

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 15 Issue 2 • April 2025

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



It's finally here! It seems like Winter just wouldn't loosen its grip on us this year. But now is the time when Spring flowers start to poke their way out of the softened ground. I think Spring might be my favorite season. I dislike the dark Winter months, so Spring is always a welcome break.

This year the beginning of April marks the halfway point in Lent. Easter is April 20th, and we are offering two services, one Sunrise Service at 7:00 am, and one at our regular time of 11:00 am. The other Holy Week offering you should be aware of is at noon on Good Friday. This service is being held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and you are all most welcome to come join us.

Lent should be a time of reflection. I hope you can find time this season to ponder what it means to be a Christian in today's society. How are we set apart from the world, living in it, but not of it? We live busy lives, no doubt, but we must set aside time to bask in God's grace and acknowledge God's blessings in our lives. If we do not, then we risk being swallowed up by our busyness. Instead, make the time to let God's peace into your life. What that looks like is up to you... it could be prayer over your first cup of coffee in the morning, or perhaps a nice little walk outside. At a minimum, set aside a few minutes each day to spend in conversation with God.

Blessings of much love and peace,
 Larry

We will need His gift of healing. We will need to remain steadfast in our faith. The 40 days of Lent are our time to focus anew on patient endurance as we put aside our temptations and as we walk in the desert with Jesus to achieve the goal of one day climbing God's Mountain to be with Him for all time.
 Deacon Ed Bayliss

Happy Birthday to You!

04/04 Mark Soule	04/24 Marylene Tuck
04/11 Memphis Dixon	04/25 Chelsea Stouder
04/15 Debra Gardner	04/26 Ann Pulsipher
04/23 Pat Bennett	04/28 Beth Chadwick
	04/28 Larry French

Happy Anniversary

04/15 John and Linda Briggs

Service Team Updates From Judy Brown

- Wesley Woods camp ground cleanup is coming up soon. It will be on April 26th from 9 am till about 2 pm. We could use a lot of help for this project. Signup sheet is on the service team table.
- The UMCOR/CWS DONATIONS COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY we set a record for our church of 78 blankets this year. Thanks to everyone who donated.
- We still don't have a date for the Haven Roof Sit yet.
- Pride week for LGBTQIA+ is Saturday July 19th at the Arboretum. More information will be coming on this soon.
- We would like to get some more people to join our service team if anyone would like to join us please call Judy Brown 963.3030.

The Church Building, Office, and Food Pantry will be closed on Friday, April 18 in observance of Good Friday.

Order forms for Easter Plants are available on the Ushers table and the table in the atrium. The cost is \$12 each. Orders need to be returned with payment by noon on April 11th.

Prayer List

- * Linda Briggs
- * Dorothy Carlisle
- * Dawn Laupp
- * Daryl Myer
- * Betty Peters
- * Ann Pulsipher
- * Hazel Ross
- * Jeff Ross
- * Ginnie Sootsman
- * Mary Jane Soule
- * Kim & Marylene Tuck

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**

April Meetings

Building and Grounds
Wednesday, 10:00 am
April 2

Worship
Tuesday, April 8
7:00 pm

Service Team
Thursday, April 10
1:00 pm

Leadership Team
Monday, April 28
6:00 pm

Stewardship Sunday April 27

A special opportunity will be ours on Sunday, April 27 with the sermon and workshop by Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker Lewis, Sr. Director of Church Relationships with the United Methodist Foundation.

Sherry is a highly respected pastor, an astute financial leader, and a strong teacher and communicator. She has led congregations, both small and large, in rural areas, small towns and cities across Michigan. You, your family members and friends are invited to attend the Sunday Service where her topic will be "What Will Be Our Faith Legacy?" At noon there will be a catered lunch and presentation on planned charitable giving. Whether you are considering charitable gifts now or as a bequest, learn multiple ways you can leave an impactful legacy. Sherry will share charitable giving strategies that you can discuss with family and your financial advisor.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the atrium so please indicate your attendance so adequate food can be provided.

If you have question please contact a member of the Stewardship Team: Deb Root chair, Carolyn Harvey, Anne Stagner and Pastor Larry French.

The Childcare Center would greatly appreciate old towels to use on the slides this spring. Please bring them to Starr or leave them in the workroom.

Pot Luck Sunday
April 13 - Palm Sunday
bring your favorite traditional Easter dish.



Online giving is available on our website through PayPal.

Collection Report

2025 Budget	
Needed per week	\$5,759.00
March 2	\$2,594.00
March 9	\$2,091.00
March 16	\$2,494.00
March 23	\$1,726.00
March 30	\$2,005.00
Received Year To Date	\$55,552.40
Needed Year to Date	\$74,867.00