

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community  
March 5, 2023 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Lent

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "Wondrous Love" (Variations)

*Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar*

**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 #297:** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

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| 1) Beneath the cross of Jesus<br>I fain would take my stand,<br>The shadow of a mighty rock<br>Within a weary land;<br>A home within the wilderness,<br>A rest upon the way,<br>From the burning of the noontide heat,<br>And the burden of the day. | And from my stricken heart with tears<br>Two wonders I confess:<br>The wonders of redeeming love<br>And my unworthiness.   |
| 2) Upon that cross of Jesus<br>Mine eye at times can see<br>The very dying form of One<br>Who suffered there for me;   | 3) I take, O cross, thy shadow<br>For my abiding place;<br>I ask no other sunshine than<br>The sunshine of his face;<br>Content to let the world go by,<br>To know no gain nor loss,<br>My sinful self my only shame,<br>My glory all the cross. |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Unison Prayer of Confession:**

*(adapted from resources for 3/5/2023 on <https://www.ministrymatters.com>)*

**Saving God, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away. We focus on what goes wrong. We're more prone to complain than to look for blessings. We hunger for your Spirit, yet fail to sense it's movement among us. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, turn our hearts back to you, that we may choose Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.**

**The Words of Assurance**

**L:** Here the good news: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. 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*

## Prayer Chorus TFWS #2260: “Let Us Be Bread”

*Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.  
Let us be wine, love freely poured; let us be one in the Lord.*

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

## 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:** “*Because He Lives*” *by William Gaither; arr. Marianne Kim*

**\*The Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days;  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God’s grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

*Tune: UMH #95  
(old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**\*The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** **God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. We marvel at that kind of love, and we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back for fear there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

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

**Special Music:** “*How Deep the Father’s Love For Us*” *by Stuart Townsend; arr. Larry Shackley*  
*Terry Moon, Peg Wilken, and Bryan Latimer*

**Scripture Lesson:**

John 3:1-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 88

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through 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 #3a*

**Sermon:** “RULE #3A: “DON’T BELIEVE WHAT YOU’RE TOLD; DOUBLE CHECK”

*Pastor Amy Terhune*

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## **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

L: The Lord be with you,

**P: And also with you.**

L:: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,  
to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

When rain fell upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights,

You bore the ark upon the waters, saved Noah and his family,  
and made covenant with every living thing on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights,

You gave us the commandments, and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,

your prophet Elijah prayed and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights;  
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,

Your Spirit led him into the wilderness,  
where he fasted 40 days and 40 nights to prepare for his ministry.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,

you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,

you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,  
that during these 40 days of Lent, we may be gifted and graced  
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which 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: 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.

**ALL: 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.*

**\*Music During Communion W&S #3168: “Come to the Table of Grace”**

*Come to the table of grace;\* Come to the table of grace;\*  
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine; Come to the table of grace!\**

*\* peace; \* love; \* hope; \* joy; \* grace*

**WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD**

**\*Closing Hymn UMH #629: “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

[Chorus] You satisfy the hungry heart  
With gift of finest wheat;  
Come give to us, O Saving Lord  
The bread of life to eat.

3) Is not the cup we bless and share  
The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf declare  
Our oneness in the Lord? [Chorus]

1) As when the shepherd calls his sheep  
They know and heed his voice,  
So when you call your family, Lord,  
We follow and rejoice. [Chorus]

4) The mystery of your presence, Lord,  
No mortal tongue can tell;  
Whom all the world cannot contain  
Comes in our hearts to dwell. [Chorus]

2) With joyful lips we sing to you  
Our praise and gratitude,  
That you should count us worthy, Lord,  
To share this heavenly food. [Chorus]

5) You give yourself to us, O Lord,  
Then selfless let us be;  
To serve each other in your name  
In truth and charity. [Chorus]

**\*Benediction:**

*(by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey & Rev. Susan A. Blain, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)*

**L:** Just as God’s Word was sent into the world in love to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope! As you go, may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always. Amen.

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

**\*Postlude: “God So Loved the World”**

*by Stuart Townsend; arr. Larry Shackley*

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<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
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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
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Angie Smith, Andy Sharrow, Izzy Terhune
<b>Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.</b>	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: Jim Doane / Greeters: Bill & Sue Johnson and Kay Mertz / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Dr. Larry Kelly, Angie Smith / Coffee Hour Hosts: Bill & Xenny Johnson / Welcome Desk: Robin Schwellenbach / Nursery: Katie Moon / Sound System: Izzy Terhune

**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, 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:** Ed Babinski, Al Reichard

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the families of Jean Richardson, A.D. McGregor, and Betty Priem.

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY** will NOT meet this week because Pastor Amy is away for the Bd. of Ordained Ministry Meetings. Classes will resume next week on Tuesday 3/14 (in person) at 6pm and on Wednesday 3/15 (online) at 7:30pm.

**FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS** have resumed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>. Please stay today and help pack up food bags.

**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!!!!

**PASTOR AMY** is away at Board of Ordained Ministry Meetings at Lake Huron Retreat Center this week Monday 3/6-Wednesday 3/8. Please text or leave a voicemail message on her cell phone at (989) 274-6363 in the case of pastoral emergency. Thank you!

**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!*

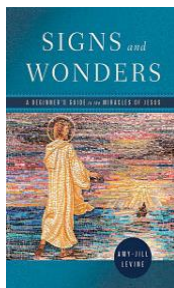
YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

Twitter: **FirstUMCofSaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**

Facebook: **First United Methodist Church of Saginaw**

# LENT 2023 AT SAGINAW FIRST UMC



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

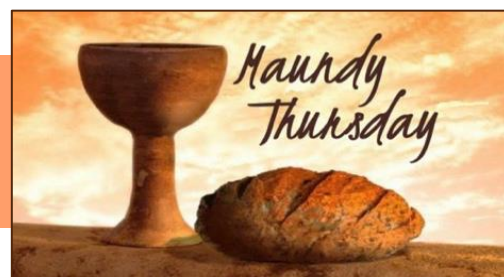
**IN PERSON – 6:00-7:00pm Tuesdays 2/21, 2/28\*, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4**

**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 go*