

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
March 1, 2026 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: “God So Loved the World”

by John Stainer; arr. Mike Carson

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 FWS #2236: “Gather Us In”**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1) Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears
 and our dreamings, Brought here
 to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in—the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in—the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.</p> <p>2) We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout
 all of history; Called to be light
 to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.</p> | <p>3) Here we will take the wine & the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call
 your sons and your daughters,
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy & hearts that are true.</p> <p>4) Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place
 the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.</p> |
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PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

by Amy Loving, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>

God, we confess that we are an impatient and selfish people. When you offer us the promise of a new future, we complain that you don't get there fast enough. When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn't enough. And when our bad attitudes and negative outlooks cause us to stumble, we blame you. Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us gratitude and patience. Guide us to be responsible and truly humble. As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross, let us experience your grace and your gift of new life, for we ask in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, hear the Good News: God so loved the world that God gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world would be saved through Him. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you have been redeemed and saved by grace. 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 #2260: “Let Us Be Bread”

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured; let us be one in the Lord.

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: “Blessed Assurance”

by Phoebe K. Knapp; arr. Dale Wood

***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:** Creator God, your Spirit surrounds and sustains us. As we offer these gifts, stir our quiet faith into confident witness. Replace our hesitant whispers with the courage to speak your truth. Shape our giving into acts of praise, that we may serve you and others well in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer. 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:

John 3:1-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 88

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 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.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

INTO THE NIGHT

*Rev. Amy Terhune***Special Music:**

“Come As You Are”
Mark Ode, Guitar/Vocals

*by David Crowder***The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Musical Setting D – U.M.H. pg. 23-24

One: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right to give our thanks and praise!*

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth, you formed humankind in your image,
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights,
You bore the ark upon the waters, saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living thing on earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights,
You gave us the commandments, and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah prayed and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights;
and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.
And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

All: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ,
When you gave him to save us from our sin,
Your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted 40 days and 40 nights to prepare for his ministry.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection,
you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these 40 days of Lent, we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.
On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said
“Take; eat; this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you,
gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink of this, remember me.
And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Christ Jesus,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: *Christ has died; Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
That they may be for us the body and blood of Christ;
So that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
Until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast together at his heavenly banquet.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Those who worship with us in person this morning are invited to come forward via the center aisle,
take a piece of bread and a dip it into the chalice and partake. Gluten free wafers are available.*

Then return to your seats via the side aisles.

If you're unable to come forward, please raise your hand and communion will be brought to you.

*Those who worship online from home this morning are invited to use what you have in your home (bread,
crackers, juice, etc.) to participate in the sacrament along with the congregation.*

Music for Communion: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" 13th century plainsong; arr. Larry Shackley

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #629: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" (vs. 1, 3-5)**

[Refrain] You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O Saving Lord
The bread of life to eat.

1) As when the shepherd calls his sheep
They know and heed his voice,
So when you call your family, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. *[Chorus]*

3) Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?

Do not one cup, one loaf declare
Our oneness in the Lord? *[Refrain]*

4) The mystery of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell;
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. *[Refrain]*

5) You give yourself to us, O Lord,
Then selfless let us be;
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity. *[Refrain]*

***Benediction:**

(by Rev. Kathryn Matthews Huey & Rev. Susan A. Blain, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

One: Beloved, just as God's Word was sent into the world in love to heal and redeem, so
God sends you into the world this day to be light and love, healing and hope! As
you go, may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the
Sustainer come upon you this day and remain with you always.

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

*** Postlude: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

by John Zundel; arr. Joel Raney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Ethan Hagerl / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith / Welcome Desk: Janeen Schaeding / Coffee Hour: Xenny, Bill, & Keeli Johnson / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Jacqui Matlock, Dee Mills / 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, 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, Israel/Gaza, and Iran.

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.

SPRC MEETING – This Tuesday, March 3 after book study at 7:30pm.

NURTURE & PROGRAM COMMITTEE meetings Monday, March 16 at 6pm and 7pm respectively.

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

SAGINAW BAY YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERT TODAY at 3:00 p.m. at Saginaw's Temple Theater, with Rod Bieber, conductor; and Mike Curtiss, Percussion Instructor

SING WITH THE CHOIR THIS EASTER – even if you can't commit all the time. Join rehearsals on Thursday evenings in March at 7:15pm.

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks on Monday, March 2nd. Call the office 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*.

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 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.



Eugene 'Mac' Thompson Celebrating 66 years of membership.

Eugene 'Mac' Thompson grew up in the Methodist church in Vassar and, eventually, married the love of his life, Joanna, there. He recalled the first time he met her...at her parents' hamburger drive-in restaurant. "I was a teenager and driving around in my convertible I had at the time. Stopped at that drive-in restaurant to get something to eat and drink and Joanna waited on me. When I saw her, it was over. There would be no one else." They had their first date that night and were together until her passing in 2023. While the couple

started out in Vassar, they moved to Saginaw a few years later. As a young couple in an unfamiliar city, they looked for a new church and tried First United. Joanna was taken with the choir and joined immediately and was a member for several decades. Mac found his niche as an usher. He went on to also serve on the trustees, finance and other church committees. Together they raised three children who were active in Christian Education and Youth Group. A favorite memory of Mac's is his son, Jay's, baptism. He was their first child and for the ceremony they had a new, fuzzy white baptism blanket. The pastor wore a black suit. That combination proved eventful because when the pastor returned Jay to his parents, his black suit was covered in white fuzz! Everyone chuckled and Mac recalled that the pastor was very good about it. Mac served as an usher for our congregation for more than 65 years and as team captain on his regular Sunday. Ushering was a ministry he both enjoyed and appreciated. He believes that ushers are the 'gateway' to the worship service because you get to meet a lot of people and welcome them the way he and Joanna were first welcomed. Through the years, Mac has enjoyed the preaching and ministry of numerous pastors, each providing meaningful sermons and leadership. And along the way he has made and kept many good friends within his church family. 'When I go to church, I just feel better!'

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 PastorRev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
.....pastoralbt@outlook.com / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
Office Administrator/TreasurerDina Draper
Custodian Tina Castle
Organist..... Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir..... Rod Bieber
Bell Choir DirectorCatherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisors.....Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians..... Brian Hatch, Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.



Saginaw Choral Society

presents

Even in our darkest moments,
light can shine through.

Craig Hella Johnson's

Considering Matthew Shepard

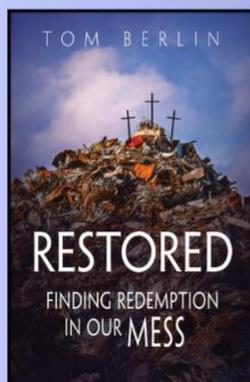
Thursday, March 12
6:00 PM Gathering | 7:00 PM Concert
St. John's Episcopal Church, Saginaw
\$25 www.saginawchoralsociety.ludus.com
989.753.1812



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

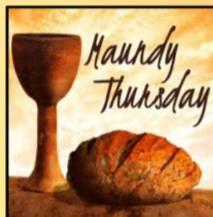
ONLINE on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm on 2/25 & 3/25

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: Worship 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.

Lenten Sermon Series: Deep Into Jesus

2/22 – Into the Wilderness
(Matthew 4:1-11)

3/1 – Into the Night
(John 3:1-17)

3/8 – Into the Heat
(John 4:1-30, 39-42)

3/15 – Into the Light
(John 9:1-41)

3/22 – Into the Open
(John 11:1-44)

3/29 – Into the Mêlée
(John 12:12-19)

GF 4/3 – Into the Tomb
(John 19:16-22, 28-42)

4/5 – Into A New Dawn
(EASTER – John 20:1-19)