

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 youth and  
adults 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 9 • November 2025

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

## Pastor Larry's Ponderings

**November 2025**



We kick this month off with our annual Church Conference, which is being held Sunday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm at Gull Lake UMC this year. That morning's worship service will be All Saints Day, when we will pause to remember not only those that have passed over the last year, but family and friends whose loss we may still be grieving from years past. This day is always a special one, somber as it may be, we still can find healing in the reality that we are not alone. We all have lost someone, and we can find comfort together as a church family.

Church conference time is an opportunity to look back over the last year's accomplishments. For instance, we celebrated 2 years of Welcome Wednesdays where we have served thousands of meals to our community, enjoyed chair yoga at 4:30 every week, and played Euchre and board games up in the parlor after dinner. We also value our partnership with God's Mobile Army who holds Bible Study after dinner each week in our Community Room. All are welcome to participate in any or all of these activities. Volunteer opportunities are always available. If interested, contact me at 616.551.9280 or [pastorlarryfrench@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlarryfrench@gmail.com).

We also celebrated 3 years of childcare here at First UMC. Both the Ocean Room (infants and toddlers) and the Noah's Ark Room (GSRP Pre-school) have kids each and every day. The church is full of the sounds of kids playing and being loved on by a wonderful staff of teachers.

Besides all this, our Service Team, Worship Team, Buildings and Grounds Team, Stewardship Team, Christian Education Team, Martha's Circle, and Joanne's Crafters and Quilters, and our Leadership Board meets regularly and do the work of being a church. We also have an enormous amount of volunteers that work tirelessly in ministry here at First. From Liturgists, Ushers and Greeters to Video and Sound each Sunday, and so much more, we have a giving congregation with their time and talent making

## Happy Birthday to You!

11/02 Anne Stagner      11/18 Elijah Glefke  
11/07 Von Bird        11/19 Marjorie Robertson  
11/13 Naghielly Walker   11/25 Larry Rizor

The Breakfast Club is meeting on Thursday mornings at 9 o'clock at Coney Island, 962 Capital Ave NE, Battle Creek, MI 49017. All are welcome to join us.



Blue Christmas      Christmas Eve  
December 17-6:30 pm    December 24-6:30 pm

### Prayer List

\* Craig Bishop  
\* Dorothy Carlisle  
\* Richard Clearwater  
\* Sandy & Jerry Harper  
\* Donna Hoedeman  
\* Helen Larder  
\* Dawn Laupp  
\* Hazel Ross  
\* Jeff Ross  
\* Brenden 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

### November Meetings

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

**Building and Grounds**  
Wednesday,  
November 5-10:00 am

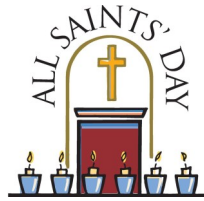
**Service Team**  
Thursday, 1:00 pm  
November 13

**Stewardship**  
Monday, November 24  
5:00 pm

**Leadership Team**  
Monday, November 24  
6:00 pm

All Saints' Sunday November 2.  
We will remember the lives of:

Jean Andrus  
Doug Diamond  
Eunice Kline  
Daryl Myer  
Nancy Sims  
Ginnie Sootsman



Turn your clock back an hour Saturday night November 1 before going to bed!

### Service Team Updates

**BROWN BAG SUNDY**  
Brown Bag Sunday is November 16<sup>th</sup>. Please return your filled bag for the food pantry and our Christmas baskets on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING**  
Salvation Army bell ringing will be Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Walmart\* the same place as last year. We will have a sign-up sheet on the service teams table soon. We're doing it early hoping for good weather.

Continued from front page

First UMC a place of worship and ministry! We also have an amazing paid staff here at First UMC, both in administration and music. We have ministered to the city of Battle Creek in meaningful ways this past year and I greatly appreciate all the paid and unpaid staff who have made 2025 a great success!

I am also happy to report that we had eleven people attend our membership class. We will have an induction ceremony on November 16, which is sure to be a special occasion for the whole church family. I look forward to all the new and exciting ministry opportunities God will bring our way in 2026!

Blessings of peace and love,  
Larry

### Service Team Updates From Judy Brown

#### THANKSGIVING DINNERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS FAMILYS

We have 5 families for Christmas this year. We are hoping to get some donations for a Thanksgiving dinner for them. We usually get dinners at Family fare. The cost is about \$60.00 dollars for a family of four. We would like to get some donations to help with the cost so our Christmas families would have a good Thanksgiving. Please mark your check or envelope for that. All donations would sure be appreciated.

#### THE GIVING TREE IS RETURNING

The tree will be up soon in the parlor. We have 5 families we are sponsoring for Christmas this year. Each person will have an ornament and each ornament will have the age and sizes and the suggested gift. The gift should be new and cost approximately \$15 - \$20 dollars. When returning the gifts place them under the tree \_unwrapped with the ornament attached so we get it to the right family. Should you opt to get a gift card please give it directly to Judy Brown or another service team member.



e giving is available on our website through PayPal.

### Collection Report

#### 2025 Budget

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Needed per week       | \$5,759.00    |
| October 5             | \$2,096.00    |
| October 12            | \$1,728.00    |
| October 19            | \$1,406.00    |
| October 26            | \$2,361.00    |
| January-July PayPal   | \$7,141.66    |
| Received Year To Date | \$143,294..56 |
| Needed Year to Date   | \$267,673.00  |