

First United Methodist Church

*Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
May 3, 2026 - 10:00am - Easter V*

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: *Reflection on “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*

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 FWS #2175: “Together We Serve”**

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| 1) Together we serve,
united by love,
Inviting God's world
to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray
through sorrow and joy,
Extending your love to the last
and the least. | 3) We welcome the scarred,
the wealthy, the poor,
The busy, the lonely, and all
who need care.
We offer a home to those
who will come,
Our hands quick to help,
our hearts ready to dare. |
| 2) We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light
for the feet.
We learn, year by year,
to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person
we meet. | 4) Together, by grace,
we witness and work,
Remembering Jesus, in whom
we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
Remembering love is the strength
of our song. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession

(adapted from Moira Laidlaw, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.)

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise—with words of praise and adoration spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person. You put new words in our mouths and new intentions in our hearts, especially a new understanding of power – power shaped by love and righteousness, justice and mercy. Forgive us when we use our power to exploit or dominate, to ignore or belittle. Free us to serve others as willingly as Jesus did. His life and death demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love. Cleanse our hearts, that we may gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts as we experience it in Jesus and through the enabling gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Words of Assurance: Though we wander, God searches us out. God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer. Receive this good news: God pardons our sin and frees us to boldly love and joyfully serve God and neighbor. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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 FWS #2176:** *“Make Me A Servant”*

Make me a servant, humble and meek;

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak;

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today

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: *“Here I Am, Lord”*

by Daniel Schutte, arr. Marianne Kim

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: Joyful Giver of Every Good Gift, you call us to serve with glad hearts, to offer what we have with joy, and to love one another deeply. Receive these gifts as acts of praise. Use them to build up the body, to speak your truth with grace, and to serve others with strength not our own. Let us give not out of duty but as joyful stewards of your manifold grace, that in all things, through Christ, you may be glorified. In the name of the one who serves with us, Amen.

Special Music: *“The Servant Song”*

by Richard Gillard

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 12:1-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 123-124

¹ About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. ³ After he saw that it pleased the Jewish leadership, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” ⁹ Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel’s help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” ¹² As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” ¹⁶ Meanwhile Peter continued knocking, and when they opened the gate they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ He motioned to them with his hand to be silent and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of prison.

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ,
whom you raised from death to life.
By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
called out of darkness into his marvelous light.
On the night in which 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.
On the day you raised him from the dead,
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
And in the power of your Holy Spirit, your church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.
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: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them 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.

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to receive the Sacrament. 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 cup and consume. Then return to your seats via the side aisles. If you’re not able to come forward, please remain in your seat, and our servers will bring the Sacrament out to you after other have come forward. Those who worship online from home this morning are invited to use what you have in your home to participate in the sacrament along with the congregation.

Special Music During Communion: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

by Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Paul Manz

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*Closing Hymn UMH #634: "Now Let Us From This Table Rise"

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| 1) Now let us from this table rise
Renewed in body, mind, and soul;
With Christ we die and live again,
His selfless love has made us whole. | 3) To fill each human house with love,
It is the sacrament of care;
The work that Christ began to do
We humbly pledge ourselves to share. |
| 2) With minds alert, upheld by grace
To spread the word in speech and deed,
We follow in the steps of Christ,
At one with all in hope and need. | 4) Then grant us courage, Father God,
To choose again the pilgrim way,
And help us to accept with joy
The challenge of tomorrow's day. |

*Benediction:

[adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, UMC Discipleship Ministries]

One: Beloved, May the joy of God surround you and sustain you, flowing through you into joyful service as you boldly share the love of God with all creation.

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: *Variations on "Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

by A. R. Reinagle, arr. James Pethel

First United Methodist Church

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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: Anne Marks-Gaertner / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr., Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith / Welcome Center: Betty Jo Cloud / Coffee Hour: Bill, Xenny, & Keeli Johnson / Sound Board: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Dee Mills, Jacquie Matlock

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)

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

TAIZÉ WORSHIP this Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:00pm. Social Issue Book Study will begin online after Taizé Worship.

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: 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2
Class meets online on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm: 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27, 6/3

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd 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 2nd 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>.

YOU ARE INVITED! Rob Ashmall has elected to pursue ordination with the Bridgeport Community Church. His ordination service will be held Saturday, May 23 at 3:00pm at the Bridgeport Community Church, 3821 State Street, Bridgeport, MI 48722. All are welcome to attend!

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 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.