

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community  
February 25, 2024 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Lent

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "Lift High The Cross"  
"Take Up Thy Cross"

by Sydney H. Nicholson; arr. Phil Lehenbauer  
tune from Sacred Melodies, 1815; arr. Robert A. Hobby

**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 write out a yellow prayer card if you have prayer concerns and joys to share.

**\*Opening Hymn UMH #415:** "Take Up Thy Cross"

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|--|--|
| 1) "Take up thy cross," the Savior said,<br>"If thou wouldst my disciple be;<br>Deny thyself, the world forsake,<br>And humbly follow after me."                   | 3) Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,<br>Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;<br>Thy Lord for thee the cross endured,<br>To save thy soul from death and hell. |
| 2) Take up thy cross, let not its weight<br>Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;<br>His strength shall bear thy spirit up,<br>And brace thy heart and nerve thine arm. | 4) Take up thy cross and follow Christ,<br>Nor think till death to lay it down;<br>For only those who bear the cross<br>May hope to wear the glorious crown.   |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Unison Prayer of Confession:** (Written by Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BLENT2.html>)

**Holy Friend, our God and Savior, we have talked much about faith yet have been slow to take its risks; we have lauded forgiveness yet have been miserly in giving it; we have praised truth yet have fudged our own integrity; we have extolled love yet have placed conditions on our loving; we have urged hope and yet lived like cynics; we have honored Christ's Cross yet have avoided our own. Oh most faithful God, please deal with each according to our individual betrayals of the Gospel we espouse. By your Spirit, enter the secret caverns of the soul and do what you must to make us new. Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of who we are that it becomes our way with others, for we ask in the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**The Words of Assurance** (from I Corinthians 2:5, 8)

L: Hear the Good News: Even though we were dead through our trespasses, God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loves us, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing. It is the gift of God. Thanks be to God for such Amazing Grace.

\* Please stand if you are able

**Time of Prayer** – *During the prayer chorus, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards to deliver to the pastor.*

**Prayer Chorus FWS #2057:** “*Be Still and Know*”

*Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.*

**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 choose to support your church family in this exciting and challenging time of mission/ministry. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.*

*Use the QR codes or pledge/give online here:*

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



**The Offertory:** “*Are Ye Able?*”

*by Harry Mason; arr. Bryan Latimer*

**\*The Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days;  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God’s grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

*Tune: UMH #95  
(old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**\*The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving: Giving God: As we bring our gifts, we are reminded that our discipleship decision involves more than what we bring to the altar; it calls us to take up our cross and follow. Give us the courage and strength to bear our cross and to help others bear theirs, and bless our gifts that they may advance peace and new life in the name of Christ, who bore his cross for us. Amen.**

**Choral Anthem:** “*Lift Every Voice and Sing*”

*by James W. & J. Rosamund Johnson; arr. Allen Pote*

**Children’s Message** – *A special moment 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:

Mark 8:27-38

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 41

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked them, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup> They answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup> Then he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on divine things, but on human things.” <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to follow me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

### Response to the Word

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

P: **Thanks be to God!**

## The Sermon

PETER'S CONFESSION

Pastor Amy Terhune

### ***WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD***

**\*Closing Hymn FWS #2137:** *“Would I Have Answered When You Called?”*

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|---|--|
| 1) Would I have answered when you called<br>“Come follow, follow me!”?<br>Would I at once have left behind<br>Both work and family?<br>Or would the old, familiar round<br>Have held me by its claim,<br>And kept the spark within my heart<br>From bursting into flame?  | 3) Would I have matched my step with<br>Yours when crowds cried “crucify!”<br>When on a rocky hill I saw<br>A cross against the sky?<br>Or would I too have slipped away<br>And left you there alone,<br>A dying king with crown of thorns<br>Upon a terrible throne?    |
| 2) Would I have followed where you led<br>Through ancient Galilee,<br>On roads unknown, by ways untried,<br>Beyond security?<br>Or would I soon have hurried back<br>Where home and comfort drew,<br>Where truth you taught would not<br>Disturb the ordered life I knew? | 4) O Christ, I cannot search my heart<br>Through all its tangled ways,<br>Nor can I with a certain mind,<br>My steadfastness appraise.<br>I only pray that when you call,<br>“Come follow, follow me!”<br>You’ll give me strength beyond my own<br>To follow faithfully. |

**\*Benediction:**

*(adapted from Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net/>)*

**One:** Beloved, go from this place in the love and power of the Triune God—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit—to extend grace and to meet your neighbors with an open heart as we take up our cross and follow Jesus for the sake of the gospel.

**All:** **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*

<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
<b>4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240</b>	
<b>e-mail: <a href="mailto:firstumsag@aol.com">firstumsag@aol.com</a>      website: <a href="http://firstumcsaginaw.org">http://firstumcsaginaw.org</a></b>	
Senior Pastor .....	Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
.....	<a href="mailto:pastoralbt@outlook.com">pastoralbt@outlook.com</a> / (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 Supervisor .....	Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune
<b>Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.</b>	

**PRAYERS**

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Tom Brubaker, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Marion Hoffman, Dr. Larry Kelly, Pete & Sarah Kettlehohn, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Merlyn Mondol, Ron Moon, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Angie Smith, Rev. Kathy Snedeker, Mac Thompson, MaryLee Turner, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and an end to war in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you all for your service!!** Liturgist: Bill Cowdry / Greeters: Sue Arceo & Belinda Hatch / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / Ushers: Bob Bula and Volunteers / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Sound System: Angie Smith / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Pat Parks and Family upon the death of Ken Parks on February 21. Funeral Services will be held here at the church tomorrow, Monday, February 26 at 11:00am.

**GRIEF GROUP** will not meet tomorrow, Monday, February 26 due to a funeral here at the church. We also will NOT meet on Monday, March 4 while Pastor Amy is away at Board of Ordained Ministry. Grief group will resume lessons on Monday, March 11 at 11:00am.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm. Sign up to donate food at the Welcome Desk.

or Donate food online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>

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

### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Vision Team – Monday 2/26 at 7:00pm both in person and on Zoom.
- Trustees Committee – Tuesday 2/27 at 7:15pm both in person and on Zoom.

### **IMPORTANT SIGN-UP SHEETS AT THE WELCOME DESK:**

- Sign up to donate food for the Free Community Meal on March 12
- Sign up to participate in this year's Talent Show, Sunday March 17 at 4:30pm
- Sign up to provide soup/bread for the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, 3/28 at 6:00pm
- Sign up to help pack lunches on Good Friday, March 29 at 9:30am
- Sign up to make muffins for Easter Coffee Hour on March 31.

**BOWLING FUNDRAISER FOR EAST SIDE SOUP KITCHEN** is TODAY from Noon-3:00pm.

Cost is \$25 per person for 3 games and shoes. Food / drinks available at additional cost. RSVP to Pastor Amy to be put on a First U.M.C. team so we can have a good showing!

**TALENT SHOW – Sun. March 17 at 4:30pm.** If you'd like to participate with a performance, sign up with Kathy Winkowski at [kmwinkowski2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kmwinkowski2003@yahoo.com) or 989-245-1036 or sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-47627267-talent>. Skits, solos, instrumentals, etc. welcome.

**ADVOCACY DAY – Wed. March 13, 2024 in Lansing.** United Methodists from across Michigan will gather again to advocate with our elected representatives this year that all persons have access to affordable mental health care and to reduce the stigma of mental health that impacts every family in Michigan. Register with Pastor Amy. Cost is \$30. Scholarships available. Online training sessions on Tuesday 2/20 at 7pm and Monday 2/26 at 7pm are strongly encouraged.

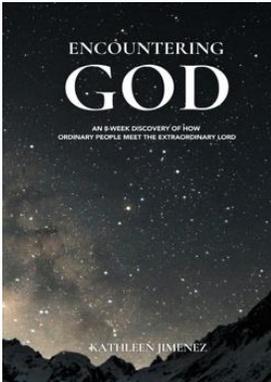
**COFFEE HOUR** – For 2024, treats are now here instead of having an additional stop to get donuts. Sign up to help with coffee hour at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-coffee>.

### **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** Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw** Instagram: **saginawfumc**

# LENT 2024 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC



**Lenten Book Study** – “*Encountering God*” by “our own” Kathy Jimenez, who is leading Tuesday’s group. Books available at the Welcome Desk or the office for \$12.

In Person on Tuesdays at 6:00pm: 2/20, 2/27\*, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

Online Wednesdays at 7:30pm: 2/21, 2/28\*, 3/13, 3/20, 3/17

\*off the following week while Pastor Amy at BOM.

**Palm Sunday Worship**  
Sunday, March 24 – 10:00am



**Maundy Thursday Soup Supper**

Thursday, March 28 – 6:00pm

**Maundy Thursday Worship/Communion**

Thursday, March 28 – 7:00pm

**Good Friday Worship** – Friday, March 29  
12:00-12:30pm and 12:30-1:00pm  
*Come for one service or stay for both!*  
*Sack lunches provided.*



**Easter Celebration Worship**

Sunday, March 31 – 10:00am