

First United Methodist Church

*Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
February 9, 2025 - 10:00am - 6th Sunday in the Season of Epiphany*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"*

African-American Spiritual; arr. Marvin Gaspard

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 #436:** *"The Voice of God Is Calling"*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) The voice of God is calling
Its summons in our day;
Isaiah heard in Zion,
And we now hear God say:
"Whom shall I send to succor
My people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen
The bonds of shame and greed?" | 3) We heed, O Lord, your summons,
And answer: Here are we!
Send us upon your errand,
Let us your servants be.
Our strength is dust and ashes,
Our years a passing hour;
But you can use our weakness
To magnify your power. |
| 2) "I hear my people crying
In slum and mine and mill;
No field or mart is silent,
No city street is still.
I see my people falling
In darkness and despair.
Whom shall I send to shatter
The fetters which they bear?" | 4) From ease and plenty save us;
From pride of place absolve;
Purge us of low desire;
Lift us to high resolve;
Take us, and make us holy;
Teach us your will and way.
Speak, and behold! We answer;
Command, and we obey! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Call to Worship:

(by Joanna Harader, <https://spaciousfaith.com/>)

One: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

All: Jesus calls us to worship.

One: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

All: Jesus calls us to love.

One: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

All: Jesus calls us to justice.

One: Let us heed the call of Christ.

All: Let us worship together with joy.

** Please stand if you are able*

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

***Prayer Chorus FWS #2129:** “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (vs 1 & 2)

- 1) *I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back, no turning back.*
- 2) *The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me – no turning back, no turning back.*

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: “Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow”

by John Norris; arr. Gene Roberson

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: Ever-faithful God, who calls us into the deep waters of faith and trust, we offer these gifts with open hearts. Transform our offerings into acts of love and service, so that we may catch glimpses of your kingdom. Guide us to live deeply and follow Christ's call to be fishers of people in your abundant grace, for we ask in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

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 Vicki Dixon, Jim & Mary Ann Forbes, and Bethany Tomasino, who are coming to join as new members.

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 following worship today.)*

Choral Anthem: “I Must Tell Jesus” (with “Blessed Assurance”)

by Mary McDonald

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #344:** “*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*”

1) Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy
nor wise ones
You only asked me to follow humbly.

*Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes
you have searched me
And while smiling
have spoken my name
Now my boat's left
on the shoreline behind me
By your side
I will seek other seas.*

2) You know so well my possessions
My boat carries no gold and no weapons
You will find there my nets and labor.
Refrain

3) You need my hands full of caring
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving.
Refrain

4) You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting
My loving friend, as thus you call me.
Refrain

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, Listen for God’s word. Answer Christ’s call. Go into the deep and love courageously. Rejoice in the harvest of grace! And may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit be yours this week and always.

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

*** Postlude:** “*I Will Follow Him*”

by J.W. Stole and Del Roma

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First United Methodist Church

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Judy Gerken and Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Kathy Winkowski / Coffee Hour: Needed / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith / Counters: Marc Cesere and Bonnie Arnst

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Randy & Janet Knepper and family on the passing of Randy's mother Virginia Knepper into eternal life on January 10. A memorial service will be held in Sheridan, MI on Feb. 22. Read her obituary at <https://www.simpsonfamilyfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Virginia-Lou-Knepper?obId=34359512>

OUR SYMPATHY is also extended to the family of Judy Dawe, who passed away Feb. 4.

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.

"SOUP"ER BOWL AUCTION TODAY to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip. Minimum bid is \$20. Bidding ends at 11:30am. All Bowls were designed and painted by the kids, youth, and parents.

KID'S CLUB today from 11:30am-1:00pm. Preschool – 6th grade. Lunch included. All Welcome!

REGISTER FOR ADVOCACY DAY 3/12/25 at <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/> or with Pastor Amy. See attached flyer for more information

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL – WRITERS NEEDED – please consider submitting a short, written reflection for this year's Lenten Devotion. Reflections should be on the topics of forgiveness, grace, deepening one's faith, growing in faith, or experiencing God. Reflections due by Thursday, February 27, 2025. Artwork is welcome, too. Also, Kids reflections and artwork 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, donate them!

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, February 11 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for February: Authentic Asian Cuisine. Clean-up help needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community/>. Sign up to donate food at the welcome desk OR online here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-food2>.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM for children struggling with food insecurity continues. Sponsor a child for \$150/year. Call the office (989-799-0131) or sign up to pack food and deliver to area schools at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>

THE ANNUAL TALENT SHOW will be held Sunday, February 16 at 4:00pm. Sign up to perform at the welcome desk or online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-54263218-talent#/>. Plan to join us for choirs, solos, instrumentals, skits, and a sing-a-long!!!

TICKETS FOR THE MLK JR PRAYER BREAKFAST now on sale from Pastor Amy for \$15 per person. MLK Prayer Breakfast will be held at Horizons on Saturday, February 22 from 9:00-11:30am.

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**

LENT 2025 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC

DRIVE + THRU
ASHES

Drive-thru Ashes and Prayer

(under the front portico)

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

11:30am – 1:00pm

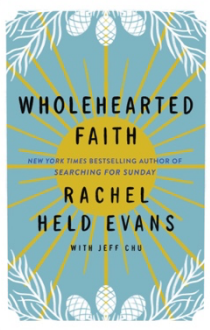
Ash Wednesday Worship

(in the style of Taizé)

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship

in the style of Taizé



Lenten Book Study – “Wholehearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans

with Jeff Chu is a collection of essays woven together from a new book on wholeheartedness 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.

In Person on Tuesdays at 6:00pm: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15

Online Wednesdays at 7:30pm: 3/4*, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

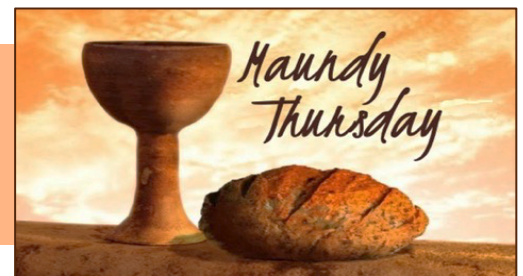
*held on a Tuesday to avoid Ash Wednesday – Books are \$15 from the main office.

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Worship and Communion

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 7:00pm

Soup Supper – 6:00pm



Good Friday Worship – Friday, April 18

12:00-12:30pm and 12:30-1:00pm

Come for one service or stay for both!

Sack lunches provided.

Easter Celebration Worship

Sunday, April 20 – 10:00am





28th Annual

**DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.**

Prayer Breakfast

"From Vision to Action: Advancing the Beloved Community"



Saturday, February 22, 2025

9:00 - 11:30am

Horizons Banquet Center

Dr. John Walsh, Speaker



P.O. Box 3470 Saginaw, MI 48605 989.270.1370 info@theezekielproject.org

Michigan Conference U.M.C. Advocacy Day 2025

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

State Capital at Lansing, Michigan – 8:00am-2:00pm

This year's theme is **the crisis in care resulting from the 2019 auto no-fault insurance changes in Michigan**. Available care for survivors has become drastically reduced and is often unavailable. As a result, seriously injured Michiganders are being stripped of their inherent worth and dignity and even dying. Faith leaders have been asking state policymakers to resolve this humanitarian crisis, amplifying the concerns of medical professionals.

The legislation we will focus on would (1) **provide sustainable reimbursement rates for medical providers** and (2) **increase the number of hours that family caregivers can be reimbursed**. This is a bipartisan and moral issue. The facts are clear, but legislation to correct the 2019 laws has yet to pass. We believe bringing people of faith together will help raise awareness and get this done.



SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

7:30 AM Registration and refreshments
8:30 AM Welcome
9:30 – 11:30 AM Advocacy Activities
11:30 AM Press Conference
12:15 PM Lunch
1:00 PM Worship (with the Bishop)
Official events conclude after worship.
Capitol tours are optional at 2:30 and 3:00pm.
Sign-up is included in the registration form.

SCHEDULE LEADING UP TO THE EVENT

February 12 – 12:15-12:45 PM – Lunch and Learn:
Advocacy Day 2025 via the Michigan Conference's
Facebook page.
February 24 – 7:00 PM – Training #1 via Zoom – **REQUIRED**
March 3 – 7:00 PM – Training #2 via Zoom – **REQUIRED**
March 12 – 7:30 AM – Advocacy Day in Lansing
March 17 – 7:00 PM – Debrief



Learn more here: <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/>

Read the launch article and REGISTER at: <https://michiganumc.org/register-now-for-advocacy-day/>

Cost for the event is a suggested donation of \$30.

You can register yourself online and pay the \$30 per person OR contact Pastor Amy at (989) 274-6363 and she can register you and pay the fee on the Church account.

Watch a video about the issue here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz3_z47Psb0

Note: These and many more information links are available on the advocacy day page listed above.