

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
January 12, 2025 - 10:00am - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the Season of Epiphany

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "I Want a Principle Within"

*by Louis Spohr; arr. Judith Maggs*

**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 yellow prayer card to share joys/concerns.

**\*Opening Hymn UMH #577:** "God of Grace and God of Glory"

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) God of grace and God of glory,<br>On the people pour thy power;<br>Crown thine ancient church's story,<br>Bring her bud to glorious flower.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>For the facing of this hour,<br>For the facing of this hour.               | 3) Cure thy children's warring madness,<br>Bend our pride to thy control;<br>Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,<br>Rich in things and poor in soul.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,<br>Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal. |
| 2) Lo! The hosts of evil round us<br>Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!<br>Fears and doubts too long have bound us;<br>Free our hearts to work and praise.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>For the living of these days,<br>For the living of these days. | 4) Save us from weak resignation<br>To the evils we deplore;<br>Let the search for thy salvation<br>Be our glory evermore.<br>Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,<br>Serving thee whom we adore,<br>Serving thee whom we adore.                                     |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*The Call to Worship:**

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

One: Beloved, rejoice in God and worship the Lord of Light.

All: **We live sustained by God's presence and love.**

One: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

All: **God weeps with us.**

One: As we give thanks for those who have lived in faith,

All: **God give thanks with us.**

One: As we struggle for justice,

All: **God struggles with us.**

*\* Please stand if you are able*

One: As we strive for peace,  
**All: God strives with us.**  
One: As we work to build the beloved community,  
**All: God works with us.**  
One: As we courageously offer our gifts to all,  
**All: God blesses us.**  
One: Beloved, rejoice in God and worship the Lord of Light.  
**All: Sustained by God's presence and love, we worship God alone!**

**Time of Prayer** – *During the prayer chorus, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards to deliver to the pastor.*

**\*Prayer Chorus FWS #2057: “Be Still and Know”**  
*Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.*

### **Silent Meditation**

#### **Lifting our Celebrations and Concerns In Prayer**

**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/>*



**The Offertory:** *“This Is The Moment” (from Jeckyll & Hyde)*

*by Frank Wildhorn*

**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, who guides us with your everlasting presence, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. As you stand with us in every time of trial, so may these offerings stand as a testament to your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to our world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** *“God Is Our Refuge and Strength”*

*by Lloyd Larson*

## 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:

Esther 4:1-17

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 425

<sup>1</sup> When Mordecai learned all that Haman had done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; <sup>2</sup> he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. <sup>3</sup> In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup> When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup> Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. <sup>6</sup> Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, <sup>7</sup> and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup> Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people. <sup>9</sup> Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: <sup>11</sup> “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come to the king for thirty days.” <sup>12</sup> When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, <sup>13</sup> Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup> For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” <sup>15</sup> Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, <sup>16</sup> “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days and nights. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” <sup>17</sup> Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

### Response to the Word

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### The Sermon

THE COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR OTHERS

Pastor Amy Terhune

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

**\*Closing Hymn UMH #465: “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Holy Spirit, Truth divine,<br>Dawn upon this soul of mine;<br>Word of God and inward light,<br>Wake my spirit, clear my sight. | 3) Holy Spirit, Power divine,<br>Fill and nerve this will of mine;<br>Grant that I may strongly live,<br>Bravely bear, and nobly strive. |
| 2) Holy Spirit, Love divine,<br>Glow within this heart of mine;<br>Kindle every high desire;<br>Perish self in thy pure fire.     | 4) Holy Spirit, Right divine,<br>King within my conscience reign;<br>Be my Lord, and I shall be<br>Firmly bound, forever free.           |

**\*Benediction:**

One: Beloved, you are made in the image and likeness of God, and we are called for just such a time as this. Go from this place carrying the Light of Christ on behalf of those in need, that deliverance for the suffering may arise from our courageous faith.

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

**\* Postlude: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”**

*by George Webb; arr. Kenneth D. Varner*

***First United Methodist Church***

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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..... Katie Moon and Karissa Schultz  
Audio Visual Technicians..... Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

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



Please Join us For The

# GENERAL MEETING 2025

*Gathering at the table to advance our beloved community*

## What is the Beloved Community?

Dr. King's Beloved Community is a vision of a society where justice, equality, and love prevail. It's a community built on understanding, compassion, and **collective action**. Together, we can move closer to making this vision a reality.

### *This is your opportunity to:*

- Learn about the challenges affecting our community.
- Collaborate with others to develop solutions and take action.
- Be a part of building Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community.

**Thursday,  
January 30th 2025  
6pm to 9pm**

**New Mt. Calvary Church  
3610 Russell St, Saginaw MI 48601**

**FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

For more information or to RSVP, contact us at  
[info@theezekeielproject.org](mailto:info@theezekeielproject.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: Alexa Sharrow / Greeters: Judy Gerken, Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Max Mondol / Welcome Desk: Jan Tolley / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Ruth Ann Hilton, who entered eternal life on Dec. 11. A Memorial Service will be held here at First U.M.C. on Saturday, January 18 at 11:00am.

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Tom Brubaker, Bernie Buggia, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Marion Hoffman, Sue Johnson, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Walt Latimer, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Kay Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Noreen Southgate, Kathy Winkowski, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine and in Israel/Gaza.

**THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING NEXT WEEK** will go to UMCOR Disaster Response USA to help victims of the California Wildfires and other national disasters. Please give generously.

**THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP** will meet tonight, January 12, at 6:00pm. Dinner is provided. All people ages 18-35 are invited to join us for fun and getting to know one another.

**KID'S CLUB** is meeting today at noon at Painterly Pottery, 923 N. Water Street in Bay City to paint Soup-er Bowls for the Youth Mission Trip. See Pastor Amy if you're interested in joining the fun.

**THE MEN'S GROUP** will meet on Sunday, January 19th at 8:30 for a warm and delicious breakfast and fellowship. This month's speaker will be Jacquie Matlock, who will speak about The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Significant others are welcome. Suggested donation is \$5 per person.

**REBECCA CIRCLE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** invites all women of the church to attend their next meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00am. The speaker for this meeting will be Janet Frank who is a certified hand therapist. Also, this meeting will include the 2025 pledge service. To RSVP, please contact Betty Jo Cloud at 989-799-8125 or [jbjcloud@yahoo.com](mailto:jbjcloud@yahoo.com).

**GAME DAY** is this Wednesday, January 15 from 3:00-5:00pm, including snacks and games and fellowship. All are welcome!

**BIBLE EXCHANGE** – We now have a bookshelf in the lobby area with copies of Scripture available for free. If you need a bible, or see a translation you've not studied before, please feel free to take a bible. If you have extra copies of Scripture around your home that aren't being read/used, please consider donating them for others who don't own a copy of the Bible, or want to study more in depth.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, January 14 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for January: Chili. Sign up to bring food at the welcome desk. Clean-up help needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

**THE BACKPACK PROGRAM** for children struggling with food insecurity has begun. Sponsor a child for \$150/year. Buy Christmas things in the Narthex. Sign up to pack food and help deliver to area schools at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>

### **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**

Bluesky: **FirstUMCSaginaw.bsky.social**

Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfumc**