

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



Address Service  
Requested

### Your Church Staff

Ministers ..... All Members  
Pastor ..... Larry French  
Administrative Assistant ..... Jean Harvey-Clark  
Music Director ..... Anita Blueford  
Custodian ..... James Hidley  
Organist..... Kay Ensfield  
Keyboards ..... Naghielly Walker  
Sunday Child Care..... Alexa Stephenson  
Day Care ..... Starr Older  
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 Larry French: 616.551.9280**  
**pastorlarryfrench@gmail.com**

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 worship in the  
sanctuary at 10:00 am and  
Saturday night at 5:00 pm.  
Masks are optional.  
Sunday School for adults after  
the service.



# *The Tower News*

*First United Methodist Church*

*The City Center Church*

*111 East Michigan Avenue  
Battle Creek, MI 49014*



**Volume 12 Issue 6 – August 2022**

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

## **Pastor Larry's Ponderings**

**August 2022**



Many of us in the Midwest mark the passing of the Summer season by the height of the corn. I remember hearing “the corn should be knee high by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July”, and so that is what I look for to know whether or not this year’s crop is doing well. My grandparents lived next to a corn field, and I can remember running up and down the rows as a child. I can remember getting lost in that field, probably intentionally, but I always found my way back. I think it’s how I first learned what direction to head based on the position of the sun in the sky. It sure seems like the rows of corn were so much farther apart back then. The corn I see on my drive home is quite tall now, it being August. The summer is moving right along, and dear reader, I hope it has been good for you so far.

There are a few things happening this summer that I would like to highlight. First, we are having a great time at our *Saturday Night Life* service. If you find that you just cannot make it here on Sunday morning, for whatever reason, come try out Saturday evenings at 5pm. I would love for you to meet the wonderfully talented Ada LeeAnn. The music and atmosphere of the service is pretty contemporary, so come prepared to sing out loud and move around a little bit. My hope for the service is for it to be a place where we can explore what it means for us to be a people of God and make some new friends in the process. There is also a time set aside each Saturday night to focus on prayer, and a time when we focus on missions and service. Please invite your friends and family to join us, all are welcome here at First UMC.



Next, I would like to talk about one of my favorite subjects – food! We are scheduling a time for food and fellowship the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month. So, on August 14<sup>th</sup> plan on staying after the 10am service for a potluck downstairs in fellowship hall. Whether or not you can bring a dish to pass, you are invited to take this time

## Happy Birthday to You!

08/09 George Robertson  
 08/12 Don Tuck  
 08/12 David Howard  
 08/13 Betty Peters  
 08/14 Betty Islam  
 08/22 James Gardner  
 08/24 Steve Clark  
 08/27 Carol Barr

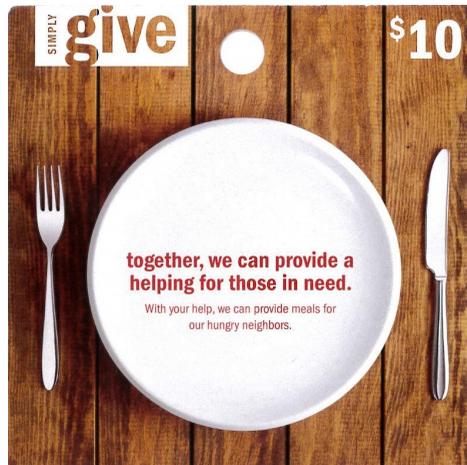
## Happy Anniversary

08/07 Jack and Sharon Brown  
 08/08 Jerry and Karen Mackey  
 08/09 Steve and Jean Clark  
 08/13 Bob and Carolyn Harvey  
 08/15 Don and Helen Larder  
 08/19 John and Carol Rasmussen

Former member Jay Weiss and Carmen Weiss will be Michigan the beginning of August. They will be attending the August 7 service at FUMC.

### Food Pantry Fund Raiser

The Fall Meijer Simply Give Campaign runs until October 1, 2022. The Double Match Days will be **Saturday, August 13** and **Saturday, September 10, 2022**. The Meijer on Beckley Road will match your donation of \$10 with \$30. Look for donation cards at the service team table or at the beginning of each check out and designate your donation to the **Post Franklin Food Pantry**.



### August Meetings

**Partners In Prayer**  
 Monday, August 1  
 6:30 pm • Mary Dolbee

**Worship**  
 Tuesday, August 2  
 7:00 pm

**Trustees**  
 Wednesday, August 3  
 10:00 am

**Partners In Prayer**  
 Monday, August 15  
 6:30 pm • tba

FUMC Choir practices are at 9:15 am Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. You're invited to join us. Contact Anita at 269.963.6297.

### Joanne's Crafters and Quilters (JCQs)

The first and third Wednesday of every month from 10:30 am-12 noon in the FUMC Community Room.

Starting on August 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a Potluck the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month after the service through December. There is a sign up on the Service Team Table for the 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Prayer List

- \* Mike & Diane Buckley
- \* Todd & Mary Boshers
- \* Dorothy Carlisle
- \* Kay Case
- \* Irma Farmer
- \* Chloe Harmon
- \* Donna Hoedeman
- \* Ed Henegar
- \* Mary Holmes
- \* Jeff Hugget
- \* Bill & Donna Lang
- \* Dawn Laupp
- \* Sharon Leister
- \* Paul & Carol Reid
- \* Ginnie Sootsman
- \* Tammy Stephenson
- \* Hattie Tuck
- \* Kim & Marylene Tuck
- \* Clarke Whinery



to reconnect with old friends, or make some new ones! This is the perfect excuse to make a new commitment to come to church, even if its for this one Sunday a month. We would love to see you here!

Lastly, I shared a tidbit from my childhood with you earlier in this article, and I will share another one with you now. I didn't have the benefit of growing up with a church family, and I often feel that I really missed out on something

important. We would like nothing more than to create space here for children and youth to learn and grow with Christ in their lives, but we can't do it alone. I am working in cooperation with other area United Methodist churches to create the best youth experience we can for all our young folks. Please contact me at [pastorlarryfrench@gmail.org](mailto:pastorlarryfrench@gmail.org) or call my cell at 616.551.9280 if you would like more information about how you can participate in making this the best place for our young people to connect with the body of Christ. First UMC has always been a family church, and this summer is a great time to celebrate the love and togetherness that can be experienced here.

We really are blessed in the Midwest and specifically here in Michigan. I hope you all have a wonderful summer, filled with moments that bring you closer to God as you enjoy the best His creation has to offer. With blessings of peace and love, Larry

### Church Council Corner

Pastor Larry announced the hiring of Starr Older as the Day Care Director, and the SPRC approved the job descriptions and hiring for 2 part-time employees. Grants of \$10,000 each were received from the Battle Creek Community Foundation and the Binda Foundation. A State of Michigan Grant can be applied to costs for start-up which is targeted for September 1, 2022. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be a source of ongoing funding. The Church Council will serve as the Board of Directors for the church-sponsored day care serving the Women's Life Recovery Program of the Haven.



e giving is available on our website through PayPal.

### 2022 Budget

Needed per week	\$4,286.00
July 3	\$3,684.00
July 10	\$2,128.00
July 17	\$2,015.00
July 24	\$833.00
Received Year To Date	\$83,517.00
Needed Year to Date	\$128,780.00

### Collection Report