

Romans 6:1-11

11/02/2025 – Saginaw First U.M.C.

All Saints Day

“The Naming of the Saints”

The Witness of the Saints

*The names of the dearly departed are read in the context and spirit of prayer.
The witness of the lives of our church members who have gone on to eternity is also
the sermon for today. Short Biographies of Church Members will be read
following the reading of their names and the toll of the bell.*

*For Family and Friends, we will only be reading names and dates.
When your loved one's name is read, please come forward and light a candle before the altar.
If you're unable to come forward, we have someone who will light it on your behalf.
Do not rush or feel prohibited from coming if we continue to read other names as you
are making your way forward. A bell will be rung after the reading of each name.*

**The Unison Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for all the saints of the church:
for the early followers of Christ, who spread his message; to the martyrs who died
to share the good news with others; to the reformers who taught us to think and
reflect on our faith; to the early members of this congregation who built it and
helped it grow. We pause in this moment to celebrate the lives of members here
who have gone to reside in heaven's light this year:**

CHURCH MEMBERS

1) Pat Dole (04/17/1952 – 11/24/2024)

Pat worked as a Machine Repairman at Saginaw Steering Gear Plant #7, serving there for 25 years. This job required him to work fast in stressful situations, sometimes fixing or making new parts for the machines on the line. But he loved that work, and was well-respected for his abilities and his grace under pressure. He and Bonnie were married 46 years, raising Laura and Dennis, who have fond memories of family camping trips, going swimming or canoeing and enjoying Pat's great meals cooked over the campfire. Pat loved to golf with his dad, his family, and his siblings. He stayed busy gardening and fixing just about anything. He was active here at the church, and was instrumental in starting the Men's Breakfast, which he helped with for many years. The Parkinson's diagnosis was probably the biggest challenge Pat faced, but he didn't complain about it. Since Parkinson's often sapped his energy, he told Bonnie several times that he wasn't going to waste his valuable energy on grumbling and feeling sorry for himself. He was going to live to the best of his ability, even as the challenges were greater and greater. Which he did. Today we fondly remember him for his kindness, his compassion, and his courage.

2) RuthAnn Hilton (04/30/1940 – 12/11/2024)

Ruth Ann and Page Hilton joined First UMC in 1963, and were members here for more than 60 years. She worked as a special education teacher in the Swan Valley Schools and is still fondly remembered by many of her students there. Ruth Ann's daughter Lisa writes, "My mom was a caring dedicated person. She was my biggest cheerleader and I miss her every day. Losing a parent leaves a hole in your life that can never be filled. Mom loved her family, music, reading, and my dad. Her church family meant so much to her. She was involved in the choir and the memorial garden committee. We think about her every day with a smile. Love you, Mom!"

3) Ron Southgate (09/03/1937 – 12/16/2024)

Ron grew up in Unionville, hunting and fishing alongside his father and his brother Phil, which gave rise in him to a lifelong love of nature. As a boy, he learned to play piano and accordion, and cherished a lifelong love of music. He served honorably in the US Navy and then pursued a career in banking, first at Pacific Finance Corp. before moving to Second National Bank of Saginaw, and then to Vice President at Citizens Bank, where he poured his heart into his work until his retirement. He was respected and admired by colleagues and clients alike for more than 30 years of personal and professional integrity and dedication. Ron and Noreen were married 1 month shy of 70 years, and he was so proud of his children Ron, Brian, and Wendy. Ron served his community through so many volunteer organizations that there isn't time to name them all. He was a loving husband, a devoted father, a wonderful grandpa, and a generous friend to many, but above all, he was committed follower of Jesus Christ and he lived his faith every day.

4) Donal Hammond (06/22/1929 – 12/24/2024)

Don's daughter Mary writes, "Don Hammond's life was marked by exceptional character, kindness, and commitment. He was the person others turned to for guidance on what was right and ethical – and he stood firm in the face of adversity, especially when advocating for those most in need. His kindness extended not only to those who knew him, but also to countless others who did not. He was generous with his time, resources, and wisdom. As his daughter, I never heard him speak disparagingly of others. He taught us to look for the good – and to create it where it was not yet found – *and* to respond to injustice in ways that felt true to us. Dad's commitment to his faith and family was steadfast. He served in numerous leadership roles at the local, district, and conference levels of the United Methodist Church, and people knew that if Don said he would do something, it would be done. Family was at the center of his life. He and Mom worked to build unshakable family bonds, always extending warmth and encouragement. Though deeply missed, we gratefully hold close dad's teachings and the purposeful life he lived.

5) Judy Dawe (08/07/1941 – 02/04/2025)

Judy Dawe spent the first portion of her adult life as a teacher in the southwest US, and returned to Saginaw later in life to be closer to family. She worked a few different administrative jobs in town before retiring. Judy joined our church in 2009, and was involved in our women's group, helping out with rummage sales and other events as she was able. During the pandemic, she would regularly share old pictures from her family's history with Pastor Amy, and tell stories about growing up in Saginaw. She loved to read, and to travel, and valued learning about different cultures and traditions. She is remembered for her beautiful smile, her quiet nature, and her ongoing interest in learning more about her faith and world.

6) Dr. Kirk Herrick (06/10/1934 – 03/27/2025)

Dr. Kirk Herrick studied for ministry, but medicine won his heart. During his career as a doctor of osteopathic medicine, he was known for being a very caring person to everyone with whom he came in contact. One's status did not matter to Doc – he treated everyone equally. His caring attitude was infectious, and his sense of humor was contagious. After listening to his jokes, you could not help but have a smile on your face and a brighter attitude. As an illustration of his humor, he had a clock in his office that had all the numbers jumbled at the bottom and an inscription that read: "Who cares!" In addition to his family medicine practice, Dr. Herrick served as Dean of the MSU School of Osteopathic Medicine and was on staff at several hospitals. Even as he struggled with dementia in the final years of his life, he remained a caring and curious person, and a man of deep and abiding faith.

7) Dr. David Barker (06/28/1944 – 04/28/2025)

David's godson Rob Rogers writes, "My heart is full of wonderful memories of one of the greatest people I've ever known. I can still hear David's infectious laugh, and I remember the gift he had for making you feel like the most important person in the room. David lived life passionately and led by example. His life of service was molded by his parents who inspired him to pursue a career in education. His family and friends were his foundation, and his students were the cornerstone of the mark he left on the world. David was a native of Texas, but after moving to Saginaw in 1971, the 54 years he lived in Michigan made it his unmistakable home. David's career as a professor at SVSU spanned nearly four decades and he is responsible, in large part, for building the programs and courses that remain a benchmark of foreign language education at SVSU today. With a foreign language learning lab named in his honor and a scholarship fund created in his name, his selfless service to the University community will continue for decades to come. David also held a profound fondness for his church family at Saginaw First UMC. The opportunities he pursued here in retirement – like the school backpack program and the reading partners program – allowed him to continue doing what he loved: serving and educating the community he called home. David taught us all that we are not bystanders in our own lives, but we are to be actively engaged in pursuing our goals and writing our life stories with ferocity and determination. His spirit lives on in every act of kindness and service he offered, and in all of us whose lives were changed for the better because of him. David taught me that love doesn't end when life does. It continues in perpetuity. His memory is a blessing, now and forever, and we will hold him close in our hearts until we meet again."

8) Sue Johnson (06/01/1942 – 05/15/2025)

Those of us who have known Sue these past years remember her for her deep faith, her authenticity, her kindness, and her way of empowering those around her. We celebrate her spirit, her devotion to her church and community, and her love for her family. Sue's husband Bill writes, "Sue was an active member here at First UMC for 47 years. She served on various committees across those years, and participate in the church bowling league, Susanna Circle and Rebecca Fellowship after they merged. She rang with the "Bells On High" handbell choir until her arthritic hands forced her to retire. She also served on the Memorial Committee, and her dedication to First UMC continues as her ashes are taking a well-deserved rest in the Church's Memorial Garden." She is deeply missed.

9) Jerry Taylor (03/19/1934 – 07/12/2025)

Jerry Taylor joined this church along with his wife Rita in February of 1960, serving and worshiping her for more than 65 years. He and Rita were married 71 years this past May, sharing a love that weathered the challenges and celebrated all the good times. Jerry's daughters write, "Jerry was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He was a man of deep faith and enjoyed serving others. He was a longtime member at First UMC and served on many committees and events across those decades. Jerry served in the US Army and was also a volunteer fireman for more than 25 years, serving his country and his community with selfless and steadfast dedication. Jerry was always ready with a story or a joke to tell, bringing joy and laughter to those around him." He has been a good friend to many here, and we are so grateful for the example of his faith, friendship, and service.

10) Joyce Maltman (08/14/1935 – 07/22/2025)

In high school, Joyce Maltman was a young cheerleader in History class at Onstead High School who laughed when she first met the new city boy was so cute and different from all those Onstead farm boys. He invited her to the movies, and that was the start of a deep love that endured across 67 years of marriage. Joyce was an accomplished seamstress, and loved bowling, golfing and playing bridge with friends. She was active here at First UMC in the women's group and helping with rummage sales. She was deeply devoted her husband Walt, proud of daughters Kim and Jennifer, and adored her grandkids Drew, Rachel, and Grace. Each one got to spend one week with grandma every summer, and they have fond memories of shopping trips, fireworks, and breakfast at the Bringer Inn. Joyce is deeply missed and forever loved.

Musical Interlude FWS #2272: "Holy Ground"

*We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

One: We pause also to remember others who have passed on this year who are dear to us:

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

1. Ralph Brubaker	09/10/2025	<i>Uncle of Tom Brubaker</i>
2. Donald Clark	06/18/2025	<i>Brother of Wayne Clark</i>
3. Diana Feltner	03/07/2025	<i>Sister of Sharon Ketcham</i>
4. Robert D. Hemingway	12/13/2024	<i>Brother of Rita Taylor</i>
5. Dale Henney	08/13/2025	<i>Brother of Wayne Henney</i>
6. Allen Jerome	10/31/2024	<i>Brother of Jackie Matlock</i>
7. Shannon Kaptur	02/05/2025	<i>Niece of Dr. Lou Constan</i>
8. Virginia Knepper	01/10/2025	<i>Mother of Randy Knepper</i>
9. Janice Lowell	07/01/2025	<i>Friend of MaryAnn Badour</i>
10. Martin Miles	05/01/2025	<i>Friend of Mike Curtis</i>
11. John Miller	08/26/2025	<i>Brother of Dr. Robert Miller</i>
12. Elizabeth Parks	12/31/2024	<i>Former Member – SFUMC</i>
13. Janet Stringer	10/10/2025	<i>Former Member – SFUMC</i>
14. Shelley Suddith	03/23/2025	<i>Aunt of Karen Constan</i>
15. Jack Swander	08/04/2025	<i>Brother of Jan Tolley</i>
16. David Vizuri	12/17/2024	<i>Father of Elliott Vizuri</i>
17. Eugene Wagner	05/09/2025	<i>Uncle of Karen Constan</i>
18. Sue Wagner	02/22/2025	<i>Former member – State Street UMC</i>
19. Christine Woodruff	09/06/2025	<i>Mother of Bill Cowdry's DIL Teri</i>
20. Beth Ann Young	07/02/2025	<i>Friend of Bill Cowdry</i>

One: Let us continue in a spirit of prayer...

All: O God, we give thanks for all who have guided us in this life, for those who have taught us about you, and for those who have served you faithfully. We pause in this moment to name them in our hearts.

Time of Silence

One: May your spirit continue to guide and direct us that we may be good stewards in your name and good witnesses to those yet to be, we pray in the name of Christ, who taught His people to pray together...

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.