

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 Robinson  
 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 all ages 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 8 – October 2022

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

**Pastor Larry's Ponderings      October 2022**



As I sat down to write this Tower News article for you, I realized just how much we have going on at First United Methodist Church. I also came to the realization that you may not know about all that is happening here, so I thought I would list it all out for you (in no particular order):

- We have a contemporary service called Saturday Night Life at 5:00 pm and a more traditional service every Sunday at 10am. All are welcome to come and worship with us.
- We enjoy fellowship together while enjoying each other's food at a potluck every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after worship. All are welcome to attend, even if you cannot bring a dish. We enjoy each other's company as much or more than the food (and there is always enough!)
- Franklin Food Pantry – The food pantry is open to our community every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 1pm to 3pm. People come away with a variety of essential items, including fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy products, canned goods, and bread.
- Saturday breakfast at St. Thomas – On the first Saturday of every month a crew of volunteers from FUMC starts bright and early at St. Thomas Episcopal Church to cook and serve breakfast to our neighbors.
- FUMC Daycare – the daycare for the Women's Life Recovery Program of the Haven of Rest is almost up and running. We are looking for volunteers to help with the kiddos, so if you are interested contact the church office.
- Joanne's Crafters and Quilters meets at the church at 10:30am every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Recently they are working on projects like quilts and curtains for the daycare.
- The FUMC Book club meets one Sunday a month for lunch at Clara's on the River from 11:30am to 1pm. The current book is a Science Fiction selection titled *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer.

## Happy Birthday to You!

10/03 Andrea Stanley      10/24 Shuler Harmon  
 10/05 Jean Harvey-Clark    10/26 Gerald Ross  
 10/07 Dawn Laupp            10/29 Micheal Blueford  
 10/09 Linda Briggs            10/30 Emma Stagner

Monthly Potluck on  
 Sunday, October 9  
 @ 11:30 am  
 Sign up at the  
 Service Team  
 Table

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.

### 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

Pastor Larry will gone  
 the week of October  
 10 -16. Pastor Billie  
 Dalton will be here for  
 the Saturday,  
 October 15<sup>th</sup> service at  
 5:00 pm and is  
 preaching on Sunday,  
 October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### October Meetings

**Partners In Prayer**  
 Monday, October 3  
 6:30 pm • Carol Barr

**Worship**  
 Tuesday, October 4  
 7:00 pm

**Trustees**  
 Wednesday, October 5  
 10:00 am

**Service Team**  
 Thursday, October 13  
 10:30am

**Partners In Prayer**  
 Monday, October 17  
 6:30 pm • tba

**SPRC**  
 Tuesday, October 18  
 7:00 pm

## Happy Anniversary

10/08 James and Debra Gardner  
 10/27 Mike and Diane Buckley

### Snacks for Post-Franklin School Kids

We are looking for snacks for the Franklin School kids. With the budget so tight the teachers don't have funds for this so we are hoping that we can help the teachers out. We need individually wrapped items such as chips, cereal bars, cheese balls, etc.. In the past we used to help one class, but this year they need items for all of the kids that attend there. Please check the label of what you donate. The school is asking for snacks with no peanuts since there are a number of children with nut allergies. Thank you for supporting this local ministry.

### Council Corner Highlights

- Judy Brown reported there are now eight people on the Service Team.
- Volunteers are being sought for the soon-to-open day care for clients of the Women's Life Recovery and InAsMuch House. Applications are available at the nursery or from Director Starr Older.

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- Organizations like the American Red Cross (Battle Creek Area office, monthly CPR training and Blood Drives), Santa's Helper, Alcoholics Anonymous, Sweet Adeline's, Martha Circle, Partners in Prayer, Haven Life Recovery Program Graduations and the Lion's Club all use the church facilities.
- Our FUMC Sanctuary Choir meets at 9:15am Sunday mornings and then performs during the 10 am service.
- Sunday School for both children and adults is offered after Sunday Service every week.
- And of course, we are in the discernment phase of the Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) of church governance. We will continue to discuss this process during the announcement prior to worship services and at townhall meetings (times/dates to be announced).

This is in addition to all the service activities like Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas Families, and so many other activities happening in the life of our church. If you would like to participate in any of the above activities, call the church office at 269.963.5567 to be directed to the right person for information. Blessings of peace to you, beloved congregation, Larry

### Prayer Bears Mission

Our church would like to have bears (or other stuffed animals) in most of our pews each Sunday during the morning prayer. It is hoped that each bear is held during the prayer. Each bear has a tag that it was held in prayer. After church you might take a bear to someone in need of prayer. This program is similar to what is done with the prayer shawl.

I would like to think that we could have some of the bears donated by the congregation and maybe get donations to help with the cost. Bears can be left at the service team table. I wish to thank you for all of the help with this project. Judy Brown, Service Team Chairperson



Online giving is available on our website [firstumcbc.org](http://firstumcbc.org) through 

### Collection Report

2022 Budget	
Needed per week	\$4,286.00
September 4	\$2,553.00
September 11	\$4,912.00
September 18	\$1,888.00
September 25	\$1,960.00
Received Year To Date	\$111,283.00
Needed Year to Date	\$163,068.00