

First United Methodist Church of Saginaw  
CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ  
FEBRUARY 4, 2026 7:00 p.m.

-----The beginning of the service will be denoted by the ringing of a bell.-----

Song: "LOVE IS THE WELCOME"

w/m by Kathy Galloway, c2003 Kathy Galloway

Love is the wel - come that comes from the heart And o - pens its

door to the stran - ger, Which makes of its house a

rest - ing - place for all, For the sake of the babe in the man - - ger.

Scripture: John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Reading: *Shantideva Prayer* – Adapted by Karen G Johnston  
(Shantideva was an 8<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist monk)

May I be a guard for those who need protection;  
when I seek protection, may I find it and share it.  
For those who wish to cross to a further shore, may I be a boat, a raft, a bridge.  
May I be open to the companionship of others as I make my way to places still before me.  
May I be a lamp in the darkness for all who seek it;  
may that light never be extinguished from my own sight and my own heart.  
May I be a resting place for the weary and be healing medicine for all who are sick;  
may I know the salve of others for my own afflictions,  
whether of the body or of the mind or of the heart.  
Where others see scarcity, may I see a vase of plenty, a tree of miracles.  
As part of the boundless multitudes of living beings, may I bring sustenance and  
awakening, freedom from sorrow, and may I delight in our common existence.  
Holding most tenderly those with broken hearts, let us sit together in stillness.

Silence (2 minutes)

Song: "LIVE IN CHARITY"

w/m by Jacques Berthier, c1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community

The musical score is written in 2/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a treble staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass staff. The lyrics for the first system are: "Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,". The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics for the second system are: "live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you." There are triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes for "dwell" and "with".

## Scripture: Luke 10:25-29

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The man answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, the man asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

## Reading: *Good Samaritan* – by Stephen Garnaas-Holmes

People say you should be a good Samaritan.  
You can't.  
Samaritans were despised outsiders.  
Good or not, you have too much privilege  
to be a Samaritan.  
That's for the queers, the immigrants,  
the trans, the blacks, the homeless.  
You can be good,  
You can be generous to strangers,  
even to your enemy.  
But you are not the hero of this story.  
You can't be.

You're the one in the ditch.  
Your neighbor is the other one.  
You call them rapists  
and they pick your fruit.  
You call them shiftless and dangerous  
and they build your economy.  
You abhor them and they bless you.  
Stop making it about you.  
Confess your dependence.  
Receive your neighbor's grace.  
Be humbly grateful.  
Let yourselves be neighbors.

## Song: "JESU, JESU"

Chorus only, Words by Tom Colvin, music Ghana folk song, c1989 Hope Publishing Company

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

## Time of Prayer – Pastor Amy Terhune

Silence (10 minutes)

### Song: "THIS WE SHALL DO"

words based on Micah 6:8, music by John L Bell, c2008 WGRG, Iona Community.

just - ly, love mer - cy, walk

This we shall do, oh, this we shall do: act just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb-ly with our God.

just-ly, love mer-cy, walk

This we shall do, oh, this we shall do: act just - ly, love mer - cy, walk humb - ly with our God.

### Benediction:

from Baptist Union of Great Britain

God of love, open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need.

Grant us the insight to see the need in others,  
the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it.

Give us a deep love for you,  
that we might see your love at work in this world,  
and that we might Go and do likewise. Amen

-----The conclusion of the service will be denoted by the ringing of a bell.-----

All songs reproduced by permission. CCLI License #1003593  
JOIN US for the next contemplative service at 7pm on March 4, 2026!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at worship on Sundays at 10am!  
ALL ARE WELCOME at our FREE MEAL – Tues. Feb. 10, 5:30–6:30pm  
Check out our website: [www.firstumcsaginaw.org](http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org)

Saginaw First United Methodist Church  
4790 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638  
Phone: (989) 799-0131  
Email: [firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com](mailto:firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com)  
Find us on Facebook @firstumcofsaginaw