

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community  
December 8, 2024 - 10:00am - Second Sunday in Advent

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

13<sup>th</sup> Century Plainsong; arr. Gilbert Martin

**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



**"Announcement Sunday"**

Anne Marks-Gaertner

**\*Opening Hymn UMH #202:** "People Look East"

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) People, look east. The time is near<br>Of the crowning of the year.<br>Make your house fair as you are able,<br>Trim the hearth and set the table.<br>People, look east and sing today:<br>Love, the guest, is on the way.                    | 3) Stars, keep the watch.<br>When night is dim,<br>One more light the bowl shall brim,<br>Shining beyond the frosty weather,<br>Bright as sun and moon together.<br>People, look east and sing today:<br>Love, the star, is on the way. |
| 2) Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,<br>One more seed is planted there:<br>Give up your strength<br>the seed to nourish,<br>That in course the flower may flourish.<br>People, look east and sing today:<br>Love, the rose, is on the way. | 4) Angels, announce with shouts of mirth<br>Christ who brings new life to earth.<br>Set every peak and valley humming<br>With the word, the Lord is coming.<br>People, look east and sing today:<br>Love, the Lord, is on the way.      |

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**\*The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Marc Cesere and Tom Brubaker

One: Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

**All: Lord, reveal your love and make us new**

One: In a hurried world with little time for others, Advent calls us to remember that...

**All: Love is patient**

One: In a world where it is so easy to become consumed by our own interests, Advent calls us to remember that...

**All: Love is kind.**

\* Please stand if you are able

One: In a world where we are quick to anger and to blame, Advent calls us to remember that...

**All: Love is not easily angered, and through love, we come to forgive.**

One: This Advent, let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.

**All: God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.**

One: This morning, we light two purple candles. The first candle reminds us of the marvelous hope revealed in our Savior's birth, and in his promised return. The second candle reminds us of God's great love for us. God's perfect love made flesh can fill our hearts, ignite our souls, and change our lives.

**All: Loving God, as we continue our Advent journey, we pray that being rooted and established in love, we may have the power to grasp how wide, how long, how high, and how deep is the love of Christ, and to share it with all around us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

### SONG:

Love waits for us at Advent. Love waits for us to care. Love waits for our compassion, freely offered, fully shared. In this time of preparation for the work of co-creation, for the birthing of a world where faith shapes all we do, love is born in us anew.

*Original source of liturgy unknown; Music/lyrics © 2020 Amanda Udis-Kessler. Used by permission*

### **ALL SINGING:**

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "Love waits for us at Ad-vent. Love waits for us to care. Love waits for our com-pas-sion, free-ly off-ered, ful-ly shared. In this time of pre-par-a-tion for the work of co-cre-a-tion, for the birth-ing of a world where faith shapes all we do, Love is born in us a-new." The score includes measure numbers 6, 11, and 15. The time signature changes to 6/4 at measure 15 and back to 4/4 at the end.

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

**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 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/>**



**The Offertory:** *“Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming”*

*Traditional German; arr. Jeanne Cotter*

**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:** **Loving God, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and love for growing your Kingdom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn UMH #242:** *“Love Came Down At Christmas”*

1) Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

2) Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;

3) Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and others,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

### **Scripture Lesson:**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*Pew Bible O.T. pg. 691*

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

**The Choral Anthem:** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice Medley”

*arr. Robert Sterling*

**Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 33:12-16

Pew Bible O.T. pg. 694

<sup>12</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is a wasteland, without humans or animals, and in all its towns, there shall again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. <sup>13</sup> In the towns of the hill country, of the River Shephelah, and of the River Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord. <sup>14</sup> For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

**Response to the Word**

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**



**The Children’s Christmas Pageant: “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD”**

*written by Dave Clark and Jayme Thompson; directed by Stacy Sharrow, Cari Hagerl, and Amy Terhune*

**CAST:** *Alexa Sharrow – Gabriel, the Head Angel  
Ethan Hagerl – Slim, the Cowboy Angel  
Haley Sharrow – Halo, the Angel of Bling  
Wyatt Hagerl – Skylar, the Hippie Angel  
Meredith Sharrow – Holly, the Christmas Angel  
Emmett Hagerl – the Dinosaur  
Karissa Schultz – Mother Mary*

**Hymn UMH #230:** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* (vs 1, 2, 4)

- 1) O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2) For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
- 4) O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**SCENE ONE:** The Heavenly Staff Room

**SONG:** *“Nothin’ Ever Happens In Bethlehem”*

Refrain: No, no, no, nothin’ – nothin’ ever happens in Bethlehem.  
No, no, no, nothin’ – a sleepy little town, that’s all it’s ever been  
If you’re looking for fun, you’d better look again  
Cause nothin’ – no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no  
Nothin’ ever happens in Bethlehem!

**SCENE TWO:** The Heavenly Staff Room

**HYMN UMH #229:** *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Infant holy, infant lowly,<br>For his bed a cattle stall;<br>Oxen lowing, little knowing<br>Christ the babe is Lord of all.<br>Swift are winging, angels singing,<br>Noels ringing, tidings bringing:<br>Christ the babe is Lord of all. | 2) Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping<br>Vigil till the morning new.<br>Saw the glory, heard the story,<br>Tidings of a gospel true.<br>Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,<br>Praises voicing, greet the morrow:<br>Christ the babe was born for you. |
|---|---|

**SCENE THREE:** A Field outside Bethlehem

**HYMN FWS #2097 – One Holy Night In Bethlehem**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) One holy night in Bethlehem<br>The air was filled with song.<br>Angelic voices sang on high<br>And shepherds piped along: | 2) Their music echoed through the town<br>Into the stable stall,<br>Where Mary sang a lullaby<br>And rocked her baby small: <i>[refrain]</i> |
|--|--|

*Refrain:* Sing glory, glory, gloria! God's love is given birth!  
Be not afraid, Sing gloria, and peace to all the earth!

**SCENE FOUR:** A Stable in Bethlehem

**HYMN UMH #238:** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1) Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

3) Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
[Refrain]

*Refrain:* Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria  
in excelsis Deo! (2X)

2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
[Refrain]

4) See him in a manger laid,  
Whom the choirs of angels praise,  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
While our hearts in love we raise.  
[Refrain]

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

**\*Benediction:**

*(by Dr. Lisa Hancock, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)*

One: Beloved, Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kingdom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness and love, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we learn and live as followers of the coming Messiah.

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

**\* Postlude:** “Love Has Come (Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella)”

*Traditional French; arr. David M. Cherwien*

\* \* \* \* \*

<b><i>First United Methodist Church</i></b>	
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Senior Pastor .....	Rev. Amy Lee Brun Terhune
.....	<a href="mailto:pastoralbt@outlook.com">pastoralbt@outlook.com</a> / (989) 274-6363 (cell phone)
Office Administrator/Treasurer.....	Dina Draper
Custodian.....	Tina Castler
Organist.....	Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir.....	Rod Bieber
Bell Choir Director.....	Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisors .....	Katie Moon and Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians .....	Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune
<b>Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.</b>	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!!** Liturgist: Stacy Sharrow / Advent Wreath: Marc Cesare and Tom Brubaker / Greeters: Judy Gerken and Jackie Moore / Ushers: Keith Courier, Bonnie Arnst, Marc Cesere, Ethan Hagerl, and Max Mondol / Welcome Desk: Cory Sursely / Coffee Hour Hosts: NEEDED / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith and Andy Sharrow

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to Bonnie Dole and family upon the death of her husband Patrick Dole last Sunday. Funeral Services were held at Snow Funeral Home this past Wednesday.

**HOSPITALIZED THIS WEEK:** RuthAnn Hilton, Sharon Mueller, Peter Pape, Ron Southgate

**PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Marilyn Ashmall, Ed Babinski, David Barker, Barry Brown, Tom Brubaker, Bernie Buggia, Myrna Cammin, Judy Dawe, Bonnie Dole, Esther Cavendish Fisher, Don Hammond, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, RuthAnn Hilton, Marion Hoffman, Sue Johnson, Sharon Ketcham, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Mark Leffler, Joyce Maltman, Bonnie Markley, Kay Mertz, Merlyn Mondol, Bob & Sharon Mueller, Madge Richmond, Eugenia Shek, Ron & Noreen Southgate, Kathy Winkowski, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine and in Israel/Gaza.

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP** will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, continuing TONIGHT, Dec. 8 at 6:00pm. Dinner provided.

**KID'S CLUB** – following worship today, December 8 from 11:30am-1:00pm

**FREE COMMUNITY MEALS** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for December: Loaded Nachos. Sign up to Donate Food at the Welcome Desk. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – This Tuesday, December 10 at 7:15pm on ZOOM.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD** – Monday, December 16 at 7:00pm.

**THE BACKPACK PROGRAM** for children struggling with food insecurity has begun. Sponsor a child for \$150/year. Buy Christmas things in the Narthex. Sign up to pack food and help deliver to area schools at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-44603782-backpack>

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY (4 WEEKS)** meets in person at 6pm on Tues. 12/10 and online at 7:30pm on Wed. 12/11. The book is entitled “Keep Watch With Me” by Claire Brown and Michael T. McRay. Books available in the main office for \$15. Free books available to those who need them.

**THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK** will take place this year on Sunday, December 22. Cookies will be \$5/dozen. All proceeds go to fund the Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee this June 2025. Please consider baking/donating cookies for the walk to help the kids out. Thank you!

**REMINDER:** There will NOT be a December Men's Breakfast next Sunday. The next Men's Breakfast will be held Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 8:30am

**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**



### Worship Schedule

- *Second Advent 12/08/2023 – Worship 10:00am – Kid’s Christmas Pageant*
  - *Third Advent 12/15/2024 – Worship 10:00am*
  - *Fourth Advent 12/22/2024 – All Music Sunday 10:00am*
  - *CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 7:30pm*
- *Christmas I Sunday 12/29 – Worship 10:00am – Tatyana Spaulding, Guest Preacher*
- *Epiphany Sunday 1/5/2025 – Worship/Communion 10:00am*

### Mission

**THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE OFFERING** will be divided this year between a) the Partnership Center and b) the purchase gift cards and needed Christmas Meals for the families of our 48 Backpack Children. **Give online at <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/give/> or use the QR code to the right.**



### Education

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY** for kids up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade – TODAY – 11:30am-1:00pm.  
Includes lunch, Bible story, baking project, crafts, and games.

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE** for Youth Mission Trip – Sunday 12/22 after All Music Sunday Worship. **COOKIE DONATIONS WELCOME!!!!**

**FOUR-WEEK ADVENT ADULT BOOK STUDY** on *Keep Watch With Me* by Claire Brown and Michael T. McRay. Books available from the Office for \$15.  
6:00-7:00pm in person on Tuesdays: 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17  
7:30-8:30pm online on Wednesdays: 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18





## Facing the Holidays with a Grieving Heart



The holidays are not always a happy, enchanting, joyous time for everyone.

*As the holidays approach, many who have lost a loved one may experience a wide array of emotions, including anxiety, stress, fatigue, guilt, sadness/depression, and feeling isolated. These emotions, in turn, can affect our ability to cope with the pain and to utilize resources available to us. Following are some tips for facing the holidays in a time of grief:*

- **Begin early to think about your holidays.** This is painful because we cannot help but to think about how things will be different this year without our loved one here. But putting it off doesn't allow time for us to process our thoughts and feelings or to grieve our loss. Talk to the family early about how you will observe the holidays this year.
- **Be patient with yourself.** Leave the words "I should..." or "I ought to..." out of your planning process. There is no right or wrong way to handle your celebrations.
- **Make your wishes known upfront.** There will be many people who may think they know what's best for you and want to make plans for you. This may be helpful to some and irritating to others. **Pay attention to what you are feeling and listen to your heart.** Be honest and make your feelings known before major plans get made. If you're not sure about something, give it a try. If it's too painful, that's okay. You can always step away. On the other hand, if you find yourself having fun, this does not mean you don't care about the loved one who has died. It's okay to go on with living.
- **Recognize that family get-togethers and certain traditions may be difficult.** Keep the memory of your loved one alive. Share stories and memories together. Spend time with people you find supportive and comforting.
- **Remember that everyone grieves in their own way.** What is right for you may not be right for someone else, and vice versa. Allow one another the freedom to feel whatever each is feeling, and to do what each needs to cope with the grief.
- **Be prepared** for the fact that well-meaning people who don't know your situation will wish you 'Happy Holidays!' or 'Merry Christmas!' All the standard décor of the season will be around you in stores and restaurants. There is no escaping the trappings of the season, so **pace yourself** when you're out and about during the holiday season.
- **Don't be afraid to ask for help.** Seek out professional services if you feel you need it.
- Keep in mind that **the anticipation of the holiday** is often worse than the holiday itself.
- **Take care of yourself.** Remember that grieving is both emotional work and physical work. Get plenty of rest, eat right, exercise, take a hot bath—do whatever you need to do to care for yourself. And allow the tears to come. This is a very normal expression of grief and can help with the healing.

## Capital Campaign and Stewardship Campaign Announcement Sunday

This fall, we embarked on a campaign, not only to meet our budget for 2025, but to fund our vision for our future – to love our WHOLE city and love our city whole. We will explore various avenues for living out this mission moving forward, but one certain way is to refurbish valuable ministry space in the former education wing (now being called the Vision Wing) with an HVAC system to address the moisture issues there, updated flooring and painting, and an updated security system. This will allow us to partner with others doing good and important work towards wholeness in our community.

The total cost of the capital improvement project is \$350,000, to be raised by conducting a 3-year campaign (2025, 2026, 2027) for \$250,000 and augmenting that with \$100,000 from our investments. Additionally, we need to continue to fund our annual budget (approx. \$300,000), which pays for our staff, utilities, and program.

I am thrilled to announce that we have succeeded and surpassed our goals for the capital campaign, with 97 pledges totaling \$336,202. This means we will not have to dip into our investments nearly to the extent we had planned, which puts us in a great position to fund future ministry as opportunities arise. We've also received thus far 97 pledges totaling \$283,785 towards our general budget. Although this is slightly below our hopes, experience has shown that gifts often come in during the final weeks, and we expect to meet our goals to fully fund ministry for 2025. These gifts represent more pledges and more income than in the previous 5 years, and I am truly grateful for your sacrifices, but also hopeful and excited for what God will do through us in the coming years.



Many team leaders contributed to our success:

- Anne Marks-Gaertner & Peg Wilken – Campaign Co-Chairs
- Ed Cunningham – Finance Committee Chairperson
- Bill Cowdry – Trustees Committee Chairperson
- Bill Johnson Jr – Endowment Committee Chairperson
- Suzanne Clark & Kathy Jimenez – Prayer Team Coleaders
- Xenny Johnson & Cory Sursely – Communications Team Coleaders
- Jill Spaulding – Gratitude Team Leader
- Carla Piazza-Wistehuff – Celebration Team Leader
- Lou & Karen Constan – Advanced Gifts Team Leaders
- Ed Cunningham, Marc Cesere, and Bill Johnson Jr. – Follow-Through Team

I want to offer a special thank you to Anne Marks-Gaertner and Peg Wilken, who co-chaired our campaign, and whose hard work, dedication, expertise, and deep faith have led us to a very positive outcome! I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Finance Committee Chairperson, Ed Cunningham, and our Trustee Committee Chairperson, Bill Cowdry, AND their committees, who have worked tirelessly alongside Anne and Peg to provide leadership, data, wisdom, and faith.

The success of our campaign and our ministry is dependent, in part, upon the gifts of time and talent provided by volunteers making prayer calls, advanced gifts, and follow-up phone calls, and by those who helped us organize and plan. I'm so grateful for those who stepped up in service to God and church family.

But the success of the campaign and our ministry together is largely due to the YOUR faithful response!! Thank you to all who have believed in the vision, all who have pledged, all who have given, and all who live your commitment to Christ through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness beyond these walls. I encourage us all to continue to pray: Lord, what do you want to do through us?

With Gratitude and Excitement in Jesus' Holy Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Amy Terhune". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Pastor Amy Terhune