

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 25, 2022 - 10:00am - Christmas Sunday

** Please Stand if you are able*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *Five Variants on "Unto Us A Boy Is Born"*

German Carol; arr. Raymond Haan

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 #244:** *"Twas In the Moon of Wintertime"*

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| 1) 'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria. | 3) The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria. |
| 2) Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria. | 4) O children of the forest free,
O seed of Manitou,
The holy child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Call to Worship

[adapted from Christine Sine on Godspace. <http://godspace-msa.com/>]

L: Come and see!

P: **The light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love. It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.**

L: Come and follow!

P: **Christ our companion has redeemed our world and has drawn us into a loving family of every tribe, race, and culture.**

- L: Go and tell!
P: The Spirit has equipped us for service: to love our neighbors as ourselves; to make known God’s salvation to the ends of the earth.
 L: Come and see, come and follow, go and tell!
P: In God’s Love the nations of the earth will put their hope.

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: “The Holly and the Ivy” *English Carol; arr. Chris de Silva*

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 our salvation, we are still feeling the Christmas glow. But we realize the call to be your light is more than a feeling. As we make our last gifts of the year to you, Lord help us see the mission you’ve put before us, and give us strength to reflect your light, we pray through holy name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Children’s Message – A special moment just for kids

Special Music: “Some Children See Him” *by Alfred Burt; arr. Dave Grusin*

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-14 Pew Bible N.T. pg. 86

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to

testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

The Christmas Meditation:

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #224:** *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”*

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| 1) Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today,
Christ is born today! | He hath opened heaven's door,
And ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this,
Christ was born for this! |
| 2) Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this! | 3) Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save! |

***Benediction:**

L: Beloved, go forth into this week and the coming new year with a hunger to know and be part of God's big dream for the world. Let your light shine on behalf of others. Reflect God's light, hope, and grace into a longing world!

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

*** Postlude:** *“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

African American Spiritual; arr. Eugene W. Hancock

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER – WORSHIP IS ONLINE ONLY NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023!!!

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS / STAFF: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Bill Cowdry /
Greeters: Eileen Ling & Roger Spann / Ushers: Bob Bula, Jim Ling, Chuck Priem, John Cammin
Jr. / Sound Board: Angie Smith

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.

TAIZE WORSHIP – Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 7:00pm

YOUTH NEWS – MISSION TRIP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, Jan. 8 at 6:00pm

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>.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY – Saturday, January 14, 9:30am-Noon. Once APFG moves out and the back classrooms are empty, there is some cleaning and rearranging that needs to be done to get our building ready for the next phase of ministry.

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>.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from December 24 through January 2. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2022 at 8:30am. Dina Draper and Pastor Amy will be on vacation during that time. However, in the case of a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor Amy's cell phone at (989) 274-6363.

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: **saginawfume**

YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

First United Methodist Church

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Office Administrator/TreasurerDina Draper
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Organist..... Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir Rod Bieber
Bell Choir DirectorCatherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisors.....Diane Maturen, Carolyn Rottiers
Audio Visual Technicians..... Nic Courier, Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow, Izzy Terhune