

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



Address Service  
 Requested



# The Tower News



First United Methodist Church  
 The City Center Church  
 111 East Michigan Avenue  
 Battle Creek, MI 49014

Volume 8 Issue 9 – November 2018

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

## Nationally Recognized United Methodist Speaker Joins Us for District Conference

The first District Conference of the Greater Southwest District will happen on **Saturday, November 10** and you're invited. We will gather at **Battle Creek First UMC** for a day designed to help your church discover new possibilities to engage with your community. The day starts with registration beginning at 9:00am and the event will begin at 9:30am with a keynote presentation from Rev. Mike Mather, pastor at Broadway UMC in Indianapolis.



That congregation's inspiring story of renewal began when the church decided its call was to be good neighbors and that they should listen and see people in their community as children of God. Rev. Mather will be joined in presentations throughout the day by De'Amon Harges, the first "roving listener" sent out by Broadway UMC to listen to community members with the design to discover the talents and resources present in the community. This intentional listening is the cornerstone in Broadway's approach to asset based community development - a transformational approach that capitalizes on what's good and working in a place rather than merely addressing its deficiencies.

Our day of discovery will also offer you an opportunity to participate in workshops on multi-ethnic worship, transitional housing ministry, partnering with foster care, beginning a congregational care ministry, and church finance issues. Watch for a complete list of workshops and registration info coming soon. Plan now to attend this day of learning and exploration!

### Your Church Staff

Ministers ..... All Members  
 Pastor ..... Pastor Linda Farmer-Lewis  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Jean Harvey-Clark  
 Music Director ..... Anita Blueford  
 Custodian ..... Jeff Stevens  
 Organist ..... Kay Ensfield  
 Keyboards ..... Naghielly Agy  
 Child Care ..... Alexa Stephenson

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am to 5 pm**  
**Closed for Lunch between 12:30 - 1:30 pm**  
**Office is Closed on Fridays**  
**Phone: 269.963.5567/ Fax: 269.963.6899**  
**Pastor Linda: 517.581.5595**

The *TOWER News* is published monthly.  
 Copy deadline is the 20th of the month. **Please electronically submit your information to:**

Editor & Publisher: Jean Harvey-Clark  
 jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org



### Worship Schedule

**9:00 am: Praise Worship**

**11:00 am: Traditional Worship  
 with Choir**

*Happy Birthday to You!*

- 11/02 Anne Stagner
- 11/03 Madeline Corey-  
Qua
- 11/05 Shirley Hoeksema
- 11/06 Sharon Leister
- 11/07 Von Bird
- 11/13 Naghielly Agy
- 11/16 Mary Van Camp
- 11/17 Roger Larsen
- 11/19 Marjorie Robertson
- 11/22 Mike Hoeksema
- 11/25 Larry Rizor
- 11/27 Ken Clark
- 11/29 Melanie Gardner

The holidays are rapidly approaching! I have been scheduling events in the building for November and December for holiday basket preparation and pick up as well as Christmas gatherings. PLEASE let me know if you will need space for an event. Don't assume that it will be available.

As you move through the building please turn off lights as you leave a room if you are the last one in there. Our electrical bill continues to rise.  
Thank you in advance, Jean

**Thanksgiving Sunday, November 25**

This season's Thanksgiving Sunday falls on a Sunday that is not the First Sunday of Advent! So, our Worship Team suggested it be a Sunday of thanksgiving, offering cards of thanks to people who we appreciate and taking a Special Offering, a Miracle Sunday, kind of offering designated to supporting our Ministry Shares to the United Methodist Church. If you have been especially blessed this year, consider an extra offering to support the missions of our United Methodist Church in Michigan, the USA and the world!

*Happy Anniversary!!*

11/29 Don & Hattie Tuck

**Nursery Attendant**

We welcome **Alexa Stephenson** to our FUMC staff! She is a Battle Creek native who attended Pennfield schools. She played volleyball, basketball, and softball while in high school. She has also done some volunteer coaching for basketball and volleyball. Alexa enjoys children, animals, health, and sports. She is currently a student at Western Michigan University working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Please give Alexa a warm welcome when you see her!

Haven Christmas Party

The date for the year's Haven Christmas Party has been set for December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm until ?? This is always a really big event of each Christmas season. All of the residents of the Haven are invited to our house for dinner and more. We start the evening with folks filling out Christmas cards and we take them, get them stamped the next day and get them mailed. After cards they have a real super meal followed by entertainment. Last year each adult received a goodie bag of all sorts of great "stuff" that they can use and each child got an adorable teddy bear. It will be tough to top that bear.

We will have sign-up sheets available so you can bring a salad or a dessert for the dinner. The guys really enjoy the home cooking and some were seen to come back for seconds (even thirds) on the desserts.

**FUMC Consolidated Adopted Budget Report • October 2018**

Account Category		Actual Income YTD	Amount Budgeted YTD	Ahead or Behind	Total Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>	Pledges	\$97,290.14	\$104,170.00	<b>-\$6,879.86</b>	\$125,000.00	77.83%
	Non-Pledged	\$27,857.00	\$24,170.00	<b>\$3,687.00</b>	\$29,000.00	96.06%
	Loose Plate Offerings	\$4,483.24	\$6,670.00	<b>-\$2,186.76</b>	\$8,000.00	56.04%
	Other Budgeted	\$7,847.19	\$8,280.00	<b>-\$432.81</b>	\$10,860.00	72.26%
	<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$137,477.57</b>	<b>\$143,290.00</b>	<b>-\$5,812.43</b>	<b>\$172,860.00</b>	<b>79.53%</b>

Account Category		Actual Expenses YTD	Amount Budgeted YTD	Ahead or Behind	Total Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
<b>Expenses</b>	Total Salaries	\$81,834.23	\$81,760.00	<b>-\$74.23</b>	\$95,875.00	85.36%
	Total Church Building	\$54,152.73	\$47,900.00	<b>-\$6,252.73</b>	\$57,478.00	94.21%
	Total Parsonage	\$7,620.39	\$8,047.00	<b>\$426.61</b>	\$12,471.00	61.10%
	Total Ministry Shares	\$0.00	\$20,670.00	<b>-\$20,670.00</b>	\$24,805.00	0.00%
	Total Office	\$8,455.26	\$8,339.00	<b>-\$116.26</b>	\$10,038.00	84.23%
	Total - All Other Budgeted	\$6,851.05	\$9,469.00	<b>\$2,724.09</b>	\$11,365.00	60.28%
	Worship	\$454.80	\$500.00	<b>\$151.34</b>	\$600.00	75.80%
	Benefits	\$6,396.25	\$7,300.00	<b>\$903.75</b>	\$8,763.00	72.99%
	Pastor's Travel	\$0.00	\$1,669.00	<b>\$1,669.00</b>	\$2,002.00	0.00%
	<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$158,913.66</b>	<b>\$176,185.00</b>	<b>-\$23,962.52</b>	<b>\$212,032.00</b>	<b>74.95%</b>

YTD Budgeted Income vs YTD Budgeted Expenses **-\$21,436.09**

**Brown Bag Sunday Is Coming Up**

On Sunday, November 11 we will all receive a big brown, grocery bag. You are being asked to take it home and fill it with all sorts of non-perishable food items. Please no glass. These food items will be used to fill the baskets of our Christmas families, and anything left over goes into the pantry for our neighbors.

The bags should be returned on Sunday, November 18. There will be people available to help with getting the bags into the atrium and onto the stairs leading up to the parlor. This is a very helpful project for us in getting the Christmas families baskets ready and also in keeping Franklin Food Pantry well stocked. It would be wonderful to see both sides of the stairs full of bags. Please bring what you can.

**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

At the time the Tower went to press, it had not been determined where and when we would be ringing. We like to have a Friday and Saturday at a site that provides some kind of shelter from the elements. The sign-up sheets for ringing will be out shortly, so please watch for them at the Service Team table. It's only for an hour at a time and it is heart-warming to see the generosity of the people of Battle Creek. Please step up!



Once again this year we will be doing Thanksgiving dinners for our Christmas families. The cost is \$65 + a pie and a gallon of milk. Please plan to help our families with a Turkey Dinner with all of the trimmings.

**The Giving Tree**

The Giving Tree will appear in the parlor on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. On it you will find tags with the names of the members of our Christmas families. We have nine families this year and most of them are rather large. We usually give each family member a gift of a clothing item or toiletries, and then children under 18 receive 2 additional presents, either toys or something age appropriate. You are asked to return these gifts to the tree, unwrapped and with the ornament you selected. The ornaments make putting the baskets together so much easier, please do remember them!

We will have the ornaments available Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> so if you want to shop the after Thanksgiving Sales you are able. Each family receives a roll of wrapping paper and tape. This way the moms can see what their child is receiving and wrap the gift. Please be sure to return the gifts by December 17<sup>th</sup> as we will be preparing the baskets on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**November Happenings at First Church**

Church and Society information can be found on the bulletin boards in the atrium.

WEEKLY EVENTS		SMALL GROUPS	
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Praise Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship	<b>Book Group:</b>	Sunday, December 9, 12:30 pm Clara's, <i>The Five People That You Meet in Heaven</i> , Mitch Albom
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:45 am Staff Meeting	<b>GIFT Group:</b>	Tuesday Nov. 6: 6:00 pm Nov. 20: 6:00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	2:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<b>Martha Circle</b>	Wed. November 14, 9:30 am
<b>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b>		<b>NorthPointe Woods Ministry:</b>	Sun. Nov. 4, 1:00 pm Communion: Tues. Nov. 13, 1:00 pm
Worship Team	11/06 7:00 pm	<b>Partners in Prayer:</b>	Monday Nov. 8: 7:00 pm: Southern Exposure Nov. 19: Lorraine Kendall hostess at FUMC
Trustees	11/07 6:30 pm		
Finance	11/13 7:00 pm		
Staff Parish	11/20 7:00 pm		
Service Team	11/21 10:00 am		
Church Council	11/27 7:00 pm		
Pancake Breakfast	11/11 10:00 am		



Don't forget to turn your clock back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 3 as we end Daylight Savings time.

Our Annual Church Charge Conference will be on Wednesday, November 28 at 5:00 pm.



# Pastor's Corner

*Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis*

Faith Matters. Our faith matters, to us and to the world. We are still reeling from the senseless murders of our Jewish brothers and sisters at their house of worship last month. It is easy to feel powerless in the face of that violence. Yet, there is much we can do everyday as we engage others in our communities. When the rhetoric around you becomes abusive of people, don't argue. Just say, "You are talking about my brothers and sisters in Christ." We can stand with people as people even if we don't particularly agree with their point of view. If someone is advocating violence against a person or group of people, you can simply say, "I reject violence in all it's forms." Or, "I can't be in a conversation that threatens others; I will be happy to talk with you another time if you can speak without hate."

Who knows who might be disarmed by your words and consider calmly the implications of what they are saying. It is clear that the ramped-up rhetoric of our national discourse has directly contributed to these unprecedented attacks. But, if the way the people of faith talk to the people around them, there will be voices of peace and sanity speaking, and it will matter. We may worry nationally and globally, but we have to speak locally. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace."

People of God, your faith matters in this struggle. You have more power than you think, you have Holy Spirit power, resurrection power. Do not succumb to despair that nothing can be done to lift up our love of others in the face of hatred. But take heart at the sight of so many coming to the aid of the suffering, so many lifting up their community. Let us not be afraid to confront the lie, the lie that we are to live in opposition to one another with the truth that we belong to each other and to God. It will matter that we did.

People of God, how beautiful are your feet. Go, preach Peace!  
Pastor Linda Farmer-Lewis

## Sharing Stories

On Sunday, November 18, which is National Day of Listening, we will listen to one another as we share stories of events that have significantly shaped our faith life. In a day when there is so much talking, it will be a welcome time of hearing!

If you have a story you are willing to share in either worship service that day, let Pastor Linda know so she can be sure all who would like to speak may. If you have a story to share in writing, we are happy to duplicate that for all to read.

Bob Hickock, a poet, wrote in his poem "A Primer," "Let us all be from somewhere. Let us tell each other everything we can." May this opportunity be a way of upholding each other through listening and telling!

## Soul Connections 2018 Wednesday Nights

Format for meetings other than Yoga:

- 5:00 pm light meal,
- 5:30 pm program,
- 6:30-6:50 pm worship ,
- 7:00 pm headed home

November 7	Yoga: 5:00 pm Chair Yoga • 6:00 pm Mat Yoga
November 14	Women in the Early Church, Mary Magdalene, Perpetua, and Julian of Norwich -Pastor Linda
November 21	No meeting Thanksgiving Eve
November 28	Who wrote the Gospel of John and Why-Pastor Linda
December 5	Yoga: 5:00 pm Chair Yoga • 6:00 pm Mat Yoga
December 12	The Birth Narratives of Jesus-Why the Genealogies Matter -Pastor Linda
December 19	Yoga: 5:00 pm Chair Yoga • 6:00 pm Mat Yoga
December 26	No meeting