for information on page 9 of this Tower News.



### May General Fund Financial Picture (as of April 30, 2011)

	April 2011	Year to Date
<b>Total Income</b>	\$14,664.12	\$72,209.03
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>\$17,543.48</u>	<u>\$88,883.99</u>
	<b>(\$2,879.36)</b>	<b>(\$16,674.96)</b>

### Haiti School Project

Just an update on our progress from the Haiti School Project, we have presently raised \$935.00 of our intended goal of \$1,500. Please continue to give so that we can reach our goal. I am excited about the possibilities that this has for the children of this region of Haiti. Please give what you can by placing your donation in an envelope with the notation that it is for the Haiti School Project and either place it in the collection plate on Sunday or turn it in to the church office.

*Thank you for the children!*

Sharon G and The Service Team

### May Book Group

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

The story is 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.

### PLEASE NOTE:

**There is only one Combined Worship service on Sunday, May 29th, at 10 a.m.**

### 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.

## SERVICE TEAM UPDATES

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

This year May 14th is the day set as Camp Clean-up Day. Folks from First Church will go to Wesley Woods to prepare two cabins for the campers that will be descending upon the camp by the first week in June. The campers have a great time and a wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually in the week they are at the camp.



First Church sponsors two cabins, The Nurse's and The Walnut, which means we are responsible for their upkeep. This year we will be replacing a mattress cover at Walnut and the shower and ceiling fan at the Nurse's cabin. We will also do the yearly maintenance, wash windows inside and out, de-cobweb inside and out, wash down beds and mattresses, sweep, mop, rake leaves, clean off roofs, etc.

It is a big job, but as they say, many hands make light work. The Service Team needs you! Please stop by the Service Team table and sign up to help. We will be starting at 9:00 am and working until we are finished. We ask that you bring cleaning supplies, rakes and possibly a blower or two.

The camp will have lunch for those who wish to stay, it's really good, and we should be done with lunch and everything by 1:30 pm. We will have a continental breakfast at 10:00 am. If you need directions a Service Team member can help you. It is a really beautiful place and our youth are very fortunate to have this camp to attend.

### 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.

## May Happenings at First Church

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

WEEKLY EVENTS	SMALL GROUPS
<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>Wednesday</b> 5:30 pm First Church Connection Last FCC is May 11th 6:00 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm. Praise Band Rehearsal <b>Thursday</b> 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adventures Group:</b>              Tuesday, May 3, 7 pm              John &amp; Mary Logan              Tuesday, May 17, 7 pm              Claire &amp; Betty Peters</li> <li>• <b>Book Group:</b>              Sunday, May 15, 5:00 pm              Marybeth Weiss'</li> <li>• <b>Men's Group:</b> Mon., 6:00 pm</li> <li>• <b>Partners in Prayer:</b>              Monday, 5/2, 7 pm Betty Dawson              Monday, 5/16, 7 pm Linda Briggs</li> <li>• <b>The Martha Circle:</b> 5/10              9:30 am</li> <li>• <b>3E's:</b> Nature Walk 5/14              Stacy Caballero: 965.0285</li> </ul>
<b>TEAM MEETINGS</b> Church Council 5/9 7:00 pm Trustees 5/10 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations 5/10 7:00 pm Service Team 5/11 4:00 pm Finance Comm. 5/17 7:00 pm	

### New Event!!!

First United Methodist Church hosts "Parking Lot Garage Sale" on Saturday, June 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You are invited to consider renting a space to sell your stuff, or you can donate items to the church and we will sell them. The parking lot will be divided into different sections, food and beverages will be sold, and the community will be invited to participate as space allows. Questionnaires will be available this Sunday to assess how you might participate. This is a new fundraiser for the church and we are excited about the possibilities! Donna Hoedeman and Stacy Caballero are the lead coordinators of this project.

## Billie's Musings...

The Easter Season will go forward until the beginning of Pentecost on Sunday June 12. And now, we simple change the pace and begin to look at all the ways the Resurrection has occurred in us. A church sign on Capital said "The proof of the resurrection is the empty tomb." Really? If there is a need for proof then it resides in us. We are the witnesses who witness to a new life. We are the ones who go to the table with our enemies and dialogue until we have reached clarity whether in agreement or disagreement. We are the ones who step into healthy relationships because God has reconciled us all through Jesus Christ.



We do not run from the death the world can offer. We do not become what we see going on in the world about us. We do not believe that anyone should die in violence. We do not believe that any kind of abuse, bullying, or harassment is acceptable in human behavior. We do believe in the freedom from addictions and victimization. We do believe in peace.....at any price.

We do believe in feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, visiting those who are imprisoned and praying for those who are sick. We do believe in giving refuge to the one who has no home. We do believe that there will be sun in the morning. We know that there is new life not because of some empty tomb somewhere but because God gives new life to all.

"DOUBT, A PARABLE is a parable for our time: When should we stand firm in our beliefs? When must we accept a measure of doubt into our thinking, and give someone else the benefit of that doubt? When belief begins to slip, will doubt help us to renew our humanity or make us into a lie?"

'We are living in a culture of extreme advocacy, of confrontation, of judgment and of verdict. Discussion has given way to debate. Communication has become a contest of wills. Public talking has become obnoxious and insincere. Why? Maybe it's because deep down under the chatter we have come to a place where we know that we don't know...anything. But nobody's willing to say that.'

The above quote from DOUBT, A PARABLE will be a part of the discussion in May as we enter into a Spirituality of Fundraising by Henri Nouwen. **The Finance Committee has set out for us the challenge of committing ourselves to fully financing our ministry through a Stewardship Program to be pledged on Sunday, May 15.** As we alter the rhythm of our giving might we allow ourselves the opportunity to find a NEW Spirit rhythm in our lives. Come Holy Spirit and be our quest. Shalom, Billie r.

## Vacation Bible School

June 20 - 24, 2011  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

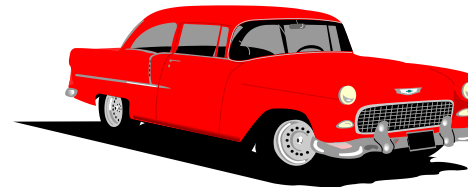


Vacation Bible School is FREE and open to any child who is potty trained through 5th grade. Nursery School will also be available!

For more information please contact Von Bird at 269.967.1930/  
vlb1107@aol.com or Anne Stagner (at.stags@comcast.net).



**DON'T MISS THE FUN!!!!**



## Third Annual "Blessing of the Wheels" May 22, 2011

In Recognition of the beginning of the Cruisin' season First United Methodist Church invites all owners of classic automobiles, bikes and all motorcyclists to attend our event! There will be a special appearance of a traveling Military Museum.

Sunday, May 22, 2011  
First United Methodist Church  
111 East Michigan Avenue  
Battle Creek, MI

Please come and attend our 11:00 am service.  
The Blessing will take place at 12:30 pm  
Luncheon: Sandwiches, drink & dessert, \$8.00.  
Please call 269.963.5567 for more information!



## 2011 Community Prayer Breakfast

Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek

**Nobody's Perfect:  
Share Your Faith Anyway  
With  
Father Dave Dwyer, CSP**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011  
7:25 am

Tickets \$15 each

For information call:  
969.2120

### Community Bands Feature Local Composer, First United Methodist Church Handbells, and Beatles Songs in Concert on May 7

The Cereal City Concert Band and Community Music School Band and will join forces Saturday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. The free Spring Concert will be performed in the Binda Theater at KCC.

Steve Kindy, music teacher at Prairieview Elementary, will guest conduct the combined bands to premiere his original composition, *The Drum Major, A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



The Cereal City Concert Band, directed by Dr. Jeananne Nichols, Olivet College, will reprise a beautiful arrangement of the hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. The band performed this piece at the Red Cedar Festival competition in Okemos this past March. It included a sparkling handbell choir accompaniment, and our FUMC set of handbells were used. The piece was so well received that the band decided to play it again for their Spring Concert in Battle Creek, and our church's handbells will again be featured.

The Cereal City Concert Band will also perform a medley of hits by The Beatles, including *You Never Give Me Your Money*, *Come Together*, *Something*, and more. FUMC musicians who will be playing in this program include Kim and Marylene Tuck and Karina Moore.

## SCRIPTURES AND THEMES

May 2011

**May 1 "Witness to What" Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14, 22-32 Psalm 16 1Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

Small groups is where spiritual growth seems to happen the most. Our scriptures even point to Jesus appears in the midst of small groups. Small groups are most effective for church growth when they give birth to other small groups. Discipleship include readying people for a deepening relationship with God.

**May 8 "Stay With Us" Third Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day**

Acts 2:14, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

Spiritual fruit starts to happen when numbers of small groups build relationships continuously, serve more, and are physically involved in the life of the church. It is in the constant sharing where we experience God over and over again.

**May 15 "As Any Had Need" Stewardship Sunday**

Members of the early gatherings of the followers of Jesus Christ "even sold their possessions and goods" in order to serve. The results of their sharing was quite drastic as the scripture says "day by day the Lord added to their number." We have the opportunity to express our commitment to God on this day.

**May 22 "Greater Works" Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-4

Today is a good day to find God in the way we treat ourselves and the way we treat others. God is in the details

**May 29 "Speaker, Rev. Craig Adams" Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1Peter 3:13-22 John 14:5-21

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.

Continued from front cover  
Did you know that FUMC:

### Spring

- Sponsors the nurse's cabin and one cottage at Wesley Woods Camp through an annual clean up, doing repairs and making purchases

### Fall and Winter

- Provides Thanksgiving Baskets, served 8 families this past November
- Sponsors Brown Bag Sunday, brought in 75 sacks of groceries for Christmas baskets and the food pantry
- Provides Christmas Baskets, 25 this past December serving 50 children and 35 adults
- Rings bells for the Salvation Army for two days (20 hours) using 1-2 volunteers per hour
- Provides a Christmas party for the Haven, In-as Much House and the Life Recovery Program with attendance ranging from 90-120. Gifts totaling \$1,300 are given
- Sponsors an annual Super Bowl party and supper for the Haven
- Collects for Church World Service Blankets, \$645 this February

### Ongoing

- Provides volunteers to work and supply food for funeral luncheons as needed by members and non-members

### Projects

- Collects for the Haiti School Project
- Collects Styrofoam for recycling sponsored by the 3 Es group

Stewardship also includes caring for our environment. The 3Es group collects Styrofoam quarterly and transports it to a nearby recycling center. We work to keep Styrofoam out of our landfill system, even as we educate people of the need to reduce its use in our daily lives. The 3Es will sponsor a nature walk on Saturday, May 14.

Note: A large percentage of these ministries are coordinated by the Service Team through donations and designated endowment funds.

Continued from front cover  
Spirituality of Fundraising:

## 2 Part Small Groups

Don't forget to sign up in the parlor or simply give the leaders a call to reserve your space.

### Group #3

Leaders: Jay and Marybeth Weiss

Phone: (269) 968-5075

Location: First United Methodist Church,  
111 East Michigan Ave.

Time: Wednesdays, May 4 & 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (after FCC meal)

### Group #4

Leaders: John and Linda Briggs

Phone: (269) 965-6726

Location: 115 Grand Castle Terrace

Time: Tuesday, May 10 and Thursday, May 12 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 15<sup>th</sup>** is  
**COMMITMENT SUNDAY** for the new fiscal year, July 1, 2011 — June 30, 2012.

Pledge cards are available in the office and the parlor.

First United Methodist Church will again be a destination for the Spring into the Arts Art Walk on Friday May 13th. Tim Pier and John Sajtar will be performing out on the point. Also The What A Do Theatre will be presenting *Doubt, A Parable* 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This is a great way to showcase our 103 year old building as a viable member of the community. For more information please refer to [www.downtownbattlecreek.com](http://www.downtownbattlecreek.com)

**Spring  
into the  
Arts!**