



*saginaw umc*

# Focus Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 3 March 2023

*Faith Opportunity Christ Unity Service*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, March 20

- Endowment Committee Meeting 7 pm

### Tuesday, March 21

- Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm

### Tuesday, March 28

- SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm

### Sunday, April 2

- Palm Sunday

### Friday, April 7

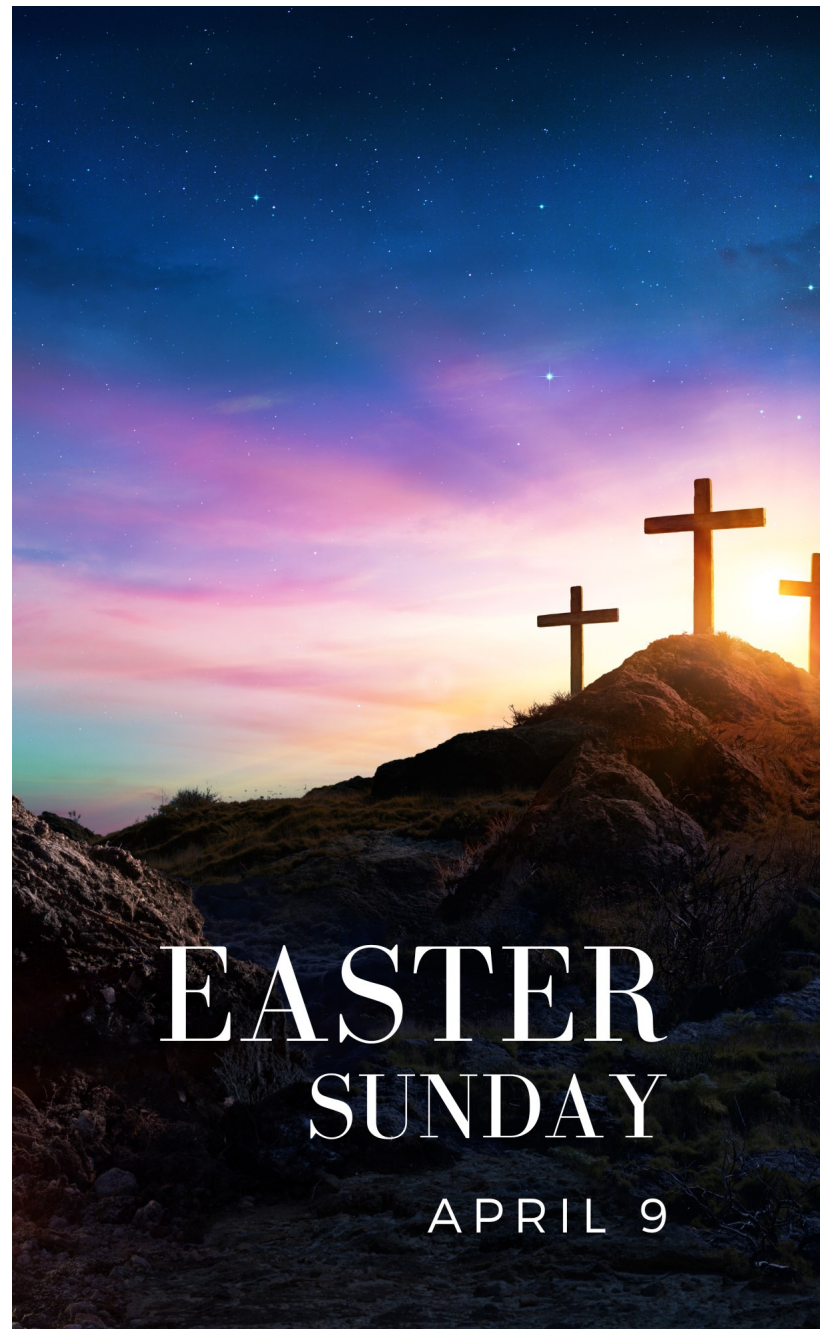
- Good Friday Service 7 pm

### Saturday, April 8

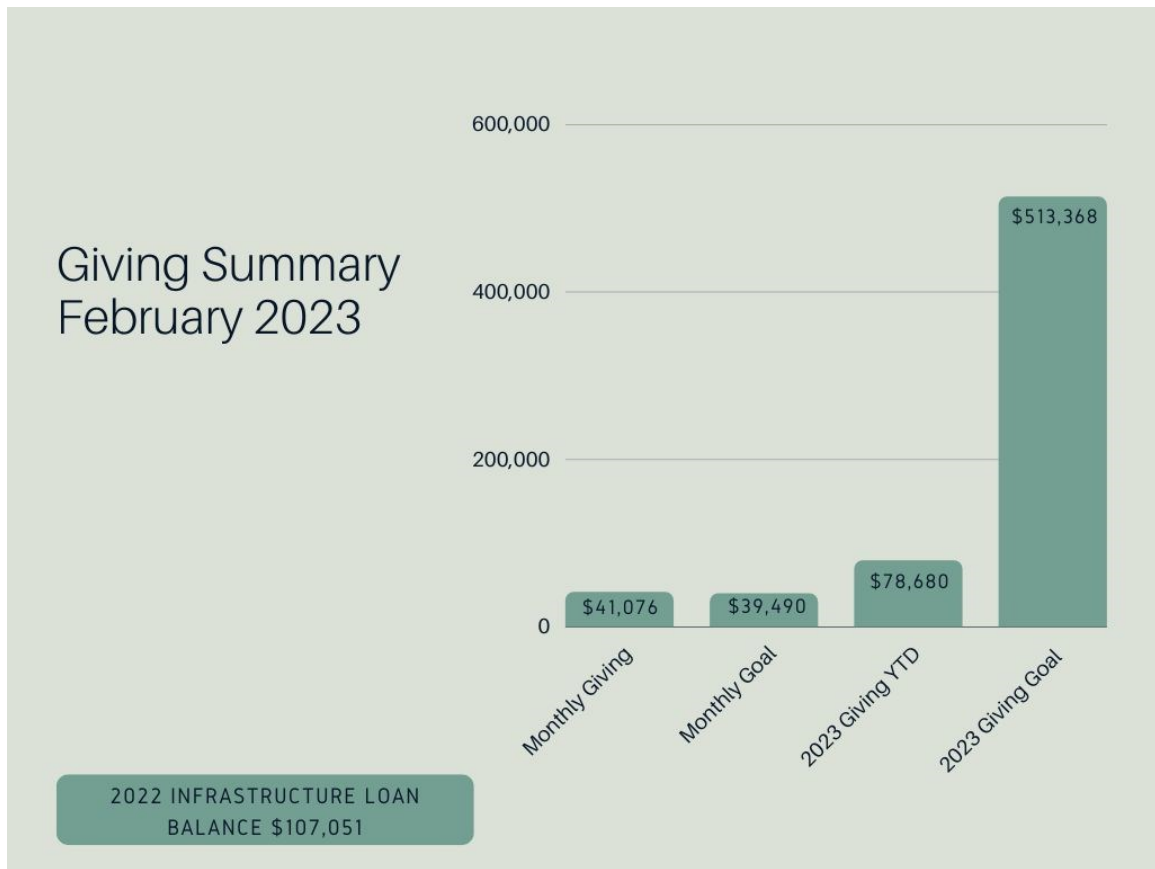
- Methodist Men Breakfast 8 am
- Easter Egg Hunt 10 am - 12 pm

### Sunday, April 9

- Easter Sunday



# Announcements





# Connection Opportunities

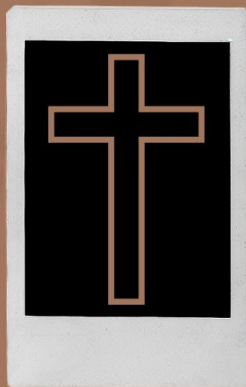
## Lent Study Series: "Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws"



Register Online

[saginawumc.org](http://saginawumc.org)

A Guided study through the Gospel of Luke  
Starting Wednesday, February 22nd at Noon



### WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAYS

YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY  
AT 5:30PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM UPSTAIRS

CONTACT MICHELLE BURKHOLDER FOR MORE INFO:  
[MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG](mailto:MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG)



### SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

MEETING EVERY SUNDAY  
NIGHT FROM 5-7PM  
UPSTAIRS IN THE YOUTH  
ROOM

CONTACT YOUTH MINISTER:  
[MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG](mailto:MICHELLE@SAGINAWUMC.ORG)





Welcome to what appears to be Spring on most days and a time of exciting activities for the children at SUMC. I'm looking forward to being a part of these events and hoping many can join us along with bringing a friend or two. If you have questions about any of these events or need any information please contact Sandra Young at [children@saginawumc.org](mailto:children@saginawumc.org) or call the church office at 817-232-0390.

**March** - Currently we are accepting donations through the month of March in the church office or fellowship hall for individually wrapped candy to fill the Easter eggs. It is a little tricky to find but we ask that it please not be chocolate to avoid melting. I found a few Easter bags and there are even some in the regular candy section. Thank you so much.

**April 2** is Palm Sunday and the children and youth are invited to take part in the parade of palms at the 11:00 worship service.

**April 7** there will be Good Friday service at 7:00 pm with childcare provided in the Nursery as well as a children's class for ages 3 - 9.

**April 8** is the church Easter Egg Hunt from 10am – 12pm. There are three age group hunts. The youngest children will begin at 10am. Please bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends and even people with children that you just met to this event. We will need volunteers in many areas and a sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall near the candy donation bin. There are also sign-up sheets in adult Sunday school classes. I can't wait to see the Easter Bunny and all of you!

**April 9** is Easter Sunday. A day of celebration and joy. He is Risen. The children will have some special things to do in Sunday school together.

We are expanding! Would you like to be a part of helping us begin a new class for our children? We are looking forward to beginning a new Sunday school class for students in upper elementary grades. As soon as we have the teachers and helpers, we will be able to provide this class during Sunday school. Please contact Sandra for more information about being a part of this new beginning for our students.



## Prayer Partners

I am looking for prayer partners for our children's ministry. Prayer is the greatest power tool we have! I know we are all looking forward to seeing the way God will work in blessing us as we go to him with our prayers for the children's ministry.

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands.”

Psalms 90: 17

Many Blessings

Sandra Young





# A word from Pastor Ramon Smith



## Visioning Together

I hope all is well with you and your loved ones. This article aims to improve the flow of information across ministry areas so that we carry out the mission. The mission is to make (cultivate) the disciples of Jesus Christ for transforming the world (Northwest Tarrant County). All that we do should align with the mission. So, what is a disciple? A disciple is a learner and follower of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to help people love and live like Jesus.

## Who are we?

From my perspective, our church is a loving and welcoming community of faith. Our congregation trends 55 and older (empty nesters). We also have a small, committed core of young families. We are a mixture of longtime Saginaw residents and transplants. We are composed primarily of people from the following career paths:

- Educators (Teachers and Administrators)
- Business Leaders
- Railroad Workers
- Healthcare Professionals
- Engineers
- Government workers
- Other professions

We must also consider whether we are in a survival or growth phase. From 2012 to 2019, Saginaw UMC was in a growth phase, but due to the loss of key staff members and the pandemic Saginaw, like many churches, entered a survival phase. On the other hand, the community around us is in a growth phase, increasing by 30,000 people in the next five years. We are not on a mission to save the church but on a God-given mission to make disciples. Following God's command will lead to

prosperity and fruitfulness. After prayerful discernment, we must decide what the next year and a half to five years will look like: growth or survival. If we choose growth, it will require more of us, but God is faithful. The founding members of Saginaw United Methodist Church left a legacy that we are the beneficiaries of. What will our legacy be and how will we bless future generations through our actions over the next year and half to five years.

Given the mission field and Saginaw United Methodist members' spiritual gifts, talents, acquired skills, and experiences, what is God's preferred vision for Saginaw United Methodist Church?

We define a vision as "what fruitfulness or success would look like by the end of 2023". I need your input to include your voices in the visioning process. Please remember that our vision should be aligned with the church's mission, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (the 3 to 5-mile area around our homes and church). How do we grow, care, and nurture the church membership and reach new people in our community? We must do both effectively. Please go fill out a survey on the church website ([www.saginawumc.org](http://www.saginawumc.org)) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



A few things to consider following opportunities given the acquired skills of our congregation:

Given the number of music educators in our congregation, this may give us an opportunity for some community music outreach/mentoring

Given the number of educators overall, we can put those gifts to use to have the best Christian education program in the five-mile radius of our church.

Given the number of business leaders in our congregation, we should explore partnering with the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce to see how we can support the development of local small business owners.

Blessings and Peace,  
Ramon F. Smith, Pastor

# Ten Days of Intentional Acts of Kindness

Let's make a big impact on our community through intentional acts of kindness. The following is a suggested list of people or groups we can show kindness towards during our ten days of Intentional Acts of Kindness (March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>). Additionally, we have provided suggestions for acts of kindness. Consider doing some of these acts with a group or Sunday School class. Please remember to include a kindness card with your acts of kindness. Lastly, we would love to hear your stories about how your small act made a big impact. The form can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/bhjdyfwn>

## **Saginaw Fire Department Station 1**

Address: 400 US-287 BUS, Saginaw, TX 76179

Phone: (817) 230-0403

## **Saginaw Fire Department Station 2**

Address: 801 Basswood Blvd.

Saginaw, Texas 76131

## **Fort Worth Fire Department Station 40**

Address: 8510 Spring St, Fort Worth, TX 76179

## **Saginaw Police Department**

Address: 505 W McLeroy Blvd, Saginaw, TX 76179

Phone: (817) 232-0311

## **The Lodge Nursing Assisted Living Staff**

Address: 848 West McLeroy, Saginaw, TX 76179

Phone: 682-900-1210

## **Saginaw Elementary School Lunch Workers and Custodians**

Address: 301 W McLeroy Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76179

Phone: (817) 232-0631

## **Little Blessings Parents**

## **New Neighbors**

## **Estranged loved one or old friend**

## **Unchurched people**

## **Free or low cost:**

Thank you cards or handwritten thank you notes

Invitation to come to Church

Reconnecting with an old friend or a family member

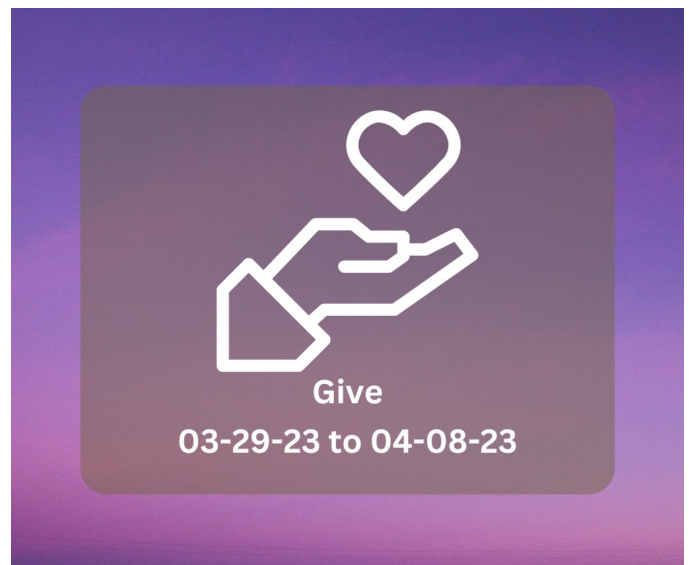
Bags of candy

## **Other ideas:**

Order Pizza for Firehouse or Police Station

Baskets with snacks (chips, candy bars, jerky, popcorn, etc.)

Cases of Gatorade, Powerade, or Water





# Announcements

HOP ON OVER AND JOIN US  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

# Easter egg hunt



**10:00AM-  
12:00PM**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**AGE  
GROUP  
EGG HUNTS**

**FOOD  
MUSIC  
GAMES  
PRIZES  
PHOTOS  
&MORE!**

**SAGINAW  
UMC**

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**209  
BLUEBONNET ST.  
SAGINAW, TX  
76179**



[saginawumc.org](http://saginawumc.org)



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH

### Youth Spring Retreat

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while.’” Mark 6:31*

In our very busy, often jam-packed schedules, it is sometimes hard to find rest. Especially for our youth! Between exams and schoolwork, and all of the number of extra-curricular activities our youth are engaged in, there leaves little if no time to just sit and rest/relax.

Enter the creation of our Youth Spring Retreat. Three years ago, we decided to create a weekend where youth could unplug and spend time outdoors with each other, playing, hiking, resting, reading...whatever was needed for them to find some rest from their crazy schedules. One of the best parts of the weekend is that it is created and designed by THEM...the youth!

We are so excited to announce that we will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Youth Spring Retreat in April! This year we will be heading to Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose, Texas. Glen Lake Camp has been host to numerous events/camps for youth, adults and families over the years. This year, Glen Lake has offered the opportunity for youth groups to host their own retreats, so we jumped on the opportunity and booked our weekend.

Spring Retreat 2023 will be the weekend of April 28-30. The retreat is for youth in grades 7-12. Cost is only \$100/youth and \$75 for adults (members of the same family will receive a 50% discount for each additional participant). Cost covers lodging for 2 nights, all meals, snacks, drinks, retreat t-shirt and any additional materials/supplies needed.

Contact Michelle Burkholder, Director of Youth Ministries ([michelle@saginawumc.org](mailto:michelle@saginawumc.org)), to save a spot for your youth today! Deadline to register is April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Youth Sunday School

Youth will continue their journey through the Gospel of John through the month of March. Each week we are learning about the various encounters Jesus had with people around Him. We discuss the impact that encounter had not only on their lives, but how it affects and impacts our lives today!

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join us each Sunday morning at 9:45am up in the youth room for great discussions and an occasional donut!



## Sunday Night Youth

*Each Sunday during Lent and leading up to Easter, we will start off Sunday Night Youth with a short Lenten devotional! We will be using our very own "Saginaw UMC Lenten Devotional" written and illustrated by our church family!*

## SNY Activities - March

- **Mar 19** - Movie Night
- **Mar 26** - Open-game night & Retreat planning (all youth interested in helping with the planning of our Spring Retreat, please join us!!)

SNY activities are each Sunday night from 5:00-7:00pm up in the youth room. Youth in grades 7-12 are always invited to join us. It's a great night of food, fun, and fellowship!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Mar 25** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Electronics Collection event 9:00am-noon. We will be collecting donated items at the Outreach Bldg garage. Please contact Michelle Burkholder ([michelle@saginawumc.org](mailto:michelle@saginawumc.org)) or Shirley Stephens ([ss4541@swbell.net](mailto:ss4541@swbell.net)) if you have questions or need more information.

- **Apr 16** - Spring Retreat Meeting @ 4:00! All youth participants (and parents) & adult volunteers please try and attend! Important information regarding our retreat will be shared.
- **Apr 28-30** - Youth Spring Retreat @ Glen Lake Camp!
- **Jul 10-14** - Youth Mission Week!!

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

**Computers**  
**LCD Monitors**  
**Cameras**  
**Office Equipment**  
**Video Games**  
**Gaming Systems**  
**Printers**  
**Sports Equipment**  
**Power Tools**  
**Vacuum cleaners**  
**Cell phones**  
**DVD's/Music CD's**  
**And much more!**  
**(\*\*no tube/box televisions)**



**SUPPORT  
SUMC YOUTH  
&  
SISTERHOOD  
MINISTRIES**

**WHILE ALSO  
HELPING  
THE  
ENVIRONMENT!!**

Items may be in any condition – damaged, non-working or fully operational

### **COLLECTION DATES & TIMES:**

*Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (9:00-noon)*  
*Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> (9:00-noon)*  
*Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (9:00am-noon)*  
*Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> (\*pick-up 9:00am-noon)*

***FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:***  
*Michelle Burkholder ([michelle@saginawumc.org](mailto:michelle@saginawumc.org))*  
**OR**  
*Shirley Stephens ([ss4541@swbell.net](mailto:ss4541@swbell.net))*



# UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men met for their monthly breakfast meeting Saturday, March 11. The kitchen crew worked like a finely trained orchestra with Ray on eggs, Ken on gravy, Bob on biscuits, Lenny on bacon, and Tom on coffee. Breakfast was great.



After breakfast and a list of business matters, the group went to work on 2 projects: 1) Cut back the tree limbs on trees in the Prayer Garden that were snagging and ripping the flags and 2) cut down all of the trees growing through the fence and up into the wires on the north-south fence on Anderson Street. The trees were cut and limbs piled up on the curb for hauling away. Lots of hard work, but greatly appreciated. Thank you to Ken Sipll, Dave White, Jerry Cartwright, Dale Pontius, Ray Jordan, Dave Weaver, David Ranney, Orlando Martinez, Lenny Moore, Jerry Avery, Tom Griffith, Mike Momper, Bob Pressler, Mark Repogle, and Don King.





### Community Link

The Sisterhood will continue to support Community Link's effort to end hunger in our community in 2023. Our next collection date is **Saturday, April 1**. We always appreciate your commitment and generosity to others. They are always in need of shelf stable items such as peanut butter, crackers, jelly, canned vegetables and fruit, rice, beans, instant potatoes, pasta, ramen noodles, spaghetti sauce, flour, and sugar. Household items and hygiene products are always appreciated as well; such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, laundry detergent and fabric softeners, and toilet paper. Dates for the rest of the year are May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, with more dates to be announced.

### Ladies Day Out

The LDO group has arranged a guided tour of the Eules Heritage Museum on **Saturday, April 15**. The museum includes 4 buildings and hundred of historical artifacts dating back to the 1880s. The complex features the first brick house in Eules, a log house built in the 1850s, and a barn made of lumber from Camp Bowie after World War I. There is no charge for the tour. We will leave the church at 11 am, stop for lunch, and take the tour. For more information, contact Phyllis Rainone at 817-313-0116.

### Save the Date!

We will be touring the famous "Top O'Hill Terrace" in Arlington on **Saturday, June 24th**. Originally built as a tearoom and restaurant, the "Top O'Hill" gained notoriety when it was sold and turned into an illegal gambling establishment. Escape tunnels and secret rooms were added to hide the gambling paraphernalia during raids. The tearoom and restaurant, both legitimate businesses, operated beside the casino, as well as a brothel. Years later the casino would be raided and shut down. It was later purchased by the Bible Baptist Seminary and operates today as the Arlington Baptist Seminary. Tickets are \$10 each and spots are limited! The tour is scheduled for 1 pm. It is a 2 hour tour so we will meet earlier for lunch prior to the tour. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Stephens at 817-683-5289.

# Newsletter Spotlight: Church Leadership 101

In January the church held a leadership training event and the leadership for 2023 was installed during both worship services on January 22. If you are new to the church, or just interested in knowing more about how it runs, this series of newsletter articles are especially for you. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee hopes to inform and educate the congregation, and perhaps spark interest in your participation in an area of the church that especially speaks to your gifts and talents.

## **What is the Administrative Council?**

The Administrative Council is the primary administrative body of the local church which oversees management and programming. According to the Discipline of the UMC, it should meet at least quarterly and should represent a broad spectrum of the congregation. Meetings are open to anyone to attend and give voice; however, only those who are members of the council may vote. Most members of this council are a result of their position on one of the church's committees.

Other tasks include filling vacancies in positions between meetings of the Charge Conference, approving the church budget, and making recommendations for the compensation, benefits and housing the pastor(s) and other church staff. It works in cooperation with the other committees of the church, particularly those required by the Book of Discipline: Staff-Pastor Parish Relation, Trustees, Finance and Nominations and Leadership Development.

Current members of the Administrative Council are: Chair, Rosa Jordan; Vice Chair, Don King; Lay Leaders, Ray & Juanita Jordan; Discernment, Ron Mayo; Trustees, Ken Sippl; Annual Conference Reps, Belia Thompson & Jean James; Alt. AC Rep, Sam Thompson; SPR, Sandy Thompson; Finance, Dale Pontius; Treasurer, Diane Weaver; Stewardship, Dr. Tim Kret & Michael Graham, Recording Secretary & Saginaw Water Project, Karen Sutton; Youth Rep., Brie Kilgore; At large, Stephanie Morgan.

## **What does a Lay Leader Do?**

That is a very good question! People say I don't want to be a Lay Leader, it is a lot of work and responsibility. Some of the regular duties of a Lay Leader include meeting with the Pastor regularly, being a member of most church committees, listen to concerns about the church and congregation, and being the bridge between clergy and the congregation. Their work touches the entire congregation, pastor, and church. It is absolutely work and responsibility, but being a Lay Leader is much more than that. They are a way that God can work through all of these entities. They represent the laity in the congregation and support the needs of the community. Lay Leaders are aware of programs, projects, and training occurring in the church and they encourage and support future leadership for members. They are there to listen to concerns and outcomes, as well as ideas that may improve the church. Lay Leaders are available to talk with you and help in any way they can. While being a Lay Leader does have a lot of responsibilities, we are always here for you.

Ray & Juanita Jordan

2023 Lay Leaders



# Connection Opportunities

*Women of Grace*



Now studying *The Seed of a Woman* by Nana Dolce

Contact Janet Page or Susie Rhoades for more information

**MEN'S BIBLE  
STUDY**

TUESDAYS AT 7 PM IN C1



**Join the Quilters  
Group**

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN THE QUILTERS  
BUILDING

*Samaritans*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C1

*Sunday After*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CLASS  
SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM IN C5



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#### Focus Newsletter Schedule

The Focus Newsletter a monthly publication of Saginaw United Methodist Church. The next publication will be on April 11 with submissions due to [office@saginawumc.org](mailto:office@saginawumc.org) by April 4. Visit [saginawumc.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/](http://saginawumc.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/) to sign up to receive the newsletter by email and to receive special e-news blasts.



[Facebook.com/saginawumc](https://www.facebook.com/saginawumc)

Sunday Morning Worship in person and online 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Office Hours Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[www.saginawumc.org](http://www.saginawumc.org)

**817.232.0390**