

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
August 16, 2026 - 10:00am - 13th Sunday in Pentecost

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "We All Are One In Mission"

Finnish Folk Tune; arr. David Christensen

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 #2220:** "We Are God's People"

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) We are God's people,
The chosen of the Lord,
Born of the Spirit,
Established by the Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Christ we stand;
O let us live transparently, and walk
Heart to heart and hand in hand. | 3) We are the Body
Of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Christ,
Now risen from the dead;
God wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one;
O let us give our gifts to God, and so
Shall God's work on earth be done. |
| 2) We are God's loved ones,
The Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it,
The love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given;
O let us share each joy and care, and
Live with a zeal that pleases heaven. | 4) We are a temple,
The Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness,
A cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own
Each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire. |

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***Call to Worship:**

(adapted from Rev. Tim Graves; <https://liturgybits.com>.)

One: Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners-and-losers, and too many left behind, we come together.

All: The world's ways are not our ways. The world's ways are not the way of Christ.

One: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism, and life-taking power, we gather as *Koinonia*, as God's people.

All: God's ways are inclusive, expansive, and life-giving for all peoples.

One: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits! Enjoy cleansing waters of divine community! Let the Holy One Resurrect your spirits and souls!

All: Let us worship and give praise be to our Everlasting God!

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

***Prayer Chorus FWS #2223:** *“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”*

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

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: *“We Are the Church”*

by Richard K. Avery & Donald S. Marsh; arr. Bryan Latimer

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: Gracious God, you pour your blessing upon your people like dew upon the earth and oil upon the head, flowing beyond all boundaries we would draw. We thank you for the gift of unity for the healing of the world. Receive these offerings as signs of our desire to live together in your love, to practice radical welcome, and to share your abundance with all. Let what we give today flow outward in compassion and service, that our life together may reflect your reign of joy. Amen.

Special Music: *“Gratitude”*

w/m by Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, & Dante Bowe

Evie Kraynak, Soloist

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: Romans 12:1-8

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 151

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Response to the Word

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Video Clip: *Happiness for Beginners: Teamwork*

Sermon: “HFB2: TEAMWORK – YOU’RE GONNA LEARN IT!”

Rev. Amy Terhune

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

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

***Benediction:**

One: Beloved, go forth from this place to see others as teammates. And may the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us; May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world’s suffering be with us; And may the blessing of the Spirit who inspires reconciliation and hope be with us evermore. Amen.

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

*** Postlude: “Blest Be The Tie That Binds”**

by Johan G. Nageli; arr. Gail Leven Pollock

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240
e-mail: firstumcsaginaw@gmail.com website: <http://firstumcsaginaw.org>

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

Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: Marilyn Ashmall, Bernie Buggia, Jane Burgess, Myrna Cammin, Lisa DeVos, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne & Phyllis Henney (Wayne is now at Wellspring Assisted Living), Judy Hilty, Marion Hoffman, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY MISSION OFFERING TODAY goes to support our backpack food program for local schools. Please give generously. Currently, we feed about 64 kids every weekend. It costs approximately \$150 to feed one child for the school year. Consider sponsoring a child this fall!

KIDS CHOIR – will rehearse over the summer on the following dates: August 16, August 30, September 13, September 20. Kid's Choir will sing in worship on Sunday, August 30.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR will begin rehearsals in August to prepare for the 175th Anniversary. ALL ARE WELCOME to sing for the Anniversary, even if you can't join all year. We will rehearse the Anniversary anthem first, right at 7:00pm on Thursdays, August 27th, September 10th, 17th, and 24th.

CLEAN UP DAY – In order to get ready for Heart of the City to move into our building, we need to do one final clean-up day to clean up all the drywall dust down in the vision wing after the final piece of renovations. Saturday, August 22, 9:00-11:00am. Thank you for your help.

THE FREE MEAL COMMITTEE will meet **Sunday, August 30 following worship**. Any who would like to be involved are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continuing Tues. September 8. Menu TBD.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Trustees Committee: Tues. Aug. 25 – 7:15pm
Staff/Parish Committee (SPRC): Tues. Sept. 1 – 6:30pm
Nominations/Lay Leadership: Wed. Sept. 2 – 11:00am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – the 175th Anniversary Celebration for Saginaw First U.M.C. will take place **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, featuring Bishop David Bard as our preacher, followed by a light luncheon and program. Former pastors and members will join us for the celebration. Invitations have gone out. RSVP using the QR Code to the right or this link: <https://form.jotform.com/firstumsag/175th-anniversary-rsvp>



PFLAG – Parents/Friends of Lesbians And Gays (and others) meets here today at 2:00pm in the Lobby.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR throughout August given in joy and gratitude for the church family at First UMC.

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**

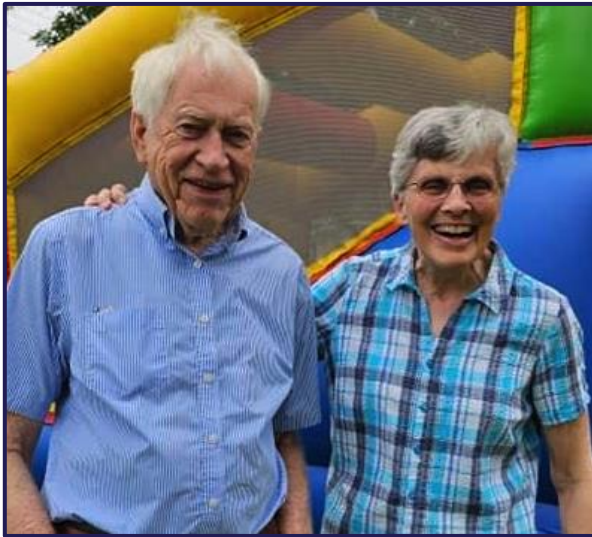
Instagram: **saginawfumc**



Our church. Our story.

Jim and Linda Doane **Celebrating 49 Years of Membership**

Jim and Linda Doane joined Saginaw First United Methodist Church in February 1977 because they



appreciated the idea that worship and children's Sunday school were at the same time so the family could attend church together. Through their years of membership, Jim and Linda have enjoyed the sermons of several good ministers, and built friendships with many other couples that continue today. They especially recall fun events like the Blessing of the Animals. It was important to Jim and Linda that their children also had a good church experience. And through Christian Education and youth group, their sons had meaningful experiences and created friendships with other youth in the church. Jim has especially enjoyed his work on our church's history: organizing the artifacts, files and church records and organizing the church History Room so that anyone can

explore and discover the rich heritage of Saginaw First. He also created the visual history display on the wall in the hallway leading to Gibbs Hall. For his efforts and commitment to preserving our church's history, Jim was named Church Historian in December 2025. Jim, who also volunteers at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, even gave a presentation there on our church's history and its impact on our community through the years. Most of all, Jim and Linda are grateful for all of the meaningful sermons they've heard through the years, and for all of the good people they've met here.



Our church. Our story.

A Permanent Place in History

The late **Virginia Merriam**, was a very active member of our congregation. A widow, Virginia lived at Edgewood, our neighbor to the west. Her room at the end of Edgewood's first wing looked out on the area across the church's driveway. While Virginia enjoyed the view of Edgewood's pond, she missed her gardens and envisioned flowers planted in the area on the west side of the church. As a member of the Memorials Committee, Virginia pushed to have a Memorial Garden created in that space. According to **Sally Weber**, a long-time member of our Memorials Committee, that's how our lovely Memorial Garden came into being in 1995. Memorial gifts already in hand paid for the plantings and landscaping and, before long, Virginia's view was greatly improved! Virginia is interred in the Garden she helped create. For many years after Virginia's passing, the late **Nelson and Rosalie Wing**, were very active in helping maintain the Garden. Today, volunteers continue to help the Garden look its best.

While the Garden was planted in 1995, the first ashes weren't interred there until 2004 or 2005. Now, the cremains of 30 former members and spouses rest in the Garden. Gifts in memory of loved ones and friends have always funded the Garden's maintenance, improvements and enhancements. In addition to maintaining the Garden, through the years the Memorials Committee has designated gifts for new pew Bibles and replacement hymnals; new computers for the office; sanctuary banners created by our own members; a contribution to the new boiler and roofing upgrade; new padding for the bell choir tables; sun blocking shades for the choir loft, sanctuary, parlor and choir room; and choir chairs, to name a few.



In 2017 the Trees of Remembrance art piece was added to the east wall of the narthex gathering area. The late **Gene Wistehuff** shared his woodworking skills in creating the tree trunk and branches. Engraved leaves on the Trees of Remembrance share the names of those buried in the Garden, and in honor of loved ones or a special event.

The Memorial Garden, located just outside the sanctuary windows, offers a peaceful spot for church members and family to spend time in quiet reflection.

In 2024 the Committee purchased a new identity sign for the Garden and beautiful benches were donated. In 2025, supported by Memorial gifts, the Garden was completely redone, replacing all of the original plantings. Our Memorial Garden is the perfect setting for a permanent place in our church's history.



**THE
EZEKIEL
PROJECT**

Faith Family **EVENT**

**Get to know lay people from
other member congregations and come
together for meaningful conversation.
United for power to change our community!**

**Sunday, August 23
5:00 – 7:30pm**

**World Outreach Campus
2405 Bay Road at Deindorfer Road
Saginaw, Michigan 48602**

EVENT IS FREE AND INCLUDES DINNER

Please RSVP to your Pastor.