



BIRMINGHAM FIRST
A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
...gathered here for good!™

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Callahan

*HYMN #73

O Worship the King

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come in out of the wind.

People: We've been out on the water a long time.

Leader: Whatever this week has been — smooth sailing or hard rowing —

People: We are not out here alone.

Leader: Listen. There is a voice moving across the water.

People: Take heart. Do not be afraid.**All: Come, let us worship the God who catches up to us in the dark.**

*RESPONSE #512

Stand by Me - vs. 1

1. When the storms of life are rag-ing,
 2. In the midst of trib - u - la-tion,
 3. In the midst of faults and fail-ures, stand by me; (stand by me)
 4. In the midst of per - se - cu-tion,
 5. When I'm grow-ing old and fee-ble,

when the storms of life are rag-ing,
 in the midst of trib - u - la-tion,
 in the midst of faults and fail-ures, stand by me. (stand by me)
 in the midst of per - se - cu-tion,
 when I'm grow-ing old and fee-ble,

When the world is toss-ing me, like a ship up-on the sea,
 When the host of hell as - sail, and my strength be-gins to fail,
 When I've done the best I can, and my friends mis-un-der-stand,
 When my foes in war ar - ray un-der-take to stop my way,
 When my life be-comes a bur-den, and I'm near-ing chil-ly Jor-dan,

thou who rul - est wind and wa-ter,
 thou who nev - er lost a bat-tle,
 thou who know-est all a-bout me, stand by me. (stand by me)
 thou who sav - ed Paul and Si-las,
 O thou Lil - y of the Val-ley,

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gabriel Ervin

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace
Lindsey Rillema, soloist

John Newton

PASTORAL 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.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY

The Prayer
Lindsey Rillema, soloist

C.B. Sager & D. Foster

I pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go, and help us to be wise in times when we don't know. Let this be our prayer when we lose our way. Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace to a place where we'll be safe.

I pray we'll find your light, and hold it in our hearts when stars go out each night. Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day. Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.

We ask that life be kind, and watch us from above. We hope each soul will find another soul to love. Let this be our prayer, just like every child needs to find a place, guide us with your grace. Give us faith so we'll feel safe.

***DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #474

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33

MESSAGE

You go on ahead without me, I'll catch up!

Rev. Robert Fuchs

***HYMN #368**

My Hope is Built

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Grand Chorus

Dubois



*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Pat Jennings,
whose Celebration of Life service was held Wednesday, August 5.*

*The Mission Candle is lit to the glory of God and in gratitude for the
Birmingham & Berkley First Nurses Ministry, whose compassionate care
and commitment to wellness enrich the life of our congregation.*



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome, Rev. Robert Fuchs

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Bob Fuchs as our guest preacher today. Rev. Fuchs is a retired Licensed Local Pastor who served as Lead Pastor of Downriver Church in Taylor and as Associate and Campus Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Brighton and Whitmore Lake. He and his wife, Sue, now worship at Brighton First. Rev. Fuchs also shares a special connection with our congregation. His daughter, Katie Ostberg, and her family are active members of Birmingham First and are deeply involved in our Children and Family Ministries. We are grateful to have Rev. Fuchs with us and look forward to his message this morning.

First Nurses Blood Pressure Checks in Fellowship Hall

Your health matters! First Nurses will provide free blood pressure checks in Fellowship Hall after worship today and on the first Sunday of each month. Stop by to track your results and stay on top of your health—no appointment needed!

Roll Up Your Sleeves to Help Others

Do you know how to take blood pressure readings? Consider volunteering for just 30 minutes after a worship service a few times each year to support this valuable ministry. Monthly blood pressure screenings provide an important service to members of our church community. To sign up, contact Deb Hamel at 248-882-6965 or visit www.gatheredhereforgood.org/firstnurses.

45C Summer Mission Day

Children entering 4th and 5th grades are invited to join us for a 45C Summer Mission Day on Thursday, August 13, from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. We'll begin the day serving our Redford Brightmoor Initiative mission partners by filling backpacks with school supplies, enjoy lunch together, and then head to Whoa Zone at Bald Mountain for an afternoon on the floating obstacle course. Cost \$10 per child. Register at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm by Monday, August 10. Younger siblings may attend only if a parent is volunteering.

Berkley CruiseFest at Berkley First

Head to the Berkley CruiseFest on Friday, August 14 and make Berkley First your home base! Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a front-row view of the Classic Car Parade from the church. From 6:30–7:30 p.m., we'll be serving as a community rest stop with air conditioning, complimentary bottled water, and open restrooms to help you stay cool and comfortable. After the parade, stick around 12 Mile for all that CruiseFest has to offer, including food trucks, live music from Bandwagon, family activities, and more! Whether you're stopping in to cool off or making an evening of it, we'd love to welcome you to Berkley First (2820 12 Mile Road, Berkley).

August Nursery & Sunday School Volunteers Needed

Help make Sundays special for our children this August! Volunteers are needed in both the Nursery and Sunday School, and we welcome new volunteers. Whether you can serve once or several times, your support helps create a safe, caring, and joyful environment where children can grow in their faith. Contact Dayna Ratliff or sign up at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/cfm for more information.

Dr. Boayue in Liberia

The Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. is currently in Liberia and will return to Birmingham First for worship on Sunday, August 23. Please keep Dr. Boayue, his travels, and the ongoing mission work in Liberia in your prayers. While Dr. Boayue is away, Pastor Chad Oyer is available for pastoral care at coyer@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-6407 ext. 3164. For all other congregational needs, please contact the church office at 248-646-1200.

Voice of Hope

Need encouragement? Call the Voice of Hope line at 248-646-6407 and press 2 to hear an uplifting message created just for you. Whether you're looking for comfort, inspiration, or a reminder of God's love, take a moment to listen. New messages are available each week, so call today and find a moment of hope.

Leading a Group This Fall? We Need Your Information!

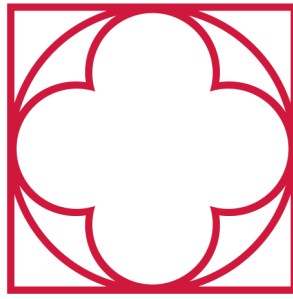
If you will be leading a Journey Group, Bible study, small group, or other ministry group this fall, please make sure your meeting dates are on the church calendar and your facility space is reserved. Our building fills up quickly in the fall, and we want to make sure your group has the room and resources it needs. To confirm your dates and reserve your space, contact Dorothy Duensing in the church office at office@fumcbirmingham.org or 248-646-1200. If you would like to add your group to the Journey Group handout and webpage, contact Adrienne Trupiano at atrupiano@fumcbirmingham.org.

Pickleball with a Purpose

Serve Kindness! Smash Hunger! Don't miss the Hunger Ministry Pickleball Mixer Fundraiser on Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Join us for a fun day of pickleball, fellowship, and friendly competition, all while raising funds to support the Hunger Ministry and its work serving our neighbors. Registration and more can be found at www.gatheredhereforgood.org/pickleball.

Featured at the Circuit Rider Bookstore

Available today after worship at the Circuit Rider Bookstore: *Prayers for the Road* by Thomas W. Currie. This inspiring devotional is an excellent resource for students preparing for college, as well as for parents and friends supporting them on the journey. Drawing on reflections from the Psalms, Currie offers wisdom, encouragement, and hope for everyday life. Each devotion includes space for personal journaling, helping readers deepen their faith and connect Scripture to life's new beginnings.



Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr., Senior Pastor

Rev. Chad Oyer, Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Hurd, Associate Pastor

Casey Proch, Executive Director

Worship, Music & Operations

Doris Hall, Organist

Rev. Gary Haller, Bishop Laurie Haller,

Rev. Dr. John E. Harnish, & Rev. Dr. William A. Ritter,

Pastors Emeriti

BULLETIN COVER

The Matthew petal in the Rose Window, one of twelve petals representing the Twelve Apostles, incorporates the following imagery and symbolism associated with him:

- The three money bags symbolize Matthew's former occupation as a tax collector (publican) before Jesus called him to become a disciple.
- The scallop shell symbolizes Matthew's role as an Evangelist. The shell's grooves begin separately at the outer edge and converge at a single point. In a similar way, people may follow many different paths, yet respond to God's call and ultimately find their way to Him.
- The purple flower symbolizes divine authority, is associated with God's sovereign majesty, and reminds believers of their precious relationship with God.

(the Rose Window is located in the upper level of the Sanctuary's south wall.)



For more information about Birmingham First, or to make an online donation, please visit our website at www.gatheredhereforgood.org, or scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera.

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