

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](mailto:pastorlarryfrench@gmail.com)**

The *TOWER News* is published monthly.  
Copy deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. **Please**  
**electronically submit your information to:**

Editor & Publisher: Jean Harvey-Clark  
[jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org](mailto:jharveyclark@firstumcbc.org)



**Sunday  
Worship  
Schedule**

Worship in the  
sanctuary is at 11:00 am.  
Sunday School for adults at  
10:00 am..  
Youth Sunday School will  
resume on September 7.



# The Tower News



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

Volume 15 Issue 7 • September 2025

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

**Pastor Larry’s Ponderings**

**September 2025**



The end of Summer means back to school for teachers and students. Since my daughter has become a teacher, I’ve had a peek behind the curtain at what goes into running a classroom. From pre-school prep to daily planning and work at home, teachers do far more than any of us typically see, and I want to acknowledge how dedicated and hardworking our teachers are. Thank you to teachers for their efforts and dedication to students' development. Many of us have personally benefited from a teacher who genuinely cared about us. On September 14 we will celebrate Education Sunday, where we will bless the backpacks and laptops, or whatever you want to bring that day to be blessed for the school year ahead of us. This will be a time to reflect on what an impact school has on us, and how sometimes we need to lean on God to help us through the tough times and challenges ahead.

For all of Autumn we continue in the gospel according to Luke, in which we have Jesus teaching and preaching to the masses. We are along for the ride, learning about the gospel call, and experiencing the love that Jesus offers. You are encouraged to bring a childhood favorite dish to our Second Sunday Pot Luck. It is sure to be a good time, so plan on joining us.

Lastly, September marks 2 years since restarting Welcome Wednesday. Each Wednesday evening we host activities such as Chair Yoga at 4:30 pm in the Parlor, a hot, home-style meal at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, and

## Happy Birthday to You!

09/07 Kim Tuck                      09/21 Gideon Rackley  
09/17 Ayden Rackley            09/26 John Rasmussen

## Service Team Updates From Judy Brown

Santa's Helper will start on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and run through Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Building, Office and Food Pantry are closed on Monday, September 1 in observation of Labor Day.

### Prayer List

- \* Craig Bishop
- \* Leonard Brooks
- \* Judy Brown
- \* Dorothy Carlisle
- \* Allen Chadwick
- \* Richard Clearwater
- \* Sandy & Jerry Harper
- \* Karol Henegar
- \* Dawn Laupp
- \* Ann Pulsipher
- \* Hazel Ross
- \* Jeff Ross
- \* Brenden Tuck
- \* Kim & Marylene Tuck
- \* The Wilson Family

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

### September Meetings

#### Worship

Tuesday, September 2  
7:00 pm

#### Building and Grounds

Wednesday,  
September 3. 10:00 am

#### Service Team

Thursday, September  
11 - 1:00 pm

#### Stewardship

Monday, September 22  
5:00 pm

#### Leadership Team

Monday, September 22  
6:00 pm

## Happy Anniversary

09/17 Ed and Karol Henegar

Please join us on Sunday, September 14 as we celebrate **Education Sunday**. We will be introducing our programs, volunteers, and teachers. Bring your backpack or book bag as we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks. We are also asking for donations for our child care center at FUMC. A wish list is on the ushers table.

Our potluck will feature the theme of your favorite childhood dish. Bring on the Mac and Cheese and see you on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Please join us in a **book study** for the month of **October**. We will be using the book *Enough - Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*, by Adam Hamilton. Pastor Larry will be focusing on themes from the book for his sermon series in October. The books will be available for \$10.00 each. November 9 is our Celebration of Grateful Hearts Sunday, and we will be turning in our pledge cards and enjoying a potluck. Walk with us as we discover how to balance our needs with a purpose filled life!

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then board and card games in the Parlor at 6:00 pm. There is also a Bible Study offered by "God's Mobile Army" in the Community Room after the meal. Welcome Wednesday has been a rich and engaging ministry of First UMC, and I have happy to report that it is thriving. We have reached hundreds of people in the name of Jesus Christ, and the response has been humbling. People have been very gracious and thankful for the offerings we have each week, making this ministry a true joy.

Blessings of Peace and Love,  
Larry

The **Adult Sunday School Class** at First United Methodist Church invites all interested individuals to "Planning Ahead" a 3-week session on Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care on September 14, 21, & 28 from 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Community Room. Presenters will be Tami Starks Hidley, Care Manager at Oaklawn Hospital, and a Licensed Medical Social Worker.

You will learn how to make the necessary, thoughtful arrangements to avoid a crisis in navigating the health-care system when a critical medical situation occurs.

Feel free to invite family and friends and let Carolyn Harvey (charvey114@sbcglobal.net) know of your plans to attend to ensure adequate seating. There is also a sign up sheet on the table in the Atrium.



e giving is available  
on our website  
through PayPal.

### Collection Report

#### 2025 Budget

Needed per week	\$5,759.00
August 3	\$2,186.00
August 10	\$2,348.00
August 17	\$2,607.98
August 24	\$2,687.00
August 31	
January-July PayPal	\$7,141.66
Received Year To Date	\$108,861.02
Needed Year to Date	\$195,806.00