

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
September 7, 2025 - 10:00am - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Take Up Thy Cross"

by W Gardiner, arr. Robert A Hobby

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 #415:** "Take Up Thy Cross"

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| 1) "Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me." | 3) Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let your foolish pride rebel;
Your Lord for you the cross endured,
To save your soul from death and hell. |
| 2) Take up your cross, let not its weight
Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up,
And brace your heart and nerve your arm. | 4) Take up your cross and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown. |

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

***The Unison Prayer of Confession:** (adapted from A.P. Happe, in "Touch Holiness" 2nd ed; Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2012, pg. 117.)

All: Holy God, we confess our rebellious nature. We have denied your intentions for us; we have sought our own way rather than take up our cross and follow the way of Jesus. We have refused to learn the lessons of the past, and still fall into those pitfalls. We dream of what we cannot be, yet do not devote ourselves to laying a foundation of genuine hope. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and shape us into all you would have us be, that we may rise with Christ and serve you with joy and trust, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

One: Hear these words of Assurance: There is no greater joy in God's heart than the moment a child opens to the gift of forgiveness. Therefore, be open, beloved, to God's saving grace. This is the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, who died and rose again, we have all been forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen and amen.

Time of Prayer – During the Prayer Chorus and/or silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the Worship Leader.

Prayer Chorus FWS #2261: “Life-Giving Bread”

*Life-giving bread, as our hearts are transformed anew.
And life-giving wine, may we share in a life with you.*

Silent Meditation and the 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: “Are Ye Able?”

by Harry S. Mason; arr. Bryan Latimer

***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: Lord, we come to you today aware of the challenges that come with following you. Help us to understand what it truly means to carry our cross every day and to walk in love, humility, and service. May these gifts be a sign of our commitment to seek your kingdom first, trusting that you will always provide for us; in Jesus’ name, 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: Luke 14:25-34

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 73

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions. ³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is useful neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away. If you have ears to hear, then hear!”

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Amy Terhune

***Hymn FWS #2255 “In The Singing”**

*In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.
In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
In the heart’s cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

UMH pg. 17-18, Musical Setting A

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 spoke to us through your prophets.

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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ,
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
To proclaim release to the captive and recovering of sight to the blind;
To set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce
that the time had come when you would save your people.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
On the night before 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.
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: Let us pray: Holy God, 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 Father, now and forever. Amen.

*Those who worship with us in person this morning are invited to come forward via the center aisle,
Take a piece of bread and dip it into the chalice and partake. Then return to your seats via the side aisles.
When all who are able to come forward have been served, the communion stewards
will bring the sacrament out to those who are unable to 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.*

Music During Communion: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” – Traditional Indian, arr. Robert W Thygerson

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #344: “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”**

1) Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy
nor wise ones
You only asked me to follow humbly.

*Refrain: O Lord, with your eyes
you have searched me
And while smiling
have spoken my name
Now my boat's left
on the shoreline behind me
By your side
I will seek other seas.*

2) You know so well my possessions
My boat carries no gold and no weapons
You will find there my nets and labor.
Refrain

3) You need my hands full of caring
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving.
Refrain

4) You, who have fished other oceans,
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting
My loving friend, as thus you call me.
Refrain

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, go now into the world ready to take up the cross. This is not a call merely to put up with what is unavoidable, but to choose the hard and narrow way of love that gives, knowing that it leads to peace and joy for all people, not just ourselves. And may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be yours this week.

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

***Postlude: “Lift High the Cross”**

by Sydney H. Nicholson; arr. Phil Lehenbauer

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: Jim Doane / Greeters:

Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr. Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith /

Welcome Desk: Jan Tolley / Communion Servers: NEEDED / Coffee Hour Host: Xenny, Bill, & Keeli Johnson / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz /

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, Barry Brown, Lucas Brown, Tom Brubaker, Bernie Buggia, Myrna Cammin, Sue Cooper, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne & Phyllis Henney, Marion Hoffman, Erlene Kimber, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Mark Leffler, Bonnie Markley, Kay Mertz, Trinity & Audri Miller, Merlyn Mondol, Jackie Moore, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Noreen Southgate, Rita Taylor, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for peace in Ukraine/Russia and Israel/Gaza.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Vicki Dixon, Bob Mueller

SCHEDULE for CHANCEL CHOIR and BELL CHOIR has been published and are at the Welcome Desk. Bell Choir begins Thurs. Sept. 4 at 5:30pm. Chancel Choir begins Thurs. Sept. 11 at 7:15pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Monday 9/8 – 4:00pm Anniversary Committee

6:00pm Nurture Committee

7:00pm Reach-Prepare-Send

Monday 9/15 – 6:00pm SPRC on zoom w/ DS

Tuesday 9/16 – 7:15pm Finance Committee

Monday 9/22 – 7:00pm Administrative Board

Tuesday 9/23 – 7:15pm Trustees

Sunday 9/28 – 6:00pm Church Conference at Essexville: St. Luke's UMC

KIDS CLUB will begin Next Sunday, September 14 following worship.

2025 MISSION FAIR will be held following worship on Sunday, Sept. 21. Take this opportunity to learn more about various ministries in the church and by organizations using our building.

YOUNG ADULT DINNER – Sunday, September 14 at 6:00pm. Ages 18-40 welcome (and those a few years over 40 are welcome too!! If you consider yourself a young adult, come and join us!)

FALL BOOK STUDY FOR ADULTS begins in person at 6:00pm on Tuesday 9/23 and online at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9/24. This fall, we're reading "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. The fall book study lasts 6 weeks. Books are \$15 from the main office. *We are committed to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation. Books are available for free upon confidential request to the pastor.* **CHECK OUT THE EDUCATION PAMPHLET FOR 2025-2026 NOW AVAILABLE!**

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing TUESDAY, September 9. On the menu for September: Chicken and Biscuits! Sign up to donate food at the Welcome Desk.

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**