

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
April 5, 2026 - 10:00am - EASTER CELEBRATION!

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** *Fanfare on "The Strife is O'er"*

*by Giovanni da Palestrina; arr. Phil Lehenbauer*

*Processional on "The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns"*

*by Charles Callahan*

**Choral Introit:** *"Introit for Easter"*

*by Joel Raney*

*This is the day of celebration; this is the day of goodness and light.  
Earth and sky and all creation celebrate the wonder of life!*

*Christ is risen, sing hosanna, lift your voices to the sky!  
Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is alive, he lives on high!*

**Words of Welcome** – 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 your yellow prayer cards if you have concerns/joys.*

*\*Please stand if you are able*



**\*Opening Hymn UMH #302:** *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

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|---|---|
| 1) Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!<br>Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!<br>Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!<br>Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia! | 3) Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!<br>Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!<br>Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!<br>Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia! |
| 2) Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!<br>Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!<br>Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!<br>Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!          | 4) Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!<br>Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!<br>Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!<br>Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!  |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*The Call to Worship:**

*(adapted from Roddy Hamilton, <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>)*

**One:** We thought you were dead; that the cross was the end. We thought that when the stone rolled over the tomb, that was it.

**All:** **But no! The dead are living; the tomb is empty; the stone is rolled away!**

**One:** We thought you had said your final word; that those in power had won. We thought that when you cried out, that was it.

**All:** **But no! The word breathes; worldly powers are defeated; the final cry was only the beginning!**

One: We thought the story was finished; that hope had ended. We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.

**All: But no! The story has just begun; hope is newly born; love is stronger than death, and Christ is risen from the grave!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!**

**Time of Prayer** – *Following the Prayer Chorus, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor.*

**Prayer Chorus FWS #2088: “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”**

*Lord, I lift your name on high! Lord, I love to sing your praises!*

*I’m so glad you’re in my life! I’m so glad you came to save us!*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way; from the earth to the cross my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord, I lift your name on high!*

**Time of Silent Meditation**

**Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns**

**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 as a time to give thanks to God  
for all with which you have been blessed. Thank you!*

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

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



**Offertory:** “Up From the Grave He Arose”

*Bethany Tomasino, Trumpet*

*by Robert Lowry; arr. Bryan Latimer*

**\*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:**

**God of Resurrection Power: You offer us life that overcomes death, light that overcomes darkness, hope that overcomes our deepest despair! Receive our gifts, and ourselves as well, that all we have and all we are may be yours for the work of resurrection in the world, in the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Choral Anthem: "Sing for Joy"**

*by Michael Weisse, Catherine Winkworth, Jonathan Willcocks*

*Christ the Lord is risen again, alleluia! Christ has broken every chain, alleluia!  
Hark, the angels sing for joy, alleluia! Singing evermore on high, alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing for joy!*

*He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife, is our Paschal Lamb today.  
We sing for joy! We sing for joy! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing for joy!  
Take our sins and guilt away, alleluia! That we all may sing for joy, alleluia!  
Hark, the angels sing for joy, alleluia! Singing evermore on high, alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing for joy!*

**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.*

**\*The Affirmation of Faith (in unison):**

*(The Apostle's Creed, Ecumenical Version, UMH #882)*

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead, and on the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy and universal church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body,  
and the live everlasting. Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**\*Hymn UMH #303: "The Day of Resurrection"**

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|---|---|
| 1) The day of resurrection!<br>Earth, tell it out abroad;<br>The Passover of gladness,<br>The Passover of God.<br>From death to life eternal,<br>From earth unto the sky,<br>Our Christ hath brought us over,<br>With hymns of victory. | And listening to his accents,<br>May hear, so calm and plain,<br>His own "All hail!" and, hearing,<br>May raise the victor strain.  |
| 2) Our hearts be pure from evil,<br>That we may see aright<br>The Lord in rays eternal<br>Of resurrection light;  | 3) Now let the heavens be joyful!<br>Let earth the song begin!<br>Let the round world keep triumph,<br>And all that is therein!<br>Let all things seen and unseen<br>Their notes in gladness blend,<br>For Christ the Lord hath risen,<br>Our joy that hath no end. |

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:**

INTO A NEW DAWN!

*Pastor Amy Terhune*

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**WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD**

**\*Closing Hymn FWS #2115: "Christ Has Risen"**

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|--|---|
| 1) Christ has risen while earth slumbers,<br>Christ has risen where hope died,<br>As he said and as he promised,<br>As we doubted and denied.<br>Let the moon embrace the blessing;<br>Let the sun sustain the cheer;<br>Let the world confirm the rumor.<br>Christ is risen, God is here! | 3) Christ has risen to companion<br>Former friends who fear the night,<br>Sensing loss and limitation where<br>Their faith had once burned bright.<br>They bemoan what is no longer,<br>They expect no hopeful sign<br>Till Christ ends their conversation,<br>Breaking bread and sharing wine. |
| 2) Christ has risen for the people<br>Whom he loved and died to save;<br>Christ has risen for the women<br>Bringing flowers to grace his grave.<br>Christ has risen for disciples<br>Huddled in an upstairs room.<br>He whose word inspired creation<br>Is not silenced by the tomb.       | 4) Christ has risen and forever<br>Lives to challenge and to change<br>All whose lives are messed or mangled,<br>All who find religion strange.<br>Christ is risen. Christ is present<br>Making us what he has been –<br>Evidence of transformation<br>In which God is known and seen.          |

**\*Benediction:**

*(by Dr. Lisa Hancock, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)*

One: Beloved, go now in the blessing of God, who meets death with life, hatred with love, and hopeless endings with abundant possibilities, to build a community of life, love, and flourishing as Easter people, followers of the Risen Christ! Alleluia and Amen!  
Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!**

**\*Postlude: "Toccata" (from Symphony No. 5 for Organ)**

*Charles-Marie Widor*

*First United Methodist Church*

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Office Administrator/Treasurer..... Dina Draper  
Custodian ..... Tina Castle  
Organist..... Bryan Latimer  
Director of Music & Chancel Choir..... Rod Bieber  
Bell Choir Director..... Catherine McMichael  
Children's Choir Director ..... Bethany Tomasino  
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: Judy O'Dell / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith / Welcome Center: Robin Schwellenbach / Coffee Hour: Bill & Xenny Johnson / Sound Board: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Keeli Johnson

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Bernie Buggia, Jane Burgess, Myrna Cammin, Sue Cooper, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne & Phyllis Henney (Wayne is now at Wellspring Assisted Living), 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, Dave Tolley, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for peace in Ukraine/Russia, Israel/Gaza, and Iran.

**HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:** Sharon Mueller (now at Mary Free Bed for rehab)

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Ed Babinski who passed away 4/3/26. A Celebration of Life for Ed will be held here at 12:00pm on Friday, April 10 with visitation beforehand for one hour.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Kay Mertz and family on the death of Kay's son Steven Gray in Florida. A Celebration of Life for Steve will be held here at 11:00am on Saturday, April 18.

**2026 SPRING SOCIAL ISSUE BOOK STUDY** - "The Cross and the Lynching Tree" by James H. Cone has become a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America. The Spring Social Issue Book Study is FIVE weeks. Books available at the Welcome Desk or in the office for \$15.

Class meets in person on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00pm: 4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26

Class meets online on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm: 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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 on Thursday, April 9. 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.
- c) Sign up online to help out at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>.

**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**



**LILIES GIVEN BY:**

Tim and Gloria Katch in memory of Laura Johnson  
Anonymous to the Glory of God

**TULIPS GIVEN BY:**

Tim and Gloria Katch in honor of Lois Phillips  
Steve and Tricia Jordan in memory of our sweet dog Linus (2)

**DAFFODILS GIVEN BY:**

Bill and Xenny Johnson in memory of our mothers Thelma, Ruth, Iva, and Jan  
Steve and Tricia Jordan in memory of our sweet dog Linus

**HYACINTHS GIVEN BY:**

Betty Jo Cloud, in honor of the Cloud family, children and grandchildren  
Belinda Hatch in honor of Susan Hatch and Vicki Dixon  
Steve and Tricia Jordan in memory of our sweet dog Linus  
Jill Spaulding in memory of all those who have gone before (2)  
The Terhune Family in memory of Tom Terhune and Wes & Bev Brun  
Mac Thompson in memory of Joanna Thompson  
Carla Piazza Wistehuff in memory of Gene Wistehuff

**Roses on the Altar in memory of Sue Johnson from Bill Johnson**

