

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
April 12, 2026 - 10:00am - Holy Humor Sunday

**A Note About Today's Service:** Holy Humor Sunday, also known as Bright Sunday or Risus Paschalis (the Easter laugh), is a modern revival of an ancient Christian tradition of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus with joy, laughter, and playful humor on the Sunday after Easter. The tradition dates back to early church fathers, who argued that God played the greatest joke ever on the Devil by raising Jesus from the dead. In Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions, priests would include jokes and humorous stories in their sermons, and parishioners would follow with parties and practical jokes. The custom was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because it had become too unruly. It did not catch on widely in protestant circles until the tradition was revived in the late 1980s.

Following tradition, today's service will include jokes, humorous stories, and cartoons. Rather than doing a traditional sermon, Pastor Amy will offer a series of short meditations on religious cartoons interspersed throughout the service along with your jokes. Because Jesus' resurrection put death in reverse, our service will go in reverse today, beginning with the Postlude and Benediction, and working "backwards" to the Call to Worship and Prelude. Although a bit unusual, relax and have fun today, ever mindful of the true joy for all believers that is found in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

## WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

\* **Postlude:** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Laughter" arr. Bryan Latimer  
(Including "Merrily We Roll Along" by Eddie Cantor and "Nettleton" from Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music)

\***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say rejoice! May God, who turns our mourning into dancing and replaces sackcloth and ashes with festive garments, live in your heart. May Christ Jesus, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, be your companion. And may the Spirit be your inspiration, comforter, confronter and joy, both now and forever. Christ is risen!

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

\***Closing Hymn:** "Take Time To Be Funny" (tune UMH #405: "Take Time To Be Holy")

- 1) Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord  
Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word.  
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak  
God loves to see smiles for they lift up the meek.
- 2) Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul.  
Too many are somber, grabbing for control  
Let go and let God's love wash over your soul,  
Then service with grace can be your holy goal.
- 3) Take time to make merry, this sanctifies life,  
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice.  
Laughter tempers sorrow, deflates haughty pride.  
Smile brightly and hang on; rejoice in life's ride

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **Scripture Lesson:**

Acts 20:7-12

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 132

<sup>7</sup>On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with the church in Troas. Since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. <sup>8</sup>There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting, <sup>9</sup>and a young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup>But Paul went down and bending over him took him in his arms and said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." <sup>11</sup>Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. <sup>12</sup>Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

### **Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Meditation #1: The Ministry of the Word**

**Jokes – Madeline Curtiss**

**Special Music:** *"Let's Laugh"* by the D's – *Drums Alive* performance by Madeline Curtiss

### **Meditation #2: The Ministry of the Church**

**Jokes – Peg Wilken and Kathy Jimenez**

### **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.*

**Children's Message – A special moment just for kids**

### **Meditation #3: Pastoral Ministry**

**Jokes – Dan Sedwick**

### **Living Our Gratitude**

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:*** Holy God, as you have taken what we call absurdity and turned it into possibility; as you have called us out of the tombs we inhabit and into new life in you; so we now praise you for this day! O Risen Christ, use this offering and we ourselves to spread joy and laughter in your name where there has been pain and suffering, for we ask in the unyielding power of your resurrection; Amen.

### ***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!**

## 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:** “Now the Green Blade Riseth”

*traditional French; arr. Lloyd Larson*

## Meditation #4: Ministry of Prayer

Jokes – Peg Wilken

**Time of Prayer** – *Please submit your prayer cards along with your offering and the ushers will turn them into the pastor*

**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.**

## Silent Meditation and Lifting our Celebrations and Concerns In Prayer

**\*Prayer Chorus:** “Hymn for Holy Humor Sunday” *(Tune UMH #152: “I Sing the Almighty Power of God”)*

*When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin,  
Beneath our feet, O Lord, provide a ripe banana skin,  
And when we yearn at someone’s head to let a clenched fist fly,  
Give us the grace to use instead a well-aimed custard pie.*

*When cherished institutions stand before your throne of grace,  
With good intentions in each hand and egg on every face,  
Teach us to query grand designs with laughter born of tears,  
For deep in earth’s cold, darkest mines, your rainbow still appears.*

## **GATHERING AND PRAISE**

### **\*The Call to Worship**

One: Ecclesiastes 3 says that there is a time to mourn and a time to laugh. Today is the time to laugh so... Why is a bad joke like a pencil?

**All: Because it has no point!**

One: What has ears but cannot hear?

**All: A cornfield!**

One: What did one plate say to the other plate?

**All: Dinner is on me!**

One: What makes God joyful?

**All: When we worship God with gladness and come into his presence with laughter, song and praise!**

**\*Opening Hymn UMH #89: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

- 1) Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
- 2) All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3) Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
- 4) Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

**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.*



**Prelude:** *“The Muppet Show Theme”*

*by Jim Henson*

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| <b><i>First United Methodist Church</i></b>  |  |
| <b>4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240</b>   |  |
| <b>e-mail: <a href="mailto:firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com">firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com</a> website: <a href="http://firstumcsaginaw.org">http://firstumcsaginaw.org</a></b> |  |
| 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 |
| <b>Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.</b>  |  |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Hailey Sharrow / Greeters: Judy Gerken and Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Nic Courier, Marc Cesere / Welcome Center: Jayne Nestell / Coffee Hour: Carla Pizza Wistehuff / Sound Board: Angie Smith / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Marc Cesere and Bonnie Arnst

**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 was held here Friday.

**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.

**KIDS CLUB TODAY** from 11:30am-1:00pm for youngsters who are potty trained through elementary school. Activities today include lunch, cooking project, games, crafts, and \*\*\*NEW\*\*\* music!!

**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 23. 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**



# Our church. Our story.

## Celebrating 175 Years – History Article #4 1957-1976



While members were still meeting in our old church on South Michigan, a ground-breaking ceremony was held on February 22, **1958**, at the new location on Gratiot Road. The new construction would be a church and Christian education building designed by Saginaw architect, Fred Wigen.

It featured a sanctuary for 385 people, an open courtyard, and a free-standing tower with a 15-foot aluminum cross on top. A month later the cornerstone from the old church was removed and the copper box opened. That box and contents are on display in our Library and Church History Room.

A cornerstone for the *new* church was laid on October 5, 1958, also including a copper box and contents, including newspaper articles about the recent approval of Alaska as the 49<sup>th</sup> state; and about the amazing new Mackinac Bridge...the longest suspension bridge in the world. (Due to a later building expansion, this cornerstone box and contents were removed and are also displayed in the Library and Church History Room.)

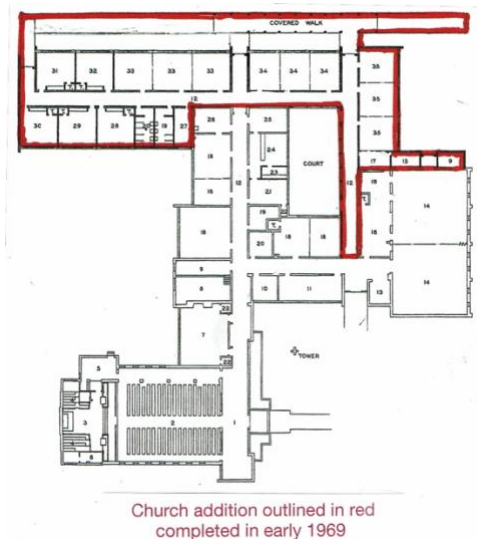


Final cost of the new church was \$367,383. It was all done under the guiding hand of church member, Cliff Spicer, Chairman of the Building Committee. (We first learned about Cliff's connection to our congregation in our recent, printed interview with his daughter, Edna Spicer Blaisdell.)



Over many years, beginning in 1946, Cliff had also been Chairman of the Committee on Pastoral Relations, Chairman of the Stewardship and Finance Commission, member of the Official Board for 15 years, and a Trustee for at least 20 years. And he did it all while creating and building a Saginaw civil engineering firm which today has 16 offices, employs 380 people, and has operated in 26 states!

Our congregation continued to grow, reaching a membership of 861 in **1964**. In October, **1965**, church school attendance was 304 compared to 190 the previous year. Were we getting crowded? Should the building be expanded? The answers were 'yes' and 'yes.'



In August, **1967**, a design, again by Fred Wigen, was accepted showing a very substantial expansion of classrooms, other facilities and a new boiler system. Work was completed in March, **1969** at a total cost of \$388,512.

By then, we also had a new name. In April **1968**, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren merged, and we finally got our permanent name – First United Methodist Church.

In December, **1970**, we bought the M.P. Moeller organ from St. Paul’s Lutheran Church for \$12,182. It replaced our existing organ which was donated to Frankenmuth United Methodist Church.

On November 21, **1976**, we celebrated 125 years of service with a program titled, “A Ministry of Love.” It was also the year of our peak membership at 1,158. One of those members was Evelyn Zanders, who had been a member for 72 years. She left us many examples of her poetry, including this 1980 poem in praise of all long-time members:

*Many years of Christian service  
Given gladly year by year  
And for lives of dedication  
We have come to greet you here.*

*You have set a fine example,  
You who’ve reached the golden age.  
We shall do our best to follow  
As we turn another page.*

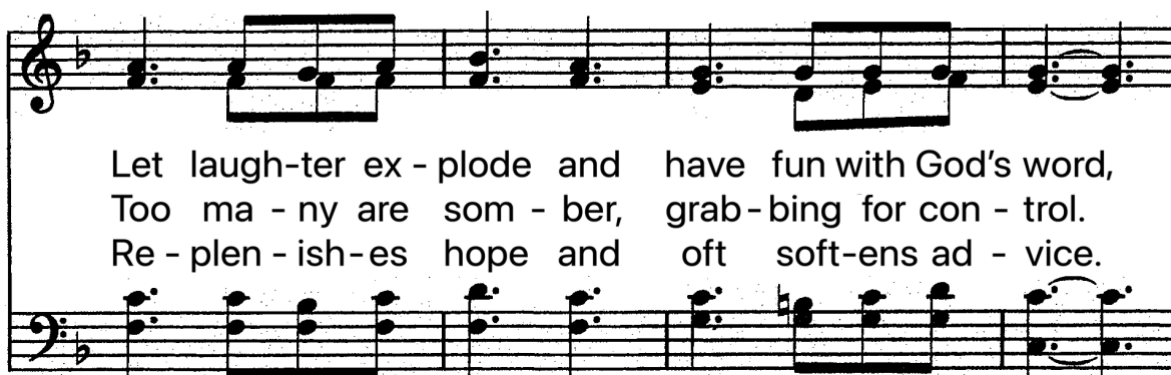
*Happy memories  
Happy days  
Happy thoughts  
Attend your ways.*

Jim Doane,  
Church Historian

# TAKE TIME TO BE FUNNY



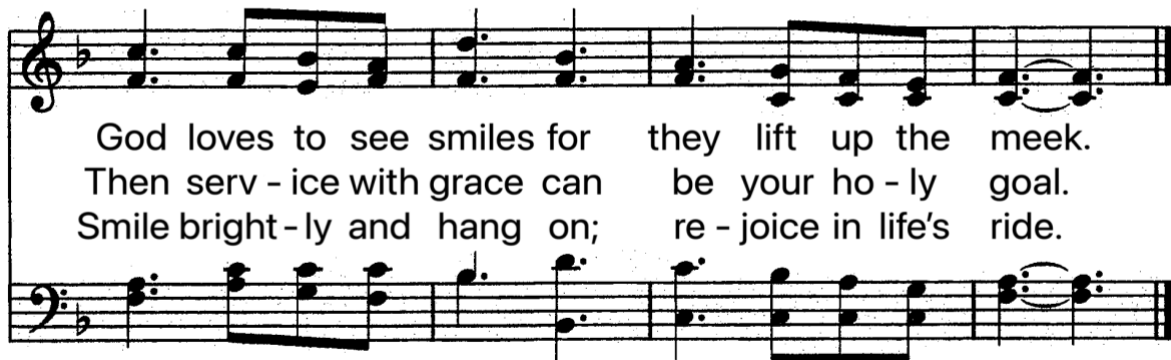
1) Take time to be fun - ny; re - jice in the Lord.  
2) Take time to be sil - ly; it's good for the soul.  
3) Take time to make mer - ry, this sanc-ti-fies life,



Let laugh-ter ex - plode and have fun with God's word,  
Too ma - ny are som - ber, grab - bing for con - trol.  
Re - plen - ish - es hope and oft soft - ens ad - vice.



for laugh-ter is heal - ing, gives strength to the weak.  
Let go and let God's love wash ov - er your soul,  
Laugh-ter tem - pers sor - row, de - flates haugh - ty pride.



God loves to see smiles for they lift up the meek.  
Then serv - ice with grace can be your ho - ly goal.  
Smile bright - ly and hang on; re - jice in life's ride.

# HYMN FOR HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

When we are temp - ted in our pride to diz - zy heights of  
When cher - ished in - sti - tu - tions stand be - fore your throne of

sin, be - neath our feet, O Lord, pro-vide a ripe ba - na - na skin,  
grace, with good in - ten - tions in each hand, and egg on ev - ery face,

and when we yearn at some-one's head to let a clenched fist fly,  
teach us to que - ry grand de-signs with laugh-ter born of tears,

give us the grace to use in - stead a well-aimed cus-tard pie.  
for deep in earth's cold, dark-est mines, your rain-bow still ap - pears.

WORDS: Elizabeth Cosnett (in *Hymns for Everyday Saints*)  
MUSIC: Traditional English arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

FOREST GREEN  
CMD