

October 2025

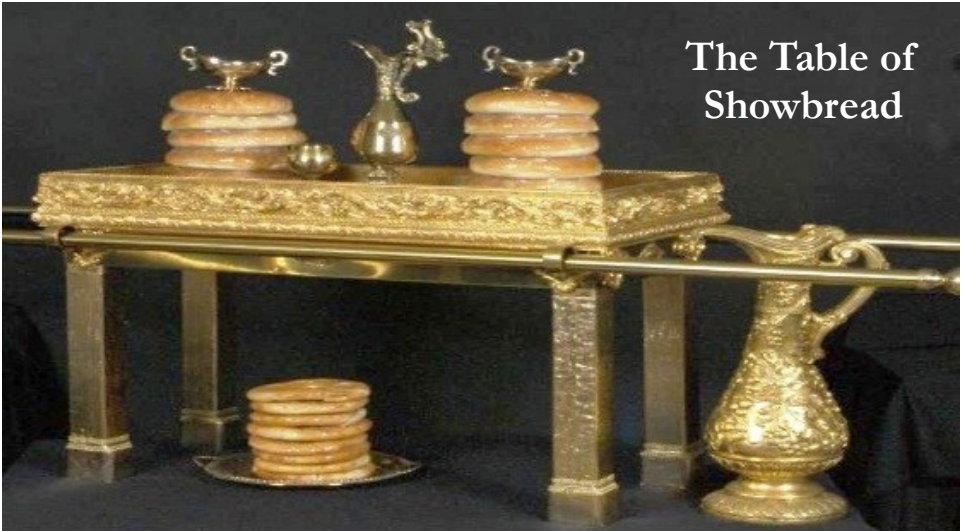


the Visitor

a publication of Flushing United Methodist Church

Our Vision Statement

Preparing servants who make a difference in their community and the world by knowing Christ, following Christ and sharing Christ.



**The Table of
Showbread**

***Put the bread of the Presence on this table
to be before me at all times. –Exodus 25:30***

Sunday Worship

8:45 am Traditional Service & 11:15 am Contemporary Worship

Join us either online or in-person

Facebook.com/FlushingUMC or Youtube.com/user/flushingumc

Church Staff

Lead Pastor **Rev. Ruth VanderSande**
Christian Ed. Director **Melissa Whalen**
Accompanist **Jinah Chun**

Office Manager **Rose Dessinger**
Custodian **Marlene Cooper**
Play Place **Lindsey Wagner,**
LillieAyn Smith



Dear Church Family,

This past month we had the chance to celebrate at the table together. In our celebration, a team of 6 spent months preparing for a banquet no one else knew we were having. During this time we were able to reflect on what it will be like when we get to celebrate with God at the Heavenly banquet. Jesus told us that we are to store up our treasures in heaven. The things of this earth will all pass away, but God will always remain. While there are wonderful things on this side of heaven, we know that it is just a taste of what will be when we get the chance to fully live into the glory God has in store for us. One of the fun things we did when we planned the banquet was leave subtle hints in last month's visitor; a keen eye may have spotted them. We were inspired by the glimpses that God gives us, through scripture and our lives of what we have in store.

As we continue to look at visioning for our church, and where God is leading us, it is important that we keep our eyes fixated on God and what our Creator has in store for us. If we allow ourselves to listen, to see just for a moment even a glimpse of what God can do then we will know God has great plans for this place! We just need to be brave and daring enough to dive in. I am asking that you each take a little time a day to pray for our church as we enter this process. Pray for the new leadership team, for our services, our children, and for all those whose hearts God is stirring to do work. Pray for the people who need our ministry who we have yet to reach. And pray that we open our eyes and ears to the Spirit's calling in this place.

Coming up we have some great opportunities for mission. We will have our pillow drive with a goal of getting 150 pillows. We also have our annual commitment to stuffing for the Thanksgiving boxes coming up, this year they are asking for 600 boxes. We also invite everyone to participate in the FCOC open house on October 12th. Additionally, we will be holding new member classes between services beginning on October 19th. So if you are interested in becoming a member, reach out to me so we can get you signed up for the class. On October 12th we will have one service at 10:00am for UWF Sunday, so make sure to mark your calendars. And we will be having our annual trunk or treat at the end of October. With so much to do and participate in, I look forward to continuing to be in ministry with you all.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande

October Sermons and Scriptures

Sermon Series: *Come To The Table*

October 5:

Sermon Title: *Consider Your Convo*

Scripture: Luke 14:1

Hymns: *I Surrender All* #354, *Spirit of the Living God* #393, *One Bread, One Body* #620

October 12:

UWF Sunday

Scripture:

Hymns: *Praise Song*, *Women's Choir*, *Let There Be Peace on Earth* #431

October 19:

Sermon Title: *Tea and Crumpets*

Scripture: Matthew 8:14-15

Hymns: *He Leadeth Me* #128, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #526, *Jesus Paid It All* #281

October 26:

Sermon Title: *Don't Eat With Them!*

Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

Hymns: *Softly and Tenderly* #348, *Praise to the Lord* #139, *Amazing Grace* #378



Rev. Ruth VanderSande

FLUSHING UNITED WOMEN



IN

Faith

Faith | Action | Sisterhood



UWF Sunday

Sunday, October 12th

One service @ 10am ~ Mission Recognition

UWF Women's Choir will be performing

Ladies: Come sing with us!

PILLOW DRIVE

**Needed for
YWCA
Safe House
Center for Domestic
Abuse Victims**

**Help us fill
150 pillowcases!**



**Bring pillows between
Sept 28-Oct 15th
(After the Rummage Sale)
Place in Mission Collection
area of Fellowship Hall.**

Trunk or Treat

October 31 ~ 6-8pm

**Join the fun and hand out
candy from your car!**

Sign up in the lobby!

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413 E. Main St., Flushing, MI 48433
.....

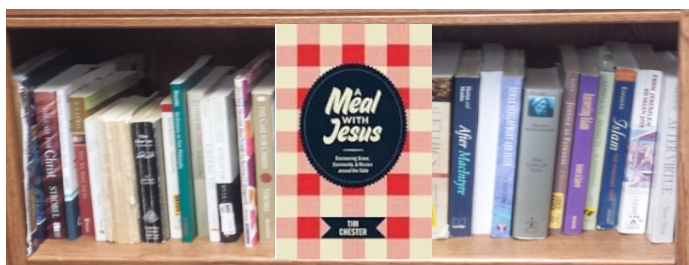
**Wanted: Please place Candy
donations in bin - in the lobby**
.....

All Saints' Sunday

On **Sunday, Nov 2** we will be celebrating the lives of those who have passed since last All Saints' Sunday. If you have a loved one that passed in since last All Saints' Day and would like to have them remembered, please e-mail or bring in their name, date of birth and death the office by October 23rd. (No photos this year)



Pastor Ruth's Bookshelf



Welcome to my bookshelf!

This month I am recommending the book:

A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table

By Dr. Tim Chester

This month I am recommending ***A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission around the Table*** by Dr. Tim Chester. This book details the everyday ways in which God uses grace in our lives, particularly around meals. The ways we use food tell us a lot about how we view others. We can see meals themselves as a means of grace, or as a tool for hospitality. This book will offer you an insight into how we can begin to reexamine that which we deem ordinary, and view it as God would. Particularly this book focuses on Jesus' different ways of approaching meals in the Gospel of Luke. It goes well with our series Come To the Table, and may offer you some additional insights to how Jesus is calling us all to His table.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande

Blessings from your SPPRC

Welcome to autumn, a most beautiful and colorful season and a time to gear up, gather up, decorate up, and LOOK UP to thank God for all the gifts He has bestowed upon us all. Those gifts are far too many to mention individually, but we give Him praises for each and everyone of you! Thank you for all that you do to work so tirelessly to help bring the Kingdom of God here on earth through your commitments to LOVE and SERVE using your gifts, talents, and resources. Please know that you are seen, you are worthy, and you are valuable to His purpose for which you were specifically and lovingly made. Praise God for you!!! Let this autumn season energize us all to continue to expand our LOVE and our SERVICE to those who don't know and need to know Christ.



- Your FUMC SPPRC



October Devotional

God's Tables & Bread

By: Rose Dessinger

Have you ever considered how God uses tables and bread throughout the bible and how He connects them together?

God uses many tables throughout the whole biblical timeline. Tables in the ancient Near East were used for dining & fellowship. They were for sharing meals, a sign of friendship and covenant. While there were no tables mentioned in the Garden of Eden, God would later use furniture—specifically a table—to interact with His creation. Similarly, bread also is used throughout scripture symbolizing provision, covenant, and Jesus Christ himself. It represents God's sustenance for both physical and spiritual needs, the bond between God and his people, and the ultimate sacrifice and gift of salvation offered through Jesus. There are several tables in the Bible:

The Table of Showbread: The very first mention of a table in the Bible comes in Exodus 25. Located in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle, this table held twelve loaves of bread, symbolizing God's continuous provision and covenant with the twelve tribes of Israel. God did not need a tabernacle in which to reside, or a table of bread to eat. He created the building and furnishings as a place for His people to meet with Him and worship Him. God could have chosen any objects for His tabernacle. Using a table communicated to His people about the kind of relationship God wanted them to have with Him. He chose a table—an object of fellowship at which people were used to sitting, eating and talking to one another.

The Passover Table (Exodus 12): While no table was specifically mentioned regarding the Passover Seder, Jewish traditions involve a ceremonial table set with specific symbolic foods and rituals, (including unleavened bread). In this case the table is again an object used in worship.

The Lord's Table:

- Matthew 26:20-29 This Passover meal recounts Jesus reclining at the table where he instituted Communion using bread and wine, the communion/unity of believers with Christ, and the New Covenant.
- Luke 22:14-23 emphasizes Jesus' earnest desire to eat the Passover before his suffering and links the meal to the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.

The Wedding Supper of the Lamb:

- Isaiah 25:6 is an Old Testament passage which speaks of a feast for all peoples, with rich food and aged wine. This is interpreted as a picture of the future celebration of God's kingdom and the messianic banquet.
- Matthew 22:1-14: a parable of the wedding feast illustrates the concept of guests being invited to a celebration, with a focus on the importance of being spiritually prepared.
- Luke 14:15: Jesus mentions that the kingdom of God is associated with "eating bread," highlighting the sustenance provided at this divine feast.
- Revelation 19:7-9 describes a future feast in the Kingdom of Heaven, celebrating the eternal fellowship of believers (Jesus's bride) with Christ, who are clothed in the righteousness of the saints, in a glorious union with Christ the Lamb.

For additional study on God's tables and bread:

Future Feasts/Banquets: Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 8:11, Luke 14:12-14 & 7:36, Psalm 23:5, Ecclesiastes 9:7

Tables for Divine Provision and Blessing: Psalm 23:5-6, Psalm 68:10 and Malachi 3:10

Table (Altar) of Incense: Exodus 30:1-10

Ezekiel's Bread- Divine Sustenance: Ezekiel 4:9

The Old Testament precursor - Manna: Exodus 16:4-35, Psalm 78:24-25, Deuteronomy 8:3



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

Wondering
if certain
items are
OK to pack?
**See our gift
suggestions
& search
tool:**



By filling ordinary shoeboxes full of toys and other fun items, you can be part of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Each box becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. So, be sure to make them ...

FUN: Include a quality "wow" item (and other new toys) to delight the child. Example: Doll, Stuffed animal, Soccer ball with pump.

FULL: Add school supplies and personal care items Example: flashlights, sunglasses, pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks.

NOTE: They will NOT be accepting toothpaste or soap this year.

PERSONALIZED: Make sure every shoebox is unique and covered in prayer. Include a note of encouragement and a photo of you, your church or family to further personalize the gift. These are often their favorite items in the box!

For gift ideas, boxes & labels: Check our table in Fellowship Hall. A donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to help cover collecting, processing, shipping, and evangelism training and materials. Give online through Follow Your Box and discover the destination of your gift.

**We will start collecting Samaritan Purse's
Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes
in Fellowship Hall between
Sun, Nov 17 - Sun, Nov 23 (by noon)
Any questions? Call Nancy Elsner (810) 659-1269**

FLUSHING COMMUNITY
CHURCHWIDE EVENT

Thanksgiving

Food Drive

Let's Share
& Care

Join us helping our
community in need!

Item needed:

600 BOXES
of Stuffing Mix
or donate \$\$

Memo line: "Stuffing"



Need By :
Nov 23

Drop-off location:
Fellowship Hall



*Let's help feed the need in Flushing by providing
our community with a Thanksgiving Dinner*

Food Drive - New option this year!

We will be collecting STUFFING again this year for the Flushing Area Thanksgiving Food Drive. We need to collect **600 boxes** this year. If you prefer to donate money, we can use that to purchase stuffing. Just write "stuffing" on the memo line of your check. **OR** you can still purchase boxes of stuffing and place them in the lobby beginning Nov 2nd.



Thank you

to volunteers, Judy, Dave, Jamie, the Whalen family, Carolyn and Dawn, for their assistance with watering, weeding, picking produce and delivering it to FCOC. At the end of the growing season, we hope to have a total of items donated and their \$\$ value.

Our congregation and friends really stepped up to support Family Promise of Mid Michigan in September.

Benefit Concert:

Thank you for your support of Family Promise. Our congregation and friends really stepped up to support Family Promise of Mid-Michigan in September. The 11th Annual Benefit Concert on September 7th at River View Park featuring the Christian Rock Band, 1Fifty, raised \$2,742 with donations before, during and after the concert. On September 13th, we had one team representing FUMC at the golf tournament held at Lapeer County Club. Thanks to Bob, Casey, Jim and Dave for participating. Several Flushing area businesses and individuals generously donated gift certificates and items for the auctions. Look for a list of donors in Fellowship Hall. When you visit their business, be sure to thank them for supporting Family Promise.



Food Challenge:

The need is greater than ever as families continue to struggle to make ends meet financially. We continue to collect food, household supplies and some personal care items. Look for the updated list available in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all who have donated one or more items since our Food Challenge began in February.

Volunteer Opportunity:

We will return to volunteering at the Day Center October 2nd at 10:00 AM and again on November 6th. No date has been decided for December, however we will help with the Christmas Adopt a Family activity. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you are interested. If you have any questions or need more info, contact Carolyn. More details will be shared when they are final.

To All Who Are Born In October



Happy Birthday!

Name	Birthday			
			Susie Johnson	19
Jerry Evans	2		Micki Yon	20
Jack Nettleton	9		Larry Launstein	23
Win Walker	9		Briar Whalen	24
Marlene Cooper	15		Bob Halbedel	29
James Rundell	16		Ken Hedges	29

Finance Snapshot thru August 2025

Budget for 2025 General Fund: \$291,936

Needed YTD: \$195,996

Total Received Through August 2025:

General \$ 151,836

Interest \$ 4,575

Rent \$ 525

Total received YTD \$ 156,936

Capital Fund YTD \$ 14,680

General Fund Expenses Through August: \$174,405

YTD through Aug 2025: \$ Received less Expenses: **-\$17,469**

2025 Apportionments:

* Ministry Shares \$25,892

* Benefits Billing \$8,539

* District Ministry Shares \$3,565

SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS

Our Church Family

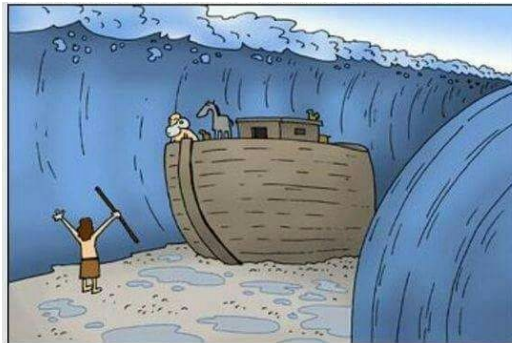
Aware of a concern or joy in our family? Please notify the church, so we can share them with you. Only first names will be published in prayer concerns.

Prayer Room



Please remember in your hearts and prayers:

- + Diane, for healing
- + Faye, stage 4 cancer
- + Mike, kidney cancer/Cathy, cardiac health issues
- + Cathy, healing from surgery
- + Dan, Michelle, and Angie, all battling a virus
- + Zander, with a staph infection
- + Pray for Jeff's brother
- + Ann, prayers for encouragement
- + Steve, recovering at home from sepsis and ketoacidosis
- + Kris, with cancer, doing chemo
- + Lisa, in rehab for broken ankle
- + Dave, having geriatric evaluation
- + Wyatt, having surgery on tumor on his back
- + Barbara, who has pneumonia



Thanks to SoloTotoCoyote

02-07-201

MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT



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FLETCHER

"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."

Worship Servants

Scripture Readers 8:45 am

Oct 5 – Dave Lewis Oct 19 – Jeff Welch
Oct 12 – Carolyn Malaski Oct 26 – Melissa Whalen

Usher/Greeters 8:45 am

Oct 5 – Bob & Linda Baker
Oct 12 – Bonnie Farrow, Larry & Sue Ridge
Oct 19 – Bill Dessinger, Marcia Henson, Ellen Hulet
Oct 26 – Dave Lewis, Bill & Sue Martin

Hospitality Team 10 am

Oct 5 – Marlene Cooper Oct 19 – Dan Venters
Oct 12 – UWF Oct 26 – Marlene Cooper

Sanctuary Computer 8:45 am

Oct 5 – Dave Lewis Oct 19 – Larry Ridge
Oct 12 – Carolyn Malaski Oct 26 – Sue Ridge

Worship Leader 11:15 am

Oct 5 – Teresa Casteel & Eric Mason Oct 12 – 1 service
Oct 19 – Autumn Cichowski Oct 26 – Cathy Riley

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