

The Witness of the Saints

*The names of the dearly departed are read in the context and spirit of prayer.
The witness of the lives of our church members who have gone on to eternity
is also the sermon for today.*

*Short Biographies of Church Members will be read following
the reading of their names and the toll of the bell.*

For Family and Friends, we will only be reading names and dates.

*When your loved one's name is read,
please come forward and light a candle before the altar.*

If you're unable to come forward, we have someone who will light it on your behalf.

*Do not rush or feel prohibited from coming if we continue to read other names
as you are making your way forward.*

A bell will be rung after the reading of each name.

The Unison Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for all the saints of the church: for the early followers of Christ, who spread his message; to the martyrs who died to share the good news with others; to the reformers who taught us to think and reflect on our faith; to the early members of this congregation who built it and helped it grow. We pause in this moment to celebrate the lives of members here who have gone to reside in heaven's light this year:

CHURCH MEMBERS

1) Larry Hagerty (12/4/1949 – 11/13/2023)

Larry was born and raised here in Saginaw, and graduated from MSU in 1976. He went to work for Saginaw Steering Gear and as a production operator at GM for 32 years. He was a union member of Local #699, and served a long time as their Steward. He loved his siblings, his wife Vicky, and Vicky's children. The underpinning of Larry's devotion to family and community was his faith in Jesus Christ. He grew up Catholic here in Saginaw, and served for many years in youth ministry and mission through the church and a program called Teens Encounter Christ. After retirement, Larry retired to Florida, and went to work as a part-time chaplain in prison ministry through the United Methodist Church, laboring to bring healing and opportunities to the men to whom he ministered for more than a decade. When circumstances brought him back to Michigan, he served our mission program here faithfully, and continued to serve prison ministry here in Michigan as a devoted volunteer. We here at First UMC remember his kind spirit and deep faith, and he is deeply missed.

2) Camille Marek (12/14/1926 – 1/23/2024)

Camille's youngest daughter Sarah writes, "Our mother, Camille Marek, was a strong, considerate, and caring person. She raised three daughters, Karen, Lynn, and Sarah to be the same. She set very high standards for herself and was a great role model. As a single mother, she worked very hard to create a beautiful home that would nurture her and her daughters. Our home was always filled with laughter, songs around the piano, wonderful holiday meals, and get togethers. Camille was an excellent bridge player and enjoyed the camaraderie of other card games too. She enjoyed tending her rose garden, sewing and helping her daughters sew beautiful garments, and decorating for the holidays. Her fruitcake, cookies, and pies were legendary in our family. Camille took great pride in her work at Saginaw Steering Gear and her membership in the First United Women's Group, Rebecca Circle. We miss her and her beautiful smile."

3) Kenneth Parks (8/3/1948 – 2/22/2024)

Ken's wife Patricia writes, "My husband Ken was the kindest, most honest person I've ever known. In High School, he played all sports, but really excelled at baseball. He was an awesome pitcher. He was drafted into the Army right after High School. When he came home, he worked at G.M. for several years but left because it just wasn't for him. He also loved people and liked to talk, so he went into sales – both cars and furniture – working 26 years for Godwin's Furniture. Mostly, Ken loved his family – his 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren. He loved going to all their events and sports – even dance recitals. He was always able to make us laugh, and is greatly missed."

4) David Marks (8/27/1944 – 8/10/2024)

David's sister Anne writes, "David was a man of deep and abiding faith in God's love and grace. He enjoyed a good scotch, wine, whiskey or beer and never turned down an opportunity for a good meal with people who mattered to him. David loved animals, nature, hiking and music. He was smart and loved reading and learning and had a great sense of humor. Most of all, David was kind, humble and caring. He deeply touched the lives of all who knew and loved him. And, that is his legacy."

5) James Kurtz (12/27/1940 – 8/18/2024)

Jim Kurtz met his wife Jacqui on a blind date, and within 6 weeks, they were engaged. She was the love of his life, and together, they raised two sons. Jim returned to Saginaw to help his parents run the Kurtz-Hillman automotive center, but after they were gone, he went back to school for a master's in education and went to work, first at Arthur Eddy School, and then at Heritage High school for nearly two decades. Teaching was Jim's passion – he taught history, government, economics, and driver's

education, and had a gift for telling history's story in ways that inspired his students. He loved his students, and could remain calm and organized even when things got chaotic in the classroom. He attended all of Heritage's sporting events for years, even after he retired. His children and grandchildren also have fond memories of his storytelling on long trips, and he was there for all their events, modeling for them in life and relationships the values of love, integrity, and genuine kindness. Jacqui misses him every day, but is grateful for the rich and full life and love they shared.

6) Tim Wiltse (12/30/1941 – 8/29/2024)

Tim was born in Saginaw and lived in the area his entire life. Tim graduated in 1960 from Arthur Hill High School, and joined his father running Dunn-Tile Building Supply, helping build Saginaw during the 1960's and 1970's. He then founded a sales agency and distribution company that sold items from anti-freeze to chimney cleaner, including a patented hinged bell trap that is sold across the country. His decades as a sales representative created a dealer network spanning the State of Michigan and northern Ohio. He loved his work and the people he served and did so with honesty, integrity and humility. His one true love was his bride Helene and they celebrated 55 years this June. Together they had two sons Pete and Matt and a grandson Ross. Tim enjoyed spending time with the family at their cottage, and they miss his warm smile and loving support.

7) Christine Horvat (5/14/1924 – 9/29/2024)

Christine was raised here in Saginaw and worked at Buick in Flint during WWII. She married Stephen J. Horvat upon his return from the Air Force. They were charter members of State Street United Methodist Church in 1947, and remained active there until retiring to Florida in the mid-1990s. Christine was a member of the choir, directed the children's choir, served on the trustees, and helped out in countless other ways around the church when needed. After the children were in school, she worked for many years at Arthur Hill, both in the main office and the counseling office, and mentored many students. She was devoted to her husband, her twin sister Geraldine, and her family. Her children and grandchildren remember her as one who lovingly supported their dreams and taught them well. Christine is dearly missed by all who knew her.

Musical Interlude UMH #700: "Abide With Me" (vs. 1)

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

One: We pause also to remember others who have passed on this year who are dear to us:

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

1) Steven Bubin	7/11/2024	<i>father of Tina Castle</i>
2) Margaret Casinger	10/21/2024	<i>aunt of Pastor Amy</i>
3) Wesley Clark	5/22/2024	<i>brother of Wayne Clark</i>
4) Carol Frazer	4/16/2024	<i>sister-in-law of Ron Frazer</i>
5) Donald Granger	3/18/2024	<i>father of Dean Granger</i>
6) Michael Gray	10/06/2024	<i>grandson of Kay Mertz</i>
7) Marilyn Latimer	9/27/2024	<i>mother of Bryan Latimer</i>
8) Brenda Lemmer	9/30/2024	<i>sister of Marsha Curry</i>
9) Matthew Miller	7/07/2024	<i>brother of Sheryl Clauss</i>
10) Wendy Southgate Murphy	4/28/2024	<i>daughter of Ron & Noreen Southgate</i>
11) Ron Moon	10/22/2024	<i>father of Terry Moon</i>
12) Rev. Karen Poole	10/22/2024	<i>friend/mentor of Pastor Amy</i>
13) Joan Prevost	1/27/2024	<i>aunt of Jane MacQueen</i>
14) James Quiel	3/05/2024	<i>former member of First U.M.C.</i>
15) Larry Ruple	8/09/2024	<i>brother of Betty Mayer</i>
16) Dean Santis	8/02/2024	<i>cousin of Dr. Lou Constan</i>
17) John Wasserstrauss	7/10/2024	<i>long-time friend of Dr. Lou Constan</i>

One: Let us continue in a spirit of prayer...

All: O God, we give thanks for all who have guided us in this life, for those who have taught us about you, and for those who have served you faithfully. We pause in this moment to name them in our hearts.

Time of Silence

One: May your spirit continue to guide and direct us that we may be good stewards in your name and good witnesses to those yet to be, we pray in the name of Christ, who taught His people to pray together...

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.