

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
July 9, 2023 - 10:00am - 7th Sunday in Pentecost Season

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

“The Kingdom of God”

by Austin C. Lovelace; arr. Bryan Latimer

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 FWS #2190:** “Bring Forth the Kingdom”

- | | |
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| 1) You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God! | Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus.</i> |
| <i>Chorus:</i>
<i>Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,</i>
<i>Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;</i>
<i>Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,</i>
<i>Bring forth the City of God!</i> | 3) You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus.</i> |
| 2) You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God! | 4) We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey
and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus.</i> |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)

One: God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

All: We are the soil in which the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

One: God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

All: We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener to transform us into good soil by that love and grace.

One: God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

All: May we be partners in nurturing and growing God's new reality, flourishing and bearing the abundant fruit for all God's creation.

One: Come, let us worship God.

All: Come, let us worship the Creator, Savior, and Great Spirit! 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 W&S #3119 – “Take, O Take Me As I Am”

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for a prayer chorus. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall'. The second system contains the lyrics 'be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.' The music is written in a key with three flats and a 4/4 time signature.

Silent Meditation and 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

♪ *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: “Sowing the Seeds of Love”

by Tears For Fears/Roland Orzabal; arr. Hitomi Seki

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: Life-giving God, receive these gifts, and we who bring them, and bless them with your abundance, that they may advance your Kingdom and bring grace, love, and fruitfulness to community and world, through Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 13:1-9

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 13

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A Sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

Children's Message – *A special moment just for kids****Hymn UMH #707:** *"Hymn of Promise"*

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|---|--|
| <p>1) In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.</p> <p>2) There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me.</p> | <p>From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.</p> <p>3) In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.</p> |
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Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 13:18-23

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 13

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the Sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!**Sermon:**

THE SOWER'S SEED IN YOU

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn UMH #583: “You Are the Seed”

1) You are the seed
that will grow a new sprout;
You're a star
that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast
and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn
that will bring a new day;
You're the wheat
that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting
and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses wherever you go.

*Chorus: Go, my friends, go to the world,
Proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my
forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness,
From the dead I arose;
“Lo, I'll be with you forever,
Till the end of the world.”*

2) You are the flame
that will lighten the dark,
Sending sparkles of hope, faith, & love;
You are the shepherds
to lead the whole world through
valleys and pastures of peace.
You are the friends
that I chose for myself,
the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom
built on a rock, where
justice and truth always reign. *Chorus*

3) You are the life
that will nurture the plant;
You're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
nor a mountain can cover it's might;
May your good deeds
show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God. *Chorus.*

*Benediction:

L: Go forth from this time of worship devoted to cultivating good soil within and committed to spreading the Gospel Seeds of hope, faith, and love in all conditions, through the power of Christ in you. And the peace of God will be with you.

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

*Postlude:

“We're Marching to Zion”

by Robert Lowry; arr. Gordon Young

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THANK YOU TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!

Liturgist: Anne Marks-Gaertner / Greeters: Judy Gerken & Jackie Moore / Ushers: Bonnie Arnst, Keith Courier, Max Mondol / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Coffee Hour Host: Needed / Sound System: Angie Smith / Nursery: Katie Moon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Wayne Henney, Al Reichard, Joanna Thompson

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Dina Draper and family on the death of Dina's mother Barb Garcia on June 30, 2023 and to the family of Rev. Doug Leffler, who passed away on June 28, 2023, and to Jane MacQueen and family upon the death of Jane's mother Rose Prevost on June 16, 2023.

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Marion Hoffman, Sarah Kettlehohn, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, Bonnie Markley, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Ron Perry, Al & Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, Joanna Thompson, Rev. Richard Turner, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, the sick, all suffering from famine/oppression/wildfires, and an end to war in Ukraine.

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY TODAY following worship. Lunch will be provided for those who stay.

ADULT SUMMER BOOK STUDY – each summer, Pastor Amy leads a book study on a relevant social issue. This summer, we're studying "Common Ground: Talking About Gun Violence in America" by Donald V. Gaffney. Books are \$12 from the office, but no one will be excluded if they can't buy the book.

IN PERSON CLASS – Tuesdays at 6pm on 7/25, 8/1, 8/8, and 8/15.

ZOOM ONLINE CLASS – Wednesdays at 7:30pm on 7/26, 8/2, 8/9, and 8/16.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing **THIS TUESDAY**, July 11. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>
Sign up to donate food at the welcome desk or online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>

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!

SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM to help families facing food insecurity. Thank you to all who helped pack bags, who delivered food, and who supported this mission financially. Please consider adopting a student or two for the 2023-24 school year. It costs the church \$150 per child to feed them for an entire school year. Currently, we feed 72 children every weekend. Thank you all!!

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**

First United Methodist Church

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.....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 and Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

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