

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
December 7, 2025 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Advent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *“What Is This Lovely Fragrance?”*

Traditional French Carol; arr. Henry Kihlken

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 #211:** *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* (vs. 1, 2, 4, 6)

- 1) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2) O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. *[Refrain]*
- 4) O Come, thou root of Jesse’s tree; an ensign of thy people be.
Before thee rulers silent fall; all people on thy mercy call. *[Refrain]*
- 6) O Come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, & death’s dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

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

Tom & Evie Kraynak

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

Week One: Altogether Hope:

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 hope within our spirit.

R2: Jesus was born into a world of crushing taxes and callous tyrants. Yet the Word of God was not announced to the wealthy and powerful. Instead, it came to a teenage girl and a carpenter from a little town; it came to a rag-tag band of shepherds and foreigners from a distant land who did not speak their language or observe their traditions. Each of these found their hopes renewed, and shared that hope from their unanticipated perspectives.

All: We come to worship today to follow Jesus in embodying altogether hope, not just for our own little circle, but for all the world.

R3: We light two candles on the advent wreath today. The first for peace, and the second to remind us of Christ's call to altogether hope – one that recognizes as family the neighbors for the other side of the tracks and the other side of the world.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, cast away our almost hope that accepts the brokenness around us, and instead, fill us with altogether hope that empowers us to embody the change we long to see in the world. Amen.

Song*:

Bright is the can - dle we light this day in hope, a - wait - ing the
reign of Christ Je - sus, And while we wait, we
share the hope that heals, 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*

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. Use the QR code to the right or give online here: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>*



Offertory: “Do You Hear What I Hear?”

by Gloria Shayne Baker; arr. Neil Archer

***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, as we offer our gifts today, we do so with hearts that long for your renewal. Just as John the Baptist called us to prepare the way of the Lord, we repent of the ways where we have failed to live faithfully. May these offerings be an outward sign of our desire to turn our hearts toward you, to bear good fruit, and to serve you with integrity, for we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 2-3

¹ In those days, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said: “The voice of one cries out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ When John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than me. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn FWS #2095: “Star Child”**

1) Star-Child, earth-Child,
Go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child,
Heaven's lightning rod.

Refrain: This year, this year
Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes
For everyone, everyone alive!

2) Street child, beat child,
No place left to go,
Hurt child, used child,
No one wants to know. *Refrain*

3) Grown child, old child,
Memory full of years,
Sad child, lost child,
Story told in tears. *Refrain*

4) Spared child, spoiled child,
Having, wanting more,
Wise child, faith child,
Knowing joy in store. *Refrain*

5) Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
Down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine. *Refrain*

The Children’s Christmas Pageant: “YOU CAN’T CANCEL CHRISTMAS!”

Script written by Andrea Burton and adapted for First U.M.C. by Amy Terhune; music/lyrics by Christy Long



CAST: Ethan / Head Shepherd = Ethan Hagerl
Lexi / Head Angel = Alexa Sharrow
Mom (both Acts) = Karissa Schultz
Wyatt / Joseph of Nazareth = Wyatt Hagerl
Hailey / the Virgin Mary = Hailey Sharrow
Misha / Innkeeper = Misha Pape
J.J. / Shepherd #2 = J.J. Pape
Meredith / Shepherd #3 = Meredith Sharrow

CHORUS: Emmett Hagerl, Kasper Pope
Harper Roberts, Wren Roberts

Act I: At Home with Mom and the Kids

Original Song: “Don’cha Wanna Know?” by Christy Long

Don'cha wanna know?
Don'cha wanna know what's underneath the paper and the bow?
Don'cha wanna look, take a little peek?
Christmas is coming, but I can't wait a week.
Who needs the suspense? Who needs a surprise?
I'll hunt like a sleuth, put on a disguise.
Search high and low 'til my gift is found.
No package is safe, no package is safe,
No package is safe when I am around.
Don’cha wanna know? (No, No, No, No!)

Act II: At the Church Christmas Pageant

Original Song: "Please, Mr. Innkeeper?" by Christy Long

Please, Mr. Innkeeper, don't you have a room?

Please, Mr. Innkeeper, baby's coming soon.

Dear Mr. Innkeeper, I'm so very tired.

Riding all these weary miles, my patience has expired.

Chorus: A king is coming, coming today. Jesus is his name!

So open the door, make room in your heart,

God's Son will soon be born under Bethlehem's star.

Kind Mr. Innkeeper, you must have a heart.

She's got to find a place to rest before contractions start.

Good Mr. Innkeeper, I just need a bed.

A quiet place where I can go and lay my weary head.

Carol UMH #238: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (vs. 1-3)

- 1) Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria in excelsis Deo! (2X)

- 2) Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *[Refrain]*

- 3) Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

Act III: Final Lessons

First United Methodist Church

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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.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #224:** *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”*

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| 1) Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News, news!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today! | He hath opened heaven's door,
And ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this! |
| 2) Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born for this! | 3) Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
News, news!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save! |

***Benediction:**

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

One: Advent people, go now in the blessing and inspiration of God to live God's story wherever you go, that your lives may be an invitation to others to join in the journey to the day that all the earth awaits.

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

*** Postlude:** *“The King Shall Come”*

by John Wyeth; arr. Michael Burkhardt

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TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Anne Marks-Gaertner /
Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Dave O'Dell, Angie
Smith / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Coffee Hour Host: Xenny, Bill, & Keeli Johnson / Sound
System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Jackie Matlock and Dee Mills

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Bryan Latimer for helping the kids learn the music for today, **AND** to all the parents of the children and youth performing in today's pageant, for getting them here, helping them learn lines and music, and for helping us stay organized so we could offer this special performance today. **WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Bill Johnson, Erlene Kimber, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Mark Leffler, Jane MacQueen, Bonnie Markley, Kay Mertz, Trinity & Audri Miller, Merlyn Mondol, 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.

IN THE HOSPITAL: Rob Ashmall, Suzanne Clark, Brian Hatch

COMMUNION will be offered next Sunday, December 14, during worship.

THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK will take place this year on Sunday, December 21st following All Music Sunday. Cookies will be \$5/dozen. All proceeds go to fund the Youth Mission Trip for this Summer 2026. Please consider baking/donating cookies for the walk to help the kids out. Thank you!

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

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL PLANNING MEETING for 2026 – Next Sunday, December 14 following worship. Thank you!

FINANCE COMMITTEE – This Tuesday, December 9 at 7:15pm on ZOOM.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD – Monday, December 15 at 7:00pm.

REBECCA CIRCLE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Tuesday, December 16 at 11:00am. Bring a salad dish to pass. Contact Betty Jo Cloud at jbjcloud@yahoo.com OR contact the church office at 989-799-0131 to RSVP.

SENIOR GAME DAY – Wednesday, December 17 from 3:00-5:00pm. Join us for a social time playing board games – all are welcome!

REMINDER: There will NOT be a December All-Church Breakfast on 12/21. The next All-Church Breakfast will be held Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 8:30am

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.

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Wednesday, Dec. 17th 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 and 31 food bags to Arrowwood Elementary school EVERY Thursday morning. Larger delivery this week due to Christmas Vacation.
- c) Sign up to help out online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>.

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**



Worship Schedule

- **Second Advent 12/7/2025** – Children's Christmas Pageant 10:00am
- **Third Advent 12/14/2025** – Worship and Communion 10:00am
 - **Fourth Advent 12/21/2025** – All Music Sunday 10:00am
Youth Cookie Walk Fundraiser to follow worship 12/21/2025
- **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 7:30pm**
Pre-Service Music begins at 7:00pm
 - **Christmas I Sunday 12/28** – Worship 10:00am
- **Epiphany Sunday 1/4/2026** – Worship/Communion 10:00am

Education

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



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT - leave the kids with youth/adults here and have some adult time on Friday, December 19 from 5:30-10:30pm. Cost is \$10 per kids, no more than \$20 per family. Proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip. Register kids online at: https://form.jotform.com/pastoralbt/parents_night_out or use the QR code to the left.

KID'S CLUB TODAY – following worship, December 7 from 11:30am-1:00pm.

YOUTH GROUP – Next Sunday, December 14 from 6-7:30pm.

Mission

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING will go to purchase gift cards and needed Christmas Meals for the families of our 53 Backpack Children. Use the QR code to the right or give online at <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>

