

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!

June 1, 2025 - 10:00am - 7th Sunday in Easter

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"*

by Peter Scholtes; arr. Lani Smith

Opening Video: *"My Lord, What A Morning"*

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 #545** *"The Church's One Foundation" (vs. 1-3, 5)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven he came and
Sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died. | 3) Though with a scornful wonder
We see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song. |
| 2) Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued. | 5) Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Elizabeth Rice, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

One: Beloved, arise and lift your hearts; your eyes; your voices in song!

All: **Let us sing the Lord our God, who raises us up to life!**

One: The living God; the living, moving Spirit of God has called us together.

All: **We rise in celebration; in witness; in struggle together.**

One: Reach out toward each other as our God reaches out toward us!

All: **We reach out to one another and discover the Risen Christ in our midst.
Thanks be to God!**

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

Prayer Chorus UMH #143: “*On Eagle’s Wings*”

*And God will raise us up on Eagle’s Wings, bear us on the breath of dawn,
Make us to shine like the sun, and hold us in the palm of God’s hand.*

Time of Silent Meditation

Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns

John Nestell, Guest Preacher

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: “*Love Lifted Me*”

by Howard Smith; arr. James Pethel

***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:** Holy God, with gratitude we bring our gifts and ourselves, that they may not only ground our faith in love and lift our spirits in hope, but give life and renewed faith to our community and our world, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen

Choral Anthem: “*Just A Closer Walk With Thee*”

arr. Ed Lojeski

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:

I Thessalonians 5:11-22

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 193

¹¹ Encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing. ¹² We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³ esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵ See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon:

LIFT

John Nestell, Guest Preacher

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD***Closing Hymn FWS #2282: "I'll Fly Away"**

1) Some glad morning
When this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away!

Chorus: I'll fly away, O Glory,
I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah,
By and by, I'll fly away!

2) When the shadows of this life
Have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away! [Chorus]

3) Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away! [Chorus]

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, may the strength of God pilot you. May the power of God preserve you.
May the wisdom of God instruct you. May the hand of God protect you.

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

***Postlude:** *"Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher and Higher"* by Gary Jackson, Carl Smith, Raynard Miller

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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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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: **Thank you for your service!!** Guest Preacher: John Nestell / Liturgist: Anne Marks-Gaertner / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Dave O'Dell, Bill Johnson Jr, Angie Smith / Welcome Desk: Karen Constan / Coffee Hour: Bill, Xenny, & Keeli Johnson / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Jackie Matlock and Dee Mills

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, Jerry Taylor (now at Great Lakes Rehab), & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, for peace in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza, and for our Annual Conference gathering.

HOSPITALIZED: Bill Cowdry (recovering from heart surgery)

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>.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY from Jackie Matlock, and Neil & Karissa Schultz in honor of Mark Schultz, whose Eagle Scout Court of Honor is being held today.

NEXT SUNDAY JUNE 8 IS PENTECOST – WEAR RED!!! On Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. We will also celebrate Confirmation Sunday and Holy Communion next Sunday.

TRUSTEES WILL MEET TUESDAY, JUNE 3 at 7:15pm.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP (in meditation/prayer/song) **IS THIS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 at 7:00pm.**

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

PASTOR AMY IS AWAY for Annual Conference this Weekend.

PLEASE WELCOME JOHN NESTELL, who is our guest preacher Today

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!

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**