

WELCOME

We welcome all visitors and are glad you have chosen to worship with us. Please come again! A loaf of bread is available at the Welcome Center for those visiting with us for the first time. The bread is a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

If you have difficulty seeing the worship bulletin or hymns, large-print versions are available. Hearing assistance devices are also available for use during worship. Shawls are available for worshipers who are chilly in the sanctuary. Quiet time activities are available for children who worship with their parents. Please ask an usher for assistance.

The 8:15 postlude is played by Mel Rookus.

Our Liturgists are Mark Swarthout at 8:15, Rev. Suzanne Walls at 9:30, and Rev. Lindsey Hall at 11:00.

The Lilies are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in memory and honor of those listed on the insert.

The Missions Candle is lit by Dick and Carole Dills and family in loving memory of Carole’s mother, Demis Dwight.

LIVE@FIRST PRESENTS:  
Michigan State University Men’s Glee Club

Michigan State University Men’s Glee Club performs for the Live@First Concert Series on Saturday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Once called the Singing Statesmen, the MSU Men’s Glee Club represents one of the oldest organizations on campus. Join director Jonathan Reed and the Men’s Glee Club for an evening of outstanding choral music. Tickets may be purchased at liveatfirst.org or in the church office. Adult tickets are \$25 and students are free.

DISCOVER FIRST

Join Rev. Gary Haller for *Discover First*, a one-session class that will provide the knowledge, resources and relationships needed for you to take your next steps at Birmingham First and Berkley First. The session will be relaxed and informative as you learn more about The United Methodist Church and our local church. Near the end of the session there will be a joining ceremony for those who decide to become members. Sunday, April 30 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Birmingham First Thomas Parlor. There is a place for you at Birmingham First and Berkley First!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the church website (fumcbirmingham.org) for all the information on the ministries and activities of Birmingham First.



BIRMINGHAM FIRST

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1589 W. Maple Road  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Traditional Worship:  
Sundays at 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
in the Sanctuary

Shine Contemporary Worship:  
Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
in the Christian Life Center

Church Office .....248-646-1200  
Office Hours .....Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00  
Voice Mail System .....248-646-6407  
Church Fax.....248-646-2661  
E-mail Address .....office@fumcbirmingham.org  
Website .....fumcbirmingham.org

PASTORS

Gary Haller, Senior Pastor  
Zack Dunlap, Lindsey Hall, Dan Hart and Suzanne Walls, Associate Pastors  
John E. Harnish, William A. Ritter and Robert P. Ward, Pastors Emeritus

SENIOR STAFF

Mary Feldmaier ..... Director of Membership and  
Congregational Care  
Doris Hall ..... Organist  
Tony Kotwicki ..... Director of Facilities  
Holly Pisano ..... Director of Finance  
Casey Proch ..... Director of Music  
Janet Smylie ..... Director of Administrative Services  
Lisa Wells ..... Director of Program  
Kelly Willian ..... Director of Children, Family, High School  
and College Ministries

Our Purpose:  
To gather, nurture and equip disciples of Christ  
for ministry and mission in the world.

Our Core Values:  
Welcome All  
Put Love Into Action  
Honor God Through Excellence  
Embrace Bold Vision  
Encourage Lifelong Spiritual Growth  
Support One Another



A Service for Easter
April 16, 2017

Please silence all cell phones.

“What shall it be? What shall we choose: to live half alive and preserve the illusions of a Good Friday world, or live fully alive the Easter truth that Christ is risen, love never dies, not with God, not even with us, and because Christ is risen we too are risen?”
—Rev. William Sloane Coffin

THE GATHERING

\*THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION NO. 302 (verses 1-4)
“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is Easter Sunday morning,
People: The greatest day in the entire history of our world!
Leader: For it was on this day two thousand years ago
People: That Jesus Christ was raised from the dead!
Leader: And his disciples, who were down and discouraged and defeated and depressed,
People: All of a sudden realized that he was among them and that he was with them and that he was even to be found deep inside their hearts and souls!
Leader: And they became bold and courageous and excited, and they began talking about him everywhere they went!
People: “He’s alive! He’s alive!” they exclaimed, for it’s the greatest news that they had ever heard!
Leader: And brothers and sisters, that’s why we’re here this morning— you and me and all the rest of us who are here—
People: To join with the millions and millions across the years in exclaiming from deep inside, “He’s alive! He’s alive! Christ the Lord is really alive!”
Leader: Jesus Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen, indeed!

\*THE RESPONSE NO. 302 (verse 5)
Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

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THE TIME OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE
The Ritual of Friendship folder is located at the center aisle; please sign and pass.

THE ANTHEM (9:30 & 11:00)
“Joy to the Heart” K. Lee Scott
Chancel Choir

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THE CALL TO PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP
Risen Lord, live in us, that we may live in you. We gather to thank you, that in your resurrection we are renewed and transformed. Like the butterfly, we unfold and fly free, free from the cocoon, free from all the grave clothes that have bound us—our prejudices, our fears, our angers, our self-centeredness, our loneliness. We thank you, that in your resurrection all those who have died who are dear to us now live with you. In you they have victory over suffering, peace never known on earth, and the joy of your presence always. We thank you, that in your resurrection we ourselves may hope for the end of pain, grief, tears, weakness, and for everlasting life in the beauty of your spirit. Now hear our silent prayers of confession and praise...

THE SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING
“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” I Corinthians 15:57

THE OFFERTORY “Coronation” Craig Courtney

\*THE DOXOLOGY NO. 303 (verse 1)
The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Leader)

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\*THE EASTER HYMN NO. 322
“Up from the Grave He Arose”
Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Refrain: Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! (Refrain)

THE GOSPEL Luke 24:1-12 (Pew Bible Page 966)

THE SERMON “Too Good NOT to be True!”
Rev. Gary Haller

\*THE EASTER HYMN NO. 308
“Thine Be the Glory”
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Refrain: Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. (Refrain)

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS (9:30 & 11:00) G.F. Handel
All are invited to join the choir. If you would like to participate, please come to the chancel steps during the singing of “Thine Be the Glory.” Music will be distributed.

THE POSTLUDE
Please remain quietly in your pew during the recession of the clergy.
(9:30 & 11:00) “Toccata” from Symphony V Charles Widor

\*Congregation Standing as you are able \*\*\*Seating of Worshipers