

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!

March 29, 2026 - 10:00am - Palm Sunday

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *Processional on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"*

arr. Phil Lehenbauer

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 #278:** *"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" (vs 1 & 3)*

1) Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

3) "Hosanna in the highest!"
that ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer,
the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice!

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Long ago, O Lord, your people cried "Hosanna!" It means, "Save us!" Still today, we cry hosanna, save us. Save us from our arrogance. Save us from our callous disregard for the needs and feelings of others. Save us from our greed and our sense of entitlement. Save us from our blindness to the suffering of our neighbors. And save us from ourselves – from those inward dialogues that deflate our hope and belittle our gifts. Save us for your glory, that we may help build the Kingdom of God, strengthened in faith to withstand times of trial, through Christ, our Savior. 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, we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

Prayer Chorus FWS #2154: "Please Enter My Heart, Hosanna"

Please enter my heart, hosanna. O, please lead my life today.

Gentle Lamb of God, the Christ, the Anointed One, won't you enter my heart today?

O, please hear my prayer, hosanna, these words that I need to say.

Gentle Lamb of God, the Christ, the Anointed One, won't you enter my heart to stay?

O come, Jesus, come. Hosanna! Hosanna! O Come, Jesus come today! Come to stay!

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: *“The Holy City”*

by Stephen Adams; arr. Albin C. Whitworth

***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:** God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we bring our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, we offer our lives in service to your kingdom. Use these gifts to bring hope, healing, and love to a world longing for your peace. Guide us to give generously with joyful hearts, knowing that in our giving, we proclaim your reign of grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Choral Anthem: *“Hosanna! Blessed Is He!”*

by Ralph E. Marryott

Children's Message – A special moment just for kids

***The Parade of Palms**

***Hymn UMH #277:** *“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” (vs 1 & 3)*

1) Tell me the stories of Jesus
I love to hear;
Things I would ask him to tell me
if he were here:
Scenes by the wayside,
tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

3) Into the city I'd follow
the children's band,
Waving a branch of the palm tree
high in my hand;
One of his heralds,
yes, I would sing
Loudest hosannas, "Jesus is King!"

Scripture Lesson:

John 12:12-19

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 99

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, we can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after 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 MÊLÉE

Rev. Amy Terhune

Hymn W&S #3169: "You Feed Us, Gentle Savior (vs 1-2)"

1. You feed us, gen - tle Sav - ior, the bread that makes us whole, the wine of your com -
 2. You bind us, gen - tle Sav - ior, and weave us in - to one, one flesh and blood made

pas - sion poured out in - to our soul. The food of your own pres - ense, your
 ho - ly, the Bod - y of your Son. We gath - er here in hun - ger, one

Spir - it, strong with - in, the grace that heals us deep - ly and o - ver - comes our sin.
 hun - ger, all the same; and with one grace you bless us to - geth - er in his name.

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.

You created us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

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,
who emptied himself into human form to guide us back to you.
Through his teaching and his actions,
he demonstrated that the time had come when you would save your people.
When he processed into Jerusalem on a colt,
the people gathered and cried, "Hosanna! Save us!"
because he lived your salvific love in our midst.
And as the enthusiasm began to dim in the shadow of plots to crucify him,
he did not waver in the love and grace he extended to all.
On the night before 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: Holy God, 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;
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.

Those who worship with us in person this morning are invited to come forward via the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it into the juice and consume. Then return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten Free wafers are available. If you're unable to come forward, the communion stewards will bring the sacrament out to you when others have finished coming forward

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 During Communion: "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" by Frederic A. Challinor; arr. Mark Hayes

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2111: "We Sang Our Glad Hosannas" (vs. 1, 3-5)**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) We sang our glad hosannas,
And waved our branches high,
But some were silent, frowning,
As Jesus rode on by.
They sought a royal Savior
But did not understand
A king could rule by loving,
Instead of by command. | 4) We saw a suffering Jesus
Alone, without a friend,
And heard the voices shouting
Abuse until the end.
We wept as we stood watching
Love's light grow dim and die,
And cried, "Why did this happen?
God, tell us, tell us why!" |
| 3) We served him at the table
With wine, unleavened bread.
"The one who will betray me
Now eats with me," he said.
His friends would not believe him,
But one by one that night,
As soldiers came to take him,
They scurried out of sight. | 5) We buried him, not knowing
That on the third day morn
A risen Christ would greet us
And hope would be reborn.
Though evil had extinguished
The life that burned so bright,
The love of God would triumph
Like dawn that ends the night. |

***Benediction:**

(adapted from Cheryl Lawrie, http://holdthisspace.org.au/)

One: And now we lay down the palm branches. And with them we lay down our belief that there is another way for you to be God. The week stretches ahead – glory-less and pain-full. We look towards the cross, knowing it is both the most human and most divine of all journeys. Travel the road with courage, with love, and with the uneasy peace that is the gift of faith, into this holiest of weeks. Amen.

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

*** Postlude: “Ride On In Majesty”**

by John Dykes; arr. David Paxton



First United Methodist Church

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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

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CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

We value your input, and we need you to respond!!

Use the QR code to the left to take a brief, 1-question congregational survey or use this link:

https://us10.list-manage.com/survey?u=7935b1d33b4716b23c0879ed2&id=68d0d23356&e=*|UNIQID|*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES THIS WEEK

TAIZÉ WORSHIP – This Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00pm

HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP – This Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm at Swan Valley Four Points UMC, located at 9265 Geddes Road, Saginaw, MI. 48609 – Choir meets before at 6:00pm at Four Points UMC.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP – This Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm here. Choir meets here at 6:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Lexi Sharrow / Greeters: Anne Marks-Gaertner, Laurie Reichart-Granger / Ushers: Kevin Malotka, Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan / Welcome Desk: Dee Mills / Coffee Hour: Jackie Matlock, Dee Mills / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Kevin Maltoka, 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 Kay Mertz and family on the death of Kay's son Steven Gray in Florida; 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.

EASTER TREATS NEEDED – Sign up at the Welcome Desk to donate Muffins and Bagels for the Easter Coffee Hour and Mini-Breakfast Bar planned for before/after Easter Worship.

KIDS CLUB & CHOIR meets TODAY, March 29 from 11:30am-1pm for all kids age 3 and up!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Since 2010, a group of women have been meeting at the church to make and bless the many shawls, blankets, and throws that have been given away to new brides, children being baptized, graduates, new members, members moving away, or those going through a hard time. Pocket or purse squares are also made and given away to bring comfort. Those who receive them have felt God's love and care, knowing each item has been stitched with love.

We meet monthly to share, bless, and pray over the work, much of which is done at home. We have good teachers willing to teach anyone interested in the craft of knitting or crochet. We meet in the church parlor on second Monday of the month at 2:00pm and would welcome others to join our group of devoted sewers.

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: **saginawfumc**



Our church. Our story.

Celebrating 175 Years in Ministry.

Wayne & Suzanne Clark Celebrating 61 years of membership in 2026



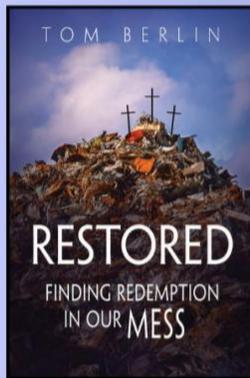
Wayne and Suzanne Clark were looking for a church home that offered Sunday School at the same time as worship services. They were also seeking a church with an early service. When Doug and Ann Hanton invited them to First United, their search was over. Wayne and Suzanne both felt at home right away. Daughter Kari was young and enjoyed the nursery and her parents were excited about the promise of an excellent Sunday School and youth program to come. While the church was very friendly and welcoming, for Suzanne it was the former United Methodist Women (UMW) and fellowship circle that

provided special opportunities to create long-time friendships and find a niche where she could serve. For many years Suzanne, along with dear friend, Bernie Buggia and other women of the church, could be found in our kitchen creating meals for outside groups to help earn money for missions supported by UMW. "It was more fun than work," Suzanne recalled. In addition, Suzanne found other avenues for serving the church on the Trustees, Nominations and Member Care Committees. For many years Suzanne visited our homebound and shut-in members to offer them friendship, a listening ear and a personal connection to their church family. And she continues to organize door greeters for Sunday services. Wayne served our church on the trustees, participated in annual all-church clean up days and enjoyed gathering with the Men's Club. For both of them, Christmas and Easter services and Lenten potluck dinners are special memories. They also enjoyed the former social group 'Mr., Mrs. and Miss,' meeting for dinner, a program and socializing. Looking back on their long membership, what the couple is most grateful for are opportunities to serve, long-time priceless friends and caring ministers when they've needed them.

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

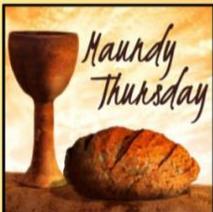
ONLINE on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45pm on 2/25 & 3/25

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)

MT 4/2 – Into the Night
(John 13:1-17, 34-35)

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

