

# *First United Methodist Church*

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*Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!*  
*April 26, 2026 - 10:00am - Easter IV*

**UMC Mission Statement:** *The United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

**UMC Vision Statement:** *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

## **GATHERING AND PRAISE**

**Prelude:** *"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"*

*by Peter Scholtes; arr. Lani Smith*

**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 #384:** *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

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| 1) Love divine, all loves excelling,<br>Joy of heaven, to earth come down;<br>Fix in us thy humble dwelling;<br>All thy faithful mercies crown!<br>Jesus, thou art all compassion,<br>Pure, unbounded love thou art;<br>Visit us with thy salvation;<br>Enter every trembling heart. | 3) Come, Almighty to deliver,<br>Let us all thy life receive;<br>Suddenly return and never,<br>Nevermore thy temples leave.<br>Thee we would be always blessing,<br>Serve thee as thy hosts above,<br>Pray and praise thee without ceasing,<br>Glory in thy perfect love.               |
| 2) Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit<br>Into every troubled breast!<br>Let us all in thee inherit;<br>Let us find that second rest.<br>Take away our bent to sinning;<br>Alpha and Omega be;<br>End of faith, as its beginning,<br>Set our hearts at liberty.                     | 4) Finish, then, thy new creation;<br>Pure and spotless let us be.<br>Let us see thy great salvation<br>Perfectly restored in thee;<br>Changed from glory into glory,<br>Till in heaven we take our place,<br>Till we cast our crowns before thee,<br>Lost in wonder, love, and praise. |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

### \*The Call to Worship

*(adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026.)*

One: Family of God, who are you?

**All: We are disciples formed in the image of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

One: Family of God, how does Jesus form you?

**All: Jesus loves us and commands us to love others as he loves others. We will be known as disciples of Jesus by the way we love all others.**

One: Family of God, how does the Holy Spirit empower you?

**All: The Spirit loves us and inspires us to love others as Christ loves us.**

One: Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

**All: We come to worship God, who shows us how to love and calls us to boldly love God and neighbor and even enemies, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.**

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

**\*Prayer Chorus FWS #2179: “Live in Charity”**

*Live in charity and steadfast love. Live in charity; God will dwell with you.*

### 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: “All You Need Is Love”**

*by John Lennon, Paul McCartney; arr. Sony/ATV Music*

**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: Loving God, you have taught us what love looks like and commanded us to live it. In a world that rewards fear and self-interest, you call us to give boldly, to serve generously, and to risk loving with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Receive these offerings as signs of our obedience and as seeds of a kingdom where welcome is wide, grace is abundant, and love never holds back! Amen.**

**Choral Anthem:** *“The Gift of Love”*

*by Hal H. Hopson*

**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:** Acts 4:23-35

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 114

<sup>23</sup> After Peter and John were released, they went to their own people and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them, <sup>25</sup> it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant: ‘Why did the gentiles rage and the peoples imagine vain things? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers have gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.’ <sup>27</sup> “For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. <sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon Series, Part I:** LOVE BOLDLY

*Rev. Amy Terhune*

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## WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

### \*Closing Hymn UMH #549: "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

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| 1) Where charity and love prevail,<br>There God is ever found;<br>Brought here together by Christ's Love,<br>By love are we thus bound. | 4) Let strife among us be unknown,<br>Let all contention cease;<br>Be Christ the glory that we seek,<br>Be ours his holy peace. |
| 2) With grateful joy and holy fear<br>True charity we learn;<br>Let us with heart & mind & strength<br>Now love Christ in return.       | 5) Let us recall that in our midst<br>Dwells God's begotten Son;<br>As members of his body joined,<br>We are in him made one.   |
| 3) Forgive we now each other's faults<br>As we our faults confess;<br>And let us love each other well<br>In Christian holiness.         | 6) Love can exclude no race or creed,<br>If honored be God's name;<br>Our common life embraces all<br>Whose Maker is the same.  |

### \*Benediction:

*[adapted from Dr. Cheryl Lindsay on the Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way>]*

**One:** Beloved, when love reigns, the world will change. Be the love that the world needs for the kingdom to become our earthly home. Go, in the assurance that the God of Love, who is Love, goes with you and remains with you.

**All:** We go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all God's creation, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### \* Postlude: "Come Down, O Love Divine"

*by Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. Noel Rawsthorne*

### *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: Cal Mott / Greeters: Judy Briggs, Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Pam Mott, John Nestell, Chuck Priem / Welcome Center: Dee Mills / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Sound Board: Angie Smith / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Sue Myers, Jan Talkington

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Bernie Buggia, Jane Burgess, Myrna Cammin, Sue Cooper, Lisa DeVos, 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 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:** Merlyn Mondol (at Wellspring Rehab), Sarah Jury (at Mary Free Bed)

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Sharon Mueller, who passed away Friday, April 17.  
A funeral service was held here Thursday

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** today given in loving memory of Sharon Mueller by her family.

**FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE PULPIT** today given by Larry Potter

**FLOWERS ON THE ORGAN** today given to the glory of God in honor of the church's mission & ministry.

**CHILDRENS CHOIR** meets today from 11:15pm until noon.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Leader's Meeting** – today from 11:30-noon in the parlor. Any adults willing to help out are encouraged to attend. VBS will be held Aug. 9-11 from 5:30-8:00pm.

**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. May 12. On the Menu in May: pulled pork and baked beans! Sign up to donate food and help clean-up at the Welcome Desk.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** – continues to meet monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2:00pm in the parlor to share, bless, and pray over prayer shawls, blankets, and other ministry gifts, much of which is done at home. We have good teachers willing to teach anyone interested in the craft of knitting or crochet. New members are always welcome to join our group of devoted sewers.

**HELP NEEDED** – the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will deliver pallets of food for children's weekend backpacks for the last time this school-year in mid-May. 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: <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**



Parents, Families, and Friends  
of LGBTQ+ People

Follow us:



# Annual Chocolate Party

Sponsored by:  Delta College

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Andersen Enrichment Center**  
**120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw**

*Come enjoy delectable baked goods, appetizers, and drinks.*

*Tickets are \$25 per person and are available on our website at [pflagglb.com](http://pflagglb.com) or by scanning the QR code below. You can also purchase tickets directly from Pastor Amy or other board members. Tickets will also be available at the door.*



*Since the 1990s, this annual event has raised vital funds to support our chapter's programs and services.*