

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
May 12, 2024 - 10:00am - 7th Sunday in the Easter Season / Mother's Day

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude:

Prelude on "Abide With Me"

by Austra Motuzaite-Pinkeviciene

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 #111:** "How Can We Name A Love?"

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) How can we name a Love
That wakens heart and mind,
Indwelling all we know
Or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world,
In every human face,
Love's echoes sound & God is found
Hid in the commonplace. | 3) When people share a task,
And strength and skills unite
In projects old or new, to make or do
With shared delight,
Our Friend and Partner's will
Is better understood,
That all should share, create, and care,
And know that life is good. |
| 2) If we awoke to life
Built on a rock of care
That asked no great reward but firm,
Assured, was simply there,
We can, with parents' names,
Describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind,
A mother strong and sure. | 4) So in a hundred names,
Each day we all can meet
A presence, sensed and shown at work,
At home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see,
Shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown
And life and hope begun. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from the Song of St. Anselm)

L: Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you gently and tenderly.

P: Often you weep over our sins; tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

L: You comfort us in sorrow, bind up our wounds, and with pure milk you feed us.

P: Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish we come forth in joy.

L: Despair turns to hope; through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.

P: Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

L: Lord Jesus, in your compassion, bring us grace and forgiveness; lovingly remake us.

P: For just a nursing mother cannot forget her infant child, so you remember us; so you cradle us in your loving arms. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**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 #2058 “*Shepherd Me, O God*”

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

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: “*Supermarket Flowers*”
Bryan Latimer, Vocals & Piano

by Ed Sheeran, John McDaid, Benjamin Levin

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: God of joy, as we offer our gifts this day, we reflect on the wisdom of your Word. Jesus urges us to hold onto him, to stay connected through his example, presence, and the fulfillment he brings. Help us abide in him, obeying his commandment to love one another, and use these gifts to connect all your people in love and service, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Special Music: “*Praise to God, Immortal Praise*”

by John Purifoy

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 15:1-12

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 103

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

* **Hymn W&S #3155:** “*The Lord of Life, A Vine Is He*”

(see attached)

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|---|--|
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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? |

Sermon:

“BECAUSE I SAID SO”

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #707: “Hymn of Promise”**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1) In the bulb there is a flower;
 In the seed, an apple tree;
 In cocoons, a hidden promise:
 Butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter
 There's a spring that waits to be,
 Unrevealed until its season,
 Something God alone can see.</p> <p>2) There's a song in every silence,
 Seeking word and melody;
 There's a dawn in every darkness
 Bringing hope to you and me.</p> | <p>From the past will come the future;
 What it holds, a mystery,
 Unrevealed until its season,
 Something God alone can see.</p> <p>3) In our end is our beginning;
 In our time, infinity;
 In our doubt there is believing;
 In our life, eternity.
 In our death, a resurrection;
 At the last, a victory,
 Unrevealed until its season,
 Something God alone can see.</p> |
|---|--|

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, having been made one with the Lord in heart, mind, and spirit, go forth in God’s company to be made one with others – to unify around the work of compassion, peace, and justice, that God’s Kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.

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

***Postlude: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

by John Zundel; arr. Joel Raney

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<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
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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 Supervisors	Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians	Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune
Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Alexa Sharrow / Greeters: Judy Gerken and Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Max Mondol / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Coffee Hour Host: The Johnson Family / Sound System: Angie Smith / 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, Sarah Kettlehohn, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Merlyn Mondol, Ron Moon, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Patricia Parks, Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Rev. Kathy Snedeker, Ron & Noreen Southgate, Mac Thompson, MaryLee Turner, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine and in Israel/Gaza.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Ron and Noreen Southgate and family on the death of their daughter Wendy Southgate Murphy last Sunday, April 28, 2024. A celebration of life will be held here at Saginaw First United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 2 at 3:00pm.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning are given by Kathy Jimenez and family in honor of MaryLee Turner's 92nd Birthday tomorrow.

NURTURE Team will meet tomorrow – Monday, May 13, at 6:00pm.

REACH, PREPARE, and SEND Teams will meet together Monday, May 13 at 7:00pm

TRUSTEES and FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet together Tuesday, May 21 at 7:15pm

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 Michigan Annual Conference 2024.*

GRADUATES – If you have a student graduating this year from High School, College, University, Grad School, Trade School, or Military, please be sure to get their information into the main office. **Please do not assume we know!!!** Email firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com. WE NEED TO KNOW: Name, Where graduating from, Degree (*if applicable*), Honors, and Future Plans. Also, please send a picture!! Graduation Sunday this year is scheduled for June 2, 2024.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing THIS 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>

HELP NEEDED over the summer for Coffee Time & Special Music. Sign up online using links below:
Coffee Time: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-coffee>
Special Music: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-special1>

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**

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2024 SUMMARY

After years of intensive and prayerful debate, General Conference delegates from all over the world voted to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. This change allows churches and clergy to operate according to their conscience and follow the leading of the Spirit in their context. Pastors have always decided who they will marry and will continue to do so. Churches will continue to determine what weddings are held in their buildings. Pastors are asked to respect the decisions made by their local church. District Superintendents are available to assist with working through these decisions and their implications.

The delegates of the General Conference also voted to remove prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending LGBTQIA+ persons for ordination. Now, all persons may enter the process to become candidates for ministry, and if approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, can now be licensed, commissioned, and ordained. The Bishop and Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure the best match possible when making appointments. To safeguard clergy, delegates also passed legislation to make cross-conference appointments possibly if there isn't a safe appointment in the home conference for LGBTQIA+ clergy.

Annual conferences will pay lower annual apportionments over the next quadrennium. Delegates voted to reduce a key component of calculating apportionments, shifting from the current base rate of 3.29% to a base rate of 2.6% for 2025 and 2026. If the apportionment collection rate is 90% or higher in those years, the base rate will jump to 2.9% for 2027 and 2028. The Bishops may call a special General Conference Session in 2026 to evaluate financial realities in the wake of disaffiliations and adjust budget & apportionment percentages as needed.

General Conference delegates approved the Compass Plan, which switches clergy retirement accounts from defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans. It gives clergy more control of their retirement funds, but removes some of the safeguards intended to ensure clergy have enough to retire. Wespath will continue to offer support, training, and care to clergy and their families.

Petitions on the worldwide regionalization plan were affirmed by the General Conference. This is a multi-step plan that requires an aggregate vote of the annual conferences around the world. The work has just begun on a time of information sharing and education about regionalization so that annual conference members can make an informed vote at the 2025 annual conference.

Delegates approved full communion with the Episcopal Church. This agreement needs the approval by the Episcopalians before going into effect, which might not happen until they meet in 2027. This means that the two denominations recognize each other as "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught." In specific cases, it may enable clergy to serve in both denominations interchangeably.

Based on a growing understanding that sacramental authority in scripture is granted with all ordinations, General Conference delegates passed new legislation granting authority to deacons to preside at the sacraments in their ministry settings. This means deacons can now offer communion and conduct baptisms where they have been appointed to serve, whether that is a church, outreach ministry or mission.



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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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The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He

B \flat Eb Ab Cm B \flat Eb Ab

1. The Lord of Life, a vine is he and graft - ed to him
 (2. If) we be joined to him we know his strength and power will
 (3. The) vine is he, the branch - es we for now and to e -
 (4. The) Lord of Life, the Source Di - vine calls us to come, with

Eb Eb Cm Ab Bb

we must be; and thus we yield a - bun - dant - ly sweet
 help us grow. His Spir - it's grace through us will flow to
 ter - ni - ty. His word sown deep in us will be both
 him en - twine. Will we, un - hear - ing, dare de - cline the

Cm Fm/Ab Fm7 Eb Fm7 B \flat 7 Fm7 D \flat Eb

fruit for all to taste and see. 2. If
 prune and shape us as we go. 3. The
 sun and rain... suf - fi - cien - cy 4. The
 call of Christ, the One True Vine?

Congregation: Unison

WORDS: Mary Kay Beall

MUSIC: John Carter

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