

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 16 Issue 1 • March 2026

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

**Pastor Larry's Ponderings**

**March 2026**



**Lent**

Lent is a season of change. During the month of March and Lent, we should get more Spring-like weather. Flowers will start to break through the thawed-out ground, and trees will start to bud. In church we will be reading our study book together, *Knowing Who We Are – The Wesleyan Way of Grace*, by Lacey C. Warner. We have some thought-provoking Gospel texts to study as well. First, we learn about re-birth with Nicodemus, then we travel to the Samaritan well and meet a woman there who's had five husbands. Next, we witness to the healing on the Sabbath of the man born blind. Then finally, before Palm Sunday, we have the resurrection of Jesus' friend Lazarus. Suffice it to say it is a busy month liturgically and pairing them with our book study will be interesting. Lent is a time for self-examination; a time to hit the reset button on your spiritual investment. How do you connect with God? How and when do you make time for prayer? What good works do you do, resulting in what fruit? At the start of our book study, we discussed the means of grace. We learned that Prevenient Grace is the grace that is with us from birth. It is the grace that comes before we are aware of God's involvement in our lives. In the study book, Warner writes: "Justification is what God does for us in Christ. Justification results in a new relationship between God and the believer." Finally, we discussed Sanctifying Grace, which as John Wesley described it, [we are] "perfected in love."

## Happy Birthday to You!

03/04 Diane Buckley      03/25 Matt Rackley  
 03/06 Jack Brown        03/30 Katelin Castelan  
 03/08 Madeline Stagner  
 03/21 Vicki Kissinger

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.



### Prayer List

- \* Dorothy Carlisle
- \* Lorraine Kendall
- \* Helen Larder
- \* Dawn Laupp
- \* Mike Roe
- \* Hazel Ross
- \* Jeff Ross
- \* Mary Soule
- \* Kathy Thornton
- \* 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

### March Meetings

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

**Building and Grounds**  
 Wednesday,  
 March 4-10:00 am

**Stewardship Team**  
 Monday, March 23  
 5:00 pm

**Leadership Team**  
 Monday, March 23  
 6:00 pm

## Happy Anniversary

03/20 George and Marjorie Robertson

The Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am for Chair Yoga. Please RSVP to Carol (269.962.8756) if you plan to attend.

71 Blankets were purchased during Church World Service Blanket Month.

Thank you for your support!



Annual "Justice for All" Celebration" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's visit to First Church in Battle Creek in 1960.

Friday,  
 March 20,  
 2026 at  
 7:00 pm



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During the month of March we will discuss small groups, connectionism, missions, scripture, and in Chapter 6 we put it all together and discuss "Growing in Grace", how we as a church can continue to advocate for social justice and respond to the needs of our community. I look forward to us learning and growing together as a congregation.

Blessings of peace and love,  
 Larry

### Welcome Wednesday

4:15 pm Chair Yoga  
 5:00 pm Dinner

Game Night and Bible Study after dinner

Information about ordering Easter plants will be available soon.

### Lent 2026

Palm Sunday - March 29  
 Maundy Thursday - April 2  
 Good Friday - April 3  
 12:00 pm - Maple Methodist Church  
 Easter - April 5  
 7:00 am Sunrise Service  
 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt  
 11:00 am Traditional Service

### 2026 Budget

Needed per week	\$5,352.00
February 1	\$2,366.00
February 4	\$27,873.76
Mary Holmes Annual Distribution	
February 8	\$2,320.00
February 15	\$2,682.00
February 22	\$1,687.00
Received Year To Date	\$47,284.73
Needed Year to Date	\$42,816.00



Online giving is available on our website through PayPal.

### Collection Report