

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation Caring For and About God's Community
December 29, 2024 - 10:00am - Christmas I

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Traditional English; arr. Wilbur Held

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 #228:** "He Is Born"

Refrain: He is born, the holy Child,
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
Sing we all of the Savior mild.

2) O how lovely, O how pure
Is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure
Gracious gift to humankind! [Refrain]

1) Thru long ages of the past,
Prophets have foretold his coming;
Thru long ages of the past,
Now the time has come at last! [Refrain]

3) Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
Grant to us thy heavenly peace. [Refrain]

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***Opening Prayer (offered responsively):**

One: In the beginning, Lord my God, You alone existed: eternally one
Yet pregnant in the fullness of unity. Full to overflowing,

All: **You, Father of All Life, exploded outward in a billion bits and pieces.
Your word became flesh, whirling in shining stars, shimmering suns,
And in genesis glimmering galaxies.**

One: You, my God, spoke and Your Words became flesh:
In sun and moon, earth and seas, mountains and gentle hills,
Rolling rivers and silent streams.

All: **You, my God, spoke, and Your Words became flesh:
In winged bird, in deer and elephant, in grazing cow, racing horse,
And fish of the deep.**

One: Your Words, so unique and so varied, gilled the earth also with rabbit, squirrel
and ant. And all Your Words were beautiful, and all were good.

All: **From each of these Holy Words arose a prayer of praise and adoration
To You, their Creator and Wondrous Womb.**

(continued next page)

** Please stand if you are able*

One: 'Praise You," rang out the redwood, "Blessed be You," chimed in the cedar,
"Holy are You," prayed the prairie grasses.

**All: From all four corners of this earth rose up a chorus of perpetual adoration.
O Sacred Spirit, O Divine Breath of Life, unseal my ears
That they may ever listen to Your continuous canticle of creation;
Open my heart and my whole self to sing in harmony with all its many voices.**

One: Teach me to commune with Your first Word made flesh, Your creation,
That I may be able to unravel the wondrous words
Of Your second Word made flesh, Jesus, through whom, with whom,
And in whom, I may see myself as another Word of Yours made flesh,
To Your glory and honor.

All: Amen.

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

Prayer Chorus UMH #204:

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

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: *“The Holly and the Ivy”*

Traditional French, arr. Catherine Rollin

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: Lord of Light and Love, we offer these gifts with hearts transformed by the miracle of your son's birth. As the shepherds returned with joy and praise, may these offerings spread your joy and love. Use them to bless those in need, to bring hope and peace, and to further your kingdom here on earth, through Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen.

Special Music: “Some Children See Him”

by Alfred Burt; arr. Dave Grusin

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:

II Peter 3:3-13

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 223-224

³ First, you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!” ⁵ They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, ⁶ through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless. ⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Hymn UMH #221: “*In the Bleak Midwinter*”

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago. | 3) Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss. |
| 2) Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
Nor the earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. | 4) What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him:
Give my heart. |

Scripture Lesson:

Colossians 1:15-17

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 188

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The Message:

“MINISTRY BEYOND MEN”

Tatyana Spaulding, Guest Preacher

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn UMH #251: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.	2) The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo! Above the earth, Rang out the angel chorus That hailed the Savior’s birth. <i>[Refrain]</i>
1) While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the heavens There shown a holy light. <i>[Refrain]</i>	3) Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born, And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. <i>[Refrain]</i>

***Benediction:**

(adapted from Dr. Lisa Hancock, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>)

One: Beloved, may God bless you with transformation, because together we have encountered the incarnate Christ who makes a home among us and sends us home never to be the same again. Amen.

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

*** Postlude: Gigue on “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”**

by Gordon Young

<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240	
e-mail: firstumsag@aol.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
Nursery Supervisors	Katie Moon and Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians.....	Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune
Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Guest Preacher: Tatyana Spaulding / Liturgist: Jim Doane / Greeters: Karen Constan & Sue Myers / Ushers: Kevin Malotka, Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan, Nancy Kozumplik / Welcome Desk: Jill Spaulding / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith

OUR SYMPATHY to Mary Laffey and family on the death of her father Don Hammond on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Visitation tonight 12/29 from 5-7pm at Ware Smith Woolever Funeral home, 1200 W. Wheeler, Midland, MI 48640. Funeral Service is tomorrow 12/30 at 11:00am, also at Ware Smith Woolever Funeral Home, with visitation for one hour beforehand.

OUR SYMPATHY to Noreen Southgate and the family of Ron Southgate, who entered eternal life on Monday, Dec. 16. Funeral Services were held earlier this week.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Ruth Ann Hilton, who entered eternal life on Dec. 11. A Memorial Service will be held here at First U.M.C. on Saturday, January 18 at 11:00am.

OUR SYMPATHY to Elliott and Lauren Visuri and family on the death of Elliott's father David Visuri on December 17, 2024 after a battle with cancer. A celebration of life is being planned for spring.

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, Wayne Henney, Dr. Kirk Herrick, 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, Noreen Southgate, Kathy Winkowski, and Dorothy Woods. Also, please pray for UMCOR, and for war to end in Ukraine and in Israel/Gaza.

THE TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE will be held as usual on the first Wednesday of the month, which happens to fall on January 1, 2025 at 7:00pm. Please join us to start the new year with a time of scripture, contemporary readings, prayer, and meditative silence.

COUNTERS NEEDED to count the offering after worship beginning in January. Counters work in teams of 2, and the task generally takes 20-30 minutes. Light record-keeping also involved. A training will be held after worship on January 5, 2025. This work helps us maintain fiscal safety protocols. Please speak with Dina Draper or Pastor Amy at (989) 799-0131 if you're willing and able to help. Thank You!

BIBLE EXCHANGE – We now have a bookshelf in the lobby area with copies of Scripture available for free. If you need a bible, or see a translation you've not studied before, please feel free to take a bible. If you have extra copies of Scripture around your home that aren't being read/used, please consider donating them for others who don't own a copy of the Bible, or want to study more in depth.

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, January 14 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for January: Chili. Clean-up helpers are needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community>

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>

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**