

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
February 22, 2026 - 10:00am - First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Bells on High Prelude: *Fantasy on "Trust and Obey"* by D.B. Towner; arr. Catherine McMichael
"Northern Lights" by Margaret R. Tucker (incorporates Sioux Melody "Lacquiparle")

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 #269:** *"Lord, Who, Throughout These Forty Days"*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins
And close by thee to stay. | To die to self, and chiefly live
By thy most holy word. |
| 2) As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight,
In thee to conquer sin. | 4) And through these days of penitence,
And through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide. |
| 3) As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord, | 5) Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Unison Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves; the places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you; the places where we are seduced to serve self instead of others; the places that lure us towards sensationalism over humility; the places that entice us to use manipulation or violence to retain control. Forgive our wandering and our sin, and free us for joyful obedience to you through Christ. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

One: Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. This proves God's love for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

***Prayer Chorus FWS #2131: “Humble Thyself”**

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord. (echo)

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord. (echo)

And God (and God) shall lift (shall lift) you up, higher and higher,

And God (and God) shall lift (shall lift) you up.

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: “*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*” *Afro-American Spiritual; arr. Hugh Livingston*

***The Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

*Tune: UMH #95
(old 100th)*

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** **Holy God, as we bring our gifts and offerings to you today, we are mindful of how tempting it is to mistake our wants for needs and hold onto what we have in the name of caution. May we offer our gifts to you this day with generosity and gratitude. Strengthen us to resist temptation that would present security or power in anyone but you; through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Bells on High Anthem: “*Dona Nobis Pacem*”

Traditional Canon; arr. Kevin R. 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.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #252: “When Jesus Came to Jordan”**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon
But as the sinless one.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins. | So when the dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began. |
| 2) He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross. | 3) Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make;
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost. |

***Benediction:**

(by Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>)

One: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God; walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High; walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

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

*** Postlude: “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”**

from Antiphoner, 1753; arr. Wilbur Held

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>**

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Jude Mertz / Greeters: Judy Briggs, Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Chuck Priem, Cal & Pam Mott / Welcome Desk: Dee Mills / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Sound System: Angie Smith / Counters: Sue Myers, Jan Talkinton / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

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: Jane MacQueen (Covenant), Wayne Henney (now at Great Lakes Rehab)

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

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE meetings Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:15pm via Zoom.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, March 1 following worship. All Adults willing to help, please plan to stay 30-45 minutes to begin to make some plans.

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Wednesday, Feb. 26th. 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. March 10. On the Menu in March: Chili Night! Sign up to donate food and help with clean-up at the Welcome Desk

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD – On Thursday, March 12, 7:00 pm, in the sanctuary of John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw Choral Society will present Craig Hella Johnson's profoundly moving work, *Considering Matthew Shepard*.

Scored for choir, soloists, and instrumental ensemble, the work reflects on the life, death, and enduring legacy of Matthew Shepard – the young man whose tragic death in 1998 sparked national outrage and led to significant federal hate crime legislation. We invite you to attend this concert, the most intimate Choral Society event presented during our 90th Anniversary Season.

Please join us beforehand for a hospitality gathering at 6pm in the Gissendanner Hall, followed by the concert at 7pm in the sanctuary. "Light over death, love over hate, light over darkness."

Tickets are \$25 from the Saginaw Choral Society at www.saginawchoralsociety.ludus.com or (989) 753-1812.

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**



Our church. Our story.

Celebrating 175 Years in Ministry.

We're about six weeks into our 175th Anniversary year and I hope you've taken the opportunity to read the initial newsletter and bulletin articles on the beginnings of our church. Jim Doane, church historian, does a great job capturing and sharing the key points in our church's story. But our church's story is also about the *people*, so I hope you're also enjoying the reflections from church members through personal interviews conducted by yours truly. There are more stories and member reflections to come in the months ahead. Today, I'm sharing an overview of a special history display that you can visit any time!



Did you know that you can 'walk through' our congregation's early years in Saginaw whenever you want to? It's true! There is a well done and informative visual wall display that takes you from our beginnings through to the building of our current church in the late 1950s.

The wall display begins with a large, bronze plaque recognizing Caroline Odell Moore, founding member, and her contributions to the growth of our original congregation, including 49 years of participation and leadership in Christian education.



Next are images and text on our different worship spaces through our early years.

The display ends with a colored rendering of our current church building when it was completed in the late 1950s.



Each 'section' of the display includes text that explains what you're seeing and tells our church's story in an interesting and informative way.

This visual display was researched and created by Jim Doane, and provides a 'quick overview' of who we are and where we started. It also serves as a reminder of how far we've come as a church in service to the Saginaw community.

Where is this visual display located? On the wall in the hallway leading to Gibbs Hall. Just head toward the back of the church and turn right after the first set of double doors. The display will be on your right. Check it out!

Anne Marks-Gaertner
Chair, Anniversary Celebration Committee



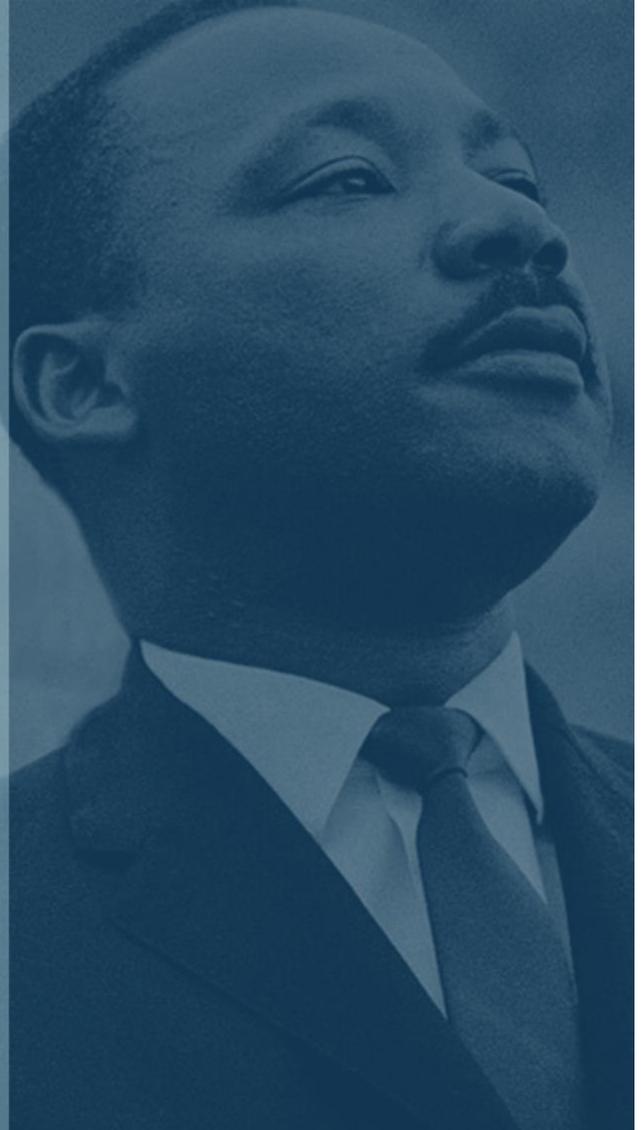
29TH ANNUAL REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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.**

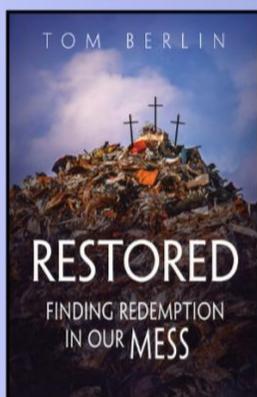
**Ticket Price for
SFUMC Members
and Friends
is \$15 per person.**

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

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.



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.

IN-PERSON on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00pm:

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

ONLINE on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm on 2/25 & 3/25
and from 7:30-8:30pm on 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, & 4/1

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Here at First United Methodist Church
10:00am – Sunday, March 29, 2026
Rev. Amy Terhune, Preaching
Communion and Procession of the Palms



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.

