

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
November 23, 2025 - 10:00am - Reign of Christ / Thanksgiving Sunday

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *Variations on "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"*

arr. David D. Brensinger

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 #203:** *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

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| 1) Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity. | 3) He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains,
Shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow. |
| 2) He comes with succor speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in his sight. | 4) To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever;
That name to us is love. |

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

***The Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Bruce Prewer, <http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/64XKing.htm>.)

One: Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates the Reign of Christ.

All: **Thank be to you, Lord God, Ruler of the Universe!**

One: Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

All: **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with singing.**

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One: God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, his body.

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving; come into his courts with praise! Give thanks and praise his loving name!

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 #2070: “He Is Exalted”

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high! I will praise Him!

He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!

*He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign; heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name,
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!*

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: “Our God Reigns”

by Leonard E. Smith Jr; arr. Fred Bock

***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:** Almighty God, we humbly bring our gifts to you this day. In your living, you showed us the way of the servant leader. On the cross, you redefined for us what it means to rule. May we, in this season, live and give in a way that reflects your reign in the world, for we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Choral Anthem: “Sing and Rejoice!”

w/m by Russell Robinson

Sing and rejoice, all ye people together. Now let us all lift our voices in song!

Sing and rejoice, all ye people now praise; and let all the world hear this joyful song!

Sing with praise, let all now hear! Sing to all from far and near!

Let us now sing the songs, rejoice to the heavens, let us sing and rejoice in joyful song!

Sing the songs, let the earth resound; let us hear the beauty forever and ever,

Sing them now to the world around, let us share the joy with all people and sing it forevermore!

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 23:32-43

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 83-84

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Response to the Word

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*Hymn UMH #196: “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*”

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Come, thou long expected Jesus, | 2) Born thy people to deliver, |
| Born to set thy people free; | Born a child and yet a King, |
| From our fears and sins release us, | Born to reign in us forever, |
| Let us find our rest in thee. | Now thy gracious kingdom bring. |
| Israel's strength and consolation, | By thine own eternal spirit |
| Hope of all the earth thou art; | Rule in all our hearts alone; |
| Dear desire of every nation, | By thine all sufficient merit, |
| Joy of every longing heart. | Raise us to thy glorious throne. |

The Sermon: “***RULE IN ALL OUR HEARTS ALONE***”

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #327: “Crown Him With Many Crowns”**

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| 1) Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne. Hark!
How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity. | 3) Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet. |
| 2) Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died, and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die. | 4) Crown him the Lord of love;
Behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity. |

***Benediction:** (adapted from Nancy C. Townley, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4411/worship-connection-november-20-2022>.)

One: Beloved, though the days increase in their darkness, the Lord of light and love reigns supreme. May the power of God's love be in your hearts and reflected in your lives now and always. Go in peace, and may God's peace be with you. AMEN.

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

*** Postlude: “Rejoice, the Lord Is King”**

by John Darwell; arr. Gordon Young

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..... Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Greeters: Judy Briggs, Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, John Nestell, Dave O'Dell, Chuck Priem / Welcome Desk: Bethany Tomasino / Coffee Hour Host: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Sound System: Brian Hatch / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Sue Myers, Jan Talkington

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mark Abbe, Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, 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.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Barry Brown, who entered eternal life on 11/10/2025. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

OUR SYMPATHY is also extended to Janeen Schaeding and Jayne & John Nestell on the passing of their sister Jill Charlton on Nov. 11, 2025 in Virginia.

FLOWERS on the altar today given by Jim & MaryAnn Forbes in memory of William Forbes.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Rehearsal schedule available from Pastor Amy. Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7 during worship.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY - "Almost Christmas" by Magrey R. DeVega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, & Matt Rawle is a four (4) week collaborative study rooted in John Wesley's famous Sermon "The Almost Christian". In searching for Advent peace, hope, love, and joy, this study invites exploration of the counter-cultural notion that our lives are a gift to God and to others. Books are \$15 and are available at the welcome desk. **6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16**
7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

HANGING OF THE GREENS – Change of date – Stay after worship on Sunday, November 30 and help us "deck the halls" and ready our building for the Holidays.

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. Sign up online to help out with:

- a) People to meet the truck between 10am-11am every other Wednesday, help organize the food, and then pack up the food bags.
- b) People to deliver 22 food bags to Westdale Elementary School and 31 food bags to Arrowwood Elementary school EVERY Thursday morning.
- c) Sign up to help out online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>.

ADVENT READERS NEEDED – we will need individuals/families to lead us in lighting the Advent Wreath beginning on November 30. Pastor Amy provides the words to say (you don't have to come up with it on your own). If you and/or your family would like to participate, please talk to Pastor Amy.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, Dec. 9. On the menu for December: Nachos! Sign up to donate food at the Welcome Desk.

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**

Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw**

Instagram: **saginawfume**

Bluesky: **FirstUMCSaginaw.bsky.social**

Creating Peace Through Interfaith
Dialogue | Cooperation | Understanding



We're coming together to make a difference.
Join us in our efforts to collect for our local community and support those in need.



Interfaith Saginaw

Invites you to our 9th Annual Service of Thanksgiving

TODAY, November 23, 2025 at 3:00pm

Sai Samaj Hindu Temple
3617 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 486702

A few notes about the service TODAY:

- 1) Sai Samaj has parking just north of their building AND in a parking lot across Mackinaw Road behind the gas station and the Little Caesar's Pizza.
- 2) Shoes may not be worn in the temple. Please plan accordingly. Warm socks recommended!
- 3) There is a potluck following the service, and ALL are welcome. In respect for various religious traditions and policy at the Hindu Temple, NO MEAT and NO EGGS (except those used in baking) may be served – please bring vegetarian dishes for the potluck. Thank you!