

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



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# The Tower News



First United Methodist Church

The City Center Church

111 East Michigan Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49014

Volume 10 Issue 10 – December 2020

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

## Your Church Staff

Ministers ..... All Members  
Pastor ..... Sue Trowbridge  
Administrative Assistant ..... Jean Harvey-Clark  
Music Director ..... Anita Blueford  
Custodian ..... James Hidley  
Organist ..... Kay Ensfield  
Keyboards ..... Naghielly Agy  
Child Care ..... Alexa Stephenson  
Video Technician ..... Micheal Blueford  
Sound Board ..... David Howard

**Facility Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 am to 5 pm**  
**Office is Closed for Lunch between**  
**12:30 - 1:30 pm**  
**Office is Closed on Fridays**  
**Phone: 269.963.5567/ Fax: 269.963.6899**  
**Pastor Sue: 517.667.8414**

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

**In person services are**  
**suspended through the**  
**end of the year.**  
**Sermons are available at**  
**www.firstumcbc.org**

Dear Church Family,

We are all heartbroken over missing our in person worship during Advent and on Christmas Eve! We are doing what we have to do to stay safe and follow the Bishop's urgent request, but it feels so wrong!

My old churches at my previous appointments have had 9 cases of Covid and 2 deaths, so I am sad about my friends. I am also thoroughly convinced that we have made the right decision.

It's going to be super hard to find Christ in a Christmas without gathering for worship, but find him we will! God is everywhere and we are doing an excellent job of reaching out to one another. I am so impressed with the spirit of our congregation! Well done good and faithful servants!

Later we will look back on this time and talk about it for years to come. By that time we will have figured out what valuable lessons we learned and celebrate our devotion and determination.

God bless you and those you love during this Christmas season. Please make it as festive as you possibly can.

Love, Sue

*Happy Birthday to You!*

- 12/03 Don Larder
- 12/04 Michael Dixon Sr.
- 12/04 Grace Hardy
- 12/06 Shirley Carr
- 12/09 Anita Blueford
- 12/12 Char Hill
- 12/16 Carol Rasmussen
- 12/16 Bryan Qua
- 12/19 Mary Soule
- 12/22 Adam Stagner
- 12/28 Earl Wade
- 12/29 Sue Trowbridge

The Staff Parish is collecting a Christmas **Love Offering** for the staff. They will be collecting it the weeks of November 29, December 6 and December 13. Please note on your check or envelope that it's for the Love Offering.

If you are on FaceBook please make sure that you're a member of the *First United Methodist Church of Battle Creek* group. Sermons from Pastor Sue are posted as well as music from our musicians and any updates available. Sermons are also available on our website [firstumcbc.org](http://firstumcbc.org).

**Prayer List**

- \* Mary Brigden
- \* Dorothy Carlisle
- \* Madeline Corey-Qua
- \* Nancy Davis
- \* Debbie Garland
- \* Sharon Gawlak
- \* Donna Hoedeman
- \* Mary Holmes
- \* Dave Howard
- \* Vicki Kissinger
- \* Bill & Donna Lang
- \* Helen & Don Larder
- \* Dawn Laupp
- \* Karen & Jerry Mackey
- \* Betty Nelson
- \* Crystyl Rucker
- \* Tammy Stephenson
- \* Jeanne Winer
- \* Wesley

*Happy Anniversary*

- 12/05 Bill & Donna Lang
- 12/17 Todd and Anne Stagner
- 12/27 Harold and Joan Creekmur
- 12/29 Mike and Betty Dawson

**Parlor Art Exhibit**

The art on display is from the collection of church member Craig Bishop.

Craig is a retired teacher who has taught art at a variety of levels and at a collection of schools and colleges. He currently teaching painting at the Battle Creek Art Center. As an artist his paintings have been exhibited widely and he has been recognized with numerous awards

Craig has selectively accumulated a large eclectic collection of art work over the years, some of which he is sharing with the First church family.

Please let Jean know if you are aware of anyone who has an email address and is not getting the *Weekend Updates* or *Tower News* emailed to them. Also if people don't have an email address and need things physically mailed to them.

In lieu of buying gifts this year please donate what you would have spent on a gift. Gift cards will be given instead of a gift. We have 12 families and 52 people to purchase for. Please make sure that your donation is received by Friday, December 18. Thank you to everyone who has generously donated for the Thanksgiving Dinners.

Giving Opportunities are still available for the Tower Roof Repair and Ministry Shares. These donations will be reflected on your end of year giving statement.

...from the Music Director

"Greetings To You All

I give thanks and honor to Jesus Christ the King!

I'm thankful that through music we can praise and adore Him. In the past we used our voices in one accord to praise and adore the Lord in the sanctuary and the parking lot services with songs like "Sweeter" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". He loves us.

Let's continue singing praises in locations that help keep others' safe. The Lord hears us no matter where we may be.

Happy Thanksgiving

Anita Blueford,  
Music Director



*Collection Report*

**2020 Budget**

Needed per week	\$4,286.00
November 1	\$3,493.00
November 8	\$5,806.00
November 15	\$592.00
November 22	\$4,981.00
November 29	\$2,240.00
Received Year To Date	\$166,914.12
Needed Year to Date	\$201,442.00