

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 13 Issue 8 – October 2023

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

## Your Church Staff

Ministers ..... All Members  
 Pastor..... Larry French  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Jean Harvey-Clark  
 Music Director ..... Anita Blueford  
 Custodian ..... Laramie Schick  
 Organist..... Kay Ensfield  
 Keyboards ..... Naghielly Walker  
 Child Care Director ..... Starr Older  
 Sunday Child Care..... Alexa Robinson  
 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



## Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship in the  
 sanctuary is at 11:00 am.

## Pastor Larry's Ponderings

October 2023

As October begins, we are reminded of our connectedness as a denomination. World Communion Sunday is October 1, and we will celebrate with bread from around the world, homemade soup, and of course Holy Communion.

*“Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.” – UMC.org*

World Communion Sunday is an opportunity to reflect upon our place in the world, and our responsibility to the greater community, as people of God.

The end of the month brings us some fun. Of course, I am talking about Halloween, and our First UMC Childcare Center is planning a “Trunk or Treat” for the kiddos in the community. I encourage everyone at First Church to participate in some way, whether it is decorating your trunk and handing out candy or donating yummy chocolates (my favorite) to the cause. There will be an opportunity for all to take part in the festivities.

Now, between World Communion Sunday on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, and Halloween on the last day, we have a few other opportunities to connect with each other. Besides children and adult Sunday School, Worship, and Potluck (always on the second Sunday), we have our Welcome Wednesday activities and dinner. Come check out Chair Yoga with Anne at 4 pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm, or your choice of Board and Card games with Matt, or Bible Study with pastor Larry.

## 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

## SAVE THE DATES!

**World Communion Sunday is October 1.** Please bring bread from around the world to place on the altar. Anyone up for making soup?  
**All Saints Day is October 29** Please give names of those who have passed in the last year to Jean.  
**Thanksgiving meal for our potluck November 12** - We'd like to have a Please be thinking about making a turkey? Mashed potatoes? Stuffing? Pie?

**Brown Bag Sunday** will be on Sunday, November 12.  
**First Sunday of Advent** December 3  
**Blue Christmas Service** on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 pm - offering going to our ministry at the door.  
**Christmas Eve Service** - Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 pm - offering going to our ministry at the door

### September Meetings

**Worship**  
 Tuesday, October 3  
 7:00 pm

**Trustees**  
 Wednesday, 10:00 am  
 October 4

**Service Team**  
 Thursday, 10:30 am  
 October 12

## Happy Anniversary

10/08 James and Debra Gardner  
 10/21 Mark and Mary Soule

Beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>, Choir practices will be on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:00 am in the sanctuary. All other Worship Music practices will begin at 10:00 am, especially if you would like to practice special music with us or practice playing an instrument with the hymns. ALL ages are WELCOME to participate in the music ministry at First.

## Service Team Updates From Judy Brown

We are busy planning the holidays coming up at the end of the year. Darlene Williams representing Santa's Helper will start October 2 and the hours of operation will be Monday - Thursday 10am to 4 pm until December 7<sup>th</sup>. They will be doing their client intake upstairs in the old classrooms.

### Bears

We are in need of bears for the Prayer Bear ministry. If you have any that you could donate or can make a donation to buy some, we could use it. We have about 4 or 5 that are leaving each week. We hope they help some of our people who are having a rough time.

### Brown Bag Sunday

Brown Bag Sunday will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> this year with a return date on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Continued from front page

So, connection is the theme for October. We are stronger together, and when we connect we create relationships. I know I can always be better at relating to others, especially with those who are new to me. Let's live into our stated core values together.

### Core Values of First United Methodist Church

1. Be joyfully welcoming and inviting to all
2. Be relevant to community needs in service to others through action and prayer
3. Be growing spiritually through learning, teaching, and worshiping to become more like Jesus

Blessings of peace and love,  
 Larry

### Church Council Corner

Highlights from 9.26.23

Service Team Chair Judy Brown reported that the weekly Backpack Program at Post Franklin Elementary School will resume in October. FUMC picks up the backpacks at the Food Bank and delivers them to the school on the first Thursday of every month. They provide food for students over the weekend and cost \$5 each with FUMC providing 30.

After 15 years St. Thomas Episcopal Church will no longer be providing breakfasts on Saturdays and during the week during the summer. FUMC has faithfully provided volunteers for this program. St. Thomas has received a grant to provide another outreach program.

Darlene Williams will begin enrolling people in the Santa's Helper program starting the first week of October. The program will have two rooms upstairs in the historic building.

Finance Chair Jack Brown reported that an audit is in process utilizing the services of a qualified individual from Convis Union UMC. The concern continues regarding the large deficit between weekly income and expenses for operating purposes.

Kim Tuck reported that the long-awaited repair on the Tower will begin next week by Mihm Enterprises. This will repair the tuck-pointing and correct the source of the water damage and is being funded by grants and designated gifts. Insurance will be used for the interior work.

Welcome Wednesday was launched on September 20 and will continue weekly. A start-up evaluation will be held on October 4 at approximately 7:30 pm for anyone interested in participating.



giving is available on our website through PayPal.

### Collection Report

#### 2023 Budget

Needed per week		\$4,286.00
September 3		\$1,782.00
September 10		\$2,188.00
September 17		\$1,106.00
September 24		\$2,312.00
Received Year To Date		\$134,236.00
Needed Year to Date		\$167,154.00

*prayer*  
**Requests**

- \* Shirley Carr
- \* Clay Eaton
- \* Helen Starkey
- \* Sharon Leister
- \* Tami Starks
- \* Abby Schwartz
- \* Wilson Family