

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
May 17, 2026 - 10:00am - Easter VII / Ascension Sunday

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: "We Are the World"

by Michael Jackson & Lionel Richie; arr. Neil Archer

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 #2190:** "Bring Forth the Kingdom"

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God! | Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus</i> |
| <i>Chorus:</i>
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God! | 3) You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus</i> |
| 2) You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God! | 4) We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey
and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God! <i>Chorus</i> |

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Greeters: Stacy Sharrow / Ushers: Tom Kraynak, Carla Piazza Wistehuff, Andy Sharrow, Brian Hatch / Welcome Center: Jan Tolley / Coffee Hour: Jacquie Kurtz / Sound Board: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Counters: Dina Draper and Brian Hatch

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 by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit!**

One: Family of God, why do you gather?

All: **We gather to worship God, who loves us and teaches us to love our neighbors, ourselves, and all of creation.**

One: Family of God, how do you worship God?

All: **We live our worship by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.**

One: Family of God, receive this good news: in our loving, our serving, and our leading, we are not alone: God is with us!

All: **We are grateful to be disciples of Jesus Christ, working to share his grace for the transformation of the world!**

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

***Prayer Chorus W&S #3117: “The Rule of Life”**

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can!

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: “Christ for the World We Sing”

by Felice DeGiardini; arr. James Pethel

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: Risen and ascended Lord Jesus, when we are numbed by the suffering of the world, remind us of the deep truth of your glory, your invincible Kingdom, your promise of reconciliation. In the knowledge of this truth, bring our gaze to earth and empower us to go into the world, to do your will on earth as in heaven. Shape this offering into witness and welcome, so that the gospel which transforms the world may be proclaimed in word and deed through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 32

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Special Music: "Love Can Turn the World"

w/m by Benjamin Gaither, Jeff Silvey, & Kim Williams

Bryan Latimer, Terry Moon, Peg Wilken – Trio

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 1:6-11

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 110

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Series, Part 5: DISCIPLES TRANSFORM THE WORLD

Rev. Amy Terhune

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*Opening Hymn UMH #577: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

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| 1) God of grace and God of glory,
On the people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour. | 3) Cure thy children's warring madness,
Bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal. |
| 2) Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
Free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days. | 4) Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore. |

*Benediction:

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

One: Beloved, go now in the blessing of God, who equips and empowers you to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously as disciples of Jesus Christ, remembering that in all things, we are not alone—God is with us!

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: "We've A Story to Tell to the Nations"

by Henry Ernest Nichol; arr. Robert J. Powell

*For the darkness shall turn to the dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

First United Methodist Church

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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
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

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, 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: Erlene Kimber

OUR SYMPATHY to the loved ones of Merlyn Mondol, who passed on to eternity May 14, 2026 at the age of 97. A Celebration of Life will be held here on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 1:30pm.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today given a) in loving memory of Sue Johnson from Bill Johnson; and b) in honor of Porter Rojas high school graduation from Lou and Karen Constan.

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING TODAY: The Endowment for Theological Education in the Central Conferences is a UMC initiative established in 2014 to provide sustainable, long-term funding for theological schools and clergy training in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. It addresses a severe funding gap, supporting over 20 institutions outside the U.S. that lack adequate resources.

CHILDRENS CHOIR meets TODAY, May 17 from 11:15-noon and May 31 from 11:15-noon.

KID'S CLUB meets TODAY after Children's Choir until 1pm.

NEXT SUNDAY MAY 24 IS PENTECOST! PLEASE WEAR RED!

REBECCA CIRCLE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – This Tuesday, May 19 at 11:00am.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION JUNE 7 IN WORSHIP – If you have someone in your family graduating this year from high school, college, grad. school, military, trade schools, GEDs or other programs, we want to celebrate them in worship on Sunday June 7. Please share the following information with the main office: Name, School, Degree, Accomplishments, Future Plans, and a Photo.

2026 SPRING SOCIAL ISSUE BOOK STUDY - "The Cross and the Lynching Tree" by James H. Cone.

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. June 9. On the Menu in June: Nachos! 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.

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.