

**are not alone, we are not alone, we are not alone. God is with us.  
We are not alone, we are not alone, we are not alone God is with us.  
We are not alone. God -is- with- us-now.**

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" setting by Janet Linker  
Doxology UMH 94  
Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, who has made us in your image, and given us the model for human life in Jesus, use our gifts of faith and learning, our offerings for ministry and labors of love, to grow your world in to the fullness of Jesus.**

\*Sending Hymn "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" UMH 664

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response "The Trees of the Field" TFWS 2279

Postlude "Praise Ye the Lord" setting by Johnan Gottfried Walther

*The Bible translation used is The New Revised Standard Version, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission.*

\* indicates standing as you are able

**OUR THANKS TO** all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for this church and God's kingdom.

**Liturgist:** Carol Barr

**Greeters:** Carol Barr, Lorraine Kendall, Joanne TenBrink

**Sound Board:** Dave Howard & Micheal Blueford

**Usher:** Gerald Ross

**Hospitality:** Dorothy Carlisle and Sharon Leister

**Bass Player:** Dale Slayton

**Tech Booth:** Kurt Thornton

**Video Image Technician:** Micheal Blueford

September 9, 2018 - 11:00 am



# First United Methodist Church

*The City Center Church*

111 East Michigan Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49014

[www.firstumcbc.org](http://www.firstumcbc.org)



**Sunday, September 9, 2018**

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

Order of Worship to the Glory of God  
Blessing of Teachers and Students/ Rally Sunday  
16th Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 am

*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and human beings"  
-Luke's Gospel*

Prelude "All Glory Be To God on High" settings by F.W. Zachau and A.N. Vetter  
"Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" setting by Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

\*Greeting One Another in the Love of Christ

\*Introit "Bless the Lord, My Soul" TFWS 2015

\*Call to Worship

We come to praise the God who made us!  
**We come to praise the God who saves us!**  
We come to praise the God who claims us!  
**We come to praise the God who gave us  
All things in Christ Jesus, our Lord!**

\*Hymn "Praise the God of Faith and Learning" TFWS 2004

September 9, 2018 - 11:00 am

## Gathering Prayer

**God of all wisdom, the mover of creation, bring your holy understanding to all of every station. Grant us minds with space for learning, Give us hearts whose open yearning seeks to see you face to face, in every person of every race. Give us spirits ever growing. In our actions ;Your grace showing. Then all who live in love will know the God who whispers all to Grow!**

Anthem “Ancient Words/How Firm a Foundation” Lynn D Shazo, arr. M. Hayes

## Blessing of Teachers and Students

You who are teachers belong to the human enterprise. From the first person who taught a child to plant a seed, or pick fruit, teachers have carved open our capacity to see and understand ourselves and the world around us. Teachers can make this strange world a home we can inhabit. Teachers can put the world in the hands of a child, or the universe into the heart of an adult. Teachers are always learners, for by their students they are taught, and more, always amazed at the transformation that happens when connections are made and the light comes on and the ancient words are heard anew. You who have this holy calling deserve our thanks and the support of this whole community, for you shepherd our future in the young lives you bless. Receive this, our small token of appreciation as a reminder that we are praying for you and this work that you have given yourselves to for us all.

Congregational Blessing: **Gracious God, send your blessing upon these teachers and learners, that in the holy enterprise of education we all may grow into your image thereby give glory to your name and fulfill the promise of your people, in Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response “Open Our Eyes” TFWS 2086

Good News for Young Hearts Anne Stagner

\*Gospel Acclamation “Ancient Words”  
**Holy words, long preserved for our walk in this world;  
 they resound with God’s own heart. O let the ancient words impart  
 Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you.  
 We have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.**

September 9, 2018 - 11:00 am

## \*The Gospel

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “**He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.**”

The Gospel of Our Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

**Words of life words of hope, give us strength , help us cope.  
 In this world, where-e’re we roam, ancient words will guide us home.  
 Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you.  
 We have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.**

Sermon “And Jesus Grew” *Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

Congregational Call to Prayer “We Are Not Alone”  
**We are not alone, we are not alone, we, are not alone. God is with us (3X)  
 We are not alone, we are never alone, we are not alone. We are never alone.  
 God is with us. God is with us, ever and ever, we are never alone,**

September 9, 2018 - 11:00 am