

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community  
May 5, 2024 - 10:00am - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Easter Season

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

arr. Dale Wood

**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 your yellow prayer cards



**\*Opening Hymn UMH #428:** "For the Healing of the Nations"

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) For the healing of the nations,<br>Lord, we pray with one accord;<br>For a just and equal sharing<br>Of the things that earth affords;<br>To a life of love in action<br>Help us rise and pledge our word,<br>Help us rise and pledge our word.            | 3) All that kills abundant living,<br>Let it from the earth be banned;<br>Pride of status, race, or schooling,<br>Dogmas that obscure your plan.<br>In our common quest for justice<br>May we hallow life's brief span,<br>May we hallow life's brief span. |
| 2) Lead us forward into freedom;<br>From despair your world release,<br>That, redeemed from war and hatred,<br>All may come and go in peace.<br>Show us how through care and goodness<br>Fear will die and hope increase,<br>Fear will die and hope increase. | 4) You, Creator God, have written<br>Your great name on humankind;<br>For our growing in your likeness<br>Bring the life of Christ to mind,<br>That by our response and service<br>Earth its destiny may find,<br>Earth its destiny may find.               |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*The Call to Worship:**

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

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!**

One: We gather together in the presence of God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth

**All: God is the Creator of our world and everything in it!**

One: The Holy One is never far from any of us. God's love endures forever.

**All: God gives us life and breath. In God, we live and move and have our being!**

**Let us worship God together with grateful hearts!**

*\*Please stand if you are able*

**Time of Prayer** – *During the Prayer Chorus and/or silent meditation, ushers will collect your yellow prayer cards and deliver them to the pastor.*

**Prayer Chorus FWS #2255 “In The Singing”**

*In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,  
In the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table;  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace,  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.  
In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,  
In the heart’s cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people;  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace,  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.*

**Time of Silent Meditation**

**Pastoral Prayer lifting Celebrations and Concerns**

**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 as a time to give thanks to God  
for all with which you have been blessed. Thank you!  
Use the QR code to the right or give online here:*

<https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/>



**Offertory:** *Fanfare on “All Creatures of Our God and King”*

*by Phil Lehenbauer*

**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:** Holy God, we devote our gifts and our very selves to being part of the work of making your presence and your love known throughout the world. Inspire our generosity and use these offerings to advance Christ’s mission here and around the world, for we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**An Order of Farewell to Church Members**

One: The church is a family.  
United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
we are all siblings in Christ.  
And, for a time, First United Methodist Church of Saginaw is our home.

Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time:  
as members are born, as they die, as members are adopted into our family,  
and as they leave our congregation for a new home in a different place.

For a time, Dr. Larry Kelly has lived with us.

We have shared with each other good times and bad,  
we have shared each other's joys and sorrows,  
we have lightened each other's heavy loads.

Together we have laughed and cried,  
together we have worshiped and praised God,  
together we have lived.

**ALL: We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. Although we will remain connected in Christ across the miles, we know that our relationship will be different moving forward. We will miss your love and support in person, but remain devoted to friendship and spiritual growth in ways that can be shared virtually, and we pray God will guide you to a new church family in which you can share your gifts and receive ministry. We bless you as you move on to your new home.**

One: Eternal God, you hold the times and seasons, endings and beginnings, in your hands.  
Bless Larry as he enters this new life venture.

We give thanks for tasks accomplished, for service rendered,  
for the joys and pains woven into the fabric of his years among us.  
We know that Christian friendship is not bound by time or geography,  
and so Larry will remain in our hearts with love and gratitude.

Give to Larry and his family the guidance of your Holy Spirit,  
and preserve them in health and safety, both of body and soul,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Special Music:**

“You Are All We Have”  
*Terry Moon and Peg Wilken*

*by Francis Patrick O'Brien*

**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 17:16-34

*Pew Bible N.T. pg. 129*

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup> Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babbling want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was

because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.)<sup>19</sup> So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?’<sup>20</sup> It sounds rather strange to us, so we’d like to know what it means.’<sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.<sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” Therefore, what you worship as unknown, I proclaim to you.<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,<sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.<sup>26</sup> From one ancestor, he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,<sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.<sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said: “For we too are his offspring.<sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.<sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’<sup>32</sup> When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’<sup>33</sup> At that point Paul left them.<sup>34</sup> But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

### **Response to the Word**

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

**P: Thanks be to God!**

### **Sermon:**

“A MESSAGE FROM MARS”

Pastor Amy Terhune

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Sung Responses, Musical Setting A, UMH pg. 17-18*

One: The Lord be with you,

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,

to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and set before us the way of life.

And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

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 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 & 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.

**P: Amen.**

*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 chalice, and partake of the Sacrament. Return to your seats via the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward, servers will bring communion to you after those coming forward have been served.*

*Those who worship online from home this morning are invited to use what you have in your home (bread, crackers, juice, etc.) to participate in the sacrament along with the congregation.*

*Special Music During Communion: “When the Poor Ones” by Miguel Manzano; arr. Bryan Latimer*

## WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

### \*Closing Hymn FWS #2268 “As We Gather At Your Table”

1) As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love’s victory known.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

2) Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.

3) Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

### \*Benediction:

*(adapted from James T. Fatzinger in “Touch Holiness” pg. 270.)*

**One:** Beloved, because the way is long, we go together. Because the way is difficult, we serve one another. Because the way is joyful, we share it with those in need. Because the way is Christ, we follow. The way is open before us, so let us go in the Love of God, the grace of Christ, and the Communion 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: “In Christ There Is No East or West”

*Afro-American Spiritual; arr. Gilbert Martin*

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### *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  
Nursery Supervisors..... Karissa Schultz  
Audio Visual Technicians..... Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

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### 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** Facebook: **@firstumcofsaginaw** Instagram: **saginawfumc**



## A Pastoral Letter from Bishop David A. Bard

A message of hope from General Conference  
May 4, 2024 – Charlotte, NC



*Dear Friends in Christ in The United Methodist Church in Michigan,*

Many of you have heard about what happened at the postponed 2020 General Conference. Delegates made three historic major changes in the United Methodist Church, referred to by those in attendance as "The Three R's" - **R**egionalization, **R**evision of The United Methodist Social Principles, and **R**emoval of language that limited the participation of LGBTQ+ people in the church and was considered harmful by many.

While there are moments when things move slowly during plenary sessions, the news from the General Conference these past two weeks came in torrents. For many, it might have felt like drinking from a fire hose. There were legislative petitions to track, not to mention the commentary offered by different groups with different perspectives or agendas. I encourage us all to take time to breathe, pray, and digest all that has happened.

As you know, I have long favored widening the table in The United Methodist Church, expanding our tent. Pastors can now officiate at the weddings of parishioners without worrying if those parishioners are in a same-sex relationship, or if they might face ecclesial charges. Persons can respond to the call of God on their lives, and Boards of Ordained Ministry can discern those calls, regardless of the sexual orientation of the person being called.

For those troubled by these developments, I would say we are now genuinely agreeing to disagree without fear of church penalties and punitive processes. Appointments will continue to be made taking account of church and community context. Churches and pastors will make decisions about weddings.

While I will write more about the General Conference next week in my blog, I would like to conclude by sharing my hope that our United Methodist Church will be able to focus more freely on staying centered in the risen Christ and staying grounded in our Scriptures. I hope we will focus on engaging, in Spirit-filled ways, in the mission to which we are called, making disciples of Jesus Christ so that people can experience the healing and freeing grace of God in their lives and so that the world may be made more just, loving, and compassionate.

I look forward to sharing this journey in ministry with you all.

Grace and Peace,

*David A Bard*

David Alan Bard, Bishop, Michigan Conference



**Michigan Area**

The United Methodist Church





## GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020/2024

Every four years, United Methodists from all over the world gather together for General Conference, which is tasked with revising church law and to adopting resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues. General Conference also approves plans and budgets for churchwide agencies and programs.

Because of the Pandemic, General Conference was not able to meet in 2020, so our delegates have been gathering in **Charlotte, NC from April 23 - May 3, 2024** for the first time since the called special conference in 2019. General Conference 2020/24 adjourned Friday night, having dealt with more than 1000 resolutions in legislative committees. This General Conference was profoundly historic. After 52 years, this General Conference stripped all discriminatory language and policies against the LGBTQIA+ community from the Discipline, include the prohibition against ordination and marriage. They also passed regionalization policies so that the church in different places can have some freedom to minister to unique contexts, created a new region for Eurasia, approved fundamentally updated social principles, extended sacramental privileges to all ordained persons (both elders and deacons), approved the budget (40% smaller than 2016), reduced the number of Bishops from 39 to 32 in the USA, revamped the clergy pension system, and affirmed full communion with the Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church.

You can watch recaps and summaries of General Conference online and read news alerts at the Michigan Conference's Official General Conference Website which can be found at <https://gc.michiganumc.org/>

North Central Jurisdictional Conference will meet in Sioux Falls, SD from July 10-13 to handle episcopal appointments and other regional issues.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: David Marks / Greeters: Bonnie Dole, Bill & Sue Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Angie Smith / Welcome Desk: Betty Jo Cloud / Communion Servers: Judy Briggs and Anne Marks-Gaertner / Coffee Hour Host: The Johnson Family / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Nursery: Karissa Schultz

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Tom Brubaker, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, Bonnie & Pat Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, Marion Hoffman, Dr. Larry Kelly, Sarah Kettlehohn, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Marilyn Latimer, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Merlyn Mondol, Ron Moon, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Wendy Southgate Murphy, Patricia Parks, Teddy Reichard, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Rev. Kathy Snedeker, Mac Thompson, MaryLee Turner, & Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine/Israel/Gaza.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Ron and Noreen Southgate and family on the death of their daughter Wendy Southgate Murphy last Sunday, April 28, 2024. A celebration of life will be held here in Saginaw in early June. More information will be available soon.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD** will meet **TOMORROW**, Monday, May 6 at 7:00pm.

**NURTURE** Team will meet Monday, May 13, at 6:00pm.

**REACH, PREPARE, and SEND** Teams will meet together Monday, May 13 at 7:00pm

We are saddened to bid **FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES** to Dr. Larry Kelly, who has been a member here since 1985. He is moving to Fife Lake to be nearer to his son Kevin and daughter-in-law Vicky. His new contact information is: 10400 Hager Road, Fife Lake, MI 49633 – (989) 598-1020.

**PASTOR AMY** will be in the **FINAL CLOSING RETREAT** for *Creating a Culture of Renewal* this week online from 11am – 6pm from Tuesday 5/7 thru Thursday 5/9. We celebrate with her as she graduates from the 3-year program on May 9 and becomes a *Certified Renewalist* in the UMC.

**2024 SPRING/SUMMER 6-WEEK BOOK STUDY - “The Bible and Borders”** by M. Daniel Carroll lends insight from a leading Latino-American biblical scholar on what the Bible says about immigration, offering accessible, nuanced, and sympathetic guidance for the Church. Books available FREE from the main office. Schedule is:

6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 5/7, 5/14, 5/21\*, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 5/8, 5/15, 5/22\*, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19

\* *Pastor Amy away the last week in May for Michigan Annual Conference 2024.*

**GRADUATES** – If you have a student graduating this year from High School, College, University, Grad School, Trade School, or Military, please be sure to get their information into the main office. **Please do not assume we know!!!** Email [fristumcsaginaw@gmail.com](mailto:fristumcsaginaw@gmail.com). WE NEED TO KNOW: Name, Where graduating from, Degree (*if applicable*), Honors, and Future Plans. Also, please send a picture!! Graduation Sunday this year is scheduled for June 2, 2024.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continuing Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 5:30-6:30pm for Mexican Night. Sign up to donate food at the Welcome Desk or Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

**A NOTE ABOUT COMMUNION:** Beginning this month, now that we are largely past the covid epidemic and cold/flu season, we will return to a more environmentally sustainable means of serving Communion called Intinction, where each of us take a piece of bread and dips it into the chalice. Volunteers are needed to help serve. Please speak with Pastor Amy if you are willing to help out.

# Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the **FREE** mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and follow the prompts under “Sign In” to “Create a login now.” Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for “**Instant Church Directory**” to get the download, or use the QR Codes below.

A limited number of printed copies of the directory are NOW AVAILABLE at the Welcome Desk.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

## Need help or have questions?

Call the Church office at (989) 799-0131 or call Pastor Amy at (989)274-6363.

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