

**November 2025**

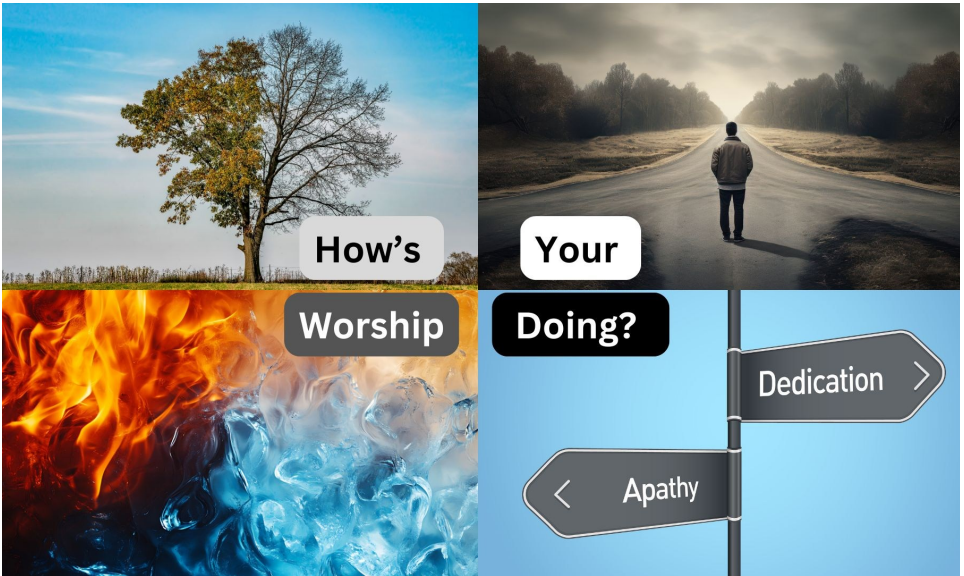


# *the Visitor*

*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.*



## **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/flashingumc

## **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,

November has arrived and so has the holiday season. It's hard to believe that we are already gearing up for the holidays when June was surely just yesterday. This time of year is the perfect time to focus on our gratitude. It's easier at times to look around and see the negative in our lives, churches, communities or world. However, when we focus on all the negative we tend to bring about more of it. I think of the religious folk from the Gospels we have been studying for the last few months. So often, they would look for the worst in other people, and due to this they often found it. Eventually their fixation on the worst parts of humanity led them to missing the greatest gift we've ever been given, Jesus. Even further they brought so much worse into their world by refusing to see the good God was doing. It's important that we are able to recognize the movements of God around us and celebrate them, and sometimes this is difficult. So, if you are struggling to find something good right now, I encourage you to read the psalms of lament. These psalms leave room for all the difficult and yet push on towards trust and gratitude in the work of God.

Our sermon series *Come to the Table* has come to an end, beginning with a banquet and ending with a potluck. Fellowship around the table as Jesus did before us. Looking forward, we will be moving on to our *Counterculture* series. This will focus on what God has given to us and how we can come together to share the gifts and talents God gave us. That all starts with understanding what we have been given by God and gratitude for God's gifts.

In November we have a lot to look forward to. We will have opportunities to give through our Stuffing drive for Thanksgiving boxes, through the shoebox ministries and various other ministries. Don't forget that you can sign up to help pack the Thanksgiving boxes or deliver them on the welcome center. We are going to be celebrating All Saints Day on November 2, with Rev. JD Landis sharing on that Sunday as well. Our annual Hanging of the Greens will take place on November 23rd after second service. Then on November 30th we will be having a combined service as we head into Advent. We also have our East Winds District Conference on November 1st at Bad Axe UMC from 9:30am-2:30pm. And our Church conference will take place on November 9th at 6:00pm at United in Christ UMC. I look forward to worshiping with you all this month.

In Christ,  
Rev. Ruth VanderSande

## **November Sermons and Scriptures**

### **Sermon Series: Counterculture**

- November 2:**            **Sermon:** *God Will Finish the Work Started*  
**Scripture:** Philippians 1:3-14                            **Hymns:** *All Creatures of*  
*Our God and King* #62, *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* #382
- November 9:**            **Sermon:** *Who Are You Wearing Today?*  
**Scripture:** *Colossians 3:12-17*  
**Hymns:** *Take My Life, and Let It Be* #399, *Freely, Freely* #389
- November 16:**            **Sermon:** *: Love in Action*  
**Scripture:** James 2:14-18  
**Hymns:** *And Are We Yet Alive* #553, *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
*#384, They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* TFWS #2223
- November 23:**            **Sermon:** *Authentic Loving, Authentic Giving*  
**Scripture:** Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40  
**Hymns:** *To God Be the Glory* #98, *In the Garden* #314
- November 30:**            **Sermon:** *Room, When Pressure is Closing In*  
**Scripture:** Joshua 2:1-21, Matthew 1:1-5  
**Hymns:** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* #218, *Joy to the World* #246



**Rev. Ruth VanderSande**

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10am**

**Let's Make  
PUMPKIN  
RAVIOLI**

**Micki Yon will be here  
to teach us how with  
home grown pumpkin!  
Call Micki to sign up**



**Bring a drying rack  
& baking sheet**

## **2025 UWF Bake Sale**

Join us in making **buckeyes**  
**Mon & Wed, Dec 1 & 3 @ 10 am - 12 pm**

Come help package **cookies**  
**Wednesday, December 3 at 1 - 3 pm**

Buy them both at the Candle Walk  
**Dec 4 & 5 or @ church on Dec 7**

## *Hanging of the Greens*

**COME AND HELP US DECORATE FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS.**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025  
AFTER 2ND SERVICE**



# Getting To Know Your Neighbor

This month, let's get to know:

Casey Cichowski

## **Briefly tell us about yourself:**

I am a husband to my lovely wife Autumn and a father to 2 adult children, Camden & Anthony.

## **How to you come to Christ?**

I was raised in the catholic church and served as an Alter boy. I also attended parochial school as a youth.

## **Favorite Bible Verse:**

Matthew 7:1-2. Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. This verse speaks to me especially in today's climate. There is so much hate for people that others disagree with. This is a reminder it is our job to love and have grace. If we continue the hate, it will come back upon us.

**What are your hobbies?** Golf, Hunt, Garden, travel with family, kayaking. Basically, anything outdoors.

**What's a fun fact about yourself?** My given name is Casimir. I was named after my grandfather, who was named after a Polish King.

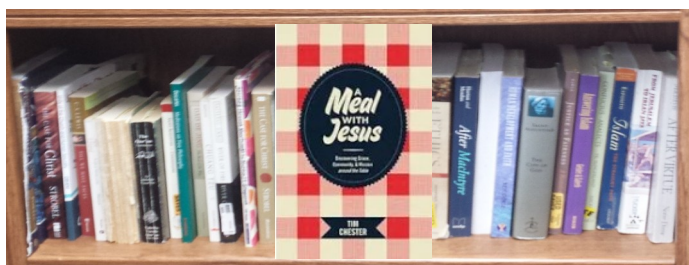
**What did/do you for a living?** I have worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections for the past 25 years. I also worked as a fire fighter/ medical first responder for 10 years.

**Travels/Food facts:** Favorite food is YES! I love food. If I had to pick, I would say pizza or steak.

**Areas you serve:** I serve on the tech team, running the sound board for 2nd service. I am also on the security team.



# Pastor Ruth's Bookshelf



## Welcome to my bookshelf!

This month I am recommending the book:

### *A Heart Set Free: A Journey to Hope Through the Psalms of Lament*

By Christina Fox

This book will put you on a path to understanding how to hold the tension between hope and lament. When things are not going as well as we would like, or maybe it's getting harder to find things to be thankful for, the psalms of lament service as helpful tools. This book will help walk you through the psalms and how to use them to process life's hardships through acknowledgement that moves forward into hope. It teaches you to take your stresses, anxieties and struggles and to lay them at God's feet. I hope that you can find some time to read this book and that it can serve to offer a place of relational solace and hope amid your holiday season.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande

# Blessings from your SPPRC



Praise God for this body of believers. Praise God also for each and every one of our fabulous staff members. We are a blessed people to have such a dedicated, hard working, faithful group of believers serving us all and being a part of this Faithful Family.

Please come together in celebrating them  
between worship services on:

**Sunday Nov. 23, 2025**

for a **potluck brunch** where we will recognize and shower with “Love” these dedicated servants;

- ◆ Pastor Ruth,
- ◆ Rose Dessinger-Office Manager,
- ◆ Melissa Whalen-Christian Ed Director,
- ◆ Lindsey Wagner & LillieAyn Smith-Play Place Supervisors,
- ◆ Jinah Chun-Organist,
- ◆ Marlene Cooper-Custodian.

We encourage everyone to **bring a dish to pass and notes of love, gift cards, small gifts, etc.** anything that shows you love and appreciate each of our tiny but loving staff members, for who they are and how they love and serve each of us.

May God continue to bless us all so we may continue to be a blessing and an encouragement to each other and the world around us. We are blessed to be praying, working, serving, growing, and following Christ with you all.

- Your FUMC SPPRC



## **November Devotional**

### ***Is Your Worship Comfortable?***

**Read Revelation 3:15-20**

**By: Rose Dessinger**

Let's face it. You've been with Jesus for a while. Maybe even your whole life. You're either working, retired, stay home with the kids or go to school all week. You even make time to rest and have fun. But Sunday... you go to church. While some attend most weeks, others attend only occasionally. Ask yourself why you go to church. Think hard about it and be completely honest with yourself. Is it because your parents told you to when you were growing up? Is it because the bible said so? Because God expects it? Do you fear what will happen if you don't? Do you come to have fellowship with other Christians? Is it just about serving others?

Or is it to worship and fellowship with your Lord and Savior... Your Abba, Christ Jesus and Holy Spirit? Because that's the answer Jesus is looking for. We should want to spend time with Him and to come here to love on Him. That's what praise and worship is. He desires it. Not because HE needs it but because WE need to do it. So we, too, should desire it. Not out of compulsion or fear. Not because mom said so. But for a true desire to thank our Almighty God for all He has done, is still doing and will continue to do...for us, our family, our friends...in us, through us, for us and with us. All because of His amazing love for us.

Yet often we worship Him because He answered our prayer, or life is going good for us. Maybe the music touched you just right and it made you feel good. We confuse that with intimacy. Yes, true worship will cause the deep emotions and even tears while singing praises to God. But real worship doesn't need a mood. It's about the heart posture in you. We say "thank you" to God because "you are who you say you are and because of all you have done for me". With praise

that says, "I love who you are Jesus! Despite the what's going on in my life. Even when everything seems to be falling apart and my faith is barely holding on by a string. Even when it feels like you are far away from me".

True worship doesn't need perfect moments, circumstances or answered prayers. Remember, God knows both our hearts and our motives. He desires hearts that surrender to Him. Willing hearts that get vulnerable with him. Pure hearts that desire true change and are willing to give him everything just to make that happen. Authentic hearts that will worship in the dark, in the silence, and when no one is looking. And yes, even hearts that cry out when nothing changes. Praiseful hearts. Not because we feel like it but because he is still worthy. Praise that happens even through the anxiety, the worry, fears and tears. Even when you're disappointed when his answer is no or silent. That's when it's real.

But all too often we let our hearts for Jesus grow complacent and lukewarm. We become too comfortable singing without considering the words. We listen to sermons without going home and let them change our minds and hearts. We want healing or deliverance from sin without doing any of the work. Jesus says He will "spit out" the lukewarm because their spiritual indifference is more offensive to Him than outright rejection. Jesus' strong statement serves as a call to repentance, urging followers to commit fully to Him rather than remain in a state of spiritual apathy, compromise and inaction.

The truth is...Jesus isn't interested in making you comfortable. Change is uncomfortable and sometimes it hurts. Because that means letting the Holy Spirit work on changing the sin in your life. That's true worship. So I ask you...Still feeling comfortable? Has your fire for Jesus been going out? God has a plan for that. Just trust Him with it.



## We are collecting Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes in Fellowship Hall.

**Please return boxes by:  
Sun, Nov 23 (by noon)**

Since 1970, Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization that has helped people in need around the world in Jesus' Name. Worldwide, churches play an essential role in packing and collecting shoebox gifts that are lovingly filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items by individuals, families, and groups. These boxes are delivered all over the world along with hearing the gospel (12 lessons) and receive a colorfully illustrated New Testament in their own language.

**You too can send Good News and great joy** as part of a joint effort with churches around the world by **packing a shoebox**. When you pack a shoebox, you're helping to spread the Gospel. **Remember** to make each shoebox gift fun, full, and personalized by filling an empty shoebox full of fun toys, school supplies, personal care items, and a "wow" item, such as a doll or soccer ball. The "wow" item makes a joyful first impression when the child opens the shoebox. And don't forget the most important thing you can add to a shoebox gift—prayer! As you pack each shoebox, pray for the child who will receive it. **A \$10 donation per shoebox helps cover shoebox collection**, shipping, processing, training local volunteers, and Gospel materials. Any questions? Call Nancy Elsner (810) 659-1269

**Thanks so much** to ALL who donated one or more pillows for the YWCA Safe House! Our final total we delivered was 180 PILLOWS! And thanks to all who made the pillowcases or helped make them! It took 4 SUV's to deliver them all! Thanks to Sue Granger, Judy Martz, Sue Ridge and Lynne Whitmire who helped deliver! The workers at the Safe House were thrilled with our delivery of these gifts and said they were at their lowest number of pillows ever on hand! God certainly led us all to know the need was so great! Thanks to All! -United Women in Faith





## Food Drive

We currently  
have received

**133** out of  
600 boxes.

Many more  
are needed.

We will be collecting STUFFING again this year for  
the Flushing Area Thanksgiving Food Drive.

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.

Genesee West Chapter of Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel  
+ Invites You:

**Flushing High School**  
*Holiday Chorale Performance*

Come and experience  
the uplifting Holiday  
music of the Madrigals

**Tues., Dec. 2nd**  
**1:00 PM**





Free Admission

+ **Flushing United Methodist Church**  
413 Main St., Flushing MI

Contact Carolyn Malaski for more information.

## Updates for Family Promise of Mid Michigan

**Wish List:** The Food Challenge was very successful as our congregation donated many items since February. Thank you for your generosity! We are changing the title to Wish List as there are things other than food that are needed for families and use at the day center. With all of the recent funding cuts to various non-profits and their programs, Family Promise continues to help meet the needs of families by providing resources, including food, household supplies, etc. The Wish List has recently been updated. Copies are available in Fellowship Hall.



**Volunteer Opportunities:** We will return to volunteering at the Day Center November 6th at 10:00 AM. Not sure of the December date. Our plan is to Adopt a Family or two for Christmas. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you are interested in assisting with one or both events. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Carolyn.

**Thank Flushing Area Businesses:** We were fortunate to have numerous donations of products and gift certificates from Flushing area businesses for the Silent Auction that was held at the Golf Fore Families event in September. Look for the list on the Mission bulletin board. When you shop or visit any of the businesses listed, please take a moment to thank them for their donation. The golf scramble raised \$10,000 for Family Promise of Mid-Michigan.

A festive graphic for the November Wish List. It features a warm, golden-brown background with a sunburst pattern. At the top left, the word "NOVEMBER" is in large, bold, brown letters, with "wishlist" in a white script font below it. To the right, the "Flushing Christian OUTREACH CENTER" logo is displayed, featuring a red dove and two cartoon owls. In the center, there are images of a stack of white diapers, a can of pineapple, and a whole pineapple. To the right of these items, a list of needs is shown: "• DIAPERS - SIZE 6" and "• CANNED FRUIT". At the bottom right, the phrase "Thank You!" is written in a red script font. A cartoon turkey is at the bottom center, surrounded by autumn leaves. A dark brown banner at the bottom left contains the text "NOVEMBER 2025".

# To All Who Are Born In November



# Happy Birthday!



| Name              | Birthday |
|-------------------|----------|
| John Henson       | 2        |
| Lisa Keef         | 4        |
| Mary Lou Martin   | 4        |
| Terry Ensign      | 10       |
| Diane Nixon       | 10       |
| Autumn Cichowski  | 12       |
| Adalyn Kleinedler | 12       |
| Carol Keane       | 13       |
| Sandra Mohr       | 21       |
| Ellen Hulet       | 22       |
| Jim Graham        | 23       |
| Larry Schack      | 23       |
| Dan Venters       | 23       |
| Justin Wilson     | 23       |
| Amy Kleinedler    | 25       |
| Rita Brimley      | 30       |

## Finance Snapshot thru September 2025

**Total Budget for 2025 General Fund:** \$291,936

**Needed YTD for General Fund:** \$218,876

**Total Received Through September 2025:**

General \$170,288

Interest \$ 5,151

Rent \$ 625

**Total received YTD:** \$176,064

**Capital Fund YTD:** \$15,320

**General Fund Expenses Through September:** \$195,540

**YTD through Sept 2025: \$ Received less Expenses:** **-\$19,476**

**What this means:**

**For various reasons, we have spent almost \$20k more than we have received through September 30, 2025.**

- 1. While we are keeping expenses down as much as possible, prices are going up. We have spent \$9,239 more in 2025 compared to 2024.**
- 2. Donations are also down this year compared to 2024: \$7,480. \$ received through rent & interest: down \$3,019.**

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



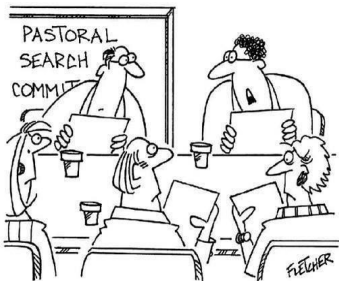
*Please remember in your hearts and prayers:*

- + Healing & answers for Rebecca
- + Father, Dave & siblings with several health issues
- + Jennie, with cancer
- + Mary & Jim, serious health issues
- + Ex-husband who is healing from fire injury
- + Cheryl, for good test results
- + Katie, recovering from car accident
- + Brother, who lost 3 fingers
- + Judy, who had a stroke

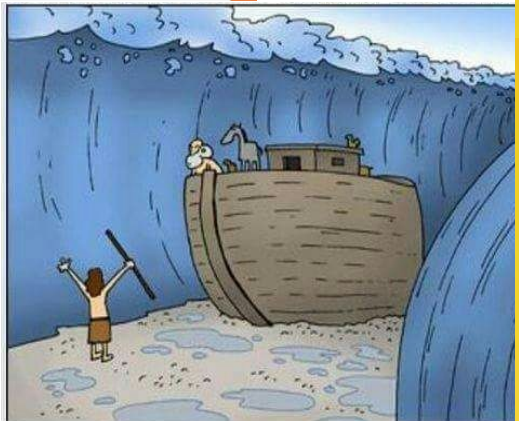
## With Heartfelt Sympathy

To Sandy Mohr, family & friends on the death of her father, Jerry Crandell.

*May this family be uplifted by our prayers.*



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



Thanks to SoloTotoCoyote

**MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT**

02-

**Worship Servants**  
**Scripture Readers 8:45 am**

Nov 2 – Sue Ridge                      Nov 16 – Melissa Whalen  
Nov 9 – Jeff Welch                      Nov 23 – Carol Dick  
Nov 30 - Sue Durling

**Usher/Greeters 8:45 am**

Nov 2 – Larry & Sue Ridge  
Nov 9 – Mel Weeden, Travis & Melissa Whalen  
Nov 16 – Carol Dick, Ellen Hulet, Tim Seaman  
Nov 23 – Bob & Linda Baker, Marcia Henson  
Nov 30 – Bill Dessinger, Bill & Sue Martin

**Hospitality Team 10 am**

Nov 2 – Bob & Linda Baker  
Nov 9 – Dennis & Amy Kleinedler  
Nov 16 – Kris Supernaw & Cathy Riley  
Nov 23 – Ruth Brown  
Nov 30 – Rusty Eavy & Judy Martz

**Sanctuary Computer 8:45 am**

Nov 2 – Travis Whalen                      Nov 16 – Nancy Elsner  
Nov 9 – Rose Dessinger                      Nov 23 – Karen Florida  
Nov 30 - Travis Whalen

**Worship Leader 11:15 am**

Nov 2 – Kris Supernaw/Eric Mason  
Nov 9 – Teresa Casteel  
Nov 16 – Autumn Cichowski  
Nov 23 – Cathy Riley  
Nov 30 - One Service

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FLUSHING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

413 E MAIN ST

FLUSHING MI 48433-2029

# **the Visitor**

October 29, 2025– Issue #10

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