

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community

April 28, 2024 - 10:00am - Easter V

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** Four Variants on "Take My Life, and Let It Be"

by H.A. Cesar Malan; arr. Wilbur Held

**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 #304:** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

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|--|---|
| 1) Easter people raise your voices,<br>Sounds of heaven in earth should ring.<br>Christ has brought us Heaven's choices;<br>Heavenly music let it ring!<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Easter people let us sing! | To triumph over every foe.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>On to victory now we go!   |
| 2) Fear of death can no more stop us<br>From our pressing here below,<br>For our Lord empowered us   | 3) Every day to us is Easter<br>With its resurrection song.<br>When in trouble move the faster<br>To our God who rights the wrong.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>See the power of heavenly throngs. |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from <https://www.ministrymatters.com>)

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Come and sit with me to study the Word of God.

**All: Together, we shall grow in our understanding.**

One: Come and kneel with me to pray for our church, our city, our world.

**All: Together, we shall experience the presence of Christ.**

One: Come and walk with me as we venture into the waters.

**All: Together, we shall take risks, and we shall be changed. Thanks be to God!**

**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"

*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.*

## 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:** “*I Love to Tell the Story*”

*by William Fischer; arr. Marianne Kim*

**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, we don't give because you make us. We don't give because anyone else is watching. We give because we are grateful and because we want to be part of the work of your kingdom in every way we can. Jesus reminds us that the way our money helps or hurts others matters to you. Use our gifts, and we ourselves, to help your reign to flourish, through Christ our Risen Savior, Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** “*My Jesus, I Love Thee*”

*by Adoniram J. Gordon; arr. Jeffrey A. Smith*

**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.*

### Receiving New Members:

#### GREETING

Pastor: Beloved in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are initiated into Christ's holy Church, incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation, and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price. Through confirmation, and through the reaffirmation of our faith, we renew the covenant declared at our baptism, acknowledge what God is doing for us, and affirm our commitment to Christ's holy Church.

Pastor: This morning, I would like to present Eduardo Guzman and Karissa Schultz, who are joining by profession of faith, and Mary Laffey and Dave & Jan Tolley who are transferring their membership from other congregations.

### RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

*The Pastor addresses the candidates:*

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? *I do.*

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? *I do.*

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? *I do.*

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? *I will.*

*The Pastor addresses the congregation*

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

### RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP:

*The Pastor addresses the candidates:*

Friends, remember your baptism and be thankful.

As a member of Christ's universal Church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? *I will.*

As a member of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service? *I will.*

*The Pastor will offer a prayer of blessing for the candidates.*

## COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Now it is our joy to welcome our new siblings in faith:

**Through baptism, you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as members of the family of Christ, and we pledge to join you in letting our light shine that others may see goodness and give glory to God. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

And now, may the God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

**Amen.** *(Please take time after worship to greet our new members in the lobby area)*

### **\*Hymn of Preparation UMH #610: “We Know That Christ Is Raised”**

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|---|---|
| 1) We know that Christ is raised<br>and dies no more.<br>Embraced by death,<br>he broke its fearful hold,<br>And our despair<br>He turned to blazing joy, Alleluia! | As living members of a Living Christ.<br>Alleluia!  |
| 2) We share by water in his saving death.<br>Reborn, we share with him an Easter life   | 3) A new creation comes to life and grows<br>As Christ's new body takes on<br>flesh and blood.<br>The universe, restored and whole,<br>will sing: Alleluia! |

### **Scripture Lesson: Acts 8:26-40**

*Pew Bible N.T. pg. 119*

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>The eunuch replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask, does the prophet say this – about himself or about someone else?”

<sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **Response to the Word**

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

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:**

“ON LISTENING DEEPLY”

Pastor Amy Terhune

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

**\*Closing Hymn FWS #2175:** *“Together We Serve”*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Together we serve, united by love,<br>Inviting God's world<br>to the glorious feast.<br>We work and we pray<br>through sorrow and joy,<br>Extending your love to the last<br>and the least.        | 3) We welcome the scarred,<br>the wealthy, the poor,<br>The busy, the lonely, and all<br>who need care.<br>We offer a home to those<br>who will come,<br>Our hands quick to help,<br>our hearts ready to dare. |
| 2) We seek to become a beacon of hope,<br>A lamp for the heart and a light<br>for the feet.<br>We learn, year by year,<br>to let love shine through<br>Until we see Christ in each person<br>we meet. | 4) Together, by grace,<br>we witness and work,<br>Remembering Jesus, in whom<br>we grow strong.<br>Together we serve in Spirit and truth,<br>Remembering love is the strength<br>of our song.                  |

**\*Benediction:**

*(from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>)*

One: Beloved, go from here to tell Good News! Share God’s love even on deserted roads. Bring hope to those who are in despair. Live lives of gratitude and praise. And may the love of God, the peace of Jesus Christ, and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit be within you and among you until we meet again.

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

**\*Postlude:** *“When In Our Music God Is Glorified”*

*by Charles V. Stanford; arr. Matt Limbaugh*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: Bill Cowdry / Greeters: Sue Arceo, Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Chuck Priem, Pam & Cal Mott / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Coffee Hour Host: The Johnson Family / Sound System: Angie Smith

**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.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:** Eduardo Guzman, Mary Laffey, Karissa Schultz, Dave & Jan Tolley. Please stay after worship to greet them and have some cake!

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD** will meet Monday, May 6 at 7:00pm.

**2024 SPRING/SUMMER 6-WEEK BOOK STUDY - "The Bible and Borders" by M. Daniel Carroll** lends insight from a leading Latino-American biblical scholar on what the Bible says about immigration, offering accessible, nuanced, and sympathetic guidance for the Church. Books available FREE from the main office. Schedule is:

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21\*, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 5/8, 5/15, 5/22\*, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19

\* *Pastor Amy away the last week in May for Annual Conference 2024.*

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm for Mexican Night. Sign up to donate food at the Welcome Desk or Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

**A NOTE ABOUT COMMUNION:** Beginning in May, now that we are largely past the covid epidemic and cold/flu season, we will return to a more environmentally sustainable means of serving Communion called Intinction, where each of us take a piece of bread and dips it into the chalice. Volunteers are needed to help serve. Please speak with Pastor Amy if you are willing to help out.

**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**

### *First United Methodist Church*

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240

e-mail: [firstumsag@aol.com](mailto: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 Supervisors.....Karissa Schultz

Audio Visual Technicians.....Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

**Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.**



## GENERAL CONFERENCE 2024

Every four years, United Methodists from all over the world gather together for General Conference, to set the polity, budget, and mission/vision for the church worldwide for the next quadrennium. General Conference meets to consider revisions to church law and to adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.

Because of the Pandemic, General Conference was not able to meet in 2020, so our delegates are gathering in **Charlotte, NC from April 23 - May 3, 2024** for the first time since the called special conference in 2019. There are several important topics on the agenda, including more than one thousand petitions, the removal of discriminatory policies against the LGBTQIA+ community, regionalization policies so that the church in different places can have some freedom to minister to unique contexts, revamping the pension system, and the schism of the church into two denominations: the United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church. This week (thus far), the General Conference voted to approve several petitions related to regionalization. They also approved several sections of the new social principles that eliminated discriminatory language.

You can follow events unfolding at General Conference by watching online and reading news alerts at the Michigan Conference's Official General Conference Website which can be found at <https://gc.michiganumc.org/>

Please hold our delegates, bishops and staff in prayer at this important time in the life of the church.

# 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](https://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.

A limited number of printed copies of the directory are NOW AVAILABLE at the Welcome Desk.

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 or call Pastor Amy at (989)274-6363.

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