

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 11, 2022 - 10:00am - Third Sunday in Advent

* Please Stand if you are able

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

"Angels and Shepherds"

Czech carol; arr. Patricia Lou Harris

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 #220:** *"Angels From the Realms of Glory"*

1) Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

3) Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star: *[Refrain]*

Refrain: Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

2) Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light: *[Refrain]*

4) Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear: *[Refrain]*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath** – *Roger Spann*

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

UNISON PRAYER: Christ our Joy, bless us by your light shining in the darkness, that we may sing praise and know your abiding presence in all times and circumstances, and so live in the deep joy that sustains us even in desert moments. Amen.

SONG UMH #228 *"He Is Born"*

Refrain: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

1) Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
Thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! *(Refrain)*

2) O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind! *(Refrain)*

3) Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. *(Refrain)*

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 help support your church family. 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: “Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”

French carol; arr. Jack Jones

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, as we bring our gifts to you this day, we acknowledge that you have given us so much. In this Advent season of preparation, we ask you to help us walk a new highway. Set us on the path that leads to a closer walk with Jesus, our redeemer. May this be the season when he finds the highways to our hearts joyfully prepared for his coming. Amen.

Children's Message – A special moment just for kids

Hymn FWS #2095: “Star Child”

1) Star-Child, earth-Child,
Go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child,
Heaven's lightning rod.

3) Grown child, old child,
Memory full of years,
Sad child, lost child,
Story told in tears. *Refrain*

*Refrain: This year, this year
Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes
For everyone, everyone alive!*

4) Spared child, spoiled child,
Having, wanting more,
Wise child, faith child,
Knowing joy in store. *Refrain*

2) Street child, beat child,
No place left to go,
Hurt child, used child,
No one wants to know. *Refrain*

5) Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine. *Refrain*

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #246: “Joy to the World”**

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|--|---|
| 1) Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing! | 3) No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found. |
| 2) Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4) He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love. |

***Benediction:**

L: Beloved, go from here to share your deep joy. Strengthen those who are tired and exhausted; comfort those who are anxious and fearful. Have courage and confidence, for God is coming. Indeed, God is already here!

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

*** Postlude:**

“Caroling, Caroling”

By Alfred Burt; arr. Diane Bish

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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.....	Katie Moon
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Nic Courier, Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

Third Sunday of Advent: December 11, 2022

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

JOY: The Lord's Highway

Roger Spann

Reader One: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way. . . And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10 NRSV).

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy as the ultimate destination.

Reader One: The Psalmist says “Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 146 NRSV)

Reader Two: We light these candles – the candle of gladsome hope, of proclaimed peace, and of everlasting joy – as a sign that we are those who hold to deeper joy knowing that we undertake our journey with God beside us. Even in the desert, we find our thirst quenched, blossoms growing, and the bright colors of God's creation!

Light three candles on the Advent wreath – two purple and one pink.

Reader One: Let us pray.

People: Christ our Joy, bless us by your light shining in the darkness, that we may sing praise and know your abiding presence in all times and circumstances, and so live in the deep joy that sustains us even in desert moments. Amen.

UMH #228 – “He Is Born”

Refrain: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS / STAFF: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: David Marks / Greeters: Judy Gerken and Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Norm Jones, Max Mondol / Coffee Host: The Sharrow Family / Welcome Desk: Robin Schwellenbach / 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, Jean Richardson, 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 given by Bill & Xenny Johnson in honor of Heather Lenae Babcock.

REBECCA FELLOWSHIP would like to invite all women to attend their Christmas meeting/party December 20th at 11:00am. We will share a potluck luncheon and a Christmas game. Call Betty Jo Cloud (989) 799-8125 if you can attend and what you will bring for the potluck.

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!

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS will resume on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning January 10. Sign up online or call the church office at (989) 799-0131 to help set up, serve, cook, or clean-up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>. You can sign up to donate food at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>.

SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM to help families facing food insecurity. To deliver food to schools on Mondays, sign up at <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!

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 – NEXT 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!!!!

A CLASSY BRASSY CHRISTMAS (which included the First UMC Bell Choir) will be televised on **NBC 25** on 12/17 at 7pm and 12/24 at Noon; on **Fox 66** on 12/24 at 10:30pm or 12/25 at 11am, and on **CW 46** on 12/24 at 7pm or 12/25 at 5pm. Also streaming on <https://midmichigannow.com>

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

- *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 – TODAY – 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

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