

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
September 17, 2023 - 10:00am - 17th Sunday in the Season of Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace" by Sebastian Temple; arr. Lloyd Larson

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 #389:** "Freely, Freely"

1) God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.

Chorus

2) All power is given in Jesus' name,
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His power as He told me to.

Chorus

Chorus: He said: 'Freely, freely, you have received. Freely, freely give;
Go in My name, and because you believe others will know that I live.'

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Rev. Mindi, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.)

One: I lift my eyes up to the mountains; from where does my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: We need not look only to the mountains or valleys, or even heaven or earth,

All: For God is found among us.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name,

All: God is here among us.

One: Come, let us follow Jesus, who is patient and forgives our sins, who welcomes us
into God's presence with peace.

All: Come, let us worship God our Savior, Lord of Creation and Community!

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"

(music attached, next page)

Take, O take me as I am. Summon out what I shall be.

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

* Please stand if you are able

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 key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church choir or congregation.

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

♪ 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: Variations on “Where Charity and Love Prevail” by A.R. Reinagle; arr. James Pethel

* *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:* Generous God, every good thing in our life reflects your caring. As we bring our tithes and gifts, we sometimes hold back our forgiveness to maintain power over one another. Help us to hear the teaching of Jesus on the generosity of forgiveness, and to live it out in Christ’s name. Amen.

Children’s Message – A special moment just for kids

Hymn FWS #2169: “*God, How Can We Forgive?*”

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| 1) God, how can we forgive
When bonds of love are torn?
How can we rise and start anew,
Our trust reborn?
When human loving fails
And every hope is gone,
Your love give strength
Beyond our own to face the dawn. | The ocean depth of grace
Surpasses all our needs.
A priest who shares our human pain,
Christ intercedes. |
| 2) When we have missed the mark,
And tears of anguish flow,
How can you still release our guilt,
The debt we owe? | 3) Who dares to throw the stone
To damn another's sin,
When you, while knowing
All our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge,
For by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin,
May we forgive. |

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 18:15-16, 20-35

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 19

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses... ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused, and went and threw him into prison until he paid the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he paid his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive another from your heart.”

Response to the Word

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon:

A PRISON OF OUR OWN MAKING

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2162: “Grace Alone”**

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|---|--|
| 1) Every promise we can make,
Every prayer and step of faith,
Every difference we will make
is only by his grace
Every mountain we will climb,
Every ray of hope we shine,
Every blessing left behind
is only by his grace.
Grace alone, which God supplies
Strength unknown he will provide
Christ is us, our cornerstone;
We will go forth in grace alone. | 2) Every soul we long to reach,
Every heart we hope to teach,
Everywhere we share his peace
is only by his grace.
Every loving word we say,
Every tear we wipe away
Every sorrow turned to praise
is only by his grace.
Grace alone, which God supplies
Strength unknown he will provide
Christ is us, our cornerstone;
We will go forth in grace alone. (2X) |
|---|--|

***Benediction/Dismissal**

L: Beloved, As you have been forgiven, now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing touch. Bring peace and hope to others, sharing God’s love with them.

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

***Postlude:** “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” *Sacred Harp 1844; arr. Wilbur Held*

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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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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Anne Marks-Gaertner / Greeters: Stacy Sharrow and Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Larry Haggerty, Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / Coffee Hour Hosts: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / 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, Pete & Sarah Kettlehohn, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Joyce Maltman, Camille Marek, Bonnie Markley, John Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, 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.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Sharon Mueller, Larry Potter

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY given by Betty Joy Cloud in memory of Jim Cloud, who entered eternal life two years ago tomorrow.

REBECCA FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S GROUP invites all women to attend their meeting **THIS TUESDAY**, September 19th at 11:00. Our speaker will be our organist Bryan Latimer, who will talk to us about what our libraries have to offer. Please contact Betty Jo Cloud at 989-799-8125 or email her at bjcloud@yahoo.com if you plan on attending. Hope to see you there!!

RALLY DAY / MINISTRY FAIR next Sunday, Sept. 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.

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR will rehearse this Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7:15pm. All are welcome to join the choir and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing October 10 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu next month: Lasagna, Salad, Corn, Garlic Bread and Cupcakes. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community> Sign up to Donate Food here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>

SENIOR FUN DAY – Thursday, October 19, 3:00-5:00pm, anyone who considers themselves a senior is welcome to join us for an informal time to socialize, including snacks and games. All welcome!

GREIF GROUP – Grief is the result of loss, perhaps due to death, divorce, unemployment, or dissolution of a relationship. Coping with grief is exhausting and sometimes overwhelming. Pastor Amy is starting a support group that will a) combat loneliness, b) offer practical coping mechanisms, and c) provide support. The group will begin by meeting weekly on Mondays from 11:00am-12:15pm starting October 9. Time/days may change depending on interested participants.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS FOR FALL 2023


- **Tuesday, September 19, 7:15pm** – Finance Team on Zoom
- **Monday, September 25, 7:00pm** – Administrative Board Quarterly Meeting
- **Tuesday, October 26, 7:00pm** – Trustees
- **Sunday, Oct. 29, 2:00pm** – ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING (at Auburn UMC)



YOU can make a difference!

Across the City of Saginaw and Saginaw Township, hundreds of families struggle with food insecurity. Children who come to school hungry can't learn as well.

We make sure that 72 children and teens have food on the weekend when they're not at school to get meals there. You can help in three ways:

- 1) It costs \$150 to feed a child or teenager each weekend of the school year. Consider sponsoring (or partially sponsoring) a child in 2023-2024. You can give today during the third Sunday Mission Offering, or give online. 



- 2) Food is delivered twice a month in bulk. It must be sorted and packed into bags for each kid. Beginning in October, stay after worship on Packing Sundays and help us get the bags filled, sorted, and ready to go.
- 3) Food must be delivered to 5 areas schools EVERY week. They are Westdale Elementary School, Arrowwood Elementary School, White Pine Middle School, Heritage High School, and Mackinaw High School. Beginning in October, you can volunteer to deliver bags on Mondays or Tuesdays to the schools. Stay tuned for more information about how to sign up. Thank-you!