

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
March 19, 2023 - 10:00am - Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bell Prelude:

“Adagio”
“O The Deep Love of Jesus”

by Albinoni; arr. McChesney

by Williams; arr. Bartsch

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 #454: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

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| 1) Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine! | Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine! |
| 2) Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. | 3) Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Unison Prayer of Confession:

(by Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine; <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we “see,” we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, failures, and faults. Make our “shadow side” known to us, and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

L: Here the good news: God is light. If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with God and one another, and Jesus cleanses us of all our sin. May Almighty God, who caused light to shine out of the darkness, shine in us and restore in us the light of the knowledge of God's Glory in the face of Christ our Savior. Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Please stand if you are able

Special Music: “How Great Thou Art” by Stuart K. Hine; arr. Catherine McMichael
Soloists: Ed Cunningham, Todd Hall, Bryan Latimer Piano: Catherine McMichael

Time of Prayer – Prior to the time of silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards for 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: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” by H.H. Lemmel; arr. D. Musselman

***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:** Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You restore health and shine light for the discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but see your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to the work of your kingdom on earth, through Christ who gives us vision. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: John 9:1-9, 13-22 Pew Bible N.T. pg. 96-97

¹ As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must do the work of him who sent me while it is day; for night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). The man went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone who resembles him.” He kept saying, “I am he!”...

¹³ So they brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

Bell Anthem: *“Blessed Assurance (w/ Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring)”* by P. Knapp; arr. C. Dobrinski

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

Scripture Lesson:

John 9:24-41

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 97

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵ When Jesus heard that they had driven him out, he went and found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ The man answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ The man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

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 #13*

Sermon: "RULE #13: "NEVER, EVER INVOLVE LAWYERS"

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn UMH #581: "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

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| <p>1) Lord whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy's perfect deed.
We your servants bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose
Every gift that you impart.</p> <p>2) Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.</p> | <p>3) As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quicken sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.</p> <p>4) Called by worship to your service,
Forth in your dear name we go
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That you servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.</p> |
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***Benediction:**

(by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)

L: As you leave this time of worship, may God's presence follow you, heal you, and empower you to witness and *to witness to* the love of God everywhere you go.

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

***Postlude:**

"All Who Love and Serve Your City"

Charlestown; arr. James Gilbert

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<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
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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
Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Belinda Hatch & Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Larry Haggerty / Coffee Hour Host: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / 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, 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, and Rev. Richard Turner (now home). 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 (now at Samaritas)

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to William and Julie Kolobaric and Family upon the death of William's Father Mike Kolobaric on Wednesday.

KID'S CLUB will not meet today. We will meet Sunday, April 2, following Worship for a Field Trip!

MEETINGS THIS WEEK: Nurture – Monday 3/20 – 6:00pm
Reach / Prepare / Send – Monday 3/20 – 7:00pm
Trustees and Finance – Tuesday 3/21 – 7:15pm

LENTEN BOOK STUDY will meet Tuesday 3/21 (in person) at 6pm and on Wednesday 3/22 (online) at 7:30pm. We're looking at Chapter 4 this week.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS have resumed on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. **The next free meal is this Tuesday, April 11.** 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>.

REBECCA FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S CIRCLE will meet Tuesday 3/21 at 11:00am. We'll be making cards for *Meals On Wheels*. Please contact Betty Jo Cloud at 989-799-8125 or email her at jbcloud@yahoo.com if you plan on attending.

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!!!!!!

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!

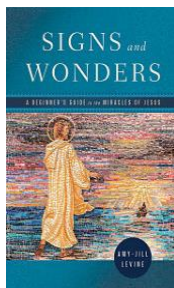
YouTube: **Saginaw First UMC**

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

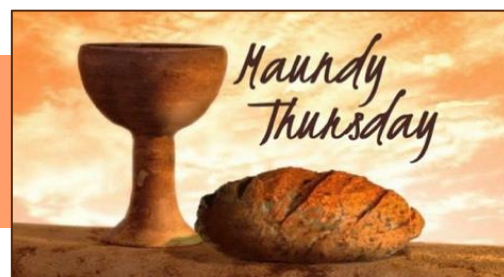
IN PERSON – 6:00-7:00pm Tuesdays 2/21, 2/28*, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4

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 going to use.



ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Saginaw First United Methodist Church

You can also order online at: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/order-easter-flowers/>

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Easter flowers are available to order until Monday, March 27, 2023. We regret that costs have risen and plants now cost \$27 each. Please note: we cannot guarantee colors. However, you are welcome to write a preference below if you have one and we'll do our best to honor it. Fill in how many of each plant you'd like to order.

I would like to order _____ Easter Lily(s) at \$27 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Tulip(s) at \$27 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Hyacinth(s) at \$27 each. _____

Flowers in Memory of: _____

OR

Flowers in Honor of: _____

Please submit payment to Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638; or place in Offering Plate at worship. Note "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or envelope.

Call the church office at (989)799-0131 if you have questions.