

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
May 11, 2025 - 10:00am - Fourth Sunday in Easter / Mother's Day

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Gigue"

by David L. Crouse

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 #111:** "How Can We Name A Love?"

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) How can we name a Love
That wakens heart and mind,
Indwelling all we know
Or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world,
In every human face,
Love's echoes sound & God is found
Hid in the commonplace. | 3) When people share a task,
And strength and skills unite
In projects old or new, to make or do
With shared delight,
Our Friend and Partner's will
Is better understood,
That all should share, create, and care,
And know that life is good. |
| 2) If we awoke to life
Built on a rock of care
That asked no great reward but firm,
Assured, was simply there,
We can, with parents' names,
Describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind,
A mother strong and sure. | 4) So in a hundred names,
Each day we all can meet
A presence, sensed and shown at work,
At home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see,
Shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown
And life and hope begun. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Psalm 139 by Christine Longhurst, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

One: We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born,

All: **Who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
and whose presence never leaves us.**

One: God's love for us never ceases; It is tender and nurturing.

All: **Like a mother, God knows us intimately and loves us unconditionally,**

One: God teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.

All: **Let us praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life! Alleluia!**

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 #2157: *“Come and Fill Our Hearts*

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

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: *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

by William M. Runyan; arr. Larry Shackley

***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:** God of compassion, whose heart abounds with gifts for all your children receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live immersed in your grace, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous towards your whole world, for we ask in the name of Christ our Risen Savior. 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.

Choral Anthem: *“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 9:36-43

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 120

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time, she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her out in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Tabitha had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile, Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain man named Simon, a tanner.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn UMH #311: "Now the Green Blade Riseth"**

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|---|---|
| 1) Now the green blade riseth,
from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth
Many days has lain;
Love lives again,
That with the dead has been:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green. | 3) Forth he came at Easter,
Like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days
In the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead
My Risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green. |
| 2) In the grave they laid him,
Love who had been slain,
Thinking that he never
Would awake again,
Laid in the earth
Like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green. | 4) When our hearts are wintry,
Grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us
Back to life again,
Fields of our hearts
That dead and bare have been:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green. |

The Sermon:

LIFE IN AN UPPER ROOM

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn UMH #304: “Easter People, Raise Your Voices”

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|---|---|
| 1) Easter people, raise your voices,
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices;
Heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let us sing! | Triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go! |
| 2) Fear of death can no more stop us
From our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to | 3) Every day to us is Easter,
With its resurrection song.
When in trouble, move the faster
To our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs! |

***Benediction:**

(adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/03/benediction-for-mothering-sunday.html>)

One: Beloved, may God, who gave birth to all creation, bless and keep each one of you;
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, lavish each one with grace,
and may God, who broods as a mother over her children, inspire and nourish your
faith day by day, as you go forth to live that faith throughout the week.

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

***Postlude: “This Joyful Day of Days”**

by Dale Wood

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: Alexa Sharrow / Greeters: Judy Gerken, Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Matt Martinez / Welcome Desk: Kathy Winkowski / Coffee Hour: NEEDED / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith/ Counters: Marc Cesere & Bonnie Arnst

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, Trinity & Audri Miller, 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.

OUR SYMPATHY to loved ones of David Barker, who entered eternal life on April 28. A Memorial Service will be held here on Sunday, June 15 at 2:00pm. If you can help with a reception, sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-52860436-memorial>.

THE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE will meet this Wednesday, May 14 at 6:00pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet this Saturday, May 17 from 10:00am-1:30pm

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. Flyer with more information is attached...

PFALG NEWS: 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.



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