

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
March 31, 2024 - 10:00am - EASTER CELEBRATION!

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

Prelude on "Easter Hymn"
"The Strife is O'er"

by Phil Lehenbauer
by Wilbur Held

Words of Welcome – 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 if you have concerns/joys.



*Opening Hymn UMH #302: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

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|---|---|
| 1) Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia! | 3) Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia! |
| 2) Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia! | 4) Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Call to Worship: (adapted from by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>)

One: We thought you were dead. We thought the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

All: **But this is it: Christ is alive; the cross is empty; the stone is rolled, and one word describes it all: Alleluia!**

One: We thought you had said your final word. We thought those with the power had won. We thought that when you cried out, that was it.

All: **But this is it: the Word breathes; powers are defeated; the final cry was only the beginning, and one word says it all: Alleluia!**

One: We thought the story was finished. We thought the hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

All: **But this is it: the story has just begun; hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one word says it all: Alleluia!**

One: We thought that when they crucified you, death had defeated life, and that was it.

All: **But this is it: Love is stronger than death, and one word says it all: Alleluia!**

One: Hear again the Good News: Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!**

**Please stand, if 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 UMH #177: “He Is Lord”

*He is Lord! He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!*

Time of Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns

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

♪ *You can support your church family by giving in person or online.
Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God
for all with which you have been blessed. Thank you!*

Use the QR code to the right or give online here:

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



Offertory:

“The Easter Song”

by Ann Herring; arr. John Purifory

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:

Victorious God of Life, as we bring our offerings to you today, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus’ first followers encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. May our gifts be used by your transformative power to bring hope and new life to individuals and systems in your holy name; Amen.

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

***Hymn FWS #2115:**

“Christ Has Risen” (vs. 1-4)

1) Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied.

Let the moon embrace the blessing;
Let the sun sustain the cheer;
Let the world confirm the rumor.
Christ is risen, God is here!

2) Christ has risen for the people
Whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
Bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
Huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
Is not silenced by the tomb.

3) Christ has risen to companion
Former friends who fear the night,
Sensing loss and limitation where
Their faith had once burned bright.

They bemoan what is no longer,
They expect no hopeful sign
Till Christ ends their conversation,
Breaking bread and sharing wine.

4) Christ has risen and forever
Lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
Making us what he has been –
Evidence of transformation
In which God is known and seen.

The Affirmation of Faith (in unison):

(The Apostle's Creed, Ecumenical Version, UMH #882)

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead, and on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy and universal church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body,
and the live everlasting. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Choral Anthem:

"Crown Him the Risen King"

by Lloyd Larson

*All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! O praise Him, O Praise Him, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, Rejoice!
His Kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven.
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, Rejoice!
Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity!
Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high;
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
All creatures of our God and King: Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Alexa Sharrow / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Jim & Linda Doane / Ushers: Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan, Joe Kozumplik, Kevin Malotka / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / 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, Patricia Parks, Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Rev. Kathy Snedeker, Mac Thompson, MaryLee Turner, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine/Israel/Gaza.

2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY – See Attachment!

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – Wednesday, April 3, 7:00pm

VISION TEAM MEETING – Monday, April 8, 7:00pm

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>

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.

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**





<u>LILIES GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Barry, Jason, and Adam Brown		Carol Brown
Donal Hammond		Sally Hammond

<u>TULIPS GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Donal Hammond	Mary Laffey	
Larry Potter		Diana Potter
Jill Spaulding		Bud and Jeanne Sheldon

<u>DAFFODILS GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
John and Jayne Nestell		Jason Nestell

<u>HYACINTHS GIVEN BY:</u>	<u>IN HONOR OF:</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF:</u>
Mary Lou Bohn		David Crofoot
Betty Jo Cloud		Jim Cloud
The Draper Family		Jordan Draper
		Barb Garcia
Kathy Jimenez		Rev. Richard Turner
Julie Kolobaric		James Stewart (Love, Mom)
The Terhune Family (2)		Wes & Bev Brun
		Tom Terhune
Mac Thompson and the Courier Family		Joanna Thompson

Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via
the **FREE** mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “**Instant Church Directory**” to get the download, or use the QR Codes below.

Printed copies of the directory will be available after Easter.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Call the Church office at (989) 799-0131.

Pastor Amy will offer a Tutorial after worship in April.

Stay tuned for more information.

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