

First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We are a Congregation devoted to loving the whole city and loving the city whole!
March 30, 2025 - 10:00am - Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Prelude: “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling”

by Will L. Thompson; arr. Raymond H. Haan

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 UMH #340:** “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”

1) Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love, and power.

True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)

Refrain: I will arise and go to Jesus;
He will embrace me with his arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

3) Come ye weary, heavy laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better,
You will never come at all. (Refrain)

2) Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;

4) Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness he requireth
Is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

The Unison Prayer of Confession:

(Adapted from Ann Siddall, in “Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C”, and later posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/prayer-prodigal-son.html>.)

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to you. Forgive us for chasing too often after an imaginary life, and instead, help us find satisfaction in our real lives. Set us free from the illusion that we cannot make a difference, and instead, empower us with a sense of responsibility and compassion for those who are hurting. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice your arms open to receive us, through Jesus Christ, who longs to welcome us home into His Kingdom. Amen.

The Words of Assurance

Beloved, the mercies of God are from everlasting to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, receive the grace of God that is beyond our efforts and despite our failures. For out of divine goodness, the gift of God is forgiveness of sin and the promise of new life. Thanks be to God. 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 #2108: “O How He Loves You and Me”

Oh, how He loves you and me; Oh how He loves you and me.

He gave his life, what more could he give?

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.

What He did there brought hope from despair.

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.

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: “Homeward Bound”

by Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel; arr. Bryan Latimer

***The Doxology**

**Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God’s grace and love to human hearts. Amen.**

*Tune: UMH #95
(old 100th)*

***The Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Gracious God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your embrace and live in the light of your grace. As we observe this holy season of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Special Music:

*“The Goodness of God”
Kathy Jimenez, Soloist*

by Jenn Johnson

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 15:11-20a

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 73-74

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father.

Hymn UMH #383: “*This Is a Day of New Beginnings*” (vs. 1, 3-4)

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| 1) This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone. | Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find. |
| 3) Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind | 4) Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new. |

Scripture Lesson:

Luke 15:20b-32

Pew Bible N.T. pg. 73-74

²⁰ But while the young man was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

WE GO AS WITNESSES FOR CHRIST IN THE WORLD

***Closing Hymn FWS #2218: “You Are Mine”**

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|---|--|
| <p>1) I will come to you in the silence;
I will lift you from all your fear;
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice,
Be still, and know I am near.</p> <p>2) I am hope for all who are hopeless;
I am eyes for all who long to see;
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light;
Come and rest in me. (Refrain)</p> | <p>3) I am strength for all the despairing;
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame;
All the blind will see,
The lame will all run free,
And all will know my name (Refrain)</p> <p>4) I am the Word that leads all to freedom;
I am the peace the world cannot give;
I will call your name,
Embracing all your pain;
Stand up, now, walk, and live. (Refrain)</p> |
|---|--|

Refrain: Do not be afraid, I am with you; I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine!

***Benediction:**

(written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, for Lent 2025)

One: Beloved, May God’s grace go ahead of you, trail behind you, and encircle you each and every moment, that with every move you make, you would know with absolute assurance that God’s steadfast love will never leave you alone.

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

*** Postlude: Toccata on “Amazing Grace”**

from Virginia Harmony; arr. Christopher Pardini

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<i>First United Methodist Church</i>	
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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
Lyrics Reproduced in Bulletin by permission: CCLI#1003593.	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS: Thank you for your service!! Liturgist: Bill Cowdry / Greeters: Cheryl Clauss and Betty Jo Cloud / Ushers: Kevin Malotka, Bob Bula, Dr. Lou Constan, Joe & Nancy Kozumplik, / Coffee Hour: Jackie Matlock and Dee Mills / Welcome Desk: Jan Tolley / Nursery: Karissa Schultz / Sound System: Izzy Terhune / Counters: Kevin Malotka and Dina Draper

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, 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.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Dr. Kirk Herrick, who passed away 3/27/25, and also to Sharon Ketcham & Ron Frazier on the death of Sharon's sister Diana Feltner on 3/7/25.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING – Monday, March 31 at 7:00pm

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 meet Wednesday, April 2 at 6:30pm.

UNDERWEAR DRIVE – Rebecca Circle Women's fellowship is collecting NEW packages of underwear for Men, Women, Boys, and Girls for the Clothing/Food Pantry at New Heart Church. Please donate by Tuesday, April 15. Thank you so much

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 2nd 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: **saginawfume**

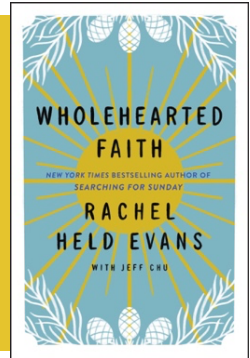
LENT 2025 at SAGINAW FIRST UMC

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





ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Saginaw First United Methodist Church

You can also order online at: <https://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/order-easter-flowers/>

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

Easter flowers are available to order until Monday, April 7, 2025. We regret that costs have risen and plants now cost \$25 each. Please note: we cannot guarantee colors. However, you are welcome to write a preference below if you have one and we'll do our best to honor it. Alternatively, you are welcome to purchase your own flowers and bring them on Good Friday 4/18 between 9am-1pm or on Saturday 4/19 between 1pm-5pm. If you want to order through the church, please fill in below how many of each plant you'd like to order:

I would like to order _____ Easter Lily(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Tulip(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Daffodil(s) at \$25 each. _____

I would like to order _____ Hyacinth(s) at \$25 each. _____

I will bring in my own flowers (on Friday 4/18 between 9am-1pm or Saturday 4/19 between 1-5pm) _____

Flowers in Memory of: _____

OR

Flowers in Honor of: _____

Please submit payment to Saginaw First UMC, 4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638; or place in Offering Plate at worship. Note "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or envelope.

Call the church office at (989)799-0131 if you have questions.