

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
February 23, 2025 - 10:00am - 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Season of Epiphany

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** Variations on “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

by A.R. Reinagle; 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 yellow prayer card to share joys/concerns.

**\*Opening Hymn UMH #89:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,<br>God of glory, Lord of love;<br>Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,<br>Opening to the sun above.<br>Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;<br>Drive the dark of doubt away.<br>Giver of immortal gladness,<br>Fill us with the light of day!                 | 3) Thou art giving and forgiving,<br>Ever blessing, ever blest,<br>Wellspring of the joy of living,<br>Ocean depth of happy rest!<br>Thou our Father, Christ our brother,<br>All who live in love are thine;<br>Teach us how to love each other,<br>Lift us to the joy divine.  |
| 2) All thy works with joy surround thee,<br>Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,<br>Stars and angels sing around thee,<br>Center of unbroken praise.<br>Field and forest, vale and mountain,<br>Flowery meadow, flashing sea,<br>Chanting bird and flowing fountain,<br>Call us to rejoice in thee. | 4) Mortals, join the mighty chorus<br>Which the morning stars began;<br>Love divine is reigning o'er us,<br>Binding all within its span.<br>Ever singing, march we onward,<br>Victors in the midst of strife;<br>Joyful music leads us sunward,<br>In the triumph song of life. |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Katherine Hawker, <http://liturgyoutside.net/>)

- One: Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey.  
**All: Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.**  
One: Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat in a storm.  
**All: Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.**  
One: Strength is turning a cheek, daring the oppressor without striking back  
**All: Strength is loving an enemy and praying for those who want to harm us.**  
One: Strength is giving one's life to save the lives of others.  
**All: We come to worship a God who redefines our vision of strength.**

\* 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 #2179:** “*Live In Charity*”

*Live in charity and steadfast love; Live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

### **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:** “*What the World Needs Now Is Love*”

*by Burt Bacharach; arr. Phillip Keveren*

**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:** Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** “*Climbin’ Up The Mountain*”

*Traditional Spiritual; arr. Russell Robinson*

**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:**

Luke 6:27-38

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 60

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

**Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn FWS #2171: “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”**

- 1) Make me a channel of your peace;  
Where there is hatred,  
let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there’s doubt,  
true faith in you.
- 2) Make me a channel of your peace:  
Where there’s despair in life  
let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there’s sadness, ever joy.
- 3) Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 4) Make me a channel of your peace:  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we’re born  
to eternal life.

**The Sermon:**

THE COURAGE TO BE COUNTER-CULTURAL

Pastor Amy Terhune

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

**\*Closing Hymn UMH #444: “O Young and Fearless Prophet” (vs. 1, 3-5)**

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|--|--|
| 1) O young and fearless Prophet<br>of ancient Galilee,<br>Thy life is still a summons<br>to serve humanity;<br>To make our thoughts and actions<br>less prone to please the crowd,<br>To stand with humble courage<br>for truth with hearts uncowed. | 4) Stir up in us a protest<br>against our greed for wealth,<br>While others starve and hunger<br>and plead for work and health;<br>Where homes with little children<br>cry out for lack of bread,<br>Who live their years sore burdened<br>beneath a gloomy dread. |
| 3) O help us stand unswerving<br>against war's bloody way,<br>Where hate and lust and falsehood<br>hold back Christ's holy sway;<br>Forbid false love of country<br>that blinds us to his call,<br>Who lifts above the nations<br>the unity of all.  | 5) O young and fearless prophet,<br>we need thy presence here,<br>Amid our pride and glory<br>to see thy face appear;<br>Once more to hear thy challenge<br>above our noisy day,<br>Again to lead us forward<br>along God's holy way.                              |

**\*Benediction:**

One: Beloved, go from this place in the Spirit of our Lord, looking to forgive rather than condemn, to help with no strings attached, to be a blessing regardless of merit.  
**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*

***First United Methodist Church***

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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 ..... Katie Moon and 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: Jim Doane / Greeters: Judy Briggs and Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Bonnie Dole, Cal & Pam Mott, Chuck Priem / Coffee Hour: NEEDED / Welcome Desk: Robin Schwellenbach / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Sue Myers and Jan Talkington

**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, Nancy Kozumplik, 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.

**CARD MAKING MINISTRY** – tomorrow, Monday, Feb. 24 at 2:00pm. See Jill Spaulding for more information

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will meet Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6:30pm.

**THE ANNUAL TALENT SHOW** has been **POSTPONED** due to weather until Sunday March 9 at 4:00pm. Plan to join us for choirs, solos, instrumentals, skits, and a sing-a-long!!!

**THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP** will meet tonight, Sunday 2/23 at 6:00pm for dinner and fellowship. All young people ages 18-35 are 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!!!

**THE LENTEN BOOK STUDY** begins Tuesday, March 4. Books on sale at the Welcome Desk. In-Person book Study begins 3/4 at 6:00pm. The online book study will normally meet on Wednesdays but begins Tuesday 3/4 at 7:30pm to avoid Ash Wednesday worship on March 5.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, March 11 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for March: Ed's Southwest Chicken. Clean-up help needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community/>.

**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>

**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**

# 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 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

### 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.*



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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz3_z47Psb0)

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

# 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

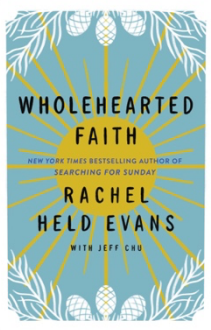
## Ash Wednesday Worship

*(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

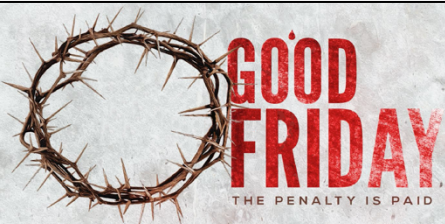
\*held on a Tuesday to avoid Ash Wednesday – Books are \$15 from the main office.

## 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

