

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
May 15, 2022 - 10:00am - Season After Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" by Peter Scholtes; arr. Charity Book Putnam

Welcome and Announcements – Please sign in on the Attendance pads,
or use your phone and the QR Code to the right to sign in electronically
or use this link: <https://form.jotform.com/211785166356159>

Please fill out your yellow prayer cards



***Opening Hymn UMH #89:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

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| 1) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day! | 3) Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine. |
| 2) All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee. | 4) Mortals, join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward,
In the triumph song of life. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Call to Worship:

(adapted from Psalm 148)

L: Come, people of God! Praise the Lord in the highest heaven and all across the earth!

P: Praise the Lord, angels and hosts! Let the sun, moon, and stars give God glory!

L: Praise the Lord, all creation! Let the sea, the creatures, the weather itself declare
praise of our Creator!

P: Mountains and hills, trees and flowers, all that grows – Praise the Lord of life!

L: Men and women, old and young, people across the diverse spectrum of humanity –
sing praise with joy and gratitude!

P: For God has provided God's people with gifts and hope. God is faithful and
worthy of praise! Thanks be to God for God's holy and abiding presence!

Prayer Chorus TFWS # 2013 – “Bless the Lord, My Soul”

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

Time of Prayer – *During the Prayer Chorus and/or silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor.*

Silent Meditation

Lifting our Celebrations and Concerns In Prayer / Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer – Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Living Our Gratitude

♪ *Please continue to support your church family as we recover from this season of pandemic. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.*

Use the QR code to the right or give online here:

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



Offertory: “*Blest Be The Tie That Binds*”

by Johann Nageli; arr. Neil Harmon

*** The Doxology:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; **UMH #94**
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving: Generous God, we offer gifts this day as those who have received so much more. You gave yourself to us and asked only for devotion, yet we got distracted by the world. You offer all of creation to meet our needs, yet we crave more. You offer your love to all, yet we often value some over others. And so, you’ve given us “the repentance that leads to life,” and all our giving pales by comparison. Dedicate us, we pray, in Christ’s holy name. Amen.

Children’s Message – *A special moment just for kids*

Hymn UMH #611: “*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*” (vs. 1 & 3)

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| 1) Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
With this water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine. | 3) Child of joy, our dearest treasure
God’s you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you;
Live as one who bears Christ’s name. |
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The Sacrament of Baptism for Children and Others Unable to Answer for Themselves

UMH pg. 39

GREETING

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

This morning, it is our joy to present Theodore William Visuri for baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? *I do.*

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? *I do.*

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? *I do.*

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church that by your teaching and example, he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? *I will.*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround the Visuri family with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal Father, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of God's mercy each day!

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and she who receives it, to wash away her sin and clothe her in righteousness throughout her lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, she may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS / PRAYER

Theodore, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Pastor will offer prayer at this time, then:

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ:

Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

And now, may the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.
Amen.

Family is presented with baptismal certificate and a small gift at this time.

Please join in welcoming little Theo to the Saginaw First UMC Church Family!

Special Music: *“Love Can Turn the World”*

by Benjamin Gaither, Jeff Silvey, Kim Williams

Peg Wilken, Terry Moon, and Bryan Latimer

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 11:1-18

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 122

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Response to the Word

L: This is the Word of God for the people of God

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

ALL PEOPLE BLESSED THROUGH YOU

Rev. John Kasper
Central Bay District Superintendent

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn UMH #337: “Only Trust Him”

1) Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord;
And he will surely give you rest,
By trusting in his Word.

Refrain: Only trust him, only trust him,
Only trust him now.
He will save you,
He will save you,
He will save you now.

2) For Jesus shed his precious blood
Rich blessings to bestow;

Plunge now into the crimson flood
That washes bright as snow. [Refrain]

3) Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way
That leads you into rest;
Believe in him without delay,
And you are fully blest. [Refrain]

4) Come then and join this holy band,
And on to glory go,
To dwell in that celestial land
Where joys immortal flow. [Refrain]

***Benediction:**

Rev. John Kasper, Central Bay District Superintendent

***Postlude: “What the World Needs Now is Love”**

by Burt Bacharach; arr. Philip Keveren

** Please stand, if you are able*

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<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
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Custodian	Tina Castle
Organist.....	Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir.....	Rod Bieber
Bell Choir Director.....	Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisors.....	Diane Maturen
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Nic Courier, Andy Sharrow, Izzy Terhune
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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Be sure to check in on Facebook! The more of us that do, the more people learn about who we are!

Facebook: **First United Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**

YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Belinda Hatch & Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Larry Hagerty, Tom Miller / Coffee Hour Host: Kay Mertz and Jill Spaulding

WELCOME to Rev. John Kasper, the Central Bay District Superintendent, who is stepping in today to bring us God's word while Pastor Amy is away with Covid, and to share in the Sacrament of Baptism today.

WELCOME to Theodore William Visuri, being baptized today, born 2/1/2022, son of Elliott & Lauren Visuri. Grandparents: David Visuri, Jeanne Visuri, Sandra Bowen, David Masud, and Amy Musud.

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, David Barker, Bev Blue, John & Myrna Cammin, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Glenn Hinds, Barb Kropp, Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, Sheldon Markley, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Ron Perry, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, and all who are grieving. Also, please pray for UMCOR, for all suffering from Covid-19, for the war in Ukraine, and for a way to peace/equality for humankind.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR in honor of Nathan Miller's Graduation from the University of Arizona.

NURTURE, REACH, PREPARE, AND SEND Committee Meetings are being postponed again to Monday, May 23 – 6:00pm Nurture and 7:00pm Reach/Prepare/Send.

COFFEE HOUR has resumed – hosts needed. Coffee hour hosts pick up donut holes from the Tim Hortons at 4870 State Street (just east of Center Rd.), brew coffee, set up, and clean up. Sign up and view instructions online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-coffee> or sign up at the Welcome Desk or by calling the church office at (989) 799-0131. Thank you!

PASTOR AMY IS COVID POSITIVE and is isolating at home. Thank you to all who have stepped up to help out while she's gone.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE for Cheryl Marks has been postponed to Friday, June 17 at 1:00pm.

WEEKEND FOOD BACKPACKS – Sign up to pack bags of food for the weekend for elementary children and/or deliver packed bags to Westdale and Arrowwood Elementary. To help, sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food> or call (989) 799-0131.

NOW HIRING – teens or adults to run our sound system, PowerPoint, and livestream. Pay is \$20/week. Must be at least age 14 to apply. Training will happen this summer. Apply online here: <https://form.jotform.com/221053598882161>. Deadline to apply is TODAY!

GRADUATES – If you have a student graduating this year from High School, College, University, Grad School, Trade School, or Military, please be sure to get their information into the main office. Please do not assume we know!!! Email firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com. WE NEED TO KNOW: Name, Where graduating from, Degree (*if applicable*), Honors, and Future Plans. Also, please send a picture!! Graduation Sunday is EARLY this year, scheduled for NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 22!!

SPECIAL MUSIC NEEDED on weeks when the choir does sing and for the summer. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044dafac2ba0fd0-special1>