

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 7:30pm

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols



Welcome to this evening's Christmas Eve Service. There is a half hour of music beginning at 7:00pm, followed by the service proper, which begins at 7:30. Children are welcome to remain in worship, but there is a nursery available if your child would be more comfortable there. A few hearing devices are available from the sound booth if that's helpful to you. Please feel free to enter/exit as needed during worship.

GATHERING AND PRAISE

7:00pm – Christmas Carol Selections for an Extended Prelude:

- “On Christmas Night” – Bryan Latimer, Organ *English Carol; arr. Michael Burkhardt*
- “Sing We Now of Christmas” – Bryan Latimer & Catherine McMichael *French Carol; arr. Ellen Foncannon*
- “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” – Bryan Latimer and Catherine McMichael *English Carol; arr. Joel Raney*
- “Who Would Imagine a King” – Evie Kraynak, vocals *w/m by Mervyn Warren & H.H. Hill*
- Video: “Wexford Carol” – Nathan Bieber, Maggie Kasinger, Catherine McMichael *arr. Catherine McMichael*
- “Mary Did You Know” – Eric Markley, Double Bass *by Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene; arr. Kathy Mattea*
- “Joseph’s Song” – Josh Keeler, Vocals *w/m by Michael Card*
- “Away In A Manger” – Bryan Latimer and Catherine McMichael *by James R. Murray; arr. Joel Raney*
- “O Come Little Children” – Bryan Latimer, Organ *German Carol; arr. Michael Burkhardt*

7:30pm – Welcome and Invocation – *Pastor Amy Terhune*

*Opening Carol UMH #234: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)

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| 1) O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels; | Lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
[Refrain] |
| <i>Refrain:</i> O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord! | 3) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
[Refrain] |
| 2) True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal, | 6) Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born on Christmas morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: [Refrain] |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Cari Hagerl, Ethan Hagerl, Wyatt Hagerl

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

Christmas Eve: Altogether Faithful

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 this Christmas Eve to cultivate altogether faithfulness within our spirits.

R2: On this night, light came into the world, and the darkness could not overcome it. In an out-of-the-way place, in a cave meant for animals, in a time when oppression was national policy and anxiety coursed through every community, God came into the world. Utterly vulnerable, the infant Jesus embodied the life-giving presence of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. He came to lead us beyond almost peace, almost hope, almost love, and almost joy, into an altogether faith that infuses the depth of our being with light. For by grace, we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing. It is the gift of God.

All: To all who receive him, who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God, born not of blood, flesh or will, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. [John 1:12-14]

R3: We light all the candles on the Advent Wreath tonight, beginning with the candles of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy. Finally, we light the Christ candle at the center of the wreath, for Christ is the center of our church, the center of our faith, the center of our very being.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night. Though you are beyond all scope of human imagination, give us grace to hold you close, even as you hold us in your grace. Transform us from almost Christians into altogether Christians, that we may be born again in your spirit and reflect your light that no darkness can overtake, for we ask in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Choral Anthem:

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Bruce Saylor

Time of Silent Meditation

The Pastoral Prayer for Christmas Eve

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

♪ Please continue to support your church family. 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: “I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day”

by Jean-Baptiste Calkin; arr. Wilbur Held

***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!

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Giving God, as we recount the birth of a Savior long ago, we likewise come to the manger to offer ourselves, our gifts, and our stories. Work through us and these gifts to make the Angels’ song of peace on Earth, good will to all a reality here and now, for we ask in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

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 One:

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hailey Sharrow

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined... ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. And the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Special Music:

“A Baby Just Like You”
Dr. Robert Miller, soloist

by John Denver

Scripture Lesson Two:

Micah 5:2-5a

Rev. Brad Terhune

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol UMH #230:*“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1, 2, 4)*

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| 1) O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. | O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth! |
| 2) For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love. | 4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel! |

Scripture Lesson Three:

Luke 2:1-7

Stacy Sharrow

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered for the tax. ²This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to register with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol UMH #219:*“What Child Is This?” (vs 1-2)*

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| 1) What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping? | 2) Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. |
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Chorus: This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Scripture Lesson Four:

Luke 2:8-14

Cal Mott

⁸ In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: ¹¹ for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Then suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, singing, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all people!”

*** Carol UMH #240:***“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”*

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|---|---|
| 1) Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" | Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" |
| 2) Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; | 3) Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!" |

Scripture Lesson Five:

Luke 2:15-20

Lexi Sharrow

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Choral Anthem:*“Were You There That Christmas Night”*

by Natalie Sleeth

Christmas Meditation

Pastor Amy Terhune

Special Music:

“O Holy Night”
Kathleen Jimenez, soloist

words: Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure
music: Adolphe Charles

WE GO TO SHARE CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH THE WORLD

Benediction:

One: Beloved, as we go from here, the music will fade. The angels will return to the heavens they came from, the shepherds will go back to their flocks. Mary and Joseph will take Jesus and run for Egypt and safety from Herod. But the light still shines, and the darkness cannot overcome it. If you choose, you can be a channel of God's light, to buoy the hopes of others, to counter fear and share peace, to love unselfishly, and to rejoice as a living testimony to God here, now, always. Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas!

Closing Hymn UMH #239:

"Silent Night"

As we pass the light, please hold lit candles upright, and tilt unlit candles to be lighted.

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| 1) Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace. | 3) Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. |
| 2) Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born! | 4) Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born! |



First United Methodist Church

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

THANK YOU to Tonight's Leaders and Volunteers

Welcome DeskRobin Schwellenbach
Ushers..... Bill Cowdry, Keith Courier, Nicolas Courier, Bill Johnson Jr.
Readers:.....Cari Hagerl, Ethan Hagerl, Wyatt Hagerl, Cal Mott
.....Hailey Sharrow, Lexi Sharrow, Stacy Sharrow, Rev. Brad Terhune
Musicians: Nathan Bieber, Kathleen Jimenez, Maggie Kasinger, Josh Keeler
..... Evie Kraynak, Eric Markley, Catherine McMichael, Dr. Robert Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP WITH US every Sunday Morning at 10:00am

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.

TAIZÉ MEDITATIVE WORSHIP – 7:00pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Start the new year with a time of song, prayer, and meditative silence.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, January 13, 2026 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu January 2026: Italian Night! Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM for children struggling with food insecurity continues each week. Sponsor a child for \$150/year. Sign up to pack food and help deliver to area schools at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>

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, please consider donating them for others who don't own a copy of the Bible, or want to study more in depth.

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**

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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e-mail: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com website: <http://firstumcsaginaw.org>

THANK YOU to our devoted Staff:

Senior Pastor..... Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
..... pastoralbt@outlook.com / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
Office Administrator/Treasurer..... Dina Draper
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
Custodian..... Tina Castle

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