

**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,**  
**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	“Allegro”	C.P.E. Bach
Doxology		UMH 94
Prayer of Dedication		

**Gracious God, receive our gifts that we might know our life in you, and by giving, receive the life abundant you have for us to share in Jesus. Amen**

*Sending Hymn	“Take Up Thy Cross”	UMH 415
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\*Benediction

*Congregational Response	“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”	TFWS 2129
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Postlude	“Holy God. We Praise You Name”	setting by Paul Manz
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\* indicates standing as you are able

*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.*

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

**Liturgist:** Melissa Castelan

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

**Usher:** Gerald Ross

**Hospitality:** Dorothy Carlisle and Sharon Leister

**Bass Player:** Dale Slayton

**Tech Booth:** Katie Castelan

**Video Image Technician:** Micheal Blueford

September 16, 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 16, 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

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

11:00 am

*“The world is ultimately too terrifying to be afraid of anything”* Gloria Steinem

Prelude

“We All Believe”

Samuel Scheidt

“How Great Thou Art”

setting by J. Wayne Kerr

Welcome and Announcements

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

*Please Fill out your Connections Cards and place them in plates during Offering*

\*Greeting One Another in the Love of Christ

\*Introit

“Come Bless the Lord”

\*Call to Worship

“Responsive Psalm 19” *no refrain*

UMH 750

\*Opening Hymn

“I Sing The almighty Power of God”

UMH 152

Gathering Prayer

**Gracious God, whose power is seen in spangled sky and most minute molecule, help us to see you also, in the life we lead, the people we meet and the opportunities before us. You, who are our life, call us to find it in you thru Jesus Christ. Help us dare to lose our false life to find our true life in the love you call us to share in Christ our Lord. Amen**

September 16, 2018 - 11:00 am

Testament in Song                      “Then Jesus Came”                      Donald Tuck, soloist

The Epistle                                  James 3:1-12                                  Melissa Castelan, *liturgist*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Good News for Young Hearts                                  Anne Stagner

Anthem                                  Supplication                                  Linda Steen Spevacek  
*Cornerstone Choir*

\*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 16, 2018 - 11:00 am*

\*The Gospel                                  Mark 8; 27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “**You are the Messiah.**” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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                                  “Finding Your True Life”                                  *Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

Congregational Call to Prayer                                  “We Are Not Alone”

*September 16, 2018 - 11:00 am*