

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
 Admin/Office Manager Jean Harvey-Clark
 Treasurer Naghielly Walker
 Music Director Anita Blueford
 Custodian Jerome Lyons
 Keyboards Naghielly Walker
 Child Care Director Starr Older
 Sunday Child Care Alexa Robinson
 Video Technician Micheal Blueford
 Sound Board David Howard

Facility Hours: Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Office is Closed for Lunch between
12:30 - 1:30 pm
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.
 Sunday School for all ages at
 10:00 am..



The Tower News



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

Volume 14 Issue 12 • February 2025

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

Pastor Larry's Ponderings

February 2025



With February comes a bright spot in otherwise dreary mid-winter days. I've never really thought much of Valentine's Day, but I do remember getting a small, heart-shaped box of chocolates every year as a child. I know some people go all-out with fancy dinners and gifts for your significant other, but now that our own kids are all grown up and out of the house, it's just another day for Sharon and I. Interestingly, "St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of [betrothed] couples, beekeepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14." (from Catholic.org) So, Happy Valentine's Day!

Scripturally, February brings us Jesus' Galilean ministry, including much of his Sermon on the Mount. I think it is particularly fitting, considering the times we are living in, that Jesus is instructing us to "Love you enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27-28 CEB) Many folks in our country are anxious right now, and these teachings of Jesus are possible some of the hardest for us to do. Never fear, we will work through these particular verses together. I know, with God's help, we can remain strong in our convictions and together we will prevail for good.

Continued on page 3

Happy Birthday to You!

- 02/01 Karen Mackey 02/19 Ed Henegar
- 02/02 Kathy Thornton 02/21 Nerva Tripp
- 02/04 Kathy Rizor 02/25 Julie Davis Ryan
- 02/07 Helen Larder 02/27 Ivan St. John
- 02/07 Melissa Castelan 02/27 Yvonne Orbeck

The Martha Circle is meeting on Tuesday, February 12th. They will be packaging hygiene products for the Charitable Union.

Would you have any interest in joining a "card-sending" group at church? We would send greeting cards for all occasions to our members and friends. I know that some of you already do this, Let me know if you'd like to join group of like minded people ☺.
Call Carol Barr - 269.962.8756

Prayer List

- * Dawn Laupp
- * Hazel Ross
- * Jeff Ross
- * Ginny Sootsman
- * Mary Jane Soule

Please let me know if you need to add or remove someone from the prayer list! **Names will be removed after one month if not renewed for listing.**
Jean

February Meetings

Worship

Tuesday, February 4
7:00 pm

Building and Grounds

Wednesday, 10:00 am
February 5

Service Team

Thursday, February 13,
1:00 pm

Leadership Team

Monday, February 24
6:00 pm

Drawings by Kurt Thornton Shown at First United Methodist Church

Kurt Thornton, our local church and Battle Creek historian, and church member is displaying a collection of his drawings in our parlor. He is well known for his illustrations of Battle Creek's historic buildings that are often featured in a yearly calendar that he has provided the community for 43 years. His artwork and historical knowledge has been recognized by numerous local and state organizations

Kurt says he loves to share his drawings in hopes that they will highlight some of the unnoticed aspects, beauty, and history of local architecture. With this exhibit, he also wanted to show some of his work in portraiture and include drawings of science fiction, local friends, and Santa Clause portraits that he has used on Christmas cards for the past 10 years.

2024 **Giving Statements** are available on the Service Team table. Please pick up your copy. Let Jean know if you need yours mailed.
jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org.

Today, as I write this article, the sun is shining, and the temperature is almost 50 degrees. I try to never take days like this for granted, knowing how Michigan winters can be. So, enjoy the sunshine when we get it, for it is never guaranteed. When the days do get dark and dreary, and they will, lean on each other. Try to brighten someone's day with a phone call or a nice note in the mail, maybe a Valentine's Day card or a small heart-shaped box of chocolates.

Blessings of peace and love,
Larry

The Worship Team would like to invited you to a celebration of the 65th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking at First UMC of Battle Creek. The program will be on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00pm here at First UMC of Battle Creek. Please spread the word within our community. If you know of someone who should be invited to attend and/or speak, please reach out to one of these Worship Team members; Anita Blueford, Larry French, Meghan Glefke, Jim Haadsma, Anne Stagner, Kurt Thornton. We look forward to seeing you there!

Service Team Updates From Judy Brown

February is Blanket month for UMCOR/CWS we will be taking donations for the month of February for blankets each blanket will cost \$10.00. A blanket is for the needy around the world. It will warm the hearts of many. We will be hanging hearts each week so you know how many blankets we have supported each week.



Coming up is our Wesley woods camp ground clean up in May

Bell ringing Haven roof sit in June



e giving is available on our website through PayPal.

Collection Report

2025 Budget

Needed per week	2025 Budget
January 5	\$5,759.00
January 12	\$1,712.00
January 19	\$5,928.43
January 26	\$2,257.00
January 26	\$1,280.00
Received Year To Date	\$9,465.43
Needed Year to Date	\$23,034.85