

# First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!  
March 23, 2025 - 10:00am - Third Sunday in Lent

## GATHERING AND PRAISE

**Prelude:** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" with "I Must Tell Jesus"

arr. James Southbridge

**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 W&S #3100:** "Jesus Paid It All" (see attached)

1) I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in me thine all in all."

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

2) Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power, and thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots, and  
Melt the heart of stone." [Refrain]

3) For nothing good have I  
Whereby thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments clean, in  
The blood of Calvary's Lamb. [Refrain]

4) And when, before the throne,  
I stand in him complete,  
"Jesus died my soul to save"  
My lips shall still repeat. [Refrain]

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

**The Unison Prayer of Confession:**

(Adapted from Rev. Mia M. McClain, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>.)

**God, we confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change and another opportunity to bear good fruit. In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to hurt and stifle the spirit, we are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you, O Lord, into this chance for transformation.**

**The Words of Assurance**

God's grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in change and transformation. God's everlasting arms embrace us. Each of us, in our essential personhood, is beloved, affirmed, set free, and empowered to be who God calls us to be. Thanks be to God!

\* 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 UMH #395:** “*Take Time to Be Holy*”

*Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;  
Abide in him always, and feed on his word.  
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,  
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.*

**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:** “*Take My Life*” (in the style of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto #2) *arr. Gail Smith*

**\*The Doxology**      **Praise God throughout these forty days;**      *Tune: UMH #95*  
**Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;**      *(old 100<sup>th</sup>)*  
**And praise the Spirit who imparts**  
**God's grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

**\*The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Faithful God, in this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. May these offerings bear fruit for your reign on earth. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

**Choral Anthem:** “*Come Unto Me and Wait*”

*by Herb Frombach and Mark Hayes*

**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 13:1-9

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 71

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down’.”

**Response to the Word**

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn UMH #395:** *“Take Time to Be Holy” (vs 2-4)*

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| <p>2) Take time to be holy,<br/>The world rushes on;<br/>Spend much time in secret<br/>With Jesus alone.<br/>By looking to Jesus,<br/>Like him thou shalt be;<br/>Thy friends in thy conduct<br/>His likeness shall see.</p> <p>3) Take time to be holy,<br/>Let him be thy guide,<br/>And run not before him,<br/>Whatever betide.</p> | <p>In joy or in sorrow,<br/>Still follow the Lord,<br/>And, looking to Jesus,<br/>Still trust in his word.</p> <p>4) Take time to be holy,<br/>Be calm in thy soul,<br/>Each thought and each motive<br/>Beneath his control.<br/>Thus, led by his Spirit<br/>To fountains of love,<br/>Thou soon shalt be fitted<br/>For service above.</p> |
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**The Sermon**

“LOOKING FOR FRUIT”

*Pastor Amy Terhune*

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

**\*Closing Hymn FWS #2162: “Grace Alone”**

1) Every promise we can make,  
Every prayer and step of faith,  
Every difference we will make  
    is only by his grace  
Every mountain we will climb,  
Every ray of hope we shine,  
Every blessing left behind  
    is only by his grace.  
Grace alone, which God supplies  
Strength unknown he will provide  
Christ is us, our cornerstone;  
We will go forth in grace alone.

2) Every soul we long to reach,  
Every heart we hope to teach,  
Everywhere we share his peace  
    is only by his grace.  
Every loving word we say,  
Every tear we wipe away  
Every sorrow turned to praise  
    is only by his grace.  
Grace alone, which God supplies  
Strength unknown he will provide  
Christ is us, our cornerstone;  
We will go forth in grace alone. (2X)

**\*Benediction:**

**One:** Beloved, may God bless you with hope and bolster your faith, that you may bear fruit, even in difficult circumstances, and may the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the enduring inspiration of the Holy Spirit sustain you as you go out in service.

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

**\* Postlude: “He’s Still Workin’ On Me”**

*by Joel Hemphill; arr. Bryan Latimer*

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<b><i>First United Methodist Church</i></b>	
<b>4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638-6242; (989) 799-0131; Fax (989) 799-4240</b>	
<b>e-mail: <a href="mailto:firstumsag@aol.com">firstumsag@aol.com</a> website: <a href="http://firstumcsaginaw.org">http://firstumcsaginaw.org</a></b>	
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 Supervisor .....	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: Cal Mott / Greeters: Judy Briggs and Belinda Hatch / Ushers: Bob Bula, Bonnie Dole, Pam Mott, Chuck Priem, / Coffee Hour: Carla Piazza-Wistehuff / Welcome Desk: Kathy Winkowski / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Angie Smith / Counters: Jan Talkington and Sue Myers

**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.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING** – Monday, March 24 at 7:00pm

**TRUSTEES MEETING** - Tuesday, March 25 at 7:15pm

**THE LENTEN BOOK STUDY** continues this week on in person on Tuesday 3/25 at 6pm and online on Wednesday 3/26 at 7:30pm. Please let Pastor Amy know if you still need a book.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL** – Watch your inbox Monday mornings for a devotional from your church family.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** for middle school students will not meet this week due to spring break. Class will resume Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30pm.

**SPRING BREAK FAMILY FUN NIGHT** – Thursday, March 27 from 6:00-7:30pm at Airborne Jump Park. SFUMC kids + 1 friend each jump free, but food/snacks are not provided by the church.

**SIGN UP** at the Welcome Desk to help with

- the Holy Thursday Soup Supper on April 17 at 5:45pm
- packing sack lunches for Good Friday on April 18 at 9:30am
- providing muffins for the Easter Breakfast on April 20 at 9:00am

**SING WITH THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK** even if you can't sing with the choir all year. Rehearsals are on Thursdays 4/3 and 4/10 from 7:00-8:00pm, and on Thursday 4/17 at 6:15pm.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, continue Tuesday, April 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**

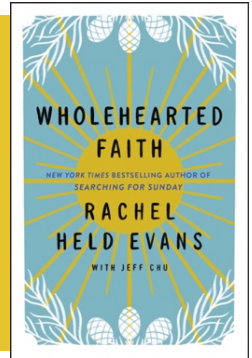
# LENT 2025 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC

**Lenten Book Study – “Wholehearted Faith” by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu** is a collection of essays woven together from a new book on whole-heartedness 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.



## Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 13 – 10:00am

Kid’s Club – 11:30am

Youth Adult Group – 6:00pm

## Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship and Communion

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 7:00pm

Soup Supper – 5:45pm

(choir members rehearse at 6:15pm)



## 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

Easter Breakfast – 9:00am



## Jesus Paid It All

1. I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small.  
 2. Lord, now in - deed I find thy power, and thine a - lone  
 3. For noth - ing good have I where - by thy grace to claim;  
 4. And when, be - fore the throne, I stand in him com - plete,

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Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."  
 Can change the lep - er's spots and melt the heart of stone.  
 I'll wash my gar - ments clean in the blood of Cal - vary's Lamb.  
 "Je - sus died my soul to save," my lips shall still re - peat.

9 *Refrain*

Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;

13

sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.