

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 Nick Alberty
 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
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 adults at
 10:00 am.
 Youth Sunday School will
 resume in the fall.



The Tower News



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

Volume 16 Issue 5 • July 2026

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

Pastor Larry's Ponderings

July 2026



While we celebrate our country's 250th birthday, we are sometimes reminded of the challenges we face as a nation. Our scriptures this month remind us to trust in God to guide us through challenging times. The very first week Jesus says to us "Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." (Mat. 11:28)

The second week of the month brings us teachings from Jesus in the form of a parable about planting seeds. He then explains the parable to us, guiding us

with wisdom and grace. The next week brings us another parable, again about planting seeds. Once again Jesus explains the parable to us. The last week has for us three parables, one about planting seeds, this time it's a mustard seed, one comparing the kingdom of heaven to yeast, and lastly comparing heaven to a net that people threw into a lake to catch fish. Jesus spends considerable time teaching us the meaning of these parables, and we should pay close attention. Jesus dedicates the entire month of July to teaching us how to become good citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

As summer goes into full swing, I want to remind you all about the dangers of the heat. As I write this, temperatures are in the 90's and the heat index is over 100 deg. Please stay hydrated as much as possible and plan in advance ways to get out of the heat, especially in the middle of the day.

Stay safe my friends!
 Blessings of peace and love,
 Larry

Happy Birthday to You!

07/24 Judy Brown 07/30 Justin Clark
07/25 Gail Nawatny 07/30 Donna Lang
07/29 Ken Wade Jr.

Sadly, we lost Nerva Tripp on Friday, June 27. Her service will be on Friday, July 3 at 11:00 am at Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral home.

Choir practice is from 9:30 to 10:00 am and special music from 10:15-10:45 am.

The Building and Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of July 4th.

Prayer List

- * Chuck Beebe
- * Dorothy Carlisle
- * William Chadwick
- * Mike Howard
- * Helen Larder
- * Dawn Laupp
- * Paul Reid
- * Hazel Ross
- * Jeff Ross
- * Breann Saleh
- * Mary Soule
- * 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

Larry will be at camp Sunday July 12th. James Hidley will be delivering the message that day.

July Meetings

Worship
Tuesday, July 14
7:00 pm

Leadership Team
Monday, July 27
6:00 pm

Happy Anniversary

07/07 Micheal & Anita Blueford
07/31 Kim & Marylene Tuck

Sadly, Donna Hoedeman crossed over late last night - early this morning July 1. Service information will be shared when it's available.

The Breakfast Club is meeting on Thursday mornings at 9 o'clock at the newly remodeled and reopened **Big Boy** on West Columbia Avenue in front of Meijer. All are welcome to join us.



Pot Luck Sundays

July 12 – America's Birthday, bring traditional American food

August 9 - Church Picnic

We will be recognizing the 250th birthday of America on July 5, 2026. We will be praying for our city, state, and federal leaders, listening to a Children's story dedicated to our country, and completing an Act of Mercy. We would like to bring in 250 (or more!) nonperishable items for our food pantry. Please feel free to bring in items on July 5th and place them around the altar. God is good!



Hello! My name is Nick Alberty and I'm happy to serve as First UMC's new Treasurer! I grew up here in Battle Creek, attending Pennfield and KCC before earning my Bachelor's in Accounting at WMU. I have 5 years of experience with Robert Half doing short-term contract accounting work for various companies in SW MI in cases of retirements, parental leaves, etc. across several industries and company types and sizes.

Like Starr and Brittney, I am deeply involved in the local hot air balloon teams and am working towards my pilot's license. I have enjoyed this as a hobby for the last 10+ years and hope to make it a career in the next few. I also enjoy camping, working on my cars, and (when I can) relaxing when the day's work is done, but most of the time my hair is too much on fire to get to that last one.

Thank you for your patience while I learn the role, I look forward to serving as FUMC's new Treasurer going forward!



First United Methodist Church Battle Creek



Collection Report

2026 Budget

Needed per week	\$5,352.00
June 7	\$2,505.00
June 14	\$2,131.00
June 21	\$2,017.00
June 28	\$3,157.00
Received Year To Date	\$90,676.73
Needed Year to Date	\$139,152.00