

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
September 3, 2023 - 10:00am - 15th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"

by George Allen; arr. James Southbridge

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 #617:** "I Come With Joy" (vs 1-3, 5)

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|---|--|
| 1) I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me. | 3) As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends. |
| 2) I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread,
In Christ's communion bread. | 5) Together met, together bound,
We'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world,
We'll live and speak his praise,
We'll live and speak his praise. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Call to Worship:

L: Come, you who labor—who teach and discover, power and build, sell and produce, plant and harvest; who heal, protect, and serve in many ways.

P: We come to the one who gives strength, intelligence, passion, and creativity.

L: Come, you who are weary from long days of labor; you who are drained by the pressures of interdepartmental relations and office complexities.

P: We come to the one who offers rest from our burdens.

L: Come, you who volunteer, giving of your time and energy for the sole compensation of making a difference in the life of another.

P: We come to the one who promises to be with us in our efforts.

L: Come, you who sustain your families; who cook and clean, tend and grow. Come, you who labor in learning and study. Come, you who struggle in the search for employment and fulfillment. Come worship God.

P: We come to the one who lived as we live and loves without end. Thanks be to God!

* 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 FWS #2255: “In the Singing”

*In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table*

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

*In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart’s cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people*

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

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: *Four Variants on “Take My Life and Let It Be”*

by Cesar Malan; arr. Wilbur Held

*** 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: **Loving God, you shape us by your love into those who carry your love into the world. Use these gifts we bring, and we who bring them, to advance your love in our community and our world, and to bless others in need, for we ask in the name of Christ who loves us. Amen.**

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

Special Music: Dick Dillman playing the Bones to *Living Truth II – “High Places”*

Scripture Lesson:

Romans 12:9-21

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 151-152

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!**The Sermon:***OVERCOMING EVIL**Pastor Amy Terhune***The Sacrament of Holy Communion:***UMH pg. 17 – Musical Setting A*

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 formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.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,
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind;
to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

On the night 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: Let us pray: Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on those gathered here,
and on all who worship within the sound of my voice.

Bless our offering 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. 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: “*Here I Am, Lord*” by Dan Schutte; arr. Marianne Kim

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2197: “Lord of All Hopefulness”**

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| <p>1) Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.</p> <p>2) Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors,
and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.</p> | <p>3) Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing,
and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.</p> <p>4) Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.</p> |
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***Benediction**

L: Beloved, receive this good news: You are beloved children of God, called and equipped to be agents of divine love in the world. And remember, you do not go alone. God goes before you, with you, and behind you wherever you go.

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

***Postlude: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”**

Indian Folk Melody; arr. Raluca Bojor

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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.....	Katie Moon and Karissa Schultz
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: David Marks / Greeters: Kay Mertz and Bill & Sue Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Dr. Larry Kelley, Angie Smith / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / Coffee Hour Hosts: Bill & Xenny Johnson / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

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, Al & Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Anne Ruffle, Eugenia Shek, Mac Thompson, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, all suffering from flooding/wildfires/hurricanes, and an end to war in Ukraine.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given in honor of what would have been Rev. Richard & MaryLee Turner's 70th Wedding Anniversary.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – Wednesday, September 6, 2023 @ 7:00pm in person and via livestream online.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing September 12.

Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

Sign up to Donate Food here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>

SANCTUARY CHOIR BEGINS This Thursday, September 7 from 7:15-8:15pm. The Choir will sing in worship on 9/10/23. Rehearsal and Performance **SCHEDULES** for both the Sanctuary Choir and the Bell Choir are available at the Welcome Desk. Participants should be sure to pick one up!!!

NEW MEMBER CLASS – Saturday, September 16, 9:30-11:30am – for all interested in joining / transferring membership to Saginaw First UMC. To sign up, call the office at (989) 799-0131, or sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-newmember>. Pastor Amy would be glad to speak with you if you have questions or would like more information. New Members will be received Sept. 24th in worship. **PLEASE NOTE:** Members being transferred from Ames UMC are not required to attend the class, but are welcome if they want to attend. Thank you!

RALLY DAY / MINISTRY FAIR is scheduled for September 24, 2023 after worship. Dress casually, invite your friends, and join us to learn more about how you can get involved in ministry here. Posters and exhibits will be set up in the Narthex. Bounce House for the kids in Gibbs Hall. A **POTLUCK** luncheon following worship will also take place in Gibbs Hall. Bring a dish to pass.

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**

IMPORTANT MEETINGS FOR FALL 2023

- **Tuesday, September 5, 6:30pm** – Staff Parish Relations Committee
- **Monday, September 11, 6:00pm** – Nurture; **7:00pm** – Reach, Prepare, Send
- **Tuesday, September 12, 7:15pm** – Trustees
- **Wednesday, September 13, 10:00am** – Lay Leadership / Nominations
- **Tuesday, September 19, 7:15pm** – Finance Team
- **Monday, September 25, 7:00pm** – Administrative Board Quarterly Meeting
- **Sunday, Oct. 29, 2:00pm** – ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING (Location TBA)