

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
November 30, 2025 - 10:00am - First Sunday in Advent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace”

by Sebastian Temple; arr. Anthony Giamanco

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 #209:** “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

1) Blessed be the God of Israel,
 who comes to set us free,
Who visits and redeems us,
 and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
 of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
 to bring our people peace.
2) Now from the house of David
 a child of grace is given;
A Savior comes among us
 to raise us up to heaven.

Before him goes the herald,
 forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation,
 the harbinger of day.
3) On prisoners of darkness
 the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness
 upon the sinner's eyes,
To guide the feet of pilgrims
 along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior
 with songs that never cease!

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

Leslee Jacoby and Cindy Smith

Based on “Almost Christmas” by Magrey R. DeVega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, and Matt Rawle

Week One: Altogether Peace

R1: In the summer of 1741, John Wesley Preached a sermon entitled “The Almost Christian”, which drew distinction between “the almost Christian” who has an outward appearance of godliness but little depth, and “the altogether Christian” whose deep inward conviction to love God and neighbor with their whole being is lived daily in thought, word, and action.

All: In Advent and beyond, we seek to grow into altogether Christians. We come to worship today to cultivate altogether peace within our spirit.

R2: Jesus was born into a world where the Peace of Rome, or Pax Romana, promised a peace secured only by the repression of conflict and the oppression of people, but it was not divine peace known as *Shalom*. Jesus came into a violent world, embodying peace in his vulnerability. We see that embodiment in the infant who enfleshed God, in the teacher who taught God's way, in the savior who forgave his enemies as he died on the cross, and in the risen Lord who breathed peace into the disciples that would carry the good news to every corner of the world.

All: We come to worship today to follow Jesus in embodying altogether peace in our relationships with others.

R3: We light the first candle on the advent wreath today to remind us of Christ's call to altogether peace – one that makes productive and life-giving use of anger. One that sees the sacred worth of diverse people. One that sees beyond the hate and conflict of our world to the advent of Christ's peace among all peoples.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, cast away our almost peace that settles for the absence of conflict and instead, fill us with altogether peace that inspires us to find peace within ourselves and work for peace in our relationships, our community, and our world. Amen.

Song*:

Brave is the can - dle we light this day in peace, though winds full of
war rage a - round us; and though we see not how, we
trust God's work - ing now, for the sake of the babe in the man - ger.

*Words adapted from a chorus by Kathy Galloway; Music Loch Lomond, Scottish Traditional
© Iona Abbey Music Book, Wild Goose Publications, 2007, pg. 84-85*

** Ushers will collect prayer cards during the singing of the Advent Chorus*

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

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: “*Savior of the Nations, Come*”

by Johann Walter (1524); arr. Rudy Davenport

***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:** Reconciling God, as we offer our gifts and ourselves, we remember your promise to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. May these gifts be used to build a world where peace and justice reign and where your love shines in every corner of the earth. Inspire us to walk in your light and to work for the well-being of all people. In the name of the Prince of Peace, our eternal shalom, Amen.

Special Music: “*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*”

Mark Ode, Guitar/Vocals

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

arr. Scott Petito and Leslie Ritter

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: Isaiah 2:2-5

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 631-632

²In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn W&S #3125: "Peace for the Children"

1. Peace for the chil - dren, peace, peace,
 2. Peace for all na - tions, peace, peace,
 3. Peace for cre - a - tion, peace, peace,

3
 Peace for the chil - dren we pray.
 Peace for all na - tions we pray. Fol-low-ing the path of
 Peace for cre - a - tion we pray.

6
 One of peace, we work for heal - ing, we

8
 work for peace; Peace for the chil - dren to - day.
 Peace for all na - tions to - day.
 Peace for cre - a - tion to - day.

The Sermon: "ALTOGETHER PEACE: SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES"

Pastor Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #218: “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing. | 3) And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing! |
| 2) Still thru the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing. | 4) For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing. |

***Benediction:**

(adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)

One: Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

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

*** Postlude: “Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

by Sy Miller / Jill Jackson; arr. Lani Smith

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240
e-mail: firstumsag@aol.com website: <http://firstumcsaginaw.org>

Senior Pastor Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
..... pastoralbt@outlook.com / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
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

Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Jude Mertz / Greeters: Jim & Linda Doane, Sheryl Clauss / Ushers: Kevin Malotka, Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan, Joe & Nancy Kozumplik / Welcome Desk: Betty Jo Cloud / Coffee Hour Host: Jacquie Matlock & Dee Mills / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Kevin Malotka, Dina Draper

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: 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, Jane MacQueen, 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 families of Barry Brown (11/10), Jill Charlton (11/11), and Mark Abbe (11/25). Please hold their grieving families in prayer during this holiday season.

KIDS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Rehearsal Today following worship AND this Friday, December 5 from 6:00-8:00pm. We will have Pizza. Kids who are only in the chorus need to be there from 6:00-7:00pm. Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7 during worship.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – A meditative worship of song, readings and silence this Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:00pm

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”, using advent themes of peace, hope, love, and joy. 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 TODAY - stay and help us “deck the halls” and ready our building for the Holidays. Lunch provided!

BLUE CHRISTMAS – This year, we’re pleased to welcome Mark Ode & Friends leading a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00pm. This service is for those hurting or in grief during the Holiday Season, who need a quiet moment to remember, reflect, and be able to grieve without worrying about upsetting others around them. All are welcome.

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 STILL NEEDED – we will need individuals/families to lead us in lighting the Advent Wreath in December. 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: **saginawfumc**

Bluesky: **FirstUMCSaginaw.bsky.social**