

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light these candles to remind us that Jesus is always with us.

Julia Librizzi

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Through the peace of Christ)*

Trusting God’s love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of you, each other and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As children of the Holy One, God forgives you and loves you eternally. By the power of God’s spirit, forgive yourself and forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven you.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As we have been reconciled with God through the forgiveness of sins, let us now share the peace of Christ with one another.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #229** (UMH-red hymnal) *Infant Holy*

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV

MESSAGE *The Risk of Incarnation*

Rev. Matt Weiler

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Matt Weiler

***DOXOLOGY** *Bleak Midwinter vs. 4*

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air, but only his mother, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING 2257 FWS *(praying together on the bold text)*

Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our joy, Creator God, to give you thanks and praise.

For in the beginning you created the heavens and the earth.

Out of darkness and chaos, you brought light and order.

You have given life to every living thing and made us in your image, male and female.

Even when we turned away from you, loving darkness rather than light, you did not turn away from us. You sent prophets to show us the way.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

In the fullness of time you sent your Son to be Emmanuel, God with us.

At his birth, the night sky lit up with heavenly host and a guiding star.

Shepherds and magi found their way to you. Women and children, tax collectors and lepers continued to find their way to you. The darkness of Gethsemane, the cross and the grave could not overcome you; for you are the light of the world, shining still.

And so with the angels and the saints and all creation we sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of goodness and life, 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.

On the night before he died for us our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, Drink this all of you. This is my blood poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Matt Weiler

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(praying together)*

Our God/Mother/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.

RECEIVING THE EUCHARIST

Please come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and cup. After you have received, place your cup in the basket on the side of the sanctuary and return to your seat by way of the side aisles. Gluten free bread is available at all stations.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

OUR SHARED LIFE

Julia Librizzi

***CLOSING HYMN #254** (UMH-red hymnal) *We Three Kings*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Matt Weiler

POSTLUDE

*Prayer of Confession and Great Thanksgiving from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1
Kimberly Bracken Long*

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, January 2

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Heritage Community Worship - The Bistro
4:00 p.m. Bronson Place Worship - The Fountains Auditorium
6:00 p.m. Youth Tribe - Youth Lounge
6:30 p.m. Friendship Village Worship - KIVA

Monday, January 3

No events scheduled

Tuesday, January 4

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. Clergy & Directors Meeting - Zoom
7:00 p.m. SPRC - Zoom

Wednesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Zoom
12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry - Curbside Only
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Lounge

Thursday, January 6

9:30 a.m. First Stitches - Fellowship Room
9:30 a.m. Office Team Meeting - Zoom
1:00 p.m. Leadership Team - Zoom
1:00 p.m. Security Measures Team - Zoom

Friday, January 7

No events scheduled

Saturday, January 8

No events scheduled

**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

January 9, 2022
10:00 a.m. Worship
Rev. Julie Kline
Coffeeshouse Worship:
Laity Sunday
Isaiah 43:1-7

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/cl/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

[KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

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. Matt Weiler, Deb Search Willoughby, Julia Librizzi, Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

Director of Music Organist

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Lead AV Tech: Casey Curran

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big Deal Weekend lead up class. In preparation for the "Big Deal Weekend" coming in March to our church, we invite you to join Dan Duncan and Mark Stucky in a study of Kendi's book *How to Be an Antiracist*. Class meets in the parlor for six weeks beginning Sunday, January 9, from 11:15 a.m. to noon, or you may join us remotely using Zoom. Please let us know if you're interested in participating in this class by emailing Dan at danduncan56@gmail.com by Sunday, January 2. Books are available at the church office for \$15 (or procure your own).

Sunday School and Family Foundations. From 11:15am to 12:15pm we will have Sunday School for children 4-years-old to 6th grade beginning on January 9 in room 203. We will also have nursery available in room 204 for children under 4yrs old during this time. Also from 11:15am to 12:15pm Family Foundations, the Sunday School class for parents with young children, will have fellowship in room 304 beginning on January 9. Please contact Julia Librizzi with questions at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

January Mission of the Month. While Winter has not fully arrived, we know it will be here soon. This year, due to the pandemic, there is a greater than normal need for items to keep individuals, who spend significant time outside, safe and warm. The January Mission of the Month is to provide new socks, hats, gloves and hand warmers to the individuals served by Ministry with Community and the Gospel Mission. Thank you for thinking about and caring for those in need in our community.

Phone Ministry Project. In collaboration with cell phone providers Cricket and T-Mobile, Helping Our Neighbors has continued their Phone Ministry Project and they have provided over 90 phones to persons in need. In order to continue the program, more funding is needed. Goal for Phase 2 of the Phone Ministry Project \$15,000. This amount would enable us to provide another 100 phones and accessories to some of our neighbors in need. While any donation would be helpful, if 100 people will donate an average of \$150, this dream can become a reality. Think of how important your cell phone is to you and then think of those who need one, but can't afford it. We hope you will help our mission by becoming part of

our Adopt a Phone endeavor. There are multiple ways to give: 1. Mail a check to First United Methodist Church (FUMC) at 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 and include HON Phone Ministry Project in the memo line. 2. Make an Online Donation to the Helping Our Neighbors Phone Ministry Project on the church website.

Healthy Habits of Hospitality. Help us continue to love our neighbor and prioritize the health of our congregation and community. With caution and love for all we remember these habits of hospitality:

- Wear masks while in the church building.
- Please wear your name tags, or use a paper name tag found at the entrance.
- Introduce yourself freely. Masks make it harder for us to recognize one another.
- Greeting one another can be a little awkward. Some may be comfortable with a handshake, hug, fist or elbow bump. It's hard to know! Ask the person what they are comfortable with and err on the side of caution.

Thank you for helping us to create a safe space to worship and be in community. Know that we will be faithful to our online ministries and will offer hospitality to all who join us online as well.

Prepare for The Big Deal Weekend. The Reconciling Ministry Team is organizing The Big Deal Weekend, March 18-20, 2022, Please contact Mandakini Brophy (mbrophy@umc-kzo.org) or Kathryn Sappington (Kathryn.anne2015@gmail.com) with any questions and to volunteer to help.

Change the World Offering. We are collecting diapers through January 19 and we're glad to partner with St. Luke's Diaper Bank to take care of babies right here in our community. We're accepting diapers of all sizes (sizes 3 & up most needed) and wipes. If you are unable to bring in diapers and wipes, we will also accept monetary donations to purchase those items through our website.

Can you assist by serving as a greeter? We need volunteers to help us offer hospitality to all. Greeters arrive by 9:45 a.m. To ensure hospitality and protection for all vulnerable populations, greeters wear a mask. If you can be a greeter, please contact Ruth at (269) 381-6340 or rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.



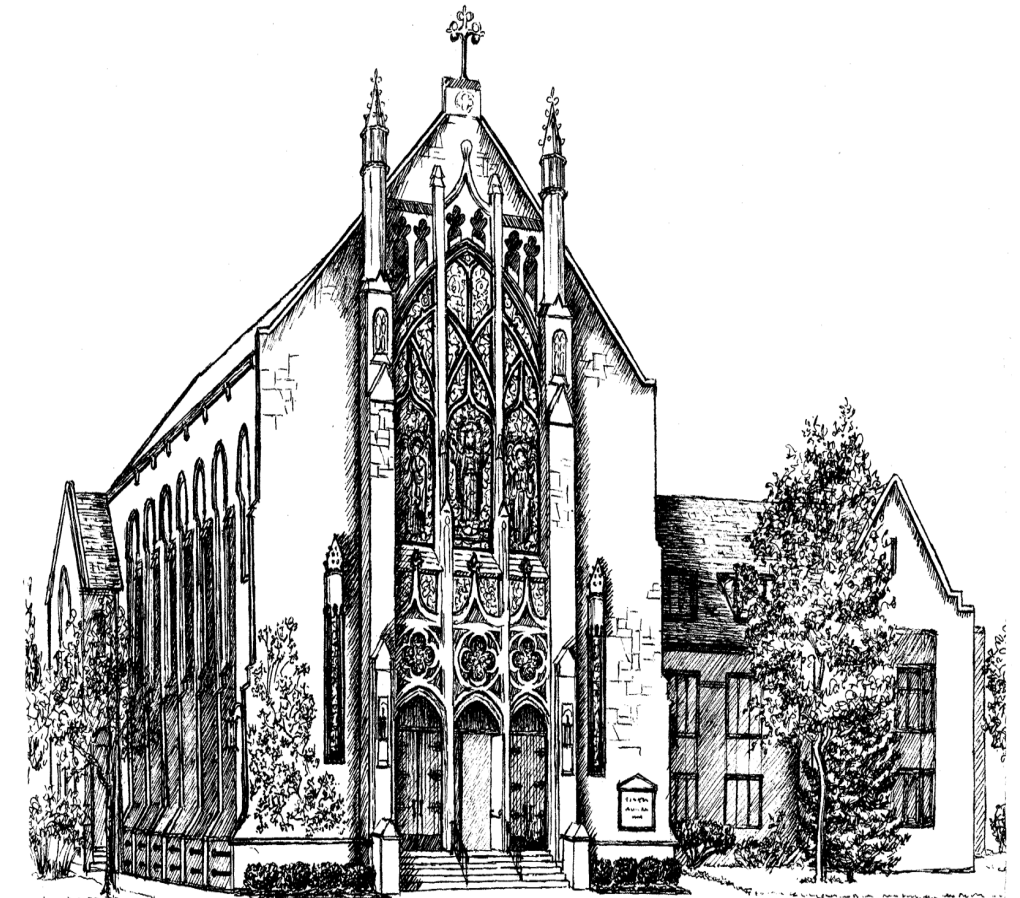
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

January 2, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday After Christmas: The Risk of Incarnation

We welcome you to worship and the celebration of Eucharist



PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

OPENING PRAYER

Oh God of life, and light and love. The good news of Christmas is that you have slipped into human skin and lived among us. You are the word become flesh, the light in darkness, the voice in the wilderness. Come and live within us during this time of worship. Fill us with your light, assure us of your love and send us wrapped in your grace. Oh God who never leaves us, we give you praise for this day. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #220** (UMH-red hymnal) *Angels from the Realms of Glory*