

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
April 16, 2023 - 10:00am - 2nd Sunday in the Easter Season

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

Words of Welcome – 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 #156:** "I Love to Tell the Story" (vs. 1-3)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings
as nothing else can do. | Than all the golden fancies
of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story,
it did so much for me;
And that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee. [Refrain] |
| Refrain: I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love. | 3) I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
The message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain] |
| 2) I love to tell the story;
more wonderful it seems | |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, unclutter our lives. We have too much, consume too much, expect too much. Grant us perspective to see this world through your eyes instead of our own. Grant us compassion; where there is need to play our part, let us not turn aside. Grant us gratitude for what we have, our daily bread, the gift of life. Unclutter our lives, Lord, and give us space, simplicity, thankful hearts, through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.

The Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news: the gift of the Risen Christ is forgiveness of sin and fresh starts, that we may recommit ourselves to being God light and God's hands in the world. Thanks be to God!

Prayer Chorus UMH #156: “I Love to Tell the Story” (vs. 4)

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

Time of Silent Meditation

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

♪ *You can support your church family by giving in person or online.*

*Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God
for all with which you have been blessed. Thank you!*

Use the QR code to the right or give online here:

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



Offertory: “The Whole World in God’s Hands”

arr. Joel Raney

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:

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we might praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrow, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Colossians 1:15-20

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 188-189

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

***Hymn UMH #310:**

“He Lives”

1) I serve a risen Savior,
 he’s in the world today;
I know that he is living,
 whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy,
 I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him,
 he’s always near.

2) In all the world around me
 I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary,
 I never will despair.
I know that he is leading
 through all the stormy blast;
The day of his appearing
 will come at last. [Refrain]

Refrain:

He lives, he lives,
 Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
 along life’s narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives?
 He lives within my heart.

3) Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
 lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
 to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him,
 the help of all who find;
None other is so loving,
 so good and kind. [Refrain]

Children’s Message – A special moment with the Pastor just for kids

Chorus UMH #191: “Jesus Loves Me”

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.*

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!

Scripture Lesson: John 9:1-6

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 96

¹ As he walked along, he 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 work the works of him who sent me while it is day; 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...

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “DIVERGENCE & JESUS: GOING HOME WITH THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS”

Rob Ashmall, Guest Preacher

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2161:** *“To Know You More”*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) To know you in all of your glory,
To love you with all that I am.
With all of my heart, Lord,
This is my prayer: to know you more. | 3) To know you in all of your mercy,
To serve you with all that I am.
With all of my heart, Lord,
This is my prayer: to know you more. |
| 2) To know you in all of your power;
To trust you with all that I am.
With all of my heart, Lord,
This is my prayer: to know you more. | 4) To know you in all of your power;
To trust you with all that I am.
With all of my heart, Lord,
This is my prayer: to know you more. |

***Benediction:**

L: As you go forth this week, may you find peace in your busyness, in your journeying, in your happiness, in your suffering, in your fearfulness, in your questioning, in your faithfulness, in your worshipping. May you find peace through surrender to God. May you spread the word of Jesus’s transforming love. May you hear the truth from the Holy Spirit as you are guided on your way. As you feel the peace that can only come through the Living Water that is our Almighty God, may your life begin to serve as an example of Christ to those around you. May you be the reason someone feels safe. May you be the reason someone feels love. May you be the reason someone feels a sense of belonging and welcome. May you be the reason someone comes to know Jesus. Amen. Go in peace.

***Postlude:** *“Crown Him With Many Crowns”* *by George Elvey; arr. Don Hustad*

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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
Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Roger Spann /
Greeters: Belinda Hatch and Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Larry Haggerty
/ Welcome Desk: Robin Schwellenbach / Nursery: Katie Moon / Sound System: Izzy Terhune

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Ed Babinski (now on hospice at Samaritas), 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, 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.

OUR SYMPATHY TO: Bonnie Markley and Family upon the death of Sheldon Markley on April 11. Arrangements for a celebration of life are in progress.

OUR SYMPATHY TO: Phyllis & Wayne Henney and Family upon the death of Phyllis' sister Colene Moore on April 8. Funeral services were held in Claire, MI this past week.

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING today for the Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia.

MISSION TOUR / NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP – THIS SATURDAY, April 22, 2023 – 10am-2pm. See Attached Flyer. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (989) 799-0131 OR SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME DESK SO WE KNOW HOW MANY TO EXPECT. THANK YOU!!!!!!**

FUNDRAISER for Angie Smith – April 30, 11am-1pm. See Attached Flyer. Sign up to help out at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-angies>.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNERS have resumed on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. **WE WILL HAVE A FREE COMMUNITY MEAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY 4/23/2023.**

REBECCA WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will be having a speaker from His Restoration Ministries at their April 18th meeting. His Restoration Ministries is a non-profit Christian Maternity home. They take in homeless pregnant women. We are collecting supplies they need. At this time their needs are:

- Diapers size 6-18 months
- Boys clothes size 6-12 months
- Cleaning supplies (laundry/dish soap Pinesol, bleach, window cleaner and toilet bowl cleaner.)

All these supplies can be purchased at a dollar store. A crib will be set up in the Narthex to collect these items. We hope to have the support of the church members. Thank You.

SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM to help families facing food insecurity. To deliver food to schools on Thursdays, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food>. Stay today and help pack up food. **NEEDED FOR BACKPACK KIDS at the Middle School and High School** – Reusable water bottles (no more drinking fountains in school) and sanitary pads/tampons for girls. Donate in the box in the front entryway or at the Welcome Desk. Thank you.

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!

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**

Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**



*Saginaw First UMC is pleased to announce our first
Community Partnership Clean-Up Event and Mission Tour*

WHEN: Saturday, April 22, from 10am – 2pm

WHERE: We'll meet at the Mustard Seed Shelter at
1325 Cherry Street, Saginaw, MI 49601

WHO: Everyone – all ages/abilities welcome (YES, bring the kids!)

SCHEDULE: 10:00am – Tour of the Mustard Seed Women's Shelter
11:00am-1pm – We'll walk the neighborhood:

- cleaning up trash
 - trimming low-hanging branches
 - eliminating trip hazards on sidewalks
- 1:00pm – Tour of the East Side Soup Kitchen

WHAT TO BRING:

- Lawn bags
- Good Walking Shoes
- Branch Trimmers
- Trash bags
- Work Gloves
- Rakes
- Shovels/Hoes

OUR PARTNERS:



FUNDRAISER BRUNCH For Angie Cowdry Smith

To help offset expenses of Cancer Treatment

Eggs

French Toast

Bacon / Sausage

Fresh Fruit

Coffee

Juice



SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023 11:00 am – 1:00pm



No set ticket price – donations requested.
Give ONLINE using this QR Code

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw
4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638