

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
March 17, 2024 - 10:00am - Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude by Bells On High:

“Sinfonia”
“Shades of Forest Green”

Purcell; arr. Valeris Stephenson
Traditional English Tune; arr. Tim Waugh

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 UMH #257:** “We Meet You, O Christ”

- 1) We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise; Your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack; We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.
- 2) In millions alive, away and abroad; Involved in our life, you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems, you long to be free; We see you, Lord Jesus, still bearing your tree.
- 3) We hear you, O man, in agony cry; For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers, we read and we see. The tree must be planted by human decree.
- 4) You choose to be made at one with the earth; The dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word; The tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

(adapted from Amy Loving; <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

All: Lord, we confess that we love our lives as they are. We struggle with even the *idea* of change. We wrestle with the thought of doing things differently. But we know that the life we cling to is only a half-life. Only you, O Lord, can give us true life in full. Forgive us for holding onto the wrong things. Teach us by your Spirit to *let go* of our agendas and assumptions; our self-righteousness and power-grabs; our fear of change. As a seed falls into the earth and dies and so bears much fruit, so give us the strength and courage to die to self, so we can fully embrace you, Holy God, and bear fruit for you in the world, in Christ's holy name. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

One: The Prophet Jeremiah received God's grace-filled promise: The time is coming, says our God, when all people shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest, for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more.” That time has come in Christ. 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 #2166 – “Christ Beside Me” (*The Breastplate of St. Patrick*)

*Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, never to part.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.*

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: “Air and Variation on a Gaelic Melody”

Christopher Evans

***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:**

(adapted from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)

God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day, yet we acknowledge that most of the time, we cling tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need or that somehow there won’t be enough. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it can rob us of joy. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go, that we might claim your abundance, O Holy One, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Bells On High Anthem:

“Now the Green Blad Riseth”

arr. Kevin McChesney

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.*

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn W&S #3155:** *“The Lord of Life, A Vine Is He”* (see attached)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1) The Lord of Life, a vine is he
And grafted to him we must be;
And thus, we yield abundantly
Sweet fruit for all to taste and see.</p> <p>2) If we be joined to him, we know
His strength and power will help us grow.
His Spirit’s grace through us will flow
To prune and shape us as we go.</p> | <p>3) The vine is he, the branches we,
For now and to eternity.
His word sown deep in us will be
Both sun and rain – sufficiency.</p> <p>4) The Lord of Life, the Source Divine
Calls us to come with him entwine.
Will we, unhearing, dare decline
The call of Christ, the One True Vine?</p> |
|---|--|

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

One: Beloved, go from this place to seek and find the glory of Christ wherever you go.
And may you be blessed to recognize Christ as you notice, meet, and serve your
neighbors today and every day. Amen.

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

***Postlude:** *“Noel Nouvelet Toccata”* by Gordon Young

First United Methodist Church

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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 Supervisor 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** Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw** Instagram: **saginawfumc**

The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He

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 (2. If) we be joined to him we know his strength and power will
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Congregation: Unison

WORDS: Mary Kay Beall
 MUSIC: John Carter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you all for your service!! Liturgist: Anne Marks-Gaertner / Greeters: Belinda Hatch, Stacy Sharrow / Welcome Desk: Roger Spann / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Austin Tomlinson, Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

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.

GRIEF GROUP tomorrow, Monday, March 18 at 11:00am.

JOINT TRUSTEES/FINANCE MEETING – Tuesday, March 19 at 7:15pm in person. If you need an online option, contact Pastor Amy or the main office.

NOTE: ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD WILL NOT MEET ON MARCH 18.

REBECCA FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S CIRCLE - All women are invited to join Rebecca Fellowship for **this Tuesday, March 19th at 11:00am**. Pastor Amy will share with us highlights and pictures of the Terhune family trip to Germany. Please contact Betty Jo Cloud if you plan on attending at 989-799-8125 or bjcloud@yahoo.com. Thank you!

SENIOR FUN DAY – This Wednesday, March 20, 3:00-5:00pm – Games, fellowship, and snacks.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE THIS WEEK. See Attached for more information.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, April 9, 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 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.

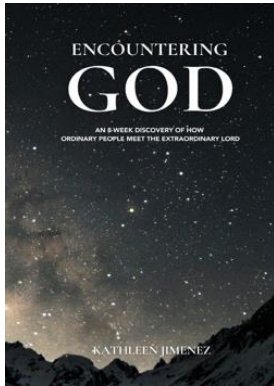
TALENT SHOW – TODAY at 4:30pm. Join us for a fun time of fellowship and entertainment.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – Saturday, April 13, 9:30-11:30am for anyone interested in joining First U.M.C. or learning more about U.M.C. Beliefs.

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



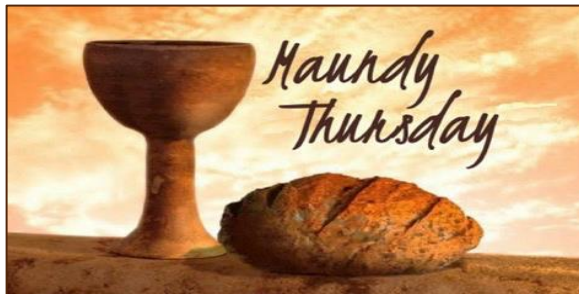
Lenten Book Study – “*Encountering God*” by “our own” Kathy Jimenez, who is leading Tuesday’s group. Books available at the Welcome Desk or the office for \$12.

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



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.