

# First United Methodist Church

*Loving the Whole City, Loving the City Whole!*

*September 8, 2024 - 10:00am - Seventeenth Sunday in Pentecost*

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** *Trio on "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

*by George J. Elvey; arr. James Pethel*

**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 #66:** *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,<br>To the throne thy tribute bring;<br>Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,<br>Evermore God's praises sing.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise the everlasting King.  | 3) Father-like, God tends and spares us;<br>Well our feeble frame God knows;<br>Mother-like, God gently bears us,<br>Rescues us from all our foes.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Widely yet God's mercy flows. |
| 2) Praise the Lord for grace and favor<br>To all people in distress;<br>Praise God, still the same as ever,<br>Slow to chide, and swift to bless.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Glorious now God's faithfulness. | 4) Angels in the heights, adoring,<br>You behold God face to face;<br>Saints triumphant, now adoring,<br>Gathered in from every race.<br>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br>Praise with us the God of grace.           |

## PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

**\*The Call to Worship:**

*(adapted from Lamentations 3)*

One: Give thanks to the Lord, and praise God's Holy Name,

**All: For the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;**

One: God's mercies never end – they are new every morning!

**All: Great is God's faithfulness to his beloved people.**

One: Therefore, live in hope, for God is what we most need.

**All: The Lord is good and compassionate!**

One: Wait for the Lord, who hears your cry; who redeems your life.

**All: Give thanks to the Lord, and praise God's Holy Name. Worship the Lord with thanksgiving and trust in God's presence each day.**

*\* 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 #2036: “Give Thanks”**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ his son. [repeat]*

*And now, let the weak say, “I am strong”;  
Let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” [repeat]*

**Silent Meditation and the 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:** “All Good Gifts” (from Godspell)

*by Stephen Schwartz*

**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, all we are and all we have comes from you. Life itself is your gift to us. Inspire in us gratitude for our many blessings, and help us to be thankful even in the hardest times, for your presence is with us. May these gifts offered, and we ourselves, be used to share your abundant gifts with all in need, we ask through Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Choral Anthem**

*“Thank You, Lord”*

*by Mary Ellen Kerrick*

**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:** Colossians 3:12-17

*Pew Bible N.T. pg. 190*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Response to the Word

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

**P: Thanks be to God!**

## The Sermon:

## “GROUNDED IN GRATITUDE”

*Pastor Amy Terhune*

[illegible]

**Reflecting on Our Blessings** – *Please take this time to reflect on God’s Blessings in your life and fill out the gratitude card you were given when you came in today. When you’re ready, bring your gratitude card forward to pin it on one of the posters upfront.*

## Bringing Forward our Gratitude Cards

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

### **\*Closing Hymn UMH #102: “Now Thank We All Our God”**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Now thank we all our God,<br>With heart and hands and voices,<br>Who wondrous things has done,<br>In whom this world rejoices;<br>Who from our mothers' arms<br>Has blessed us on our way<br>With countless gifts of love,<br>And still is ours today. | And keep us still in grace,<br>And guide us when perplexed;<br>And free us from all ills,<br>In this world and the next.   |
| 2) O may this bounteous God<br>Through all our life be near us,<br>With ever joyful hearts<br>And blessed peace to cheer us;  | 3) All praise and thanks to God<br>The Father now be given;<br>The Son, and him who reigns<br>With them in highest heaven;<br>The one eternal God,<br>Whom earth and heaven adore;<br>For thus it was, is now,<br>And shall be evermore. |

### **\*Benediction:**

**One:** Beloved, Go forth with compassion and kindness, knowing that God goes with you. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

### **\*Postlude: “Count Your Blessings”**

*by Edwin O. Excell*

### ***First United Methodist Church***

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**website: <http://firstumcsaginaw.org>**

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune  
.....[pastoralbt@outlook.com](mailto: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.**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2024-2025

@ First United Methodist Church of Saginaw, Michigan



## DIVING DEEP IN FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP\*

*\*Discipleship – the process by which one becomes a follower of Jesus Christ for the transformation of self and world.*



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR KIDS

### KID'S CLUB:

Knowing that families are busy and pulled in many directions, we've opted to offer a monthly Kids Club format in place of traditional Sunday School.

Kids Club is for kids who are potty-trained through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids Club will meet once a month, usually on Second Sundays, from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Children will be provided with lunch, have a Bible lesson/story, and participate in crafts, games, and other fun activities!

**Kids club will meet 11:30am-1:00pm  
in 2024-2025 on:**

October 13	February 9
November 10	March 9
December 8	April 13
January 12	May 18*
Field Trip to Painterly Pottery	Field Trip to Kokomos

*\* NOT a Second Sunday*

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR YOUTH

### YOUTH GROUP:

Youth Group for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders meets based on the schedule of participating kids. These events are set. Other events may be added through the year. Check the church website [firstumcsaginaw.org](http://firstumcsaginaw.org) for updates:

- Sept. 22, 6:00pm – Youth Mission Trip Organizational Meeting, Game Night, and Pizza Supper
- Oct. 13 – apple picking, corn maze, donuts & cider at Leaman's in Freeland (4-6pm)
- Nov. 10 – Superbowl Painting (3-5pm)
- Dec. 22 – Christmas Cookie Sale after worship – fundraiser
- Jan 17-20 – Mini-Mission Trip to Cass UMC in Detroit with summer VIM friends.
- Feb. 9 – Superbowl Auction after Worship
- March 26 – Spring Break Fun Night to Airborn Adventure Park (6-7:30pm)
- April 27 – Craft Night (6-7:30pm)
- May 18 – Kokomos (12-1:30pm)

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

Confirmation class is like a Christianity 101 course offered to all middle school students (and older) on Sundays from 11:30-12:30pm. The course is 10 weeks, beginning January 26, 2025, with an Orientation session. Schedule and topics covered will be distributed on Jan. 26 and are also available from Pastor Amy.

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS

## **FALL 2024 BOOK STUDY:**

**“This Is Going to Hurt”** by Bekah McNeel analyzes the narratives of suffering surrounding 6 hot-button issues. For readers seeking a nuanced and authentically Christian mode of political engagement, McNeel offers alternative perspectives, based on a sensitive reading of the gospel. Amid culture wars that goad us to take up arms, McNeel reminds us that Christ calls us to take up our cross.

**The Fall Book Study is 8 weeks.**

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6

## **ADVENT 2024 BOOK STUDY:**

**“Keep Watch With Me”** by Claire Brown and Michael T. McRay is a collaborative daily devotional featuring diverse contributors who offer stories, reflections, prayers, and spiritual practices to sustain and challenge the faith of those who work for justice and peace, and long for the coming of God with us

**The Advent Book Study is 4 weeks.**

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

## **2025 LENTEN BOOK STUDY:**

**“Wholehearted Faith”** by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu is a collection of essays woven together from a new book on whole-heartedness that Rachel was working on at the time of her tragic death, and some of her other unpublished writings, which asks candid questions about the stories we’ve been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.

**The Lenten Book Study is 6 weeks:**

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 3/4\*, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

*\*held on Tuesday night to avoid Ash Wednesday*

## **SPRING 2025 SOCIAL ISSUE STUDY:**

**“The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”** by Dov Waxman, offers an even-handed and judicious guide to help us understand the history and evolution of the world’s most thorny dispute.

**The Spring Book Study is 6 weeks:**

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

***Note: All adult study books are \$15 each. However, we are committed to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation. Books are available for free upon confidential request to the pastor.***



## **TODAY IS GRATITUDE SUNDAY**

**Our 2025 combined annual stewardship and capital campaign is *grounded in gratitude* for all that God is doing for and through Saginaw First United Methodist Church, so that we may continue to be in meaningful ministry.**

**All of our giving is a response to God's generosity.  
Whether it's time, talent, or treasure we give from a heart  
filled with gratitude for God's many blessings to our church and to us.**

**On Gratitude Sunday each of us has the opportunity to put our thanks  
into words. What are you thankful for? How has God blessed you,  
especially as it relates to your connection to Saginaw First U.M.C.?**

**As you entered worship today, you should have received a "gratitude card".**

**During worship today, time has been set aside to reflect and write down  
our words of gratitude. When invited, please come forward and post your card  
on a large board. These collected cards of gratitude will be placed in the lobby  
during our campaign to remind us all of God's generosity.**

**Come to Gratitude Sunday with a grateful heart!**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: Bill Cowdry / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill & Sue Johnson / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesare, Max Mondol, Mac Thompson / Welcome Desk: Betty Jo Cloud / Coffee Hour Host: NEEDED / 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, Don Hammond, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, RuthAnn Hilton, Marion Hoffman, Sue Johnson, Sharon Ketcham, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Merlyn Mondol, Ron Moon, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Ron & Noreen Southgate, Kathy Winkowski, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine and in Israel/Gaza.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, September 10, 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm for Baked Ziti. Sign up to donate food at the welcome desk, or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>  
Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

**FREE MEAL COMMITTEE** will meet **TODAY** immediately following worship. If you'd like to help with a free meal, please plan to stay and join in the planning.

**THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BROCHURE** for the 2024-25 school year is out. Find it in the Lobby! Kids, Teens and Adults – check out the offerings available this year!

**KIDS CLUB TODAY** From 11:30am-1pm – includes lunch, projects, crafts, bible lessons, and FUN!

**THE ANNUAL FALL MINISTRY FAIR** will be held next Sunday, September 15 following worship. All Church groups/activities, our ministry partners, and those who use are building are welcome to share more about what they do and to put up a display in the Lobby area.

**REBECCA FELLOWSHIP** invites all women to attend the September 17th meeting at 11:00am. Amy Bartels-Roe from the Mustard Seed Women's Shelter will present our program. We will be collecting shampoo, conditioner and body wash for women for them. Please call or email Betty Jo Cloud if you plan to attend at 989-799-8125 or [bjcloud@yahoo.com](mailto:bjcloud@yahoo.com)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** meetings next Sunday, September 15 at 8:30am. All men and their significant others are welcome. Suggested donation of \$5 per person.

**THE FALL 2024 ADULT BOOK STUDY** begins Tuesday, Sept. 17 (in person) at 6:00pm or Wednesday, Sept. 18 (online) at 7:30. We're studying "This Is Going To Hurt" by Bekah McNeel. Books in the main office for \$15.

If you are **HEADING OFF TO COLLEGE THIS FALL** (or you have a kid who is), please make sure the church office has your (your kid's) campus address. Call Dina at (989) 799-0131 to update our records. Thank you! (We try to send treats at Exam times, and notes of encouragement.)

### **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: **saginawfume**

*Please take time to fill out the interest survey for your household.  
Complete it online using the QR code to the right  
or pick up a paper copy from the welcome desk. Thank you!*

