First United Methodist Church

Loving the Whole City, Loving the City Whole!

October 20, 2024 - 10:00am - 23rd Sunday in Pentecost / Stewardship III

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bells On High Prelude: "Aria"

by Sondra Tucker

"Great is the Lord"

by Michael Smith, arr. Douglas Wagner

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

Advance Gifts Inspirational Announcement

Ed Cunningham

*Opening Hymn UMH #415: "Take Up Thy Cross"

- "Take up thy cross," the Savior said,
 "If thou wouldst my disciple be;
 Deny thyself, the world forsake,
 And humbly follow after me."
- 2) Take up thy cross, let not its weight Fill thy weak spirit with alarm; His strength will bear thy spirit up, and Brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
- Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;Thy Lord for thee the cross endured,To save thy soul from death and hell.
- 4) Take up thy cross and follow Christ, Nor think till death to lay it down; For only those who bear the cross May hope to wear the glorious crown.

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

*The Call to Worship:

(adapted from Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, https://re-worship.blogspot.com)

One: What does the Lord require of you?

All: To do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

One: How do we put God first?

All: We love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

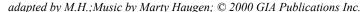
All: But God offers presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggles.

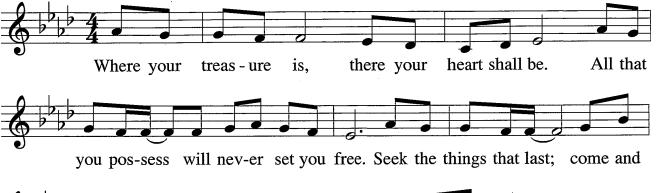
One: Let us worship the God who believes in us, who sees the best in us, and who abides with us.

One: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will journey with us every step of the way. 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 – "Where Your Treasure is"







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: "Are Ye Able?"

by Henry S. Mason; arr. Bryan Latimer

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: Loving God, we love because you first loved us. You call us to love you with all we are, and in Jesus, you showed us how we express our love for you by loving our neighbors. Use our gifts, and we ourselves to enflesh and make tangible your love for humankind, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bells On High Anthem: "Alleluia, Suscipe et Gratia" by Catherine McMichael

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! The Bible tells me so.

Stewardship Moment

Peg Wilken

Scripture Lesson: Mark 12:28-34

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 46

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon:	"THE FIRST COMMANDMENT"	Pastor Amy Terhune	

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn UMH #581: "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

- 1) Lord, whose love through humble service
 Bore the weight of human need,
 Who upon the cross, forsaken,
 Offered mercy's perfect deed:
 We, your servants, bring the worship
 Not of voice alone, but heart;
 Consecrating to your purpose
 Every gift that you impart.
- 2) Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread; Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the love your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.
- 3) As we worship, grant us vision,
 Till your love's revealing light
 In its height and depth and greatness
 Dawns upon our quickened sight,
 Making known the needs and burdens
 Your compassion bids us bear,
 Stirring us to tireless striving,
 Your abundant life to share.
- 4) Called by worship to your service,
 Forth in your dear name we go,
 To the child, the youth, the aged,
 Love in living deeds to show;
 Hope and health, good will and comfort,
 Counsel, aid and peace we give,
 That your servants, Lord, in freedom
 May your mercy know and live.

*Benediction:

(adapted from Nathan Nettleton, www.laughingbird.net.)

One: Beloved, the Lord our God is the one and only Lord. Therefore go out into the world, and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as you love yourself. And may God give you justice, courage and freedom; May Christ Jesus set you free for love; and may the Holy Spirit be your companion in all things.

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

*Postlude: "Take Up Thy Cross""

by W. Gardiner; arr. Robert A. Hobby

First United Methodist Church

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CELELBRATION FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY – Next Sunday, October 27, a light brunch will be served! Together we'll acknowledge and celebrate our blessings and the Stewardship Drive and Capital Campaign's anticipated success! ALL are invited; no reservations are needed!

PLEASE PLAN TO TURN IN YOUR PLEDGE CARD NEXT SUNDAY. Prayerfully consider your commitment to the church and seek God's guidance in what God wants to do through each of us. Of course, we will accept pledge cards any time through the end of the year, but the sooner you can submit it, the easier it is to plan a realistic budget for 2025. Pledge cards were mailed out earlier this month, and are also available at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for supporting your church family.

THANK YOU to those who have turned in their pledge cards as an advance commitment. \$133,278 of the needed \$300,000 or 44% of the support needed for the general budget has already pledged. \$187,157 of the needed \$250,000 or \$75% of the supported needed for the capital campaign has also been pledged so far. **WITH YOUR GIFT NEXT WEEK**, we can successfully bring our totals over the top to fully fund our staff, bills, program, and vision for the future.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Cal Mott / Greeters: Jane MacQueen and Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Austin Tomlinson, Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Coffee Hour Host: Jacquie Matlock and Dee Mills / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz
- **OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Christine Horvat, charter member at State Street UMC, who entered eternal life on Sept. 29; and to Kay Mertz and family upon the death of Kay's grandson Michael Gray who entered eternal life Oct. 6, 2024.
- HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Don Hammond, Peter Pape, Ron Southgate, Jerry Taylor
- 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, 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.
- FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR given by Anne & Jim Gaertner in honor of their 17th Anniversary.
- The Annual CHARGE CONFERENCE is TODAY at 6:00pm. The District Superintendent and members from 10 other area congregations will join us here at Saginaw First. Members of the Administrative Board Trustees, Finance Committee, and SPRC need to be there. ALL others are welcome. Thank you!
- CELELBRATION FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY Next Sunday, October 27, a light brunch will be served! Together we'll acknowledge and celebrate our blessings and the Stewardship Drive and Capital Campaign's anticipated success! ALL are invited; no reservations are needed! Please plan to turn in your pledge card next Sunday. Pledge cards were mailed out earlier this month, and are also available at the welcome desk.
- **HELP NEEDED** delivering food on Thursdays to area schools. Sign up online to be in service at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack
- FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm for Four-Way Pasta. Sign up to bring food at the welcome desk. Volunteer to work here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community
- FUN EVENT Eagle Scout Mark Schultz, of Troup #55 in Frankenmuth, is building a TREBUCHET (or catapult) for us here at First U.M.C. We will use it to welcome the community to our back lot on Sunday, November 3 from Noon-1pm (New date/time) to "Fling pumpkins" into the back field. We'll also have roasted hot dogs, chips, and hot apple cider. All are invited to bring their used jack-o-lanterns to FLING THE PUMPKINS. Event is free and open to all. Trebuchet will be operated only by trained adults. Help needed roasting hot dogs see Pastor Amy if you can help.

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



PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY / PRAY FOR PEACE

Route starts and ends at: **New Birth Missionary Baptist Church**

2:15pm - Early Arrival/Meet-up

New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral 3121 Sheridan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601

2:55pm - Stop 1 - Wickes Park

412 Wickes park Dr, Saginaw, MI 48601

3:30pm - Stop 2 - Borchard Park

100 N Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

4:10pm - Stop 3 - Unity Park

1305 Leon Scott Ct, Saginaw, MI 48601

4:35pm - Stop 4 - Buena Vista Community Center

1940 S Outer Dr, Saginaw, MI 48601









For more info please contact The Ezekiel Project at ezekielinformation@gmail.com P.O. BOX 3470 Saginaw, MI 48605 | 989.270.1370

All Saints Remembrance - November 3, 2024

Each November, we remember those members of our congregation who have passed on to eternity since November 1 of last year. Families of church members know to us will receive a letter regarding our celebration of remembrance, inviting them to submit the information below along with a photo and a brief biography or tribute to be read during the service.'

If there are members of Ames U.M.C. or State Street U.M.C. that have passed in the last year, please help us catch those we might otherwise miss by filling in the information below along with your phone number so that we can get pertinent information.

Of course, we would also like to remember those loved ones who have passed on since November 1 who may not have been members here, but who are near and dear to our hearts. If you have lost a close family member or friend since November 1, 2023, you are invited to submit a photo and the following information to Pastor Amy via email (pastoralbt@outlook.com), dropping it in the offering plate, bring it into the office, or calling in the information to the church office (989) 799-0131.

Full name of Loved One:					
Relationship to you:					
Church Membership (circle one): Saginaw First	U.M.C.	State Street U.M.C.	Ames U.M.C.	Other	
ate of Birth: Date of Death					
Submitted by:			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Will you be here in person to light a candle? Yes					
If you have mobility issues or can't be here and wi	ish for a wo	rship leader to light the	candle, check this bo	ох 🗌	
Full name of Loved One:					
Relationship to you:					
Church Membership (circle one): Saginaw First			Ames U.M.C.	Other	
Date of Birth:	Date	e of Death			
Submitted by:					
Will you be here in person to light a candle? Yes	No				
If you have mobility issues or can't be here and wi	ish for a wo	orship leader to light the	candle, check this bo	ох 🗌	
Full name of Loved One:					
Relationship to you:					
Church Membership (circle one): Saginaw First	U.M.C.	State Street U.M.C.	Ames U.M.C.	Other	
ate of Birth: Date of Death					
Submitted by:					
Will you be here in person to light a candle? Yes					
If you have mobility issues or can't be here and wi	ish for a wo	arshin leader to light the	candle check this bo	у П	