

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
May 25, 2025 - 10:00am - 6th Sunday in Easter / Memorial Day Weekend

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

by Sy Miller & Jill Jackson; arr. Lani Smith

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 #437:** *“This Is My Song”*

- 1) This is my song, O God of all the nations; a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine.
But other hearts in other lands are beating, with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
- 2) My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.
- 3) This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come, on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee, let thy will be done.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Psalm 30)

One: I will praise you, O God, for you have risen me up and given me life!

All: **You have healed me and restored me from death and despair.**

One: Sing praise to God, you faithful ones, and give thanks to the Holy One, our Savior!

All: **Weeping may linger through the night, but joy comes in the morning!**

One: O God, you have turned our weeping into dancing!

All: **You have removed the garments of mourning and clothed us in gladness!**

One: I will praise you, O God! I cannot be silent! My gratitude runs deep.

All: **I will praise you, O God, for you have risen me up and given me life!**

Time of Prayer – *Ushers will collect yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor following the prayer chorus*

Prayer Chorus FWS #2057: *“Be Still and Know”*

Be still and know that I am God; Be still and know that I am God!

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: “Imagine”

by John Lennon; arr. Lenono Music

***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:** *(adapted from Rev. Kristina Sinks, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)*
God of all gifts, of all bounty, of every tree and plant; of every fruit and vegetable, everything we have comes from you. We give you thanks for this abundance. We pray that what we give might be used as a balm to heal the nations, to restore your love-grounded peace among all creation, through Christ our 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.*

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 16:16-24

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 128

¹⁶ One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the

marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Special Music:

“What Did He Die For?”

w/m by Twila Paris

Bethany Tomasino, Soloist – Bryan Latimer, Piano

Scripture Lesson:

Acts 16:25-40

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 128

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God. ³⁵ When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “Let those men go.” ³⁶ And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, “The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.” ³⁷ But Paul replied, “They have beaten us in public without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison, and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.” ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and when they heard that they were Roman citizens, they were afraid, ³⁹ so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After leaving the prison, they went to Lydia’s home, and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon:

CALLING FOR LIGHT

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #428: “For the Healing of the Nations”**

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|---|---|
| 1) For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word,
Help us rise and pledge our word. | 3) All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race, or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span,
May we hallow life's brief span. |
| 2) Lead us forward into freedom;
From despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
Fear will die and hope increase,
Fear will die and hope increase. | 4) You, Creator God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find,
Earth its destiny may find. |

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, go from this place to be light in the world. Speak truth. Give hope. Live love in all you do. Remember those who secured our freedom. And in all things, may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, guide your way.

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

***Postlude: “Eternal Father, Strong to Save”**

by Robert J. Hughes; arr. John Dykes

First United Methodist Church

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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: Cal Mott / Greeters: Judy Briggs, Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Chuck Priem, Pam Mott, Bonnie Dole / Welcome Desk: Kathy Winkowski / Coffee Hour: NEEDED / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith / Counters: Sue Myers and Jan Talkington

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, 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.

HOSPITALIZED: Bill Cowdry (recovering from heart surgery), Dora Lowry (now home), Tom Myers (now home), and Jerry Taylor (now at Great Lakes Rehab)

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Sue Johnson, who entered eternal life May 17, 2025. A Memorial Service will be held here on Saturday, June 14 at 11:00am

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 or provide a dessert, sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-52860436-memorial>.

YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT – tonight from 5:00-10:00pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held Sunday 8/10, Monday 8/11, and Tuesday 8/12 from 5:30-7:45pm. Join us for Safari Fun, where kids go wild for God!

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, June 10 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for June: Loaded Nachos. Sign up to help or donate food at the Welcome Desk.

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

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. We’ll be packing mission kits on Wednesday, May 28 at 10:30am.

PASTOR AMY WILL BE AWAY for Annual Conference from Thursday, May 29 – Sunday, June 1.
WELCOME JOHN NESTELL, who will be our guest preacher next Sunday, June 1.

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 will wrap up with packing on Wed. May 21, with a final delivery to area schools on May 28. Sign up to deliver food 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