

First United Methodist Church

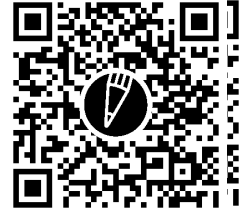
*Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
March 2, 2025 - 10:00am - Transfiguration Sunday*

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”*

by Charles Wesley; arr. M.J. Montagne

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.

***Opening Hymn FWS #2103:** *“We Have Come At Christ’s Own Bidding”*

1) We have come at Christ’s own bidding
to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God’s grace.

Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

2) Light breaks thru our clouds & shadows,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.

Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ with garments drenched in brightness
stands transfigured and complete.

3) Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
We like Peter, find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.

But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***The Opening Prayer**

Lord of the Mountaintop, God of dazzling light and beauty, the last thing we expect is an encounter with your Sacred Presence. When the moment comes, we are so often taken aback, surprised, and sometimes afraid of the calling you introduce in our lives. Open us to your Spirit. Help us to hear the prophetic message of what may yet be, and to rejoice in your movement in our world. Forgive us when we try to encapsulate you in easily digestible soundbites. Forgive us when we fail to recognize and appreciate your presence in the Sacrament and in one another. And be with us when we come down from the height of worship to face a world that didn’t see what we just saw in you. Transfigure us. Enlighten us, that the world may see your light in us and worship you, for we ask in the name of Christ our Light. Amen.

**Please stand if you are able.*

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

Prayer Chorus FWS #2272: “*Holy Ground*”

*We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

Silent Meditation

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

♪ *Please choose to support your church family in this exciting and challenging time of mission/ministry. Enjoy the musical selection as a time to give thanks to God for all with which you have been blessed.*

Use the QR codes or pledge/give online here:

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



The Offertory: “*He Is Exalted*”

by Twila Paris

The Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
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: Glorious God, who reveals the light of your presence, we bring these gifts as a testament to your transforming power. Jesus was transfigured before his disciples; transform us to reflect your love and grace. Use these offerings to shine your light in the world, bringing hope and healing. In the name of your beloved Son, we pray. Amen.

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:

Luke 9:28-36

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 65

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. But they kept silent, and in those days, they told no one any of the things they had seen.

Response to the Word

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

P: Thanks be to God!

Special Music: “*The Rock of Your Love*”

w/m by Vince Gill

Mark Ode, Soloist/Guitar

The Sermon

THE COURAGE TO ENCOUNTER GOD

Pastor Amy Terhune

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

See UMH pg. 17-18 Musical Setting A

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.
Working through the obedience of Moses, you delivered us from captivity
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.

Speaking through your prophets, you called us to account for our waywardness
and articulated your vision for the Kingdom of God on earth.

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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.
He was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets and was transfigured
so that his face shone like the sun as your voice called us to listen to him.
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.
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: Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here.
and on each person within reach of my voice.
Bless our offerings of bread and juice, that they may 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 Father, now and forever.

ALL: 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.*

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Then return to your seats via the side aisles.

If you’re unable to come forward, please raise your hand and communion will be brought to you.

*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.*

***Music During Communion W&S #3168: “Come to the Table of Grace”**

*Come to the table of grace; * Come to the table of grace; *
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine; Come to the table of grace!**

** peace; * love; * hope; * joy; * grace*

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2173: “Shine Jesus Shine”**

1) Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

2) Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood,
I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me,
consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land
with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire;
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations
with grace and mercy,
Send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light!

3) As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here,
may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. [Refrain]

***Benediction:**

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

One: Beloved, go now in the strength and power of what you have witnessed today, that having encountered God who leads us into transformation, we may grow in faith and find comfort in God’s presence as we serve God’s Kingdom in the world.

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

*** Postlude: “Festive Finale”**

by Phil Lehenbauer

First United Methodist Church

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Custodian..... Tina Castle
Organist Bryan Latimer
Director of Music & Chancel Choir Rod Bieber
Bell Choir Director Catherine McMichael
Nursery Supervisor..... Karissa Schultz
Audio Visual Technicians Andy Sharrow, Angie Smith, Izzy Terhune

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Judy O'Dell / Greeters: Bonnie Dole and Bill Johnson / Ushers: Bill Cowdry, Bill Johnson Jr, Dave O'Dell, Angie Smith / Communion Servers: Dave O'Dell and Judy Briggs / Coffee Hour: Bill, Xenny, & Keeli Johnson / Welcome Desk: Kathy Winkowski / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Dee Mills and Jacquie Matlock

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, ZoAnn Kraynak, Barb Kropp, Nancy Kozumplik, 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 LENTEN BOOK STUDY begins Tuesday, March 4. Books on sale at the Welcome Desk for \$15. In-Person book Study begins 3/4 at 6:00pm. The online book study will normally meet on Wednesdays but begins Tuesday 3/4 at 7:30pm to avoid Ash Wednesday worship on March 5.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP in the style of Taizé, this Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY DRIVE-THRU FOR ASHES under the portico, this Wednesday, March 5 from 11:30am-1:00pm. If you don't drive after dark, come through over lunch break for ashes and a brief time of prayer together.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL – WRITERS NEEDED – please consider submitting a short, written reflection for this year's Lenten Devotion. Reflections should be on the topics of forgiveness, grace, deepening one's faith, growing in faith, or experiencing God. Reflections due by Thursday, February 27, 2025. Artwork is welcome, too. Also, Kids reflections and artwork WELCOME!!!

THE ANNUAL TALENT SHOW has been **POSTPONED** due to weather until Sunday March 9 at 4:00pm. Plan to join us for choirs, solos, instrumentals, skits, and a sing-a-long!!!

REGISTER FOR ADVOCACY DAY 3/12/25 at <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/> or with Pastor Amy. See attached flyer for more information

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, donate them!

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, March 11 from 5:30-6:30pm. On the menu for March: Ed's Southwest Chicken. Clean-up help needed. Volunteer to work here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAFAC2BA0FD0-community/>.

THE BACKPACK PROGRAM for children struggling with food insecurity continues. Sponsor a child for \$150/year. Call the office (989-799-0131) or sign up to pack food and 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**

Michigan Conference U.M.C. Advocacy Day 2025

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

State Capital at Lansing, Michigan – 8:00am-2:00pm

This year's theme is **the crisis in care resulting from the 2019 auto no-fault insurance changes in Michigan**. Available care for survivors has become drastically reduced and is often unavailable. As a result, seriously injured Michiganders are being stripped of their inherent worth and dignity and even dying. Faith leaders have been asking state policymakers to resolve this humanitarian crisis, amplifying the concerns of medical professionals.

The legislation we will focus on would (1) **provide sustainable reimbursement rates for medical providers** and (2) **increase the number of hours that family caregivers can be reimbursed**. This is a bipartisan and moral issue. The facts are clear, but legislation to correct the 2019 laws has yet to pass. We believe bringing people of faith together will help raise awareness and get this done.



SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

7:30 AM Registration and refreshments
8:30 AM Welcome
9:30 – 11:30 AM Advocacy Activities
11:30 AM Press Conference
12:15 PM Lunch
1:00 PM Worship (with the Bishop)
Official events conclude after worship.
Capitol tours are optional at 2:30 and 3:00pm.
Sign-up is included in the registration form.

SCHEDULE LEADING UP TO THE EVENT

February 12 – 12:15-12:45 PM – Lunch and Learn:

Advocacy Day 2025 via the Michigan Conference's Facebook page.

February 24 – 7:00 PM – Training #1 via Zoom – **REQUIRED**

March 3 – 7:00 PM – Training #2 via Zoom – **REQUIRED**

March 12 – 7:30 AM – Advocacy Day in Lansing

March 17 – 7:00 PM – Debrief



Learn more here: <https://michiganumc.org/advocacy-day-2025/>

Read the launch article and REGISTER at: <https://michiganumc.org/register-now-for-advocacy-day/>

Cost for the event is a suggested donation of \$30.

You can register yourself online and pay the \$30 per person OR contact Pastor Amy at (989) 274-6363 and she can register you and pay the fee on the Church account.

Watch a video about the issue here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz3_z47Psb0

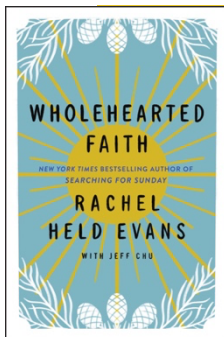
Note: These and many more information links are available on the advocacy day page listed above.

LENT 2025 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC



Drive-thru Ashes and Prayer
(under the front portico)
Wednesday, March 5, 2025
11:30am – 1:00pm

Ash Wednesday Worship
(in the style of Taizé)
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 – 7:00pm



Lenten Book Study – “Wholehearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu is a collection of essays woven together from a new book on wholeheartedness that Rachel was working on at the time of her tragic death, and some of her other unpublished writings, which asks candid questions about the stories we’ve been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.
In Person on Tuesdays at 6:00pm: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15
Online Wednesdays at 7:30pm: 3/4*, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16
*held on a Tuesday to avoid Ash Wednesday – Books are \$15 from the main office.

Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae Worship and Communion
Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 7:00pm
Soup Supper – 6:00pm



Good Friday Worship – Friday, April 18
12:00-12:30pm and 12:30-1:00pm
Come for one service or stay for both!
Sack lunches provided.

Easter Celebration Worship
Sunday, April 20 – 10:00am

