

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
May 31, 2026 - 10:00am - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Pentecost

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** Variations on "My Hope Is Built"

by William Bradbury; arr. Raymond H. Haan

**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 #451:** "Be Thou My Vision"

- 1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2) Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart, Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 3) Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*The Call to Worship** (adapted from Jan L. Richardson, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/02/prayer-reflection-romans-4-18.html>.)

**One:** Let us worship God in Hope. Hope nonetheless. Hope despite. Hope regardless.

**All:** We hope where we had ceased to hope and even amid what threatens hope.

**One:** Hope with those who feed our hope. Hope on behalf of those who can no longer hope. Hope beyond what anyone dares to hope.

**All:** Let us hold onto a hope that draws us past our limits, that defies expectations, that questions what we have known.

**One:** Hope makes a way where there is none. Hope takes us past our fear.

**All:** Hope calls us into life. Hope holds us beyond death. Hope moves among us by the Spirit. Hope blesses what is not yet. Hope draws us into the presence of God.

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

**\*Prayer Chorus FWS #2186:** "Song of Hope"

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;

Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

## 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:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*by William M. Runyan; arr. Larry Shackley*

**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:** Majestic God, your love is a shelter of peace and hope. You calm our fears and nourish our dreams, and then send us out to share that love, peace, and hope with those desperately in need. Accept these offerings as signs of our trust and our commitment to serve. May they be used to fill your world with faithfulness, hope and praise. Amen.

**Special Music:** “In Christ Alone”

*w/m by Keith Getty & Stuart Townsend*

*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 Lessons:**

—Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

—Deuteronomy 31:8 “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

—Romans 5:3-5 (NIV) <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance produces character; character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

—John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. ”

### **Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** KEEP HOPE ALIVE!

*John Nestell, Guest Preacher*

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

**\*Closing Hymn UMH #368:** “*My Hope Is Built*”

- 1) My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

- 2) When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. *(Refrain)*
- 3) His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *(Refrain)*
- 4) When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!  
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! *(Refrain)*

**\*Benediction:**

*(adapted from Romans 15:13)*

One: Beloved, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all God’s creation. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\* Postlude:** “*All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded*”

*by Herbert Howells; alternate harmony by Noel Rawsthorne*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you for your service!! Guest Preacher: John Nestell / Liturgist: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Greeters: Anne Marks-Gaertner, Laurie Reichert-Granger / Ushers: Kevin Malotka, Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan / Welcome Center: Betty Jo Cloud / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Sound Board: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

**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 (at Saginaw Rehab), ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Mark Leffler, Jane MacQueen, Bonnie Markley, Kay Mertz, 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.

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the loved ones of Barry Brown, who passed on to eternity November 10, 2025. A Celebration of Life will be held here for Barry on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 11:00am.

**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.

**KID'S CHOIR** meets today, Sunday 5/31 from 11:15-noon. All kids welcome!!

**TAIZÉ WORSHIP** this Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00pm.

**ADULT BOOK STUDY** wraps up this week in person on Tuesday at 6pm, and online after Taizé Worship.

**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.

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

### **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**

### *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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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.*



# Our church. Our story.

## **Merlyn Mondol** **Celebrated 54 years of membership**

*[This interview was conducted in the fall of 2025. Sadly, Merlyn, age 97, died May 14, 2026. We share Merlyn's story because her life of faith and service has been a blessing to our church family and our community.]*



**Merlyn Mondol** grew up in India and came to America in 1965 to continue her graduate education in psychology. In 1969 she joined the full-time faculty at what was then called Saginaw Valley College. She eventually went on to chair the Psychology Department for several years, and after it became Saginaw Valley State University. Merlyn attended Saginaw First U.M.C. at the invitation of a friend and his wife who learned that she was a life-long Methodist. Though she became a member in 1972, she began singing in the church choir in 1971. Through her years of active membership, Merlyn engaged in the life of our church: serving on boards and committees, participating in women's fellowship leadership and activities, teaching Sunday school,

participating in book studies, working church dinners, supporting community outreach activities and providing special music for summer worship services. When Merlyn joined the church in 1972, Rev. Robert Brown was the pastor, and a particular memory stands out. It seems that Rev. Brown was a big fan of Indian food, and he asked Merlyn to collaborate with him for a church fund raising dinner. The successful event featured homemade Indian dishes prepared by Merlyn, with the help of many women in the church. In 1976 she married her second husband, Hero Singh and together they enjoyed thirty-three years of marriage and participation in the life of our church until his passing at age 92. In addition to the many friendships made through the years, Merlyn's fond memories of her 'choir family' remained a continuing source of spiritual and personal inspiration.