

The Garden is a source of enjoyment from many vantage points. It is entered via a door off the office corridor; it can also be viewed from the windows of the church Sanctuary. This visibility was the intent of the architect, Alden Dow, whose philosophy was to have buildings and their environment enhance each other. As Mr. Dow said, "Gardens never end and buildings never begin." Members and visitors are encouraged to enjoy the beauty and use the garden as a peaceful place for reflection and prayer.



The garden is named Sterl (Doc) Shrader who contributed his time, talents and energy to the care and maintenance of First United Methodist Church for over 50 years. He spent many hours planning and working to create beauty for all to enjoy. The rose garden was his favorite project and continues in his honor today.

At First UMC, the Shrader Memorial Garden is used for inhuming ashes from cremations. Ashes are placed directly into the soil by a member of the ministerial staff. The ashes become a part of the life of the garden. Containers are not interred. Names of persons inhumed are inscribed on brass plates affixed to a plaque adjacent to the garden. Records of these people are also recorded in a memory book, which is a part of the church records. Arrangements for the burial of ashes in the garden are made through the office manager. A fee of \$300 is paid to First UMC and becomes part of the fund for maintenance of the garden.

Questions about the garden may be registered by calling the church office manager at 989.835.6797, ext. 110.



IN THE GARDEN

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and
He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

C. Austin Miles
March 1912



Rev. 11.2015

The Shrader Memorial Garden



First United Methodist Church
315 West Larkin Street
Midland, Michigan

The Shrader Memorial Garden is a place of beauty and remembrance. You are invited to visit the Garden at any time to enjoy its quiet, natural beauty. In every season, it is a place for meditation and reflection. It is often said that we feel closer to God in a garden. As the final resting place for family and friends, it is a treasured space for remembering loved ones and reaching out to God in prayer.