

***Commemorating Those of the Church Triumphant***

Honoring those of the household of faith who have died since November 1, 2017

**Violet Ballard, Helen Faulkner, Debbie Frey, Roger Gay, Nadine Gifford,  
Theresa Gooding, Jaclyn Hendrickson, James A. Jackson, Larry Keiser,  
Beverly Lewis, Oliver Norton, David Shear, David Wilson, David Wright**

*The final candle is lit in honor of others related to our church family who have died this year and are unnamed here.*

**To Join Their Unending Hymn: Consecration, Commemoration, Holy Communion**

Anthem "Sweet Communion"

*Those bringing a pledge card and offering may place them in the basket before the altar as an act of consecration as our pledge to continue the work of the saints.*

*All are invited to come by the center aisle light a taper candle in memory of a loved one, place it in the sand urns, then partake of Holy Communion as we join those gathered around the throne of God and join their unending hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the Highest!"*

A Reading "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" Trad.

\*Sending Hymn "Blessed Assurance" UMH 369

\*The Apostolic Blessing  
*You are invited to be seated for the postlude*

Postlude "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" *Naghielly Agy. pianist*

*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

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November 4, 2018



# First United Methodist Church

*The City Center Church*

111 East Michigan Avenue  
Battle Creek, MI 49014  
[www.firstumcbc.org](http://www.firstumcbc.org)



**Sunday, November 4, 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**

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

***All Saints/Consecration Sunday***

9:00 am and 11:00 am

*"Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest; and I hear them singing, faintly, in the mansions of the blest." - Anon.*

Prelude "Aria" by Flor Peters *Kay Ensfield, organist*  
"If thou Art Near" J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements *Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

Introit "Oh How He Loves You and Me"

\*Affirmation of Faith "Statement of Faith" UMH 883

\*Hymn "For all the Saints" UMH 711

Gathering Prayer *from the Book of Common Prayer*

**Gracious God, You have prepared for those who love you a house not made with hands, and knit together in heaven and on earth the mystical body of your church; Give us grace so to follow your light of love, that we, too, may come to know the joy that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord and life, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

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The Epistle                      Revelation 21:1-6a

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

The word of God for the people of God  
**Thanks be to God**

Anthem                      "Soon and Very Soon"                      UMH 706

Good News for Young Hearts                      Anne Stagner

Prayer Hymn                      "Hymn of Promise"                      UMH 707

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

\*Gospel Acclamation

**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 God's own heart. O let the ancient words impart.**

\*The Gospel                      John 11: 32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "**Where have you laid him?**"

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They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "**Take away the stone.**" Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out!**" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**"

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.**

Homily                      "In the Mansions of the Blest"                      *Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

The Offering

Offertory

"Be Still My Soul"

setting by J. Wayne Kerr

\*Doxology

UMH 94

\*Consecration of Memorial Gifts, Offering and Pledges, Gifts

*Memorials Received November 1, 2017 thru Oct 31, 2018.*

*Jim Davis, Theresa Gooding, Terry Smith, Dr. E. and Mrs. Van Camp*

**\*Gracious God, consecrate these gifts to your service, as those in whose honor they are given are consecrated to you in heaven. Employ them to your glory on earth as your saints give glory to you in heaven. Receive these memorials, these gifts, our promise, and our pledge, as symbol and sign of the enduring power of love, and the hope we know in Jesus, Lord of life. Amen.**

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