

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
September 18, 2022 - 10:00am - 16th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bell Prelude: "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

by Robert Lowry; arr. Arnold B. Sherman

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>



***Opening Hymn FWS #2237:** "As A Fire Is Meant for Burning"

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| 1) As a fire is meant for burning
With a bright and warming flame,
So the church is meant for mission,
Giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
But to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations,
Finding neighbors everywhere. | By our gentle loving actions,
We would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening spirit,
We would live to God's delight. |
| 2) We are learners; we are teachers;
We are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
We are vessels made of clay. | 3) As a green bud in the springtime
Is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness
Mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
When a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance
Of God's new and glorious dawn. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Call to Worship: (by Thom Shuman, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/08/call-to-worship-proper-14a.html>)

L: Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters:

P: Here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.

L: Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

P: Here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

L: Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

P: Here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to serve God and neighbor.

Thanks be to God that we are blessed to share love, comfort, and grace!

Prayer Chorus FWS #2176: "Make Me A Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant,

Make me a servant, Make me a servant today.

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

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: “Close Every Door” (From *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*)

By Andrew Lloyd Webber

* **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: Loving God, it is you who sends us out to serve others – to represent you in our world. Today, we bring these gifts to you, a small token of the enormity of what you’ve given us. Use these gifts, and we ourselves, to help the poor and bring justice in our world, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

Genesis 45:4-8a

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 41

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God.”

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

Bell Anthem:

“He Leadeth Me”

by William Bradbury; arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Bell Choir directed by Catherine McMichael

An Order Of Farewell To Church Members

L: The church is a family.

United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ our Savior,
we are all brothers and sisters.

And, for a time, First United Methodist Church of Saginaw is our home.

Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time:

as members are born, as they die,

as members are adopted into our family,

and as they leave our congregation for a new home in a different place.

For a time, Mary Whitman has lived with us.

We have shared with each other good times and bad,

we have shared each other's joys and sorrows,

we have lightened each other's heavy loads.

Together we have laughed and cried,

together we have worshiped and praised God,

together we have lived.

P: We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. Although we will remain connected in Christ across the miles, we know that our relationship will be different moving forward. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. We bless you as you move on to your new home.

L: Eternal God, you hold the times and seasons, endings and beginnings, in your hands.

Bless Mary as she enters a new time of life.

We give thanks for tasks accomplished, for service rendered,

for the joys and pains woven into the fabric of her years among us.

We know that Christian friendship is not bound by time or geography,

and so she will remain in our hearts with love and gratitude.

Give to Mary the guidance of your Holy Spirit, and preserve her in health and safety,
both of body and soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

I John 4:7-12

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 226

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

The Youth Mission Report from Puerto Rico: *Nick Brown, Bill Cowdry, Madeline Curtiss, Andrew Sahouri, Mark Schultz, Amy Terhune, Izzy Terhune, Andy Wagner, Dr. Drew Wagner, Gabe Vance*

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #593: “Here I Am, Lord”**

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| <p>1) I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?</p> <p>Chorus: Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.</p> <p>2) I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.</p> | <p>I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]</p> <p>3) I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? [Chorus]</p> |
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***Benediction**

L: Beloved, Go now and love others, because love is from God. Know that it is God who sends you and God who goes before you in each circumstance. May God speak through you; May Christ Jesus raise you to life; And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy.

P: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all God’s creation. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Postlude: “When In Our Music God Is Glorified”**

by Charles V. Stanford; arr. Matt Limbaugh

** Please stand, if you are able*

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Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
.....	pastoralbt@outlook.com / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
Office Administrator/Treasurer	Dina Draper
Custodian.....	Tina Castle
Director of Music & Chancel Choir	Rod Bieber
Organist	Bryan Latimer
Bell Choir Director	Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisor	Diane Maturen
Audio Visual Technicians	Nic Courier, Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Belinda Hatch and Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Larry Haggerty, Tom Miller

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, David Barker, Bev Blue, John & Myrna Cammin, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, 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, for an end to division in our nation, and for a way to peace/equality for humankind.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY given by Betty Jo Cloud in memory of Jim Cloud

RALLY DAY / MINISTRY FAIR is TODAY after worship. Dress casually, invite your friends, and join us to learn more about how you can get involved in ministry here. Posters and exhibits are set up around the Narthex. A POTLUCK luncheon following worship will take place in Gibbs Hall.

COFFEE HOUR has resumed – hosts needed. 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!

SUMMER MISSION – Thus far, we've only collected about \$3608 of the \$7000 needed to feed 48 kids on weekends over the school year. It's not too late! Please give generously.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Tuesday, September 20, 7:00pm ON ZOOM

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD – Monday, September 26, 7:00pm

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Wednesday, September 28, 10:00am

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE – Wednesday, October 12, 10:00am

CHANCEL CHOIR resumes with first rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7:15pm. Full Schedule available at the Welcome Desk.

ADULT BOOK STUDY – Six Week Adult Book Study on “Sabbath as Resistance” by Walter Brueggemann begins in person on Tuesday Sept. 27 at 6pm and begins online on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7:30pm. Books available at the Welcome Desk for \$10. Free books available upon request.

CHARGE CONFERENCE – here at Saginaw First UMC, Sunday, October 23, 3:00-5:00pm.

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**