

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
February 26, 2023 - 10:00am - First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

"Be Still, My Soul"

by Jean Sibelius; arr. Jeff Bjorck

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>

Please fill out your yellow prayer cards



***Opening Hymn UMH #269:** *"Lord, Who, Throughout These Forty Days"*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay. | To die to self, and chiefly live
By thy most holy word. |
| 2) As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
In thee to conquer sin. | 4) And through these days of penitence,
And through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide. |
| 3) As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord, | 5) Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

The Unison Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves; the places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you; the places where we are seduced to serve self instead of others; the places that lure us towards sensationalism over humility; the places that entice us to use manipulation or violence to retain control. Forgive our wandering and our sin, and free us for joyful obedience to you through Christ. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

L: Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. This proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able*

Time of Prayer – *During the Prayer Chorus and/or silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor.*

Prayer Chorus TFWS #2112: “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

- 1) *Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.*
- 2) *We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.*
- 3) *You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.*

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: “My Song Is Love Unknown” (Rhosymedre) *by Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. Hal H. Hopson*

***The Doxology** **Praise God throughout these forty days;** *Tune: UMH #95*
 Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise; *(old 100th)*
 And praise the Spirit who imparts
 God’s grace and love to human hearts. Amen.

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** **Holy God, as we bring our gifts and offerings to you today, we are mindful of how tempting it is to mistake our wants for needs and hold onto what we have in the name of caution. May we offer our gifts to you this day with generosity and gratitude. Strengthen us to resist temptation that would present security or power in anyone but you; through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

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

The Sacrament of Baptism for Children and Others Unable to Answer for Themselves

UMH pg. 39

GREETING

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

This morning, it is our joy to present Theodore William Visuri for baptism.

Parents: Elliott and Lauren Visuri Grandparents: Sandra Bowen
David & Amy Masud
David & Jeanne Visuri

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? *I do.*

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? *I do.*

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? *I do.*

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church that by your teaching and example, he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? *I will.*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround the Visuri family with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Eternal Father, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea.
Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of God's mercy each day!

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout her lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS / PRAYER

Theodore, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Pastor will offer prayer at this time, then:

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ:

Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.

Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

And now, may the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.
Amen.

Family is presented with baptismal certificate and a small gift at this time.

Please join in welcoming little Theo to the Saginaw First UMC Church Family!

Choral Anthem:

“The Love He Gave”

by Jay Althouse

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 3

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

Video Introduction: *NCIS Gibbs’ Rule #36*

Sermon: “RULE #36: IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’RE BEING PLAYED, YOU PROBABLY ARE”

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #377: “It Is Well With My Soul”**

1) When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2) Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate, and hath shed
his own blood for my soul. *[Refrain]*

3) My sin, oh, the bliss
of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul! *[Refrain]*

4) And, Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.
[Refrain]

***Benediction:**

(by Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>)

L: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God; walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High; walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

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

***Postlude:** *"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"*

from Antiphoner, 1753; arr. Wilbur Held

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Bill Cowdry / Greeters: Eileen Ling & Roger Spann / Ushers: Bob Bula, John Cammin Jr., Jim Ling, Chuck Priem / Coffee Hour Hosts: The Sharrow Family / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / Nursery: Katie Moon / Sound System: Angie Smith

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, 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 (now at Senior Care at Weiss & Mackinaw), Madge Richmond, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, Rev. Richard Turner (now home) and all who are grieving. Also, please pray for UMCOR, for all suffering from illness, for an end to war in Ukraine, for those suffering famine in East Africa, for our Southern Border, for peace/equity for humankind, and for the MSU community.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Jane MacQueen

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Jean Richardson, who passed away 2/18/23; and to Chuck and Joyce Priem and family on the death of Chuck's mother Betty Priem on 2/9/23.

There were supposed to be flowers on the altar today in Memory of **JAMES STEWART**, but due to weather, the florist could not deliver. Nevertheless, we remember the Stewart and Kolobaric families today on what would have been James' 25th Birthday.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP this Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00pm both in person and online.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY continues this week in person on Tuesday 2/28 at 6pm and online on 3/1 at 7:30pm after Taizé Worship. PLEASE NOTE that book study will not meet next week on 3/7 or 3/8 as Pastor Amy will be away at Lake Huron Retreat Center for the Bd. of Ordained Ministry Meeting.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS have resumed on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next free meal is this Tuesday, March 14. Call the church office at (989) 799-0131 to help set up, serve, or clean-up, or sign up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>. A list of food items needed is on the welcome desk. Sign up to donate food there OR online 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!

USHERS NEEDED – We are currently looking for 4-5 women to serve as ushers and/or usher captains. All it takes to become an usher is dedication to the job and be at worship when scheduled! If you are interested or want more info, contact Bob Bula at 989-781-1126.

NEW LENTEN BANNERS are hanging in our sanctuary thanks to the efforts of JoAnn Baker and Jackie Ode, and the support of the Memorial Committee. Beautiful Work! Thank you!!!!

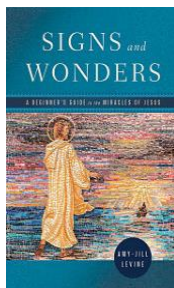
LYRICS REPRODUCED
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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
Be sure to check in on Facebook!
The more of us that do, the more people learn about who we are!

Facebook: @firstumcofsaginaw
Instagram: **saginawfumc**
YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**
Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240	
e-mail: firstumsag@aol.com website: http://firstumcsaginaw.org	
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	Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

LENT 2023 AT SAGINAW FIRST UMC



Lenten Book Study – “Signs and Wonders” by Amy-Jill Levine

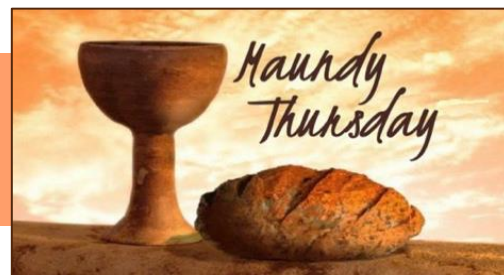
IN PERSON – 6:00-7:00pm Tuesdays 2/21, 2/28*, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4

ONLINE – 7:30-8:30pm Wednesdays 2/15†, 3/1*, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5

**Note: Pastor Amy is away the first week of March for Board of Ordained Ministry.*

†Note: the online course will start a week earlier so as to NOT meet on Ash Wednesday 2/22/23.

**Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Worship and Communion**
Thursday, April 6 – 7:00pm



Good Friday Worship – Friday, April 7

12:00-12:30pm and 12:30-1:00pm

Come for one service or stay for both!

Sack lunches provided.

Easter Celebration Worship
Sunday, April 9 – 10:00am



ABOUT THE 2023 LENTEN THEME

This year for Lent, our theme comes from the hit CBS crime Drama “NCIS” (which stands for Naval Criminal Investigative Service). Pastor Amy will NOT preach on “NCIS” every week, but she will use rules established by the main character – Leroy Jethro Gibbs – as titles and launch points for sermons. You do not need to be a fan of “NCIS” to follow this sermon series. However, if you’d like some additional context, you can view a montage of Gibbs’ Rules on

the Saginaw First UMC Youtube Page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTrjb-JNdu4>. If you’d like an additional fun little game this Lent, see if you can figure which rule she’s going to use each week...