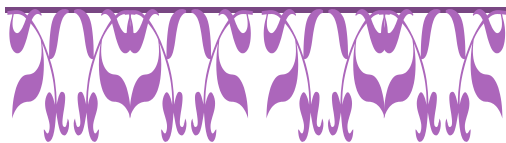




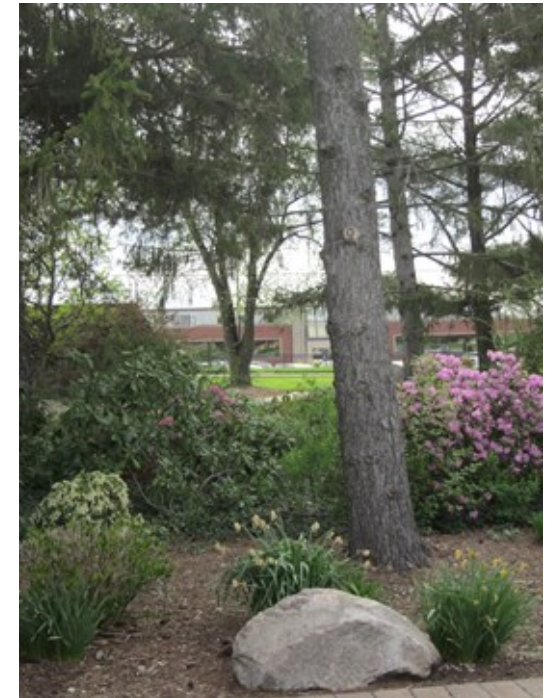
Gifts

- * Contributions to the Celebration Garden are always welcome.
- * Families may wish to designate the Celebration Garden for memorial contributions.
- * Other memorial gift opportunities are available. Please contact the church office.

Celebration Garden was dedicated on June 19, 2011.



MEMORIAL GARDEN



**St. Joseph First
United Methodist Church
2950 Lakeview Ave.
St. Joseph, MI 490985
269-983-3929—sjfirstumc.org**

Why a Memorial Garden?

The purpose of the *Celebration Garden* is to provide a pleasant outdoor setting for all of life's celebrations: weddings, baptisms, Memorial Garden, church gatherings.

From earliest times, Christians have used their churches and grounds as places of interment at time of death. This witnesses to our faith in Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life. From the time when Mary Magdalene met her Risen Lord in a garden (John 20), Christians have felt God's presence in surroundings of beauty. Therefore, it is fitting that the church provide a garden for Christians to inter ashes of loved ones following cremation, and a place of peace and beauty for meditation.

A Memorial Garden can meet a need in today's busy world, where people tend to move from place to place, often having no enduring ties to any one community. What better site, then, for a final resting place than near a church which held meaning during life? At the church we dedicate our children to God in baptism and hear the Good News of God's love for His children. How natural that the church should be the site for committal of ashes and the last rites of comfort.

Through the *Celebration Garden*, St. Joseph First United Methodist Church offers a means of proclaiming our faith and serving those in need.

Interment of Ashes

The Celebration Garden Committee will observe specific burial procedures. Each person's ashes will be buried directly in the soil in a separate, undesignated location. At the time of interment a short prayer service will be conducted by a minister of St. Joseph First United Methodist Church and a member of the Celebration Garden Committee. Family members are welcome to be present at this ceremony.

Ashes will be interred as weather permits.

Names of those interred will be added to the brass plaque hanging next to the memorial area of the garden.

Fees

- * \$500 (may be prepaid)
- * Interment included
- * Name on the brass plaque included
- * Perpetual maintenance included
- * Cost of a memorial service not included



I am interested in signing a contract for the interment of ashes in the *Celebration Garden* of St. Joseph First United Methodist Church.

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name of closest relative not living with you _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

St. Joseph First United Methodist Church ♦ 2950 Lakeview Ave. ♦ St. Joseph, MI 49085

