

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
March 3, 2024 - 10:00am - Third Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

"Because He Lives"

by William J. Gaither; arr. Marianne Kim

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



***Opening Hymn FWS #2236: "Gather Us In"**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1) Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears
 and our dreamings, Brought here
 to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in—the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in—the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.</p> <p>2) We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout
 all of history; Called to be light
 to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.</p> | <p>3) Here we will take the wine & the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call
 your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy & hearts that are true.</p> <p>4) Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place
 the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.</p> |
|---|---|

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

(adapted from resources for 3/5/2023 on <https://www.ministrymatters.com>)

Saving God, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away. We focus on what goes wrong. We're more prone to complain than to look for blessings. We hunger for your Spirit, yet fail to sense its movement among us. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, turn our hearts back to you, that we may choose Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able*

The Words of Assurance

L: Here the good news: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer Chorus TFWS #2260: “Let Us Be Bread”

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured; let us be one in the Lord.

Time of Prayer – *During the Prayer Chorus and/or silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor.*

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/>



Offertory:

“God So Loved the World”

by John Stainer; arr. Mike Carson

*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 100th)*

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. We marvel at that kind of love, and we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back for fear there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Special Music:

*“O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”
Terry Moon, Peg Wilken, and Bryan Latimer*

Welsh Melody; arr. K.L. Phillips

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:

John 3:1-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 88

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

“NICODEMUS’ CONFUSION”

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 brought all things into being and called them good.

When rain fell upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights,

You bore the ark upon the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living thing on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights,

You gave us the commandments, and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant,

your prophet Elijah prayed and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

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.

When you gave him to save us from our sin,

Your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted 40 days and 40 nights to prepare for his ministry.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,

you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these 40 days of Lent, we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which 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: Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here.
and on each person within reach of my voice.

Bless our offerings 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.

ALL: 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 W&S #3168: “Come to the Table of Grace”**

Come to the table of grace; Come to the table of grace;*
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine; Come to the table of grace!**

** peace; * love; * hope; * joy; * grace*

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #629:** “*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*” (vs. 1, 3-5)

[Chorus] You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O Saving Lord
The bread of life to eat.

Do not one cup, one loaf declare
Our oneness in the Lord? [Chorus]

1) As when the shepherd calls his sheep
They know and heed his voice,
So when you call your family, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. [Chorus]

4) The mystery of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell;
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. [Chorus]

3) Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?

5) You give yourself to us, O Lord,
Then selfless let us be;
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity. [Chorus]

***Benediction:**

(by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey & Rev. Susan A. Blain, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

L: Just as God’s Word was sent into the world in love to heal and redeem, so God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope! As you go, may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always.

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

***Postlude:** “*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*”

Antiphoner; arr. Wilber Held

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240
e-mail: firstumsag@aol.com website: <http://firstumcsaginaw.org>

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

Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.

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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you all for your service!! Liturgist: Cal Mott / Greeters: Bill & Sue Johnson / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson, Dr. Larry Kelly, Angie Smith / Coffee Hour: Bill & Xenny Johnson / Sound System: Izzy Terhune /

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, Pat Parks, Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Angie Smith, Rev. Kathy Snedeker, Mac Thompson, MaryLee Turner, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine/Israel/Gaza.

PASTOR AMY IS AWAY Monday 3/4 – Thursday 3/7 at the Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting at Lake Huron Retreat Center. She will have her cell phone. Please text/call or email in the case of a Pastoral Emergency. Rev. Rob Richards at (989) 751-5818 is also covering in case of emergencies.

GRIEF GROUP will not meet tomorrow, 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.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – This Wednesday, March 6, 7:00pm. In person and live-streamed on YouTube.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd 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 SIGN-UP SHEETS AT THE WELCOME DESK:

- Sign up to get a NAMETAG if you're relatively new to First U.M.C.
- 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.

CRAFT SUPPLY SALE – Saturday, March 16, 10:00am-3:30pm

KID'S CLUB – Next Sunday, March 10 after worship, for all kids age 3 thru 5th grade. Lunch provided.

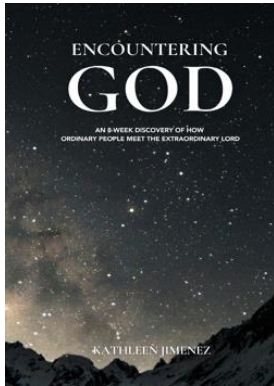
TALENT SHOW – Sun. March 17 at 4:30pm. If you'd like to participate with a performance, sign up with Kathy Winkowski at kmwinkowski2003@yahoo.com or 989-245-1036 or sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-47627267-talent>. Skits, solos, instrumentals, etc. welcome.

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 have already occurred but can be watched virtually by those still interested in going.

NAMETAGS are one of the ways we can make our church more welcoming and friendly. If you do NOT have a nametag on the magnetic board, please sign up with your preferred name at the Welcome Desk.

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>.

LENT 2024 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC



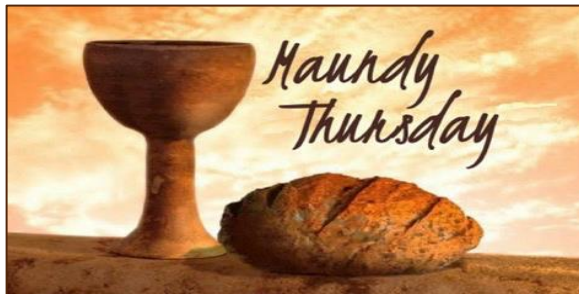
Lenten Book Study – “*Encountering God*” by “our own” Kathy Jimenez, who is leading Tuesday’s group. Books available at the Welcome Desk or the office for \$12.

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

Craft Supply Sale

~
**Saginaw
First United Methodist
Church**

~
**4790 Gratiot
Saginaw, MI 48638**

Saturday March 16th

10am - 3:30pm

15 vendors
Sewing items
Yarn
Jewelry making supplies
Card making
Scrapbooking supplies



**TALENT
SHOW**

**Sunday
March 17
4:30pm**

Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FDO-47627267-talent> OR at the Welcome Desk to:

- Sing a solo/duet/choir
- Play an instrument
- Perform a skit
- Do Mime
- Tell Jokes



ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Saginaw First United Methodist Church

You can also order online at: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/order-easter-flowers/>

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Easter flowers are available to order until Thursday, March 21, 2024. We regret that costs have risen and plants now cost \$25 each. Please note: we cannot guarantee colors. However, you are welcome to write a preference below if you have one and we'll do our best to honor it. Fill in how many of each plant you'd like to order.

I would like to order _____ Easter Lily(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Tulip(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Daffodil(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Hyacinth(s) at \$25 each. _____

Flowers in Memory of: _____

OR

Flowers in Honor of: _____

Please submit payment to Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638; or place in Offering Plate at worship. Note "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or envelope.

Call the church office at (989)799-0131 if you have questions.