

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 on September 13..



The Tower News



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

Volume 16 Issue 7 • September 2026

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

Pastor Larry's Ponderings

September 2026



As Summer winds down, September brings Labor Day and the return to school for all the kiddos. I pray they have a great start to the school year, and that all year long all the kids are safe and open to learning as much as they can. I pray for the teachers and administrators, that they have the resources they need to teach as efficiently as possible. Our teachers have such a challenging job, and we should support them as much as possible. We have several teachers in our congregation, and I invite you to reach out to them and tell them how important they are to our community.

September's worship brings parables from Jesus that challenge our way of thinking about forgiveness, justice and equity in the Kingdom of Heaven. We are given a model to follow in the here and now, a model that Jesus proposes is how God would have us treat our fellow man. I look forward to diving in to each of these parables with you, and together we will learn how to live into Jesus' vision of community.

Lastly, I want to highlight our First Fine Arts Fair happening on Saturday, September 12th from 10am to 3pm. Local artists will be set up in the church and will be showcasing oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings, photography, and jewelry. Join us as we celebrate the arts and local artists.

Blessings of peace and love,
Larry

Happy Birthday to You!

09/07 Kim Tuck
09/14 Eric Root
09/17 Ayden Rackley

09/21 Gideon Rackley
09/23 Jessica Metzger
09/26 John Rasmussen

Pot Luck Sundays

September - Favorite dish of grandparents

October - ABC's make something that starts with A, B, C,.

Prayer List

- * Chuck Beebe
- * Dorothy Carlisle
- * William Chadwick
- * Mike Howard
- * Helen Larder
- * Dawn Laupp
- * Hazel Ross
- * Jeff Ross
- * Mary Soule
- * Mike Trudeau
- * Brandon Weber
- * 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

The last Sunday for **Special Music** practice is September 6th.

Choir practice will be starting on Sunday, September 13 and 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

Handbells will begin practicing on Sunday, September 13 from 10 to 10:40 am.

September Meetings

Worship
Tuesday, September 1
7:00 pm

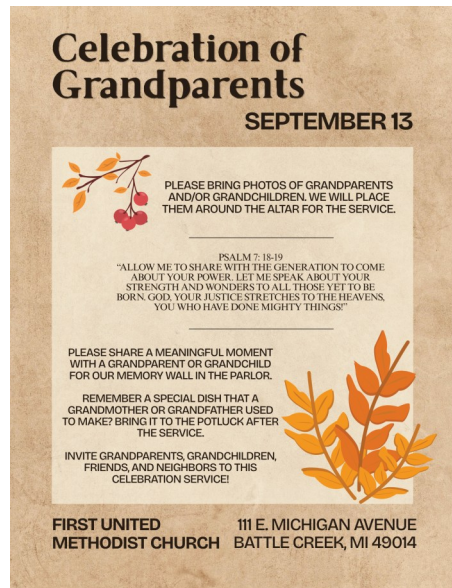
Building & Grounds
Postponed

Leadership Team
Monday, Sept. 28
6:00 pm

Happy Anniversary

09/17 Ed and Karol Henegar

Youth Sunday School will be resuming on Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 am. Be on the lookout for upcoming events.



Save the Dates

Grandparents Day -
Sunday September 13
World Communion Sunday
October 4
Education Sunday
October 11
Laity Sunday - October 18

Fine Art Event

Battle Creek's First United Methodist Church has a history of supporting art in the community. It has been the location of a continuous art exhibit in its parlor for over fifty years. The exhibits have featured varied local artists from throughout southwest Michigan.

The church also has many artists as church members, so to honor that tradition and to support individuals in the local art community, an FUMC Fine Art Event will be held on Saturday, September 12, from 10 am until 3 pm, at the church in downtown Battle Creek, 111 East Michigan Avenue next to City Hall. Selected local artists will participate selling ceramics and stoneware, oil and acrylic paintings, watercolor paintings, photography, and jewelry. Guests will be able to look for unique gifts or items to give a fresh look to their own living space. There will be possibilities for obtaining commissioned artwork by some of the artists as well.

Church member Carolyn Harvey stated that, "many churches have craft sales, but our event will be artwork, created by an artist's technical talent and skills." While attending the event, guests will be able to view the three very large stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, that were installed in 1910 and recently restored. There is no admission charge for the event.

Event facilitator Anne Kisly says, "This is an opportunity for the public to learn about artistic processes that do not include AI technology, meet the artists, and buy artwork that is made locally and not mass-produced in a factory. Some of the artwork is designed for those who work in cubicles without windows to give a person something pleasant to view periodically throughout the day."



First United Methodist Church Battle Creek



Collection Report

2026 Budget

Needed per week	\$5,352.00
August 2	\$2,896.00
August 9	\$2,798.00
August 16	\$2,604.00
August 23	\$5,609.00
August 30	\$1,641.00
Received Year To Date	\$114,348.73
Needed Year to Date	\$187,320.00