

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
September 21, 2025 - 10:00am - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude – Bells on High: “He Leadeth Me”
with a seamless segue into “He Leadeth Me”

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

arr. Tammy Waldrop (Calypso version)

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 FWS #2004:** “Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Praise the source of faith and learning
That has sparked and stoked the mind
With a passion for discerning
How the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing
From the wonders we survey
Keep our faith forever growing
And renew our need to pray. | 3) May our faith redeem the blunder
Of believing that our thought
Has displaced the grounds for wonder
Which the ancient prophets taught.
May our learning curb the error
Which unthinking faith can breed,
Lest we justify some terror
With an antiquated creed. |
| 2) God of wisdom we acknowledge
That our science and our art
And the breadth of human knowledge
Only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation
Lies a depth we cannot sound
Where your purpose for creation
And the pulse of life are found. | 4) As two currents in a river
Fight each other's undertow,
Till converging they deliver
One coherent steady flow,
Blend, O God, our faith and learning
Till they carve a single course,
Till they join as one, returning
Praise and thanks to you, their Source. |

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Katherine Hawker; <http://liturgyoutside.net/CPr13.html>)

One: Masters, two and more, compete for our money, clamor for our time, create chaos
in our lives.

All: Master – one God – quiet us and draw us near to you in this time of worship.

One: Masters, two and more, lure us with a call to serve ourselves first and give what's
left over to God and others.

All: Master – one God – quiet us and remind us of the joy in giving of ourselves.

One: Masters, two and more, paint for us illusions that our needs are bigger than they really are, and that love's demands are smaller than they really are.

All: Master – one God – quiet us and fill us with your love.

One: Masters, two and more, tell us faithfulness in little things in pointless.

All: Master – one God – quiet us and empower our faithfulness in all things.

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 #2058: “Shepherd Me, O God”

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

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: “Jesus, Lover of my Soul”

by Joseph Parry; arr. Marianne Kim

***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, knowing that many voices clamour and compete for our attention, we pray that these offerings given may become symbolic of our decision to serve one master, one God, and so may they be blessed to bear the fruit of faithfulness and multiply goodness in the sacred name of Christ. Amen.**

Bells on High Anthem: “Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu”

arr. Fred Gramann

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 16:1-13

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 74

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon: *WHEN IT'S NOT A LESSON IN ETHICS...*

Pastor Amy Terhune

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2149: “Living For Jesus”**

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| 1) Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance glad-hearted & free,
This is the pathway of blessing for me. | 2) Living for Jesus, who died in my place,
Bearing on Calvary my sin & disgrace,
Such love constrains me to answer his call,
Follow his leading, and give him my all. [R] |
|---|--|

Refrain: O Jesus, Lord and Savior,
[R] I give myself to thee;
For thou in thy atonement
Didst give thyself for me.
I own no other master,
My heart shall be thy throne,
My life I give, henceforth to live,
O Christ, for thee alone.

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| 3) Living for Jesus wherever I am,
Doing each duty in his holy name,
Willing to suffer affliction or loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross. [R] | 4) Living for Jesus through earth's little while,
My dearest treasure, the light of his smile,
Seeking the lost ones he died to redeem,
Bringing the weary to find rest in him. [R] |
|--|--|

***Benediction:**

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One: Beloved, go forth to be gracious with all, but shrewd in dealing with the world around you. Serve God alone, and may God welcome you with love; May Christ Jesus give you knowledge of the truth; and may the Holy Spirit lead you into all godliness and dignity.

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

***Postlude: “Festival March”**

by Murray C. Bradshaw

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: Judy O'Dell / Greeters: Stacy Sharrow, Jane MacQueen / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Andy Sharrow, Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Robin Schwellenbach / Coffee Hour Host: Jacque Kurtz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Brian Hatch, Dina Draper

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abby, 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: Erlene Kimber, Jackie Moore

UPCOMING MEETINGS: 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,
located at 206 Scheurmann St, Essexville, MI 48732

2025 MISSION FAIR TODAY following worship. Take this opportunity to learn more about various ministries in the church and by organizations using our building.

PFLAG MEETING today from 2:00-3:30pm in the Lobby Area. LGBTQIA+ friends and allies welcome!

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!**

FAMILY FUN DAY – Sunday, October 10, 1:00-3:00pm at Leaman's Orchard. All church families are welcome. The event is free to families (paid for by the church) BUT you must sign up ahead of time in order to attend. Sign-up sheet on the welcome desk OR RSVP to Pastor Amy at 989-274-6363 or pastoralbt@outlook.com, or to the Church Office at 989-799-0131. Thank you!

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing TUESDAY, October 13. On the menu for October: Roast Pork & Cheesy Potatoes! 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: **saginawfume**



IGNITE CONGREGATIONS TRANSFORMING TOGETHER

*Join us as we share how our
Transforming Congregations Through
Sacred Conversations campaign is
creating new possibilities for ministry,
leadership, and community impact.*

*Discover the vision ahead and how your
congregation can be part of it.*

The Ezekiel Project | info@theezekeielproject.org | 989.270.1370

*The Ezekiel Project
invites you to join us*
September 25, 2025
6:00 p.m.
New Life Baptist
Ministries
1401 Janes Ave.
Saginaw, MI



*Pre-Register for the event at
<https://bit.ly/Ezekeielignite>*

*For more information contact
The Ezekiel Project at
info@theezekeielproject.org*



Saginaw County
Prayer Walk
Sunday, October 12, 2025

PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY / PRAY FOR PEACE

Route starts and ends at:
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

2:15pm - Early Arrival/Meet-up
New Birth Missionary Baptist Cathedral
3121 Sheridan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48601

2:55pm - Stop 1 - Wickes Park
412 Wickes park Dr, Saginaw, MI 48601

3:30pm - Stop 2 - Borchard Park
100 N Michigan Ave, Saginaw, MI 48602

4:10pm - Stop 3 - Unity Park
1305 Leon Scott Ct, Saginaw, MI 48601

4:35pm - Stop 4 - Buena Vista Community Center
1940 S Outer Dr, Saginaw, MI 48601

Sponsored by:  **Local Area Churches**  **FIRSTstudent**

*For more info please contact The Ezekiel Project at info@theezekeielproject.org
P.O. BOX 3470 Saginaw, MI 48605 | 989.270.1370*