After a time of silence, music will begin, at this time you are invited to bring your prayers to the altar and to light a candle as an outward expression of your prayer intention. If you are unable to stand or kneel, we invite you to ask another sitting near you to light a candle for you.

Giving- *During this time of prayer you are also welcome to bring your gifts to the boxes at the ends of the prayer rails*

Prayer Response ***Take, O Take Me as I Am*** W&S 3119 *Green Hymnal*

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING FORTH HYMN TFWS 2015 *Black Hymnal*

Bless His Holy Name

+ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *How Great Thou Art* arr. Dino

CHURCH CALENDAR

Today	Stewardship Series: "Embracing the Future"
	9:00-Coffee Café
	11:00-Snack and Chat
	2:30-Temple Church Conference (Community UMC- N. Muskegon)
Nov 10	10:30-Communion with Shut-ins
Nov 11	10:00- Retired clergy group (pastor's office)
	1:00-Small Group Study: The Path of a Disciple (Temple parlor)
Nov 15	4:30-John Wesley 103rd Anniversary Celebration (sanctuary)
Nov 17	4:00-Temple Leadership Team (church office)
Nov 18	9:00-Hand2Hand packing (Traxler room)
	10:00-Retired clergy group (pastor's office)
	12:30-LGBTQ+Faith Allies (Bethany church)
	1:00-Small Group Study: The Path of a Disciple (Temple parlor)
	1:00-Supper House representatives meeting (Traxler room)
	3:30-Mission for Area People board meeting
Nov 19	8:30-Men's Breakfast @Russ' on Henry St.
	11:15-Temple Ladies Luncheon (Temple parlor)
Nov 21	2:00-5:00 Supper House Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov 22	Hanging of the Greens

TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, November 8, 2026 Pentecost 24

Stewardship: "Embracing Our Future"

Each person is a beloved child of God. Temple United Methodist Church welcomes, affirms and invites everyone into the full life and ministry of our congregation regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history. Join us as we gather as one community, grow our faith, give our diverse gifts, and go into the world to advance the Reign of God.

"+" is an invitation to stand in body or in spirit, as each is able.

PRELUDE *A Meditation on "It Is Well with My Soul"* arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Creator calls us into this holy moment here at 2500 Jefferson Street.

All: We gather on this corner grateful for the legacy of where we have been.

One: The Lord says to Temple "Remember not the former things; behold, I am doing a new thing!"

All: It is springing forth in our neighborhood. We leave the safe shores of the past to step into the vibrant future God is preparing for us.

One**:** Hear the divine promise: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed."

All: For the Lord our God is with Temple wherever we go, and through every season of transition.

One: Let us surrender our control and our worries to the One who holds tomorrow.

All: Let us worship the God of our past, our present, and our endless future!

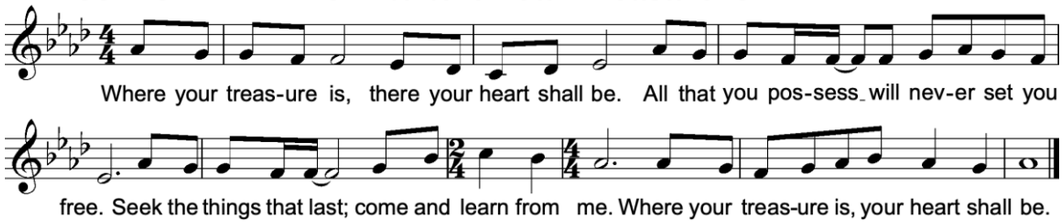
+ OPENING HYMN UMH 462 vs.1,3,4 *RED HYMNAL*

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

+UNISON PRAYER

God of new beginnings, we gather today with thankful hearts, ready to embrace the future you are preparing for us. You call us to look beyond the past and to open our eyes to the fresh work you are doing in our midst. In this season of stewardship, move us to reflect your generosity. Help us overcome fear, trust your vision, and offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to build your kingdom. Make paths through our deserts and bring rivers to our dry places, that together we may step boldly into your promise future. Amen.

+ PASSING THE PEACE ***Where Your Treasure Is***



Please return to your pew when the music begins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of tomorrow, we confess that we prefer the comfort of yesterday. We divide our lives into neat columns—giving you what is convenient, while clinging tightly to our own control. We admit our fear of the in-between spaces, our anxiety over shifting seasons, and our reluctance to step out in faith. Forgive our lack of courage. Open our eyes to see the new things you are already doing in our hearts, in our church, and across Muskegon Heights. Melt our resistance, quiet our worries, and give us grace to surrender our whole lives to you. Amen.

Moment of silence



ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: The Lord our God is with us wherever we go. God does not abandon us to our fears, nor tie us to our past mistakes. In Christ Jesus, the old has passed away and the brand-new thing has begun.

All: We are forgiven, we are loved, and our future is secure. Thanks be to God!

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joshua 1: 1-9
NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 22: 15-22

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE *Honoring the Past, Releasing the Future* Pastor Jeff
STEWARDSHIP SERIES: "EMBRACING OUR FUTURE"

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE UMH 451 *RED HYMNAL*

Be Thou My Vision

TIME OF PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND GIVING
Prayers for the Community
Prayers for the World
City of Muskegon Heights, gun violence, violent tactics of ICE agents, ICE agents and their families. Immigrants and refugees, persecuted communities, peaceful protest, those experiencing food and water scarcity, crop failures and famine. Disaster recovery: wildfires, flash flooding. War-torn nations: Gaza, Israel, Russia, Iran, Palestine, Ukraine, ceasefires and diplomatic solutions.

You are invited to speak the first names of those in your heart.

Silent Prayer and Meditation Psalm 65: 5 NIV
"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord."

Thank you to today's worship leaders!

Liturgist- Melissa Miller
Song Leader- Gunnar Carlson
AV Booth- Steve Neubauer/Carol Taylor/Bruce McLeod/Mary Ullmer
Altar Design- Worship Team
One License #729534-A CCLI License #11366978 (CCLI Livestream)

Coffee Café! Join us for coffee, conversation, and community before worship—everyone is welcome! Table seating is located both in the café area and in the sanctuary. Feel free to bring your drink into the service. Whether you're a longtime member or a newcomer, it's a relaxing place to meet others, enjoy a beverage, and connect.
"A cup of coffee shared with friends is happiness tasted."



TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor- Rev. Jeff Bowman Office Manager- Melissa Miller
Treasurer- Don DeYoung Worship Leader- Jason Hill
OFFICE HOURS Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
2500 Jefferson St, Muskegon Heights, Michigan 49444
231-733-1065 office@templeumc.org **(note email address change)**
www.templeumcmuskegon.com
Facebook.com/mysticmeth youtube.com/@templeumc9587

SMALL-GROUP COMMUNITY / WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM OCTOBER 14 TO NOVEMBER 18.
You are invited to be part of this community.
The Path of a Disciple: Recognizing the Sacred Moments:
Discipleship is all about learning to walk with Christ. We stumble. We fall. We pick ourselves up and go again. We are surrounded by a community of friends who pick us up, hold our hands, and keep walking with us along the way. You are invited to join this small-group community where we will learn together to center our lives on loving God and loving others.
"The Path of a Disciple" Focuses on practices of discipleship that shape people in the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Our group, October 14 to November 18, will focus on the **PRACTICE** of Prayer, Scripture Meditation and Small-Group Development. Please bring your own Bible.

Embracing Our Future: A New Chapter in Ministry
As we look ahead to what God has prepared for our church family, we are excited to announce our three-week stewardship emphasis, "Embracing Our Future," which begins today, Sunday, November 8, and runs through Sunday, November 22.
This emphasis on stewardship invites us to move forward with courage, leaving behind past limitations, and actively stepping into the next chapter of ministry that God has laid before us. **Theme Verse:** *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* Isaiah 43:18–19a
You should have received an invitation letter and giving intention card in the mail last week. Please return your card on Commitment Sunday, November 22. During these three weeks, we'll explore how open-handed generosity helps us fully participate in God's inspiring vision for our community. Prayerfully prepare your heart as we take this step of faith together!

GIVING- There are multiple ways to give- in person, mail, online- www.templeumcmuskegon.com or scan the code with your phone's camera and click the link VANCO ©

Hand2Hand
Hand2Hand will continue collecting individual cups of unsweetened mandarin oranges and cans of chicken noodle soup (pop tops only, please) through November. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Can you find it in your hearts to help our kids at the Muskegon Heights Early Education Center one more way? Last week when we delivered the bags of food, Miss Deborah Morrow (the program's coordinator) told us they can really use socks. They need a supply in the office for kids whose feet get wet. Use your imagination. These kids are 3, 4 and 5 years old. So we are asking if you can find it in your heart to contribute a few socks - children sizes, of course.

FYI. Our Hand2Hand team will pack bags again at 9 a.m. Wednesday, November 18. See you there!



Men's Breakfast: The next men's breakfast is Thursday, November 19, at 8:30 a.m. at Russ' on Henry St. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

Happy Fall Y'all!

The next Temple Women's Lunch is on Thursday, November 19th at 11:15 a.m. (please note the earlier time)

Lunch will be brought in from Subway and we'll do a Holiday craft project. The cost of lunch and the craft is $10. If you have a glue gun, please bring it with you. There's a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door or call/text Jackie at
See you there!



Come join in the fun on Sunday, November 22nd. (immediately following service)

Following our Sunday service, we will have a light lunch of chili/soup in the parlor. We will then decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary in preparation of Advent.

Please plan to stay after the service on the 22nd. Many hands make light work. Last year we had many helpers and we finished within an hour.

If you are able to make a pot of chili or soup, please email Jackie McLeod at jmcleod1954@gmail.com or call/text or sign up for an item on the board in the hallway.

Mission for Area People-Thanksgiving needs and Teen Town Christmas

Turkey Dinner Giveaway is on Tuesday, November 24. Items needed include Jell-o, aluminum turkey pans, cranberry sauce, boxed desserts and potatoes, stuffing, canned/powdered gravy, canned vegetables and fruit and sweet potatoes, marshmallows. Items should be dropped off at MAP by November 20.

Teen Town Christmas: popular teen gifts include: Men's and women's fragrances or fragrance gift sets, men's and women's hoodies, men's and women's jewelry, pajama sets, slippers, art sets, skincare/bath sets, gift cards. Donations should be delivered to MAP by Friday, December 11.

The church email address is changing! To email Melissa in the office, the address is office@templeumc.org