

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 18, 2022 - 10:00am - 4th Sunday in Advent / All Music Sunday

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Change Ring Prelude: "Divinum Mysterium" 13th Century plainsong; arr. Fred Grammann

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 #202:** "People, Look East"

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way. | 3) Stars, keep the watch.
When night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way. |
| 2) Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength
the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way. | 4) Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath** – Leslee Jacoby and Cindy Smith

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

**UNISON PRAYER: Christ our Love, fill us with your light shining in the darkness,
that we may know and share your love with those who feel alone and with those in
need. Amen.**

SONG UMH #242 "Love Came Down At Christmas"

- 1) Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
- 2) Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3) Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

**Please stand if you are able*

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:

“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”

German carol; arr. Joel Raney

Four Hand Piano – Bryan Latimer & Catherine McMichael

*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: when the children were in deep despair, you promised them a Savior. As we bring you our tithes and offerings this day, we know so many are discouraged and longing for a new song among the ruins. We need what only a Savior can give us. Instill your song in our hearts and lives, until they reflect your love and glory; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children's Message – A special moment just for kids

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Scripture Lesson:

Isaiah 52:7-10

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 642

¹ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they sing for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted his people and has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Choral Anthem:

“Chosen Mary, Gentle One”

w/m by Joseph M. Martin

Hail, O blessed one;
the Lord is with you!
Blessed are you among women,
for you have found favor with God.
You have found favor with God.
Mary, you shall have a son,
and you shall call him Jesus.

Chosen Mary, gentle one,
I come to you today
I bring to you glad tidings of great joy;
be not afraid!
For you will bear a holy Child,
the Son of God by name

O chosen Mary, gentle one,
rejoice: be not afraid.
The Lord will give to you a son
to hold in love's embrace
And he shall be called Jesus,
the name above all names. *Chorus*

Chosen Mary, gentle one,
put all your fears away;
For God will work a miracle,
and he will keep you safe.
The Spirit of Almighty God
will cover you with grace. *Chorus*

Chorus: I bring tidings of comfort and of joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

***Hymn UMH #249:** *“There's a Song In The Air”*

1) There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

2) There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

3) In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
where Jesus is King!

4) We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
That comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 53-54

⁴⁶ Mary began to sing: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on, all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me; holy is his name! ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those awed by him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

Special Music:

*“Let It Be Christmas
Mark Ode, Guitar/Vocals*

Alan Jackson

Let it be Christmas everywhere; In the hearts of all people both near and far.
Christmas everywhere; Feel the love of the season wherever you are,
On the small country roads lined with green mistletoe,
Or big city streets where a thousand lights glow!

Chorus: Let it be Christmas everywhere; Let heavenly music fill the air;
Let every heart sing; Let every bell ring the story of hope and joy and peace
And let it be Christmas everywhere

Let heavenly music fill the air; Let anger and fear and hate disappear
Let there be love that lasts through the year and let it be Christmas everywhere!

Let it be Christmas everywhere with the gold and the silver, the green and the red
Christmas everywhere; In the smiles of all children asleep in their beds
In the eyes of young babies, their first fallen snow
The elderly's memories that never grow old; [Chorus]

Let it be Christmas everywhere: In the songs that we sing and the gifts that we bring
Christmas everywhere: In what this day means and what we believe
From the sandy white beaches where blue water rolls,
To snow-covered mountains and valleys below. [Chorus]

Bell Anthem:

“’Twas In the Moon of Wintertime”

Native and French-Canadian Carol by Jean de Brébeuf; arr. Catherine McMichael

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #240:** *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

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|---|---|
| 1) Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" | Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" |
| 2) Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; | 3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" |

***Benediction:**

L: Beloved, go from this place with the music of Christmas alive in your heart and your spirit. May it inspire your love for others, and bless you with fond memories of yesterday, comfort and peace for today, and the conviction of hope for every tomorrow, through Christ our Love and our Song. Amen.

P: We go forth to love and serve the Lord and all God's creation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** Postlude:** *“Love Has Come, A Light in the Darkness”*

French Carol; arr. David Cherwien

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Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 18, 2022

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

LOVE: Give You a Sign

Leslee Jacoby & Cindy Smith

Reader One: Isaiah tells us that the Lord spoke to the king and said, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven” (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But the King did not want to test God. So Isaiah said: “Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel” (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).

Reader Two: In a moment of fear and doubt, God sent to God’s people a promise – Emmanuel. So great is God’s love for humankind, that God promised the people that they would not be alone. In our moments of fear and doubt, Emmanuel still is present to us.

Reader One: "Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took Mary as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV).

Reader Two: We light these candles – the candle of gladsome hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of ever-present Love – as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.

Light the four candles of the Advent wreath – 2 purple, 1 pink, 1 purple

Reader One: Let us pray.

People: Christ our Love, fill us with your light shining in the darkness, that we may know and share your love with those who feel alone and with those in need. Amen.

UMH #242 – “Love Came Down At Christmas”

- 1) Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.
- 2) Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3) Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS / STAFF: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Cal Mott / Greeters: Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Larry Haggerty / Coffee Host: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: 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, 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.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Sheldon Markley

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR given by David Marks in memory of Cheryl Marks.

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.

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!

COOKIE WALK – TODAY following worship. \$5 per dozen assorted cookies. All funds raised go to the youth mission trip to Appalachia in June 2023.

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**

First United Methodist Church

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



Worship Schedule

- **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.

Music

A CLASSY BRASSY CHRISTMAS (which included the First UMC Bell Choir) will be televised on:

NBC 25 on 12/24 at Noon;

Fox 66 on 12/24 at 10:30pm or 12/25 at 11am,

CW 46 on 12/24 at 7pm or 12/25 at 5pm.

Also streaming on <https://midmichigannow.com>

Education

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE for Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia – **Today** after worship - \$5/dozen

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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