

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 4, 2022 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Advent

* Please Stand if you are able

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

"Imagine"

by John Lennon; arr. Francesco Parrino

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 UMH #209:** *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* (vs. 1 & 2)

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|--|---|
| 1) Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free
Who visits and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace. | Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way.
The prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day! |
| 2) Now from the house of David,
a child of grace is given;
A savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven. | 3) On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
To guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
O Bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath** – *Andy, Stacy, Alexa, Hailey, & Meredith Sharrow*

READING *(see attached if you'd like to follow along)*

UNISON PRAYER: Christ our Peace, lead us by your light shining in the darkness,
that we may live in peace and work for justice until your Kingdom comes on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen.

SONG UMH #204 *"Emmanuel"*

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

Time of Silent Meditation

The Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns

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: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Cy Miller / Jill Jackson; arr. Lani Smith

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: God of peace and justice, in the past year we have once again witnessed the fruits of war: lives cut short, children made orphans, homes devastated, and hearts broken. We pray to see the day that Isaiah saw in his heart, when all creation would live together in harmony. These gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your son. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

Children's Message – A special moment just for kids

Hymn FWS #2097: “One Holy Night In Bethlehem”

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| 1) One holy night in Bethlehem
the air was filled with song.
Angelic voices sang on high
and shepherds piped along: | Where Mary sang a lullaby
and rocked her baby small: <i>[Chorus]</i> |
| Chorus: Sing glory, glory, gloria!
God's love is given birth!
Be not afraid, sing gloria,
And peace to all the earth! | 3) As Joseph touched the lamb's soft wool,
and fed the donkey hay,
He whistled his own happy tune and
thanked God for this day: <i>[Chorus]</i> |
| 2) Their music echoed through the town
into the stable stall, | 4) Be still, and you will hear tonight
these melodies of old.
Then join your voice in harmony
until the tale is told: <i>[Chorus]</i> |

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, the Miller Family have 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 Tom, Nancy, Heather, and Nathan as they enter a new time of life.

We give thanks for tasks accomplished, for service rendered,
for the joys and pains woven into the fabric of their years among us.

We know that Christian friendship is not bound by time or geography,
and so they will remain in our hearts with love and gratitude.

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

Choral Anthem:

"Sounds of Advent"

arr. Lee Dengler

Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 602-603

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins...

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for the day
when a voice would cry out in the wilderness,
and the glory of the Lord would be revealed.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!***

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ,
Whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.
He humbled himself in obedience to your will, and feely accepted death on a cross.
On the night he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said
“Take; eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
As often as you drink of this, remember me.
And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

L: Let us pray: Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here.
And on each person within reach of my voice.
Bless our offerings of bread and juice, that they may be for us the body and blood
of Christ; that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast together at his heavenly banquet.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Those who worship with us in person this morning are invited to come forward, take a cup with a piece of bread and a serving of juice and return to your seats. When all have been served, we will eat the bread and drink the juice together. Leave your plastic waste in the pew and it will be gathered following worship for recycling.

Those who worship online from home this morning are invited to use what you have in your home (bread, crackers, juice, etc.) to participate in the sacrament along with the congregation.

Special Music During Communion: “Once He Came In Blessing”

Traditional German; arr. Michael Burkhardt

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #218: “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”**

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|---|--|
| 1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing. | 3) And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing! |
| 2) Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing. | 4) For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing. |

***Benediction:**

L: Beloved, prophets of old put forth bold and broad dreams of the coming of God. So too may we, here and now, imagine unlikely and precious life – possible once more as the Divine draws near. The opportunity is ours to be faithful and courageous in our commitment to peace and justice through Emmanuel, God-with-us.

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

*** Postlude:**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

By Sebastian Temple; arr. Lloyd Larson

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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
Organist.....	Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir.....	Rod Bieber
Bell Choir Director.....	Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisors.....	Diane Maturen and Katie Moon
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Nic Courier, Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

Second Sunday of Advent: December 4, 2022

Adapted from Derek Weber, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2022>

PEACE: Stand as a Signal

Reader One: “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious” (*Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV*).

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim to our nation and to the whole world

Reader One: “In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. “Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” And “bear fruit worthy of repentance” (*Matthew 3:1,2, 8 NRSV*).

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of gladsome hope and the candle of proclaimed peace, both to remind ourselves that we are a people rising toward God’s promise, and also as a sign to the world that we are working for the way of peace. We stand as a sign that Emmanuel is our Lord, Guide, and Companion in the work of justice.

Light two purple candles of the Advent wreath.

Reader One: Let us pray.

People: Christ our Peace, lead us by your light shining in the darkness, that we may live in peace and work for justice until your Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

UMH #204 – “Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS / STAFF: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Bill & Sue Johnson, Kay Mertz / Welcome Desk & Coffee Host: Jill Spaulding / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Angie Smith, Roger Spann / Nursery: Katie Moon / Sound Board: Izzy Terhune

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Myrna Cammin, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Glenn Hinds, Barb Kropp, Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, Sheldon & Bonnie Markley, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Ron Perry, Al & Teddy Reichard, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, and all who are grieving. Also, please pray for UMCOR, for all suffering from Covid-19, for the end of war in Ukraine, for those plagued by famine in East Africa, for an end to division in our nation, and for peace/equality for humankind.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY given by Dr. Lou & Karen Constan to the glory of God.

COLLEGE STUDENTS – if you have a student in college/university taking exams in the next few weeks, please make sure the church office has their contact information so we can send a little something to our students to let them know we're thinking of them during exams. Thank you!

COMMUNITY DINNERS – We are exploring the possibility of resuming the free community dinners, but we need to know if we have enough volunteers. If you're interested in being part of Community Dinners, please join us for an ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TODAY following worship. Thanks!

SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM to help families facing food insecurity. To deliver food to schools on Mondays, sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food>.

COFFEE HOUR hosts needed. Sign up at the welcome desk or sign up and view instructions online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-coffee>. You may also call the church office at (989) 799-0131 to sign up. Thank you!

NEEDED – ADVENT WREATH READERS/LIGHTERS – we are in need of families, couples, or individuals to light the Advent Wreath on 12/11 and 12/24 and lead the accompanying litany. If you're interested, please let Pastor Amy know. Thank you!

SING IN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS! – you may not be able to commit to singing in the choir all year long, but maybe you can help us out for the Advent/Christmas Season. Rehearsals for the Christmas Season are on Thursdays from 7:15-8:15 beginning December 1, 2022.

COOKIE WALK – Sunday 12/18 following worship. \$5 per dozen assorted cookies. All funds raised go to the youth mission trip to Appalachia in June 2023. Cookie Donations welcome and appreciated!!!!

BACK SECTION OF THE BUILDING CLOSED THIS WEEK while the Abatement company pulls asbestos tile damaged from the flooding a few weeks ago. This week, please enter through the front doors only. If you need to get to the kitchen or fellowship hall, you'll need to enter the EAST back door. You will NOT be able to access the Counseling Office, Classrooms, Choir Room, Restrooms, Youth Room, or Nursery this week. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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**



Worship Schedule

- **Second Advent 12/4/2022 – Worship/Communion 10:00am**
Choir Singing
- **Advent Taizé Service – Wednesday 12/7/2022 – 7:00pm**
 - **Third Advent 12/11/2022 – Worship 10:00am**
- **Fourth Advent 12/18/2022 – All Music Sunday 10:00am**
- **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE – 5:00pm**
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 7:30pm**
 - **Christmas Sunday 12/25/2022 – 10:00am**
 - **New Year's Sunday 1/1/2023 - ONLINE ONLY**

Please note: we will not be worshipping in person on Sunday, 1/1/2023.

To give our staff a holiday weekend off, the service will be pre-recorded and streamed online Sunday morning.

Mission

THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING will go to purchase gift cards and needed Christmas Meals for the families of the 48 Backpack Children (see above), plus additional youth from White Pine Middle School and Heritage High School. Our goal is to raise \$4K to help 80 families. Contributions needed by Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Education

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY for kids up to 5th grade – Sunday 12/11/2022 – 11:30am-1:00pm.
Includes lunch, Bible story, craft, baking project, games, and treats.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE for Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia – Sunday 12/18/2022 after worship

FOUR-WEEK ADVENT ADULT BOOK STUDY on *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* by Adam Hamilton. Books available from the Office for \$10.
6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20
7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21

Will you join our **ASP Mission Team?**



ASP is a relational ministry with construction on the side.

Saginaw First U.M.C. is heading to Appalachia June 18-25, 2023

All Youth in grades 6-12 are eligible to go!! \$50 deposit due 12/18/22.

Adult chaperones also needed/welcome!

Organizational Meeting - Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 6:00pm.



Appalachia Service Project brings volunteers and communities together in the heart of Central Appalachia, strengthening faith, deepening relationships, and spreading hope.

ASP
Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT®

www.asphome.org

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+
Warmer. Safer. Drier.