

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
March 15, 2026 - 10:00am - Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: “Be Thou My Vision”

traditional Irish; arr. John G. Barr

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 #454:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine! | Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine! |
| 2) Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. | 3) Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine! |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Unison Prayer of Confession:

(by Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine; <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

Holy Jesus, we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we “see,” we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, failures, and faults. Make our “shadow side” known to us, and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, hear the good news: God is light. If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with God and one another, and Jesus cleanses us of all our sin. May Almighty God, who caused light to shine out of the darkness, shine in us and restore in us the light of the knowledge of God’s Glory in the face of Christ our Savior. 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 TFWS #2086: “Open Our Eyes, Lord”

*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.*

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: *“Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”*

by Paul Beloeche; arr. Larry Dalton

***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:** **Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You restore health and shine light for the discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but see your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to the work of your kingdom on earth, through Christ who gives us vision. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson:

John 9:1-9, 13-22

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 96-97

¹ As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must do the work of him who sent me while it is day; for night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). The man went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ His neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone who resembles him.” He kept saying, “I am he!”...

¹³ So they brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

Choral Anthem: *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

by Sebastian Temple; arr. Jane Holstein

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 9:24-41

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 97

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know if he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵ When Jesus heard that they had driven him out, he went and found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ The man answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ The man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

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 LIGHT

Rev. Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2213: “Healer of Our Every Ill”**

- | | |
|--|---|
| Refrain: Healer of our every ill,
Light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear,
And hope beyond our sorrow. | Give us all your vision, God of love.
[Refrain] |
| 1) You who know our fears and sadness,
Grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.
[Refrain] | 3) Give us strength to love each other,
Every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.
[Refrain] |
| 2) In the pain and joy beholding
How your grace is still unfolding, | 4) You who know each thought and feeling,
Teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.
[Refrain] |

***Benediction:** *(by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/>)*

One: Beloved, may the blessing of God’s mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. Amen.

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

*** Postlude: Three Variations on “Amazing Grace”**

by W. Walker; arr. Raymond H. Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Cal Mott / Greeters: Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Bill Draper, Andy Sharrow, Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Jan Tolley / Coffee Hour: Jacque Kurtz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Brian Hatch, Dina Draper / 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)

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Lisa DeVos and family on the death of Lisa's mother Roberta Johnson (age 100) on March 6, 2026 at Wellspring; and to Judy Gerken and family on the death of Judy's brother Daryl Wiley on Feb. 23 in Wheaton, Illinois.

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

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION GIFTS TODAY go to "After The Storm", which aids victims after natural disasters and is sponsored by The Michigan Conference U.M.C. In light of the destruction by tornadoes in Michigan last week, please consider the need that exists for the special offering today.

KIDS CLUB & CHOIR will meet Sunday, March 29 from 11:30am-1:00pm for all kids age 3 and up!

NURTURE & PROGRAM COMMITTEE meetings Monday, March 16 at 6pm and 7pm respectively.
FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting Tuesday, March 17 at 7:15pm following Lenten Book Study.

REBECCA FELLOWSHIP meets Tuesday, March 17 at 11:00am. We're collecting paper goods.

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.

ORDER EASTER FLOWERS – see attached form or use this link:

HELP NEEDED – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver our next pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks the first week in April. 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. April 14. On the Menu in April: Chicken Rice Casserole! Sign up to donate food and help clean-up at the Welcome Desk.

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: **saginawfume**



Our church. Our story.

Celebrating 175 Years in Ministry.

Bernadine (Bernie) Buggia **66 years of membership in 2026**



Bernadine “Bernie” Buggia joined First U.M.C. after she married Robert who was already a member. Robert’s brother, Ralph and his wife, Hilda, welcomed Bernie, and Hilda was instrumental in getting Bernie involved right from the start. Bernie loved to cook, always enjoyed having her own garden and doing a lot of canning, so helping in the kitchen seemed a good fit! Through the years, Bernie donned her apron and helped prepare meals for monthly luncheons the church hosted for community groups like retired teachers, U of M Alumni and others. When soup suppers were planned, Bernie liked to make the vegetable soup. And along with new friends

she made at church, Bernie created beautiful quilts that were auctioned off at the annual rummage sales. Bernie also enjoyed singing in the choir, under the direction of the late Jan Stringer, and participating in the ladies’ bowling league. While Robert’s work schedule made it challenging to get very involved, he willingly helped with maintenance issues and even tended to the church’s boiler, on occasion. Bernie and Robert were married for 42 years until his death in 2003. Among her favorite church memories are spending time in the kitchen cooking with her friends, especially Suzanne Clark; singing in the choir; Christmas Eve services and the church’s strong youth program. Bernie is especially grateful for the strong friendships she has made through the years that are still a blessing today.



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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Great American Road Trip

Midland Concert Band

Sunday March 15, 2026
Midland Center for the Arts
3:00 pm

Featuring David Maslanka's Symphony No. 4

Scan here
for Tickets



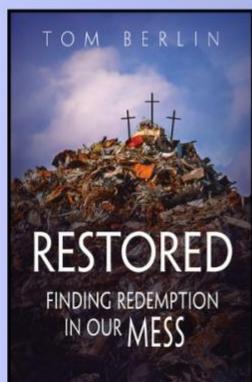
Midland Concert Band



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

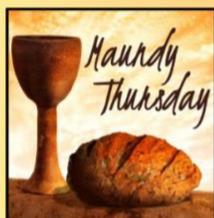
ONLINE on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm on 2/25 & 3/25

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)



ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Saginaw First United Methodist Church

You can also order online at: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/order-easter-flowers/>

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

*Easter flowers are available to order until 9:00am on **Monday, March 23, 2026**. Easter Flowers cost \$25 per plant. Please note: we cannot guarantee colors. However, you are welcome to write a preference below if you have one and we'll do our best to honor it. Alternatively, you are welcome to purchase your own flowers and bring them on Good Friday 4/3/26 evening or on Saturday 4/4/26 between 1pm-5pm. If you want to order through the church, you are welcome to order online using the link above or the QR Code to the right, or please fill in below how many of each plant you'd like to order:*



I would like to order _____ Easter Lily(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Tulip(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Daffodil(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Hyacinth(s) at \$25 each. _____

I will bring in my own flowers (on Friday 4/3 evening from 6-8pm or Saturday 4/4 between 1-5pm) _____

Flowers in Memory of: _____

OR

Flowers in Honor of: _____

Please submit payment to Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638; or place in Offering Plate at worship. Note "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or envelope.

Call the church office at (989)799-0131 if you have questions.