

Together In Faith

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

**We have this hope as an anchor
for the soul, firm and secure.**

Hebrews 6:19

Devotional (p.6)

“Embracing God’s Unbreakable Guarantee”

Pastor’s Corner

BY REV. RUTH VANDERSANDE

This past season has had me exploring the concept of rest. For someone like me, rest is a struggle, there is always more to do, someone who needs me. And suddenly the world becomes all about me and all about what I can offer people. It subtly shifts the focus from what God can do, to what I can do. God designed us for rest, and yet we resist it, assuming that we should be able to carry everything that world throws at us. We were never designed to carry it all, to constantly go. God gave us rest, instructed us to rest. Even made it a commandment to rest. Did you ever

wonder why the command? I think it’s because God knew that without that directive, we wouldn’t ever listen. We’re all like stubborn toddlers who keep insisting they aren’t ready for bed while their eyelids droop and they curl up under a blanket.

And yet, we are about to pick up, September may be around the corner, but May will be here before I know it. And it’s easy to set aside the rest we need waiting for slower times. But we need rest more in the busy time, we need to recover.
(Continued next page)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:45 am

Traditional Service

11:15 am

Contemporary Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 am - All Ages

YOUTH GROUP

6th - 12th Grade

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Cannot attend service in person? Join us online!

Facebook.com/FlushingUMC
or Youtube/user/flushingumc

*(Continued ...
Pastor's Corner)*

I think of Jesus who slept through the storm. There was something that for most people would be far more important, a storm on the waters they sailed. The boat was in danger of sinking, and the world was chaotic. Yet, rest was important. Jesus took time to escape the crowds when there was more to teach, more to offer, more people to help and heal, because rest is important. So, as things pick up this year, as we find our calendars filling up, make sure that you schedule in time to rest in God.

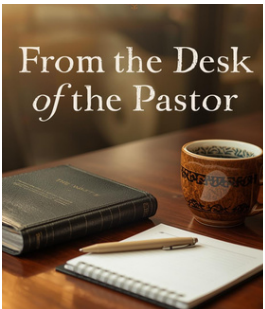
The boat was in danger of sinking, and the world was chaotic. Yet, rest was important. Jesus took time to escape the crowds when there was more to teach, more to offer, more people to help and heal, because rest is important.

So, as things pick up this year, as we find our calendars filling up, make sure that you schedule in time to rest in God.

This Townhall will give you a chance to hear from the team, hear some updates about what the church has been doing and ask any questions you may have. So, I hope you get the chance to attend. And as always I look forward to worshiping with you this month.

In Christ,

Rev. Ruth VanderSande



September Sermons & Scriptures

**Reminder:
10 AM services
September 6 & 27**



Sermon Series: *A New Creation*

September 6 Sermon: *Hope for All Creation*

Hymns: Thine Be the Glory #308, Because He Lives #364

Scripture: Mark 16:1-15

September 13 Sermon: *God's Wide World*

Hymns: All Creatures of Our God and King #62, This is My Father's World #144, How Great Thou Art #77

Scripture: Job 12:7-10 and Psalm 104:5-24

September 20 Sermon: *A Special Responsibility*

Hymns: Morning Has Broken #145, For the Beauty of the Earth #92, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #139

Scripture: Genesis 1:28-31

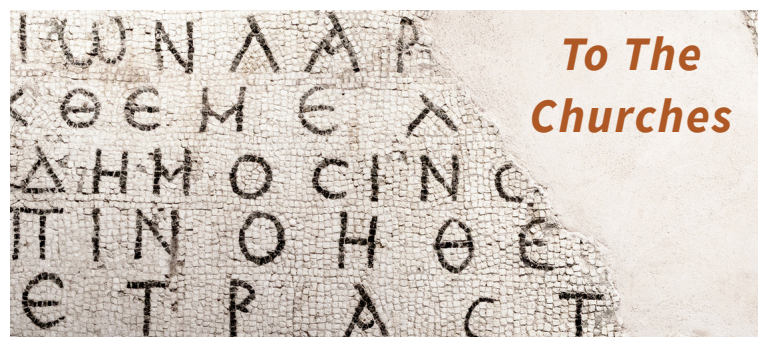
September 27 Sermon: *Facing Creation's Brokenness*

Hymns: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less #368, Spirit of the Living God #393, Be Thou My Vision #451

Scripture: Romans 8:19-25

**New 6 week
Sermon Series
Coming in October!**

To The Churches



Town Hall Meeting Scheduled - Sept 27

BY AUTUMN CICHOWSKI, LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

As summer comes to an end and we look forward to the start of school routines, I wanted to take the opportunity to share what has happened this summer. We are in the final stages of our construction project; just a few more weeks for the railings to be installed! We hosted an end of the year bash for the ECC and had an immense showing of volunteers. The United Women of Faith hosted their annual move for mission walk/run/rock-a-thon. We had a successful turnout for our vacation Bible school even in the midst of construction. We've had a month of combined services, allowing us opportunities to fellowship that we might have missed. Amidst the joy of celebration, we've also had incredible loss this summer our church has grieved the loss of members and friends.

It's been a jam-packed season for us. This coming season has more in store for us. I won't list everything here, because September is always a hopping time. The one thing I want to high light is our first town hall meeting with the board. **Our first town hall meeting is scheduled for Sunday September 27th, directly after a combined service.** This choice was made to allow as many people the opportunity to join us as possible. This is an opportunity for the board to share what's been happening, what we've accomplished, what our goals are, what direction we're headed in AND for you all to ask questions. We're looking forward to this being the first town hall as part of a continued effort to be transparent, good stewards and leaders, as well as ensuring the vision of the church reflect the people. Hope to see you there!

UWF News

BY SUE RIDGE

Sunday, Sept 14 *Sewing Pillowcases of Love*
So, it's time to shop for material as follows:
Calico & Children Prints
(Please...) NO GLITTER! NO FLANNEL!
3/4 Yd (27") - Body
1/4 Yd (9") - Border
3-4" - Trim (sometimes they won't cut less than
1/8 yd [4.5"], that's fine; OR as an option if you
are buying material for 2 pillowcases, you could
buy 6-8", & provide trim for 2 pillowcases)

Time for the sewing session is flexible to accommodate your busy schedule, as follows:

- Arrival Time: 3:00-3:30pm
- Work until done for those who can...
- Stay Until Done: 6:00-6:30pm
- Plan on Meal (\$5 donation) 5:45-6:00pm
- Come When You Can! Leave When You Must!

(See ad for more information.)

Sunday, Sept 20

Our filled Activity Bags will be dedicated during service for the YWCA Safe House and delivered later that week.

Sept 25-26 Rummage Sale

Help us organize and/or clean up after event

Organizing days - Sept 21-24, Everyone can help!

Clean up - Noon-1:30pm - Come & Help! Lots of hands make the pack up & clean up easy & quick!

(See ad for additional information about the sale.)

Sunday School Kickoff

BY MELISSA WHALEN

We're excited to welcome everyone back to **Sunday School begins September 13!**

We look forward to another wonderful year of growing in faith, building friendships, and learning about God's love together.

Missions News and Updates

"PILLOWCASES OF LOVE!!"

COME SEW WITH US!!

New Times!
**Mon, Sept 14
3:00-6:30 PM**

Meal Provided for \$5.00 donation

If you plan to eat with us,

PLEASE RSVP by Sun., Sept 13

JUST SIGN UP on UW Faith Bulletin Board!

Or, call or text: Sue Ridge, 810-516-9454



NO SEWING EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

PLEASE BRING: Material for One Pillowcase (or 2 or 3),
according to these measurements...

For each pillowcase, calico like or children prints material
(cotton or cotton blends; NO FLANNEL; NO GLITTERED MATERIAL):
3/4 yd (27") for body, 1/4 yd (9") for cuff, & (3") for trim piece.

Plan on Meal
5:45-6:00pm

This mission work benefits...WOMEN, GIRLS & BOYS seeking refuge at...

FLINT YWCA SAFE HOUSE Center for Domestic Abuse Victims

If you cannot join us, you can help by donating inexpensive Pillows! Everyone can help!

Set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing (eravon-greek) or (arrabōn-hebrew) what is to come.

2 Corinthians 1:22

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love (hesed) for you will not be shaken."

Isaiah 54:10

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love (hesed)... he does not treat us as our sins deserve.

Psalms 103:8, 10

United Women In Faith
Presents:

Rummage Sale

Our Annual Sale Is Coming!!

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO START BRINGING IN YOUR GENTLY USED DONATIONS TO THE BACK OF FELLOWSHIP HALL (NO SOONER) SEPT 14-17 & 21 FROM 9-4PM (DURING OFFICE HOURS) & TUESDAY, SEPT 22 FROM 9-12PM

ORGANIZING DAYS - SEPT 21-24, EVERYONE CAN HELP!

CLEAN UP - NOON-1:30PM - COME & HELP! LOTS OF HANDS MAKE THE PACK UP & CLEAN UP EASY & QUICK!

DON'T MISS!

9-4pm ~ September 25
9-12pm ~ September 26

Flushing United Methodist Church
413 E Main St., Flushing MI

We will not accept the following: VHS Tapes, computers, exercise equipment or encyclopedias

Family Promise of Mid Michigan News

BY CAROLYN MALASKI

Golf Fore Family News

is very grateful for the recent contributions to the golf event that was held August 21st. Flushing UMC has generously provided financial support as well as volunteers. Thank you to Bob Halbadel for his assistance with items for the auction and collecting donations and to volunteers Judy Martz and Pam Marshall. Congratulations to the FUMC team of Bob, Jim T., Casey and Mike (Bob's friend) who took 1st place in the men's division and to Casey for the longest drive!

Your continued support by donating non-perishable food, personal care and household supplies provides for families that we serve and is greatly appreciated.

Community Garden News

Thank you to Chuck Stewart for the nice signs to mark the rows of vegetables and to the volunteers who water on a regular basis. We are pleased to report that produce is being delivered to FCOC several times a week.

Flushing Christian Outreach Center

You can drop off these items in the bin inside fellowship hall (by the doorway).



Harvest of Hope Gala 2026

Join us Saturday, September 26 @ 6pm

Join us at Flushing Valley Golf Club for an evening of fellowship and hope as we come together to support the future home of Flushing Christian Outreach Center. Tickets to the Gala are \$150 and will admit two adults. Those attending will enjoy dinner and entertainment along with raffles and silent auctions.

Event tickets also come with two raffle tickets. The main prize is a side-by-side ATV and trailer, generously donated by the Flushing Knights of Columbus, along with nine other prizes valued at \$500 or more. Individual Raffle Tickets are \$10 each. Tickets are available at Flushing Christian Outreach Food Center
5409 W. Pierson Rd., Bueche's lobby, Concerts in the Park and Ace Hardware. See you there!



Embracing God's Unbreakable Guarantee

Devotional By Rose Dessinger

Hebrew/Greek Word Study
Eravon (Hebrew) or Arrabōn -Greek
found in New Testament)
versus Hesed (Hebrew) used 250 times in OT

•**Arrabōn (noun, Greek):** The legal deposit that guarantees a transaction is finalized and can never be undone. 2 Corinthians 1:22, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13–14

•**Hesed (noun, Hebrew):** The fierce, covenant loyalty of God that refuses to let go, keeping His promises even when we fail. Lamentations 3:22–23, Psalm 136, John 1:14 (as "grace and truth")

This month, I'd like for us to ponder,
"What does the cross mean for us today?"

The first obvious and immediate answer for Christ followers is freedom from eternal damnation for those who believe that Jesus Christ is who he says he is and did exactly what he said he did. The cross gave us freedom from past, present and future sins. As if that wasn't amazing enough, do you realize the extent of this? The cross also freed us to have a relationship with the Father...**today.**

The Hidden Fears of the Faithful

How did Jesus free us in our everyday life? That is where many of us get hung up. We live with fears that we won't say out loud. Because historically, Christians don't always get that answer right. We often live in fear of losing our salvation, that God will be disappointed in us...that maybe he will even give up on us when we fail or fall.

I recently read an online post that said, "*I believe God saves, but I'm not fully convinced He will finish the work he started*". They trust God with their eternity, yet feel unsure about their relationship with him. Somewhere deep inside, there is a lingering anxiety that says, "*God only tolerating me. I'm failing too much. Is God getting tired of me?*"

So they obey, but nervously. They pray, but cautiously. They follow God, but with an exit strategy in their heart. This fear does not come from rebellion. It comes from trying to follow God while never feeling fully secure in His commitment.

The Legal Receipt of the Spirit

Yet that's not what scripture says though. The Greek word *arrabōn* appears in 2 Corinthians 1:22, and Paul uses it again in Ephesians 1:13–14 when he says: *When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession.*

It's a commercial and legal term. It means a down payment that legally guarantees the full amount will be paid. It is not symbolic. Nor is it conditional. In ancient commerce, once an *arrabōn* was given, the transaction was considered bound. The giver was now obligated to complete the deal.

Paul uses this same word to describe the Holy Spirit. This means the Holy Spirit is not a sign that God might finish His work in you. He is proof that God has already committed Himself to finishing it. In fact, *arrabōn* declares that God is more committed to completing your salvation than you are or even capable of doing yourself. He is committed to making you into God's own likeness.

A Secure Foundation for Growth

So he doesn't stay because of your performance. It's not because you did enough or worked hard enough. It's not even because you sinned less. Your sanctification was put squarely on God's shoulders to finish the good work he started. So the false belief this word dismantles is the idea that your future with God is fragile or dependent on your consistency. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.* (Ephesians 2:8-9). This means nothing is by our own doing. God loved you first. He called you, wooed you, pursued you. Now that you're sealed, he promised to finish his work in you. So the works you do is because you love Jesus and appreciate what he has done. You show good fruit because of the Holy Spirit's work that has been done in you.

Does this mean we can sin on purpose without consequence? Absolutely not. Because you are His child, God will correct you, discipline you, and guide you when you wander—but He will never cast you out. True security doesn't give us a license to sin; it gives us the freedom to grow without the fear of being abandoned.

Moving From Pressure to Rest

Understanding *arrabōn* changes how you wake up every day. You stop trying to hold onto God and realize He is holding onto you. You stop living as if your salvation is on layaway and start living as a child whose inheritance is already guaranteed. Grace becomes safer. The finished work of Jesus feels more final. And faith becomes rest instead of pressure. God did not give you His Spirit as motivation to behave. He gave you His Spirit as a guarantee He will never walk away.

(Continued next page)

(Continued)

In the Hebrew Scriptures, *hesed* is God's covenant loyalty, His steadfast, unfailing love that refuses to let go. People often confuse the two concepts, but they are actually two sides of the same coin. *Hesed* is used in nearly 250 passages across the Old Testament, most famously in moments like Lamentations 3:22-23:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Because the New Testament was written in Greek, the authors didn't use the Hebrew word *hesed*, but they carried its exact heart forward. The Greek word *arrabōn* is actually a direct linguistic loanword from the Hebrew root *ʿērāḇōn*. By using it, the New Testament authors were showing that God's legal guarantee is the ultimate fulfillment of His ancient, loving promises.

The Finality of the Cross

Hesed is God's heartbeat—His passionate, relational desire to stay committed to you. *Arrabōn* is the legal receipt—the absolute proof written in the Holy Spirit's seal that He will actually do it.

When you look at the cross, you see both. You see a God who loves you with an everlasting, unbreakable *hesed*, and a God who legally bound Himself to you through an irreversible *arrabōn*.

So, what does the cross mean for us today? It means you can finally breathe. You don't have to perform to keep His attention, and you don't have to hustle to keep His affection. The transaction is closed. The deposit has been paid. Your future is secure, and His heart is completely toward you. You can stop striving and start resting in the finished work of Jesus.

Now **THAT** is good news! Amen.

Getting To Know Your Neighbor

THIS MONTH, LET'S GET TO KNOW:

Jim Thomas

Briefly tell us about yourself:

Born in Highland Park. Raised in Royal Oak. Met my wife while attending GMI (Kettering). Married in 1971. 2 years in the Army. Retired from General Motors.

How did you come to Christ?

I didn't come to Christ, He came to me.

What are your hobbies? Golf, Music, Reading

What do you do for a living?

I worked 38 years at GM. Product Engineer. Retired in 2002

What's a fun fact about yourself?

In the Christmas Eve Service, 2024, I sang "O Holy Night" on my 80th birthday.

Travels: where have you been and where would you like to go?

Jeanne and I went to England twice. I traveled to Italy 20 times working on a Cadillac Program. No plans now.

Areas you serve (at church and outside of church):

Building Committee, Leadership Board, Church Historian. Fraternity Housing Corp. Board.

Words I live by:

If you say you are a Christian and you see a need, if you don't address that need you are not a Christian.



Pastor's Bookshelf

BY RUTH VANDERSANDE



This month I am recommending the book:

The God of the Garden: Thoughts on Creation, Culture, and the Kingdom by Andrew Peterson.

This book explores the interplay between humanity and creation. It serves as a memoir of sorts for Andrew Peterson, but also as an exploration of the necessity of preserving our connection to God's creation. Authored during the midst of the pandemic, as Peterson was stuck at home, he reflected on what it means to be still in creation in a way he never had the opportunity to before. I hope that as you read this book it reminds you of the glorious gift God has given us in creation. I look forward to hearing what you learned from this book.

Mens Breakfast

Calling all MEN!!
Come join us for breakfast!!



Ways To Give

PayPal Giving Fund

has no extra charges to us or you! Click here:
<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/391105>

or scan our
QR Code:



Text to give thru Vanco

Text flushingumc to 73256,
followed by your gift amount,
For example:
"flushingumc \$100" sent to the
number 73256

or go to:
onrealm.org/FlushingUnitedM/Give

Finance Snapshot thru July 2026

Total Budget for 2026
General Fund: \$300,000

Total received in June 2026:

General	\$ 14,033
Interest	\$ 432
Rent	\$ 100
Capital Fund:	\$ 1,310

General Fund Expenses
Paid in July: \$ 19,468

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

September Birthdays

Dianne Ensign	3
Pam Marshall	13
Norm Griffin	17
Ethan Keef	23
Dennis Kleinedler	27
Chase Hopkins	28

News from the Office

Our office manager,
Rose Dessinger
will be off for one week
of vacation from August
30th - September 6th
and then again for
2 weeks from
October 11th - 25th.

W	O				
	R	D	W		
			O	R	M

Starting at the shaded square, move to adjacent squares (up, down, left or right but *not* diagonal) to find the names of six towns in the Bible. The references may help.

Re-arrange the circled letters to find another town. [Numbers 22:1]

J	P	A	M	E	H	T	N	I	R
O	P	A	M	A	U	S	S	C	O
I	T	N	A	Z	E	T	U	S	E
O	C	H	N	A	R	H	E	P	H

Jonah 1:3, Acts 11:26,
Mark 1:24, 2 Timothy 4:12,
Acts 18:11, Luke 24:13

(All Bible references from NIV)

Ans-a-gram

The initial letters of the answers (in order) will provide an anagram of the final solution, which is a town where Jesus fed five thousand [Luke 9:10].

- ☐ 1. Conceal (4) [Psalm 27:5]
- ☐ 2. Lazy (not working) (4) [Ecclesiastes 10:18]
- ☐ 3. Wife of Samson who cut his hair (7) [Judges 16:4]
- ☐ 4. Nationality of man Philip met on road to Gaza (9) [Acts 8:27]
- ☐ 5. Not fast (4) [Psalm 145:8]
- ☐ 6. Wife of King David (widow of Nabal) (7) [1 Samuel 25:39]
- ☐ 7. Released by Pilate instead of Jesus (8) [Matthew 27:21]
- ☐ 8. By oneself (with no company) (5) [Genesis 2:18]
- ☐ 9. Sense of feeling with fingers (5) [Matthew 9:21]

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

(All Bible references from NIV)

CHRISTOKU-mini

Only four different letters used in this mini Sudoku grid.

When complete, one of the rows or columns will contain a Bible word - a clue is given to help with this and a reference to where it can be found.

(All Bible references from NIV)

T			
	F		S
		S	
			A

Clue: Go without food for a religious purpose.
[Matthew 6:18]



Bulletin Bloopers

- The church installed hot air hand dryers in the bathrooms to cut down on paper towel waste and save money. They worked just fine, but the Rev. Jones ordered them removed after someone scrawled a note on the wall next to it: "For the pastor's latest sermon, push here!"
- Women's Group sale of unwanted items. Please bring your husbands.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favorite recipe, also a short antidote for it.
- Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me In My Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.

(Puzzle Solutions on next page)



Prayer Room

Please remember in your hearts and prayers for:

- + Nan, in hospital-minor stroke
- + Kate, needs new knee surgery
- + Joyce, needing medical answers
- + Annie, adjust to apartment living
- + Dave, needing new memory care
- + Tammy, macular degeneration
- + Donna, suffered a stroke
- + Continued healing for Ellen, Cathy, Trudy
- + Barry, with optic disc edema
- + Katie, in hospital needing answer
- + Tim, infected heart from dog bite

With Heartfelt Sympathy

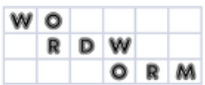
To Carolyn Malaski, friends and family on the loss of her brother, Earle.

The loss is great and they will be greatly missed.
May this family be uplifted by our prayers.



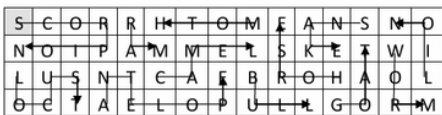
God of all comfort, wrap Your loving arms around this family, comfort their sorrow and ease their pain. Heal their broken hearts and calm their fears, filling the void with Your peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

Articles for the October 2026 Newsletter
is due by: **September 23, 2026**



Solutions

Scorpion, Locust, Antelope, Bull, Goat, Worm, Lion, Snake, Horse, Moth, Ram, Camel



Ans-a-gram Solutions

1. Hide, 2. Idle, 3. Delilah
4. Ethiopian, 5. Slow, 6. Abigail
7. Barabbas, 8. Alone, 9. Touch
Anagram: HIDES A BAT
Solution: BETHSAIDA

CHRISTOKU-mini Solutions

T	S	A	F
A	F	T	S
F	A	S	T
S	T	F	A

Talk To Us

office@flushingumc.org
(810) 659-5172
Flushingumc.org
413 E Main St.,
Flushing, MI 48433
Rev. Ruth's email:
pastor@flushingumc.org
(734) 436-9099

Church Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ruth VanderSande
Office Manager: Rose Dessinger
Christian Ed. Director: Melissa Whalen
Accompanist: Jinah Chun
Custodian: Marlene Cooper
Play Place: Lindsey Wagner,
LillieAyn Smith

Published the last Wednesday of the month
Editor: Rose Dessinger

Worship Servants

Scripture Readers 8:45am

Sept 6 - Laurel Allyn
Sept 13 - Cheryl Butts
Sept 20 - Carol Dick
Sept 27 - Sue Durling

Usher/Greeters 8:45am

Sept 6 - Sue Durling, Peggy Yats
Sept 13 - Bill Dessinger,
Carol Dick
Sept 20 - Marcia Henson,
Dave Lewis
Sept 27 - Travis & Melissa Whalen

Computer /Sound Board 8:45am

Sept 6 - Rose Dessinger
Sept 13 - Nancy Elsner
Sept 20 - Karen Florida
Sept 27 - Travis Whalen

Hospitality 10:00am

Sept 6 - Bob & Linda Baker
Sept 13 - Jerry & Carol Dick
Sept 20 - Kris S. & Cathy Riley
Sept 27 - Dan & Laurie Yaklin

Worship Leader 11:15am

Sept 6 - Kris Supernaw
Sept 13 - Teresa Casteel, Eric M.
Sept 20 - Autumn Cichowski
Sept 27 - Cathy Riley

FLUSHING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
413 E MAIN ST
FLUSHING MI 48433-2029



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