

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
April 20, 2025 - 10:00am - EASTER CELEBRATION!

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *Fanfare on “The Strife is O’er”*
“Awake, My Heart, With Gladness”

by Giovanni da Palestrina; arr. Phil Lehenbauer
by Johann Cruger; arr. Wilbur Held

Choral Introit: *“He Is Not Here!”*

by Russell Nagy w/ Joel Nagy

*‘Twas at the break of day when women came with spices to anoint our Lord.
And walking to the tomb, said, “who will move the mighty stone that bars the door?”
Then behold, they found no stone, but a man was standing there instead.
Dazzling bright, in raiment white, saying, “Jesus is not dead!
He is not here! He is risen! See, the tomb is empty where he lay!”
He is not here! He is risen! Jesus rose on Easter day!*

*When John and Peter heard the strange account, they doubted that it could be true.
And running there to find the empty tomb, they suddenly believed it, too!
In the place where Jesus lay sat the burial clothing of the dead.
Laid aside, like death denied, for he was no longer dead!
He is not here! He is risen! See, the tomb is empty where he lay!”
He is not here! He is risen! Jesus rose on Easter day!*

*The tomb is empty, He is risen! Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia!
For Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!*

*And so, we do proclaim on Easter Day that Jesus is not in the grave;
But risen from the dead just as he said with majesty and power to reign!
He is not here! He is risen! See, the tomb is empty where he lay!”
He is not here! He is risen! Jesus rose on Easter day! Alleluia!*

Words of Welcome – 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 if you have concerns/joys.



***Opening Hymn UMH #302:** *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

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|---|---|
| 1) Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia! | 3) Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia! |
| 2) Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia! | 4) Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia! |

** Please Stand, If You Are Able*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:** *(adapted from Ann Siddall, <http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/>)*

One: For those who first went out into the early grey dawn, taking spices to the tomb, there was terror, and then astonishment

All: For us, resisting the impulse to sleep in as part of a long weekend, and being over-familiar with the Easter story, there is the risk of complacency.

One: Let us be open to the amazing possibility that life can break out at any moment!

All: Let us challenge the thought that we have planned the future so efficiently that there will be no surprises!

One: Let us face the fact that the walls of this church, and the life of our institution will never be able to contain Jesus Christ!

All: The risen Christ is already moving and at work among us!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

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 FWS #2088: “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

Lord, I lift your name on high! Lord, I love to sing your praises!

I’m so glad you’re in my life! I’m so glad you came to save us!

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way; from the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift your name on high!*

Time of Silent Meditation

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:

***“Trumpet Voluntary”
Bethany Tomasino, Trumpet***

by Jeremiah Clarke

***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:**

Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this period of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life everlasting. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. 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.*

***Hymn UMH #308:**

"Thine Be the Glory"

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| 1) Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where thy body lay. | Lovingly he greets thee,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For our Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting. (Refrain) |
| Refrain: Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won. | 3) No more we doubt thee,
Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors,
Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To thy home above. (Refrain) |
| 2) Lo! Jesus meets thee,
Risen from the tomb; | |

***The Affirmation of Faith (in unison):**

(The Apostle's Creed, Ecumenical Version, UMH #882)

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead, and on the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy and universal church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body,
and the live everlasting. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Choral Anthem: “*Fanfare and Canticle for Easter Day*”

by Benjamin Harlan
w/ W.J. Irons and L.V. Beethoven

*Christ is risen, Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia! (4X) Christ the Lord is risen from the dead!
Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease.
In God’s likeness, we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.
Oh what glory far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.
Oh to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament,
Know with thee, Oh God Immortal, Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent! Alleluia!*

Scripture Lesson: Luke 24:1-12

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 84

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon:

HE IS NOT HERE; HE IS RISEN!

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #327: “Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

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| 1) Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem
Drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity. | 3) Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet. |
| 2) Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die. | 4) Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity. |

***Benediction:**

(by Glen E. Rainsley, in Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated, ed. Ruth C. Duck & Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), 91.)

One: Beloved, because the tomb is empty, your life can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you. Alleluia and Amen! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

***Postlude: “Toccata” (from Symphony No. 5 for Organ)**

Charles-Marie Widor

First United Methodist Church

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..... 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..... 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: Jude Mertz / Greeters: Jane MacQueen, Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Brian Hatch, Carla Piazza Wistehuff and Andy Sharrow / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Tom Brubaker, Bernie Buggia, Myrna Cammin, Sue Cooper, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Marion Hoffman, Sue Johnson, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, 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.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Merlyn Mondol

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING TODAY goes towards *After the Storm*, which is the Michigan Conference UMC's nonprofit disaster response team. All gifts go to help those in the northern lower peninsula suffering long-term damage from the March 30 ice storms.

CONFIRMATION CLASS for middle school students will meet Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30pm.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – Saturday, April 26 from 9:30-11:30am. Please RSVP to the church office at (989) 799-0131 or to Pastor Amy at (989) 274-6363 or pastoralbt@outlook.com if you plan to attend.

ALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY: Sunday, April 27, following worship – 11:30am Pizza Lunch, Noon-3:00pm Indoor and Outdoor clean-up work. Sign up on the list of chores at the Welcome Desk

CARD MINISTRY – Monday, April 28 at 2:00pm in the classroom by the back door.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Thursday, May 1 – Noon: Prayers at Saginaw City Hall (Pastor Amy participating) AND Thursday, May 1 – 7:00pm Prayer Service at Bridgeport Community Church, 3821 State Street, Bridgeport, MI. 48722 w/ community pastors (including Rob Ashmall and Pastor Amy).

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL PLANNING MEETING – Sunday, May 4 after worship.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, May 13 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for May: Casserole Night. Clean-up help needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community/>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING – Sun. May 18 after worship.

2025 SPRING/SUMMER 6-WEEK BOOK STUDY - “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” by Dov Waxman, offers an even-handed and judicious guide to help us understand the history and evolution of the world’s most thorny dispute. Books available at the welcome desks for \$15 each. The Spring Book Study is 6 weeks: 6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3, 6/10
7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4, 6/11

GRADUATES – If you have a student graduating this year from High School, College, University, Grad School, Trade School, or Military, please be sure to get their information into the main office. **Please do not assume we know!!!** Email us at firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com. **WE NEED TO KNOW:** Name, Where graduating from, Degree (*if applicable*), Honors, and Future Plans. Also, please send a picture!! Graduation Sunday this year is scheduled for May 18, 2025

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!

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>

PASTOR AMY AWAY in Nashville for a Conference April 28-30, 2025.

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: **saginawfume**



LILIES GIVEN BY:

The Terhune Family, in memory of Tom Terhune and Wes & Bev Brun
Jill Spaulding, in memory of loved ones

TULIPS GIVEN BY:

Belinda Hatch & Brian Hatch, in honor of Susan Hatch and Vicki Dixon
Jill Spaulding, in memory of loved ones

DAFFODILS GIVEN BY:

To the Glory of God

HYACINTHS GIVEN BY:

Betty Jo Cloud, in memory of Jim Cloud
Bill & Xenny Johnson, in memory of their mothers, Thelma and Iva

Please Join Us For A

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

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. King's beloved community.



Thursday

April 24th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

**New Christ Community
Church**

3302 Grant St, Saginaw,
MI 48601



FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED!!!



For more information or to RSVP, contact us at
info@theezekielproject.org