

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
February 8, 2026 - 10:00am - Sixth Sunday in Epiphany

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

by Kathleen Thomerson; arr. Paul Manz

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 #428: "For the Healing of the Nations"**

- 1) For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing
Of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action
Help us rise and pledge our word,
Help us rise and pledge our word.
- 2) Lead us forward into freedom;
From despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred,
All may come and go in peace.
Show us how, thru care & goodness,
Fear will die and hope increase,
Fear will die and hope increase.
- 3) All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race, or schooling,
Dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life's brief span,
May we hallow life's brief span.
- 4) You, Creator God, have written
Your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness
Bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service
Earth its destiny may find,
Earth its destiny may find.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Call to Worship**

(adapted from <http://www.caldwellumc.org/>)

One: If the human body – body of blood and muscle – is to live, it needs salt.

All: If the body of Christ – body of peace and justice – is to live, it needs us!

One: If the earthly creation is to flourish, it needs the sun's light.

All: If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, we need the Spirit's light!

One: Jesus says we are salt of the earth, but if salt isn't salty, it isn't what it's meant to be! Jesus says we are light in the world, but if light doesn't shine, it isn't what it's meant to be.

All: We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, faithful followers, compassionate community, a justice-doing people, giving gratitude and glory to God!

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

***Prayer Chorus W&S #3137: “Lord Jesus Christ”**

*Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

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 giving thanks to God for all our blessings.

Use the QR code to the right or give online here:

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give>



The Offertory: “Siyahamba” (We Are Marching in the Light of God) Zulu Melody; arr. Marianne Kim

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: Life-giving God, receive these gifts, and we ourselves, as offerings to you. As we present these resources, we rejoice that they will support ministries of peace, mercy, comfort, justice, compassion, and truth. May your Spirit guide us as we live out the love we receive through your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem: “Joy In The Morning”

by Natalie Sleeth

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:

Matthew 5:1-16

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 4

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

STRANGE BLESSINGS

Rev. Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2190: “Bring Forth the Kingdom”**

- 1) You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

*Chorus: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!*

- 2) You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!

- Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God! *Chorus.*
- 3) You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God! *Chorus.*
- 4) We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey & love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God! *Chorus.*

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, go forth as salt that saves and flavors life; go forth as the light of hope to those in despair; go forth as witnesses of God’s love in community; and may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit shine in you and on all those you meet this week.

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

*** Postlude: “This Little Light of Mine”**

by Henry Dixon Loes; arr. Betacustic

First United Methodist Church

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e-mail: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.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: Lexi Sharrow / Greeters: Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Kathy Winkowski / Welcome Desk: Jayne Nestell / Coffee Hour: NEEDED / Sound System: Angie Smith

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, Anne Marks-Gertner, 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)

FLOWERS ON THE ALTER given in gratitude for Jesus' call to love God and Neighbor.

"SOUP"ER BOWL AUCTION TODAY to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip. Minimum bid is \$25. Bidding ends at 11:30am. Four Bowls were designed and painted by the youth and adult leaders.

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Wednesday, March 4th. Sign up online to help out with:

- a) People to meet the truck between 10am-11am, help organize the food, and 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>.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tues. Feb. 10. February's Menu: Ham & Cheesy Potatoes. Sign up to donate food and help with clean-up at the Welcome Desk

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT - leave the kids with youth/adults here and have some adult time on Saturday, February 14 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 this QR code to the right or on the attached form.



TALENT SHOW – Broadway lights are coming to First UMC!! 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, Feb. 14 at Hoyt Park in downtown Saginaw, starting at 1:00 PM. Event is free. Food trucks on sight. We're still in need of some folks to help push, and we're hoping to have a group there to cheer on our team!

MLK PRAYER BREAKFAST – Saturday, February 28 at 9:00am at Horizons Banquet Center, sponsored by the Ezekiel Project. This year's speaker is Rev. Rigel Dawson, who is a published author and senior pastor of Flint Bristol Road Church of Christ. Ticket price for SFUMC Members is \$15 per person. RSVP with Pastor Amy.

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**



THE
EZEKIEL
PROJECT

29TH ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Prayer Breakfast

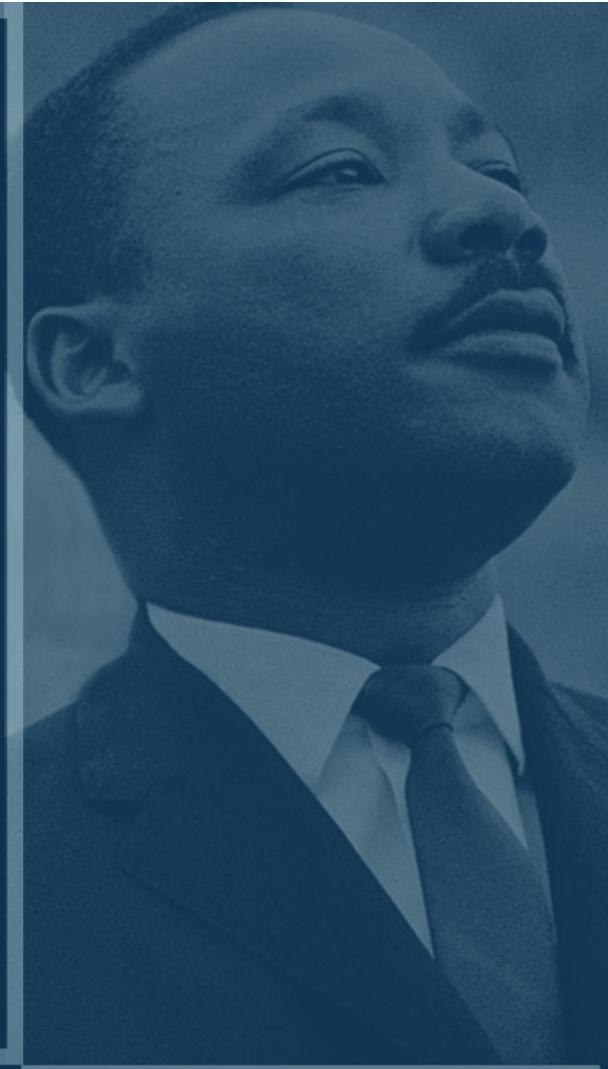
THE POWER OF LOVE: WHAT JUSTICE DEMANDS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026 | 9:00 A.M.

HORIZONS EVENT CENTER

The MLK Prayer Breakfast convenes neighbors, leaders, and congregations to pray together, learn together, and commit to justice in everyday life.

Your presence helps shape the kind of community we are called to build.



**See Pastor Amy
for Tickets.**

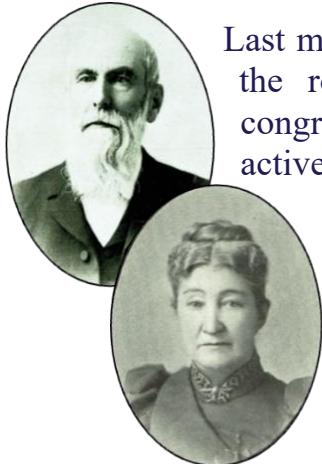
**Ticket Price for
SFUMC Members
and Friends
is \$15 per person.**

**Regular Price tickets
are \$50pp.**

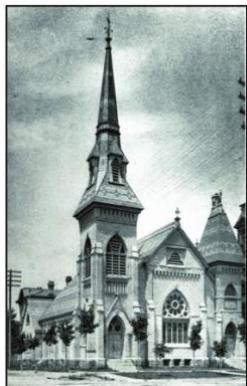
info@theezekielproject.org | 989.270.1370 | P.O. Box 3470 Saginaw, MI 48604



Our church. Our story.



Last month, we learned about the very beginnings of our church in **1851** and the roles Caroline and John Moore would play as founders of our congregation and new community members. Caroline, especially, was very active in the Sunday School department for 49 years! In **1887** Caroline was also 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’ doctors.” 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. Our first article ended with the fire that destroyed the original church building in **1884**.



The next chapter in our church’s long history begins in the ruins of that terrible fire. No sooner were the ruins cleared than planning began for a grand new church. It would be of Ashlar stone and brick, measuring 70ft. x 110ft., and with a steeple soaring 98ft. high, all at a cost of \$21,000. The *Saginaw Evening News*, in a long January 24, 1886 article, gave a detailed description of every part of the new building including the exterior, the auditorium, the frescoing, the windows and the lecture room, further noting, ***“The church has one of the best locations in the city.”*** (Corner of S. Michigan & Adams.)



One of our distinguished members in the late 1800s was Aaron T. Bliss who came to Saginaw after the Civil War, prospered in the lumber industry and, at some point, joined our church. Having served a term as a state senator, Bliss was elected to Congress in **1888**. By then we had become the Methodist Episcopal Church and continued to grow. The **1898** church directory listed 343 members, including A.T. Bliss as a Trustee.

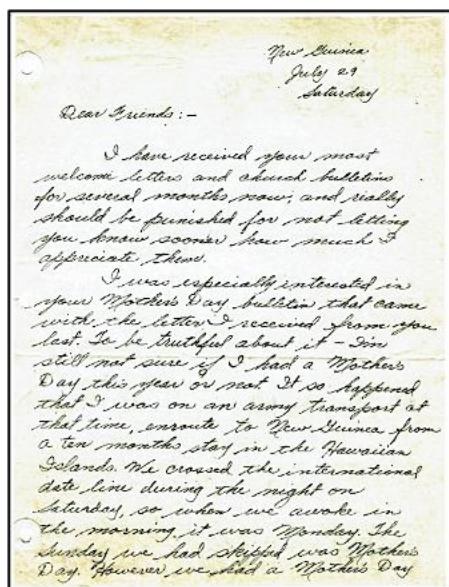


On November 13, **1900**, Caroline Moore, then our only remaining original founder, died from complications of a stroke at the Moore summer home in Bay View, MI. Rev. T.C. Gardner, a family friend said of her ***“...a lady of good mental endowments, of amiable disposition, of unobtrusive manners, whose truly womanly nature flows in the deep and quiet channels of those affections and sympathies that are eminently religious and domestic.”*** Her grave and monument are in lot 61 in Saginaw’s Oakwood Cemetery.

The year ended on a happier note when Aaron Bliss was elected the 25th governor of Michigan, while still maintaining his position as Trustee for the church.

In 1901 we celebrated our 50th anniversary with more than 400 members. The week-long celebration ended with an elaborate banquet. In 1902 Aaron Bliss was reelected governor, beating his opponent who happened to be John Moore's son-in-law. Our church's name kept changing. By 1921 we were the First Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1939, as the result of the merger of three denominations, we became the First Methodist Church.

During World War Two, our church's Rev. Clossen wrote to church members in military service from 1943-45. The package always included cookies! The recipients of the letters and cookies often wrote back and Rev. Clossen saved all 99 of the letters, which we still have today! All the letters are interesting.



One example is from Graham Irish, who had recently arrived in New Guinea. Here's an excerpt: "...to be truthful about it, I'm not sure I had a Mother's Day this year. It so happened that I was on an army transport at that time, enroute to New Guinea from a ten month stay in the Hawaiian Islands. We crossed the international date line during the night on Saturday, so when we awoke in the morning it was Monday. The Sunday we had skipped was Mother's Day..."

Jim Doane
Church Historian

Saginaw First United Methodist Church 2026 Lenten Schedule

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR SCHEDULE FOR SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES
IS CHANGING THIS YEAR AS WE FORGE NEW PARTNERSHIPS
WITH OTHER UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES IN THE AREA.

For EACH SERVICE, a choir made up of members from all three churches
will gather to rehearse beforehand at the designated location at 6:00pm.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

at Freeland U.M.C. – 205 E Washington Road, Freeland 48623

7:00pm – Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Rev. Kenny Walkup, Preaching

Note: There will be drive-thru ashes available
here at First UMC from 11:30am-1:00pm

SIX WEEK LENTEN BOOK STUDY

“Restored” by Tom Berlin

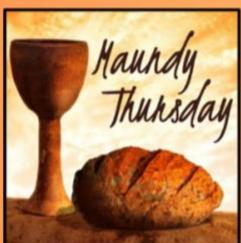
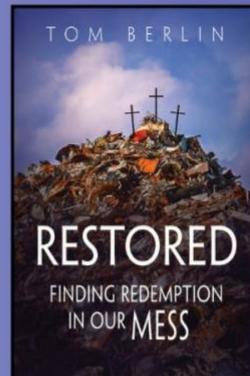
Restored helps us see our mess through the eyes of Christ. Using Scripture, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others, Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness. Only then can we focus on the cross as the place where we truly surrender control, leave our mess, and find redemption.

6:00-7:00pm In-Person on Tuesdays:

2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31

7:30-8:30pm Online on Wednesdays:

2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

at Four Points U.M.C. – 9265 Geddes Road, Saginaw 48609

7:00pm – Thursday, April 2, 2026

Rev. Amy Terhune, Preaching

Note: This service will include foot (or hand) washing
and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

at Saginaw First U.M.C. – 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw 48638

7:00pm – Friday, April 3, 2026

Rev. Ernesto Mariona, Preaching

Note: We will NOT be doing a noon service
or providing lunches this year.





Parents Night Out – Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
Valentine's Day – Saturday, February 14, 5:30-10:30pm
Cost: \$10 per child, but no more than \$20 per family
REGISTRATION FORM – use this form or the QR Code→



Child #1's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ School: _____

Any allergies medical conditions or special needs we should know about? _____

Child #2's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ School: _____

Any allergies medical conditions or special needs we should know about? _____

Child #3's Name: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate: ____ / ____ / ____ School: _____

Any allergies medical conditions or special needs we should know about? _____

Parents/Guardians Names: _____

Address: _____

Email of Parent/Guardian #1: _____

Email of Parent/Guardian #1: _____

Phone where Parents/Guardians can be reached during Event:

Parent/Guardian #1: _____

Parent/Guardian #2: _____