

First United Methodist Church

*Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
May 4, 2025 - 10:00am - Third Sunday in Easter*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *“Abide With Me”*

by W.H. Monk; arr. Ausra Motuzaitė-Pinkeviciene

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.

** Please Stand If You Are Able*

***Opening Hymn UMH #178:** *“Hope of the World”*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Hope of the world,
Thou Christ of great compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts
by conflict rent.
Save us, thy people,
from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes
and aims are spent. | Walk thou beside us
lest the tempting byways
Lure us away from thee to endless night. |
| 2) Hope of the world,
God's gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls
the bread of life,
Still let thy spirit unto us be given,
To heal earth's wounds
and end all bitter strife. | 4) Hope of the world,
who by thy cross didst save us
From death and dark despair,
from sin and guilt,
We render back the love
thy mercy gave us;
Take thou our lives,
and use them as thou wilt. |
| 3) Hope of the world,
afoot on dusty highways,
Showing to wandering souls
the path of light, | 5) Hope of the world,
O Christ o'er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst
conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful
to thy gospel glorious;
Thou art our Lord!
Thou dost forever reign. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*The Call to Worship:

(adapted from Thom Shuman; <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

One: Where shattered hearts are made whole; where wounded souls are healed; where life is stronger than death:

All: There, the stone has been rolled away.

One: Where the lonely become our friends; where a stranger is welcomed home; where hope is stronger than despair:

All: There, we find Jesus walking.

One: Where closed wallets are opened; where the anxious find serenity; where love is stronger than hate:

All: There, Jesus is opening our eyes.

One: The stone has been rolled away! Jesus is our companion on the journey! Our eyes are opened to the needs of others!

All: Here, Jesus Christ is present and still journeys the road with us!

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

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 #2267: “Taste and See” (Chorus Only)

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see, the goodness of the Lord; of the Lord!

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: “I Want Jesus To Walk With Me”

traditional spiritual; arr. Marvin Gaspard

***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!

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (by Carol Penner, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>.)

Holy God, like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread. We invite you to be with us as we offer you our love, our devotion, these gifts. Like them, may our eyes be opened to your holy presence, now and always. 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, we welcome Sharon Beutel, John and Jayne Nestell, and Janeen Schaeding, who have transferred to us from other United Methodist Churches.

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 following worship today.)*

Choral Anthem: “Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord”

by Don Besig

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 24:13-35

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 84-85

¹³ That same day, two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is almost evening and the day is nearly over.” So Jesus went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour, they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road; how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Meditation:

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sung Responses, Musical Setting A, UMH pg. 17-18

One: The Lord be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and set before us the way of life.
And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ, whom you raised from death to life.
By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
called out of darkness into his marvelous light.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said
“Take; eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you; this is my blood
of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
As often as you drink of this, remember me.
On the day you raised him from the dead,
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
And in the power of your Holy Spirit, your church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.
And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ;
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast together at his heavenly banquet.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to receive the Sacrament. Those who worship with us in person this morning are invited to come forward via the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and consume. Then return to your seats via the side aisles. If you're not able to come forward, please remain in your seat, and our servers will bring the Sacrament out to you after other have come forward. Those who worship online from home this morning are invited to use what you have in your home (bread, crackers, juice, etc.) to participate in the sacrament along with the congregation.

Special Music During Communion: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" by Paul Beloeche; arr. Larry Dalton

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn W&S #3179: "The Risen Christ" *(see attached)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1) O breath of God, come fill this place;
Revive our hearts to know your grace;
And from our slumber make us rise,
That we may know the risen Christ.</p> <p>2) O Word of God, so clear and true,
Renew our minds to trust in you;
And give to us the bread of life
That we may know the risen Christ</p> | <p>3) O love of God, so unrestrained,
Refresh our souls in Jesus' name.
Let us reflect your sacrifice,
That we may know the risen Christ.</p> <p>4) May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit make us one.
In holiness, let us unite,
That we may know the risen Christ.</p> |
|--|--|

***Benediction:** *(adapted from Nathan Nettleton; <https://laughingbird.net/>)*

One: Because the tomb is empty, life is full. Go now as witnesses of God's eternal presence. As the risen Christ has made himself known to you in the breaking of bread, so set your faith and hope on God. May the Love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be yours as you live your faith.

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

***Postlude:** *"Star Wars Theme" (May the Fourth Be With You!)* *by John Williams*

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 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: Carla Piazza Wistehuff / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Coffee Hour: The Johnson Family / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune/ Counters: Jackie Matlock, Dee Mills / Communion Servers: Confirmation Class Students

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, 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, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Bernie Buggia **OUR SYMPATHY** to loved ones of David Barker.

THE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE will meet this Tuesday, May 6 at 7:15pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet this Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30pm.

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. Sign up to help or donate food at the Welcome Desk.

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

NOW COLLECTING ITEMS FOR MISSION KITS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

See attached for a list of items to collect for UMCOR Personal Dignity Kits to be collected at Annual Conference 2025

PFALG NEWS: PFLAG GLB is holding a **Sign-Making Party** here in the chapter office tomorrow, Monday, May 5 at 6:00pm. You can bring your own posterboard and supplies, or PFLAG will have some available as well. Also, please mark your calendars now for the **PFLAG Chocolate Party** Fundraiser on June 11 from 6:00-8:00pm in Bay City. Flyer with more information attached...

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>

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**



NOW COLLECTING ITEMS FOR MISSION KITS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please donate the following in the box in front entryway:

- Individually packaged adult toothbrushes (NO multipacks)
- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloth (no dishcloths)
- Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- Shampoo - 12-19 oz
- Lotion - 8-10 oz
- Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- Gallon-size Ziplock bags

Please do NOT donate toothpaste or razors. These must be provided by UMCOR directly in order to meet specific requirements. We will be packing up kits in mid to late May before Annual Conference. \$2 per kit must also be included.

PFLAG
GREAT LAKES
BAY REGION

Parents, Families, and Friends
of LGBTQ+ People

Follow us:



Annual Chocolate Party

All our welcome to join us for our Annual Chocolate Party fundraiser in celebration of Pride in the beautiful Victorian home of our host Terry Zajac of Bay City.

Wednesday, June 11
6:00-8:00pm

1609 Fifth Street, Bay City, MI



Tickets \$20 per person at the door

The Risen Christ

3179

Bm A/C# D A/E D/F# Asus A Bm A/C#

1. O breath of God, come fill this place; re - vive our
 2. O Word of God, so clear and true, re - new our
 3. O love of God, so un - re - strained, re - fresh our
 4. May God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the

D Em D/F# Asus A G D/F# Bm G

6

hearts to know your grace; and from our slum - ber
 minds to trust in you; and give to us the
 souls in Je - sus' name. Let us re - flect your
 Spir - it make us one. In ho - li - ness let

11 D F#m7 Bm G/B A/C# D G Asus A D

make us rise that we may know the ris - en Christ.
 bread of life that we may know the ris - en Christ.
 sac - ri - fice that we may know the ris - en Christ.
 us u - nite that we may know the ris - en Christ.

WORDS: Keith Getty and Phil Madeira
 MUSIC: Keith Getty and Phil Madeira; arr. by Bruce Greer

THE RISEN CHRIST
 LM

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