

FIRST READING Isaiah 12:2-6

Philip Van Orman

***OPENING HYMN** *The King of Glory Comes*

#2091 (FWS)

During the singing of the opening hymn, the children are invited to join Ms. Julia at the back of the sanctuary to help bring in the light of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Julia Librizzi

The candle of this third week of Advent is a candle of joy. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us. Jesus said "Until now, you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

Advent Song (refrain)

#2090 (FWS-black hymnal)

**Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night,
Candle, candle, burning bring, fill our hearts with Christmas Light.**

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE
AND PASSING THE PEACE**

Deb Search Willoughby

HANDBELL ANTHEM *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Cathy Moklebus

***SECOND READING** Luke 3:7-18

Kathy Braginton

This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Julie Kline

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to use the paper heart you received at the door to write a prayer of your heart. Please come forward and place it in the manger during the singing of the prayer refrain. If you do not want your prayer to be read aloud, please place your prayer in the manger after worship.

PRAYER REFRAIN *Make of My Heart a Stable*

**Make of our church a stable,
A house for the holy,
A warm and sturdy place
For joy to live and grow.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/God, 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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG *Nobody*

Emily Shackelton, Matt Rogers, Zach Abend

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Vickie Winfield

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you.
All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a
token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice, and comfort to all
the world. Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN** *Down by the Jordan*

Down by the Jor - dan, a pro - phet named John was bap -
There by the riv - er, the crowd came with great ex - pec -
Here in the Church, we are bap - tized and filled with God's
tiz - ing, preach - ing a mes - sage the peo - ple found
ta - tion: "Are you God's Cho - sen One, sent here to
Spir - it. Freed and for - giv - en we're wel - comed with
bold and sur - pris - ing. "God will for - give! Show that you'll
res - cue our na - tion?" "No!" John re - plied. He who is
joy! Can you hear it? This is God's sign! This is how
change how you live! Sure - ly God's new day is ris - ing!"
might - ier than I judg - es and of - fers sal - va - tion."
God says, "You're mine!" Let's take the good news and share it.

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***BLESSING**

One: Christ our God, we give you our homage, we give you what we can—
we give our hearts, a warm and sturdy place for your light to live and grow.

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.

One: We ask you to fill our hearts with Christmas light
as we go from this place, crying Alleluia.

All: Alleluia, Lord most high!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 12

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
11:00 a.m. The First Christmas - Parlor
11:00 a.m. Sunday School Teachers Meeting
2:00 p.m. Charge Conference
3:00 p.m. Heritage Community Worship - The Bistro
4:00 p.m. Bronson Place Worship - The Fountains Auditorium
5:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center
6:30 p.m. Friendship Village Worship - KIVA

Monday, December 13

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
11:30 a.m. Prayer Group
1:00 p.m. Building and Grounds
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Movement
7:00 p.m. Dream Team

Tuesday, December 14

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. All Staff Meeting - Zoom
4:15 p.m. First Beats
7:00 p.m. SPRC

Wednesday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Yoga - Zoom
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Parlor
10:30 a.m. HON Team - Zoom
12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry - Curbside Only
6:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

Thursday, December 16

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
9:30 a.m. Office Team Meeting - Zoom
12:00 p.m. Advent Concert Series - Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Team
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir - Choir Room
7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers

Friday, December 17

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall

Saturday, December 18

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service
2:00 p.m. Children's Program Rehearsal

**We are a Reconciling
Congregation, welcoming all.**

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with *open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 19, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship

Children's Program

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

A Room With A View (Love)

Rev. Matt Weiler

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46-55

December 26, 2021

Worship at Home

First Sunday of Christmas:

Dwelling

Colossians 3:12-17

We're glad you are our guest today!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center.

Child care is provided on the second floor for infants through 3-year-olds with fully vaccinated and masked staff.

Worship activities for children can be found on a cart outside the side sanctuary doors.

LARGE print Bibles and Hymnals are available at the Park Street entrance.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.

Today's service is being livestreamed and recorded.

You can request a free copy of the DVD from the office. You can find previous worship services on our website: <http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>.

You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

Clergy & Directors

Rev. Julie Kline

Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler

Pastor of Community Formation

Jacqueline Stilger

Director of Music

Julia Librizzi

Director of Children and Families Ministries

Thom Victor

Director of Congregational Care

Ruth LaMachia

Director of Business Administration

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Phil Van Orman, Deb Search Willoughby, Kathy Braginton

Director of Music **Organist** **Vocalist**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk Carly Braginton

Clarinetist **Bassist** **Percussionist**

Karla Evens Chris Haber Ethan Bausma

Lantern Carrier: Carolyn Librizzi

Lead AV Tech: Casey Curran

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us for Christmas Eve Worship!

4:00 Children and Family Worship

7:00 Lessons and Carols

9:00 Carols and Communion

11:00 "Silent Night" on the steps

Sunday School Meeting. The Children's Sunday School hour is set to return in the new year and we are seeking folks who are interested in helping our young children grow in faith each Sunday morning. If you are interested, please join the meeting after worship today in the Arches on the second floor. Materials, training and support will be provided. Contact Julia with questions at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

The First Christmas. In their book, *The First Christmas*, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan invite us to re-read the familiar nativity stories in the gospels of Matthew and Luke with fresh eyes in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. While some might find their conclusions challenging, they show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more inspiring than most people imagine. John Clark will lead this class in the Parlor and on Zoom.

Prayer & Body Movement: Exploring Comfort & Discomfort. Monday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. in the chapel. This time of movement and prayer will use simple prayer postures that are accessible to all bodies. We will then move into some simple yoga postures. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one, if not we have extras. This class is for all. It is not limited by gender, race, sexuality, age, or class. Prayer is a yearning of the soul. Let us move, pray, and open ourselves to reconciliation.

Advent Concert Series. Join us this Thursday, Dec. 16, at noon in the sanctuary for our annual Advent concert series. In our final concert this year, we welcome the Bill Cessna Jazz Piano Trio. Freewill offerings will be gratefully accepted, but admission for all Advent concert events is free.

Phone Ministry Project. The need for cell phones is overwhelming. This program hopes to provide another 100 phones. Donations of any amount would help. You can either mail a check to the church with 'HON Phone Ministry Project' in the memo line or donate online at the church website (www.umc-kzo.org). Look for Online Giving.

Kalamazoo Community Chorale, led by our Director of Music, Jacqueline Stilger, present a concert, "Simple Pleasures: Singing Together at Christmas" 4:00 TONIGHT, at Zion Lutheran Church. Freewill offering.

Advent Labyrinth: A Prayer Practice. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday or any weekday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Please **be careful about** spacing and keep your mask on. This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes to preserve the fabric of the labyrinth. and can take 10-20 minutes to walk depending on your pace. There are also prayer stations set up outside the four corners of the labyrinth you may use to enhance your time of prayer and contemplation.

New Year's Fest. Plans are well under way. We will have events in the Sanctuary and Wesley Hall and are seeking volunteers to help throughout the evening. A shift is 2 hrs but flexible with your schedule. Everyone who volunteers will receive a pass to attend other shows around the park. Sign up in the Perks area on Sundays or email Sharon and Dan Bunker, djbunker@charter.net.

Contemplative Prayer. Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the chapel. The Desert Ammas and Abbas were people of color from the Middle East who are known as some of the first Christian contemplatives. Each week we will spend time in a prayer practice as a way to resist dominant culture's demands. This series concludes with Taize' contemplative worship with song and liturgy.

Healthy Habits of Hospitality.

- Wear masks while in the church building.
- Please wear a name tag.
- Introduce yourself freely.
- Greet safely



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**

(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

December 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)



GATHERING MUSIC & CHIME

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Kingsfold"

Bradley Sowash

WE OPEN THE DOOR

Rev. Julie Kline

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v. 1, solo

Today we offer the Light of Joy to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Joy awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There is room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

**God of gods, our true salvation, Adonai, our strength and shield,
Song of joy from harps eternal, sheaves of joy from sorrow's field —
Thanks and praise to you, our source of love,
For the lives your life has healed.**

* Please rise in body or in spirit