

**Eaton Rapids Fall Handbell Festival**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2026**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**Eaton Rapids, MI**

**Director Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church/Organization Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Handbell Ensemble Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Form and Fees Due by October 15, 2026**

- I would like to register \_\_\_\_\_ ringers @ \$20.00 per person (Lunch included)
- I would like to register \_\_\_\_\_ ringers at a group rate of \$150.00 per group (Lunch Included)

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which division you will be ringing:  Coppers (Level 3)  Tins (Level 1)

Our group is interested in playing a solo at the concert.  Yes  No, thank you

Tables will be provided by First United Methodist Church of Eaton Rapids (FUMER) at no charge on a first come, first served basis. You are welcome to bring your own tables if desired. Please note that foam will NOT be provided by FUMER.

- I will bring **my own** tables and need \_\_\_\_\_ feet of space available.
- I will use tables provided by FUMER and will need \_\_\_\_\_ feet of table.

Please return this form and your check payable to "First United Methodist Church" to:

Brenda Austin  
First United Methodist Church  
600 S. Main Street  
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827  
517-663-3524  
[brendaeastin@gmail.com](mailto:brendaeastin@gmail.com)

**Credit Card Payment**

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ex \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address for credit card holder \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Please register early. Space is limited! ◀

**Eaton Rapids Fall Handbell Festival**  
**Saturday, November 8 2025**  
First United Methodist Church  
Eaton Rapids, MI

**Information**

**What:** Eaton Rapids Fall Handbell Festival  
**Where:** First United Methodist Church, 600 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827  
**When:** Saturday, Nov 14, 2026  
**Time:** 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

**Répertoire**

**Massed: (EVERYONE RINGS)**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* arr. Sandra Eithun (Hope 3105), Level 2  
*A Winter's Night So Deep* arr. Brenda E. Austin (Hope 3119), Level 2

**Tins: (Choose either Tins or Coppers)**

*Alleluia, Amen* arr. Karen Buckwalter (Chorister's Guild CGB817), Level 1

**Coppers: (Choose either Tins or Coppers)**

*Courage and Grace* by Michael Joy (Hope 3030), Level 3

**Music must be ordered and prepared prior to the festival.**

**What to bring**

Generally, if you use it in rehearsal, please bring it to the festival.

**Schedule**

9:00am – 9:45am: Arrive & set-up  
9:45 am – 10:45am: Massed rehearsal  
10:45am – 11:00 am: BREAK  
11:00am – 11:45am: Coppers in rehearsal – Tins in class  
11:45am – 12:00pm: BREAK  
12:00pm – 12:45pm: Tins in rehearsal – Coppers in class  
12:45pm – 1:30pm: LUNCH  
1:30pm – 2:15pm: Massed rehearsal  
2:15pm – 2:30pm: Tins run through – Coppers BREAK  
2:30pm – 2:45pm Coppers run through – Tins BREAK  
2:45pm – 3:15pm: Final run through  
3:15pm – 3:30pm: Prepare for concert  
3:30pm: Closing concert **with special guest: Detroit Handbell Ensemble!**

## **Our Clinicians**

**Brenda. E. Austin** is in demand internationally as a conductor and clinician because of her dynamic and energetic approach to connecting musicians through handbells. In 2019, Brenda joined the team at Hope Publishing Company in Carol Stream, IL as editor. In 2023, she was named music director for Embellish Handbells.. Before joining Embellish, she served as the artistic director for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble starting in 2016. Under her baton, DHE was honored to open the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in 2018 and to be the featured concert for HMA's Area 2 2019 Festival in Lancaster, PA. Additionally, she has served First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids, MI, as Director of Music since 2003. She is also active in the community directing children's musical theatre.

Brenda graduated with degrees in vocal performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She studied with Craig Arnold, Steve Zegree, and Eph Ehly.

Brenda is sought after as a handbell clinician and has been the conductor and clinician at numerous festivals and workshops all over the US and abroad. Additionally, she has had more than 100 titles published for handbells and sacred choral since 2015.

For more information about Brenda, please visit her website at [www.BrendaEAustin.com](http://www.BrendaEAustin.com).

**Kyle Webber** has been leading choirs, handbell choirs and playing organ and piano in churches for more than two decades. He is currently the director of worship and music at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, MI and also the Artistic Director for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble. He is a clinician, having conducted Area 5 InspiRing for young adults, the Peggy Van Vlack Memorial Ring, the Eaton Rapids Handbell Festival, and several Handbell Musicians of America Area 5 festivals. He has served in various roles on both the Area 5 and national boards of the Handbell Musicians of America. Kyle is also a published handbell composer. He is the proud father of three amazing kids.

## **SPECIAL GUESTS: DETROIT HANDBELL ENSEMBLE!**

Attendees will be graced with the dulcet tones of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble in a mini concert. Members of the ensemble will also be involved in massed rehearsal and as clinicians for classes.

The ensemble, which began in 1991 with founding director Susan Berry, is an auditioned handbell choir that provides both educational and performance opportunities for southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio. Gifted organist and clinician Dr. Michael Burkhardt provided musical direction from 2010 to 2016, and talented handbell music composer Brenda Austin became the artistic director in fall 2016.

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble includes members who are musicians, educators, and business professionals from across southeastern Michigan. For more information about DHE, please see their website [www.RingDetroit.org](http://www.RingDetroit.org)

## **Questions?**

Brenda Austin; [brendaeAustin@gmail.com](mailto:brendaeAustin@gmail.com); 517.663.3524