

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
March 9, 2025 - 10:00am - First Sunday in Lent

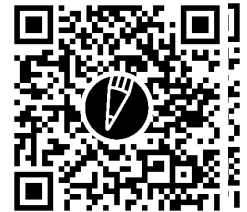
GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: “*Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen*”

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Gilbert M. Martin

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 #269:** “*Lord, Who, Throughout These Forty Days*”

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| 1) Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay. | To die to self, and chiefly live
By thy most holy word. |
| 2) As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
In thee to conquer sin. | 4) And through these days of penitence,
And through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide. |
| 3) As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord, | 5) Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Unison Prayer of Confession: **Merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves; the places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you; the places where we are seduced to serve self instead of others; the places that lure us towards sensationalism over humility; the places that entice us to use manipulation or violence to retain control. Forgive our wandering and our sin, and free us for joyful obedience to you through Christ. Amen.**

The Words of Assurance

One: Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. This proves God’s love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

** 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 #2133: “*Give Me A Clean Heart*”

*Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.*

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

♪ *Please choose to support your church family in this exciting and challenging time of mission/ministry. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.*

Use the QR codes or pledge/give online here:

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



The Offertory: “*On Eagle's Wings*”

by Michael Joncas; arr. Fred Bock

***The Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

*Tune: UMH #95
(old 100th)*

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** **Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ, in whose holy name, we pray. Amen.**

Choral Anthem: “*Down to the Water to Pray*”

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Pepper Chaplin

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.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #252: “When Jesus Came to Jordan”**

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| 1) When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon
But as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins. | So when the dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began. |
| 2) He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross. | 3) Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost. |

***Benediction:**

(adapted from Nathan Nettleton <http://www.laughingbird.net/>)

One: Beloved, go now in faith, even when you find yourself in hard and wild places. With repentance and trust, give yourselves to God, and with fasting and prayer, strengthen yourselves against temptation. And may God enfold you in tender, lasting love; may Christ be beside you in times of struggle; and may the Spirit lead you in paths of righteousness and keep you in God’s grace.

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

*** Postlude: “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”**

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

First United Methodist Church

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Custodian Tina Castle
Organist..... Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir..... Rod Bieber
Bell Choir Director..... Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisor 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: Lexi 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

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.

THE LENTEN BOOK STUDY continues this week on in person on Tuesday 3/11 at 6pm (come early and eat at 5:30 at the Free Community Meal) and online on Wednesday 3/12 at 7:30pm. Please let Pastor Amy know if you still need a book.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for middle school students continues this Wednesday at 6:30pm.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL – We did not get enough submissions to print a daily devotional this year, but we will be sending out weekly devotionals via email. Watch your inbox on Monday mornings.

KID'S CLUB TODAY immediately following worship for all kids ages 3 through 5th grade.

THE ANNUAL TALENT SHOW TODAY at 4:00pm. Plan to join us for choirs, solos, instrumentals, skits, and a sing-a-long!!!

YOUNG ADULT GROUP meets for dinner tonight at 6:00pm. Ages 18-35 welcome!

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Sunday, March 16 at 8:30am. Suggested donation of \$5pp. Spouses and significant others are welcome. Speaker is Tom Brubaker from PFLAG of the GLB Region.

REBECCA CIRCLE Women's Group will meet Tuesday, March 18 at 11:00am.

SPRING BREAK FAMILY FUN NIGHT – Thursday, March 27 from 6:00-7:30pm at Airborne Jump Park. SFUMC kids + 1 friend each jump free, but food/snacks are not provided by the church.

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, 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**

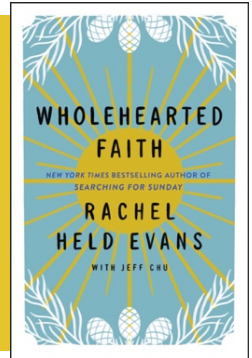
LENT 2025 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC

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.

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.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 13 – 10:00am

Kid’s Club – 11:30am

Youth Adult Group – 6:00pm

**Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Worship and Communion**
Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 7:00pm
Soup Supper – 5:45pm
(choir members rehearse at 6:15pm)



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

Easter Breakfast – 9:00am

