

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
January 18, 2026 - 10:00am - Third Sunday in Epiphany

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bells on High Prelude: “*Do Lord*”
“*Dry Bones*”

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Hart Morris

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.*



Video Introduction

***Opening Hymn UMH #701: “*When We All Get to Heaven*”**

1) Sing the wondrous love of Jesus;
Sing his mercy and his grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain: When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!

2) While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;

But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh. (Refrain)

3) Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. (Refrain)

4) Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold. (Refrain)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship**

(adapted from Calls to Worship for Epiphany Season on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>)

One: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

All: You shall see clearly, and be radiant.

One: The New Dawn has arisen upon you.

All: The Holy One will bless the people with peace.

One: God's light of hope floods the earth.

All: The joy of the Lord is my strength.

One: Open your hearts to receive the light as a gift.

All: God is here among us. Let us rejoice and give thanks!

Time of Prayer – *During the prayer chorus, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards to deliver to the pastor.*

Prayer Chorus FWS #2219: “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil”

Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness, Life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loves us.

Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loves us!

Silent Meditation and Lifting our Celebrations and Concerns In Prayer

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/>



The Offertory: “Over the Rainbow”

by Harold Arlen; arr. J. Louis Merkur

Bryan Latimer & Catherine McMichael – 4-hand Piano

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: Holy God, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that you have given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but by what we can give away. Enable our generosity in this offering, to bless your church, your people, and your creation, through Jesus Christ our Light and Salvation. Amen.

Bell Anthem: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr. Kevin McChesney

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 Lessons: Matthew 6:19-21 and John 3:16-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 6 and pg. 88

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music:

“I Can Only Imagine”
Bryan Latimer, Soloist/Piano

w/m by Bart Millard

The Sermon

WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE?

John Nestell Guest Preacher

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #377: "It Is Well With My Soul"**

1) When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2) Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded
my helpless estate,

And hath shed his own blood
for my soul. (Refrain)

3) My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and

I bear it no more; Praise the Lord,
Praise the Lord, O my soul! (Refrain)

4) And, Lord, haste the day
when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, may the Holy Spirit fill you with an abundance of joy and peace as you continue to believe. Go in peace, everyone, so that you may help bring heaven here to earth.

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

*** Postlude: "Mansion Over the Hilltop"**

by Ira F. Stanphill

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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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	Bluesky: FirstUMCSaginaw.bsky.social
Facebook: @firstumcofsaginaw	Instagram: saginawfumc

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Guest Preacher: John Nestell / Liturgist: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Greeters: Stacy Sharrow, Jane MacQueen / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow / Welcome Desk: Betty Jo Cloud / Coffee Hour: Jacque Kurtz / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune

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.

HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK: Wayne Henney (now at Great Lakes Rehab)

PASTOR AMY is away this weekend with the youth at Cass Community Services (Cass U.M.C.) in downtown Detroit. We welcome John Nestell, our guest preacher bringing us the word today.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, Feb 10. On the menu for February: Ham & Scalloped Potatoes. Sign up to donate food and help with clean-up at the Welcome Desk

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Wednesday, Jan. 28th. 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.
- c) Sign up to help out online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Finance Committee – Tuesday January 20 at 7:15pm

GAME DAY – Wednesday, January 21 from 3:00-5:00pm. All welcome for a time of fun and fellowship.

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING this month goes to support Church World Service Tools and Blankets Program, which provides congregations the resources to support disaster response and rights-based community development projects in communities around the world. Basic emergency supplies, as well as tools and resources for long-term recovery and development to communities in need, are provided

WOMEN'S GROUP – Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 11:00am. Featured Speaker from The Nest. Donate simple kitchen utensils, towels, or paper products, or make a small donation at the meeting. All women welcome. See Betty Jo Cloud for more information.

TALENT SHOW – Broadway lights are coming to First U.M.C!! The Annual Talent Show is Sunday, February 15, 2026. If you'd like to participate, sign up by Feb. 1 at the Welcome Desk or contact Kathy Winkowski. Thank you!

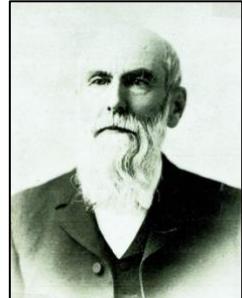
OUTHOUSE RACE - First United Methodist Church is delighted to announce that we'll have our very first entry in the 12th Annual Saginaw Outhouse Race! The race will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Hoyt Park in downtown Saginaw, starting at 1:00 PM. Event is free. Food trucks on sight. We're hoping to have a group there to cheer on our team!!!



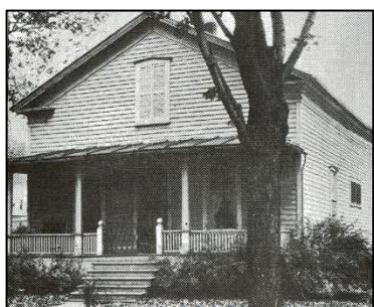
Our church. Our story.

It's our church's 175th Anniversary year! Here's some of Our History!

The history of our treasured church began in **1851** when Saginaw was a small wilderness community of about 400 people. One school served 35 children. There were no bridges over the river. It was boat or canoe or raft. One early writer called Saginaw "a rough and isolated place." None of that stopped John and Caroline Moore from moving here from Oakland County. He was a lawyer. She was what we now call a homemaker. Both were energetic people and became very involved in the community.



John became a judge, served one term as mayor, was a candidate for governor, and an active member of the school board, having a school named for him. Caroline, and three others, were the founding members of our congregation on October 28, 1851. It was then called the Methodist Church or Methodist Society. The others soon moved away, but Caroline stayed and was very active, especially in the Sunday School department, for the next 49 years! In 1887 Caroline was one of 24 women who were the founding members of Saginaw General Hospital, "despite the doubts of their wealthy husbands and the skepticism of the city's doctors."



Our congregation started to grow and by **1854** the trustees were able to buy property at the corner of Adams and Washington Street (which became Michigan Avenue in 1890), and a small 30'x40' building for \$250 which was then moved to the property. The building has quite a history. It was first a circuit court, then a schoolhouse, next our church, then our parsonage. The building was eventually sold by us, moved twice and, amazingly, is still standing as a private residence at 1117 Hancock Street!

We kept growing, saved our money and started building a real church on the property (which had been expanded) in **1859**. It was a 40'x100' structure and included a lecture room, Sunday School and library. The all-wood building included interior furnishings of walnut and was completed in **1861**. Sadly, like many buildings of the time, it was destroyed by fire April 20, **1884**.

To see and learn more about our church's history from Caroline Moore to the move to our current location, check out the visual display in the hallway leading to Gibbs Hall.

Jim Doane,
Church Historian