

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. Matt Weiler

Luke 3:1-18

December 18, 2022

10:00 a.m. Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children’s Musical

Luke 1: 39-55

Rev. Julie Kline

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, Julia Librizzi, Bixler Weiler, Carolyn Librizzi, Evelyn Moon, Zoe Newman, George Yeung
Director of Music **Organist**
Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk
Acolytes: Max Newman, Campbell Weiler
Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor
Lead AV Engineer: Casey Curran
AV Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Drew Eaton
Graphic Design: Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Liturgy/Poetry: Rev. Sarah Speed, Sanctifiedart.org
INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In our worship, we strive to witness to the wholeness of God, embracing the diversity of images of God that are found within Scriptures. We will seek to include male, female, and gender-neutral language and imagery for God, and utilize language that helps to avoid binary terms in pronouns and images of people. In our hymns and liturgy, we invite you to use pronouns that best express your practice and affirm your faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Academy class: Prepare the Way for the Lord, explores the life and ministry of John the Baptist. John Clark will facilitate the discussion.
Save the date. First Beats musical is coming up on Dec. 18, called “Room for Christmas” by Mark Burrows featuring First Beats and the younger Sunday school class children.
Kalamazoo Community Chorale. “Christmastime is Here” concert, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Featuring works of Benjamin Britton, Mark Hayes and Guiraldi/Zegree. Donations accepted.

Let’s Get the Story Straight : An Advent Themed Bible Study. What is the difference between truth and fact? And where do these lines blur in the stories of our faith? Join Pastor Matt for a two-part INTER-GENERATIONAL Advent themed Bible Study following worship on Sunday December 11 & 18. Bring your own Bibles. Youth, Parents, Young Adults, Grandparents and anyone in between are invited.

New Year’s Fest. We are looking for volunteers to help throughout the evening. Shifts are 2 hours each and flexible. Everyone who volunteers will receive a pass to attend other shows around the park. Sign up in the Perks area on Sunday mornings or email Dan Bunker at djbunker@charter.net.

Caroling. All are invited to join the youth for Christmas Caroling on Sunday evening December 18 at 5:00 p.m. We’ll gather in the parking lot and then travel to spread Christmas cheer to members from Kalamazoo to Portage, returning to church by 8:00 p.m.

Advent Concert Series. Thursdays at noon. Take a break in your day and come experience the sounds of the season in our beautiful sanctuary. All concerts are sponsored by the Music and Arts Committee; you may contact Jackie, jstilger@umc-kzo.org for more information. A free will offering will be accepted.

♪**December 8** - Tweoo jazz trio, led by Andrew Rathbun, professor of jazz saxophone from WMU.

♪**December 15** - Choral Scholars & Friends, featuring Brianna Attard, Hannah Elandt, Isaac Thompson, Carly Braginton, Justin Hamann, and Taylor Zickefoose.

Blue Christmas Worship. Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a “Blue Christmas.” This worship is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. In this pandemic season of life, we imagine that grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal, and we need a service like this more than ever. Come and worship, in the candlelight, in the dark, in the presence of the One who holds you during the longest nights.

Labyrinth. The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall throughout the season of Advent. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday or any Monday - Thursday, 9am-4pm. This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes to preserve the cloth of the labyrinth and can take 10-20 minutes to walk. We encourage you to try this ancient prayer practice to quiet your mind, center yourself and allow your spirit to move you close to home.

Family Camping. Please join us for Family Camping at Van Buren State Park June 9-11, 2023. Katy McGinnis needs RSVPs and payment by today if you would like her to book sites. Please contact Katy McGinnis at mcginnik82@gmail.com to add your name and pay for your site. You may also book your own sites directly with the State Park if you are not ready to reserve at this time.

First United Methodist Church, Kalamazoo



Laying the Foundation

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

You are invited in these beginning moments to request prayers using the prayer card found in the pew pocket. The prayer cards will be collected by an usher, shared with clergy, and if you wish, offered up to God during worship.
We'd like to connect with you, please fill out a welcome card found at the end of the pews and place it in the offering basket by the door.


PRELUDE *Veni, Emmanuel* G. Krapf
ADVENT POETRY *Words for the Beginning* Rev. Matt Weiler
***OPENING HYMN #211** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* v. 1,2,5,6,7 (UMH-red hymnal)
WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Julie Kline
COMMUNITY PRAYER Bixler Weiler
Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray—
All: **May love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone. May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may hope be the walls—holding us together.**
Leader: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.
All: **We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now. Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.**

RESPONSE

We Are Waiting

William T. Paxson

Please join in singing the refrain when indicated.



We are wait-ing. We are wait-ing for the Lord. We are wait-ing.

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY



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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Julie Kline

Holy God, When John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

ADVENT SONG The Makings of Holy Clark/Zickefoose

Musical notation for 'The Makings of Holy' with lyrics: The mak-ings of ho - ly are right here at our feet. Let us make a home with wide op-en doors. So roll up your sleeves while we still have time to build.

Music by Taylor Zickefoose Text by Jennifer Clark 2022 All rights reserved. Used with permission.

HOLY COMMUNION (musical setting A, UMH pg. 17)

God be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.
Let us pray . . . As we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.
(singing together)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
God of hope . . . Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.
Make us, while many, one. Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.
And so we pray
Come, Holy Spirit come.
In remembrance . . . we proclaim the mystery of faith.
(singing together)
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

RECEIVING THE BREAD & CUP
All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God’s creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning—coming forward by the center aisle, receiving the elements, and returning by the side aisle.

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Evelyn Moon

*SCRIPTURE Luke 1:57-66 Carolyn Librizzi
Leader: This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Julia Librizzi

MESSAGE Guide Our Feet Rev. Julie Kline

RESPONSIVE SOLO The People That Walked in Darkness G.F. Handel
Isaac Thompson, soloist

CALL TO OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY O Glorious God
Musical notation for 'O Glorious God' with lyrics: O Glor-ious God, to you we bring our praise and lives as of-fer-ings. Spir - it of Peace, with - in us dwell.
Come, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Tune: Old 100th. Text: Paula Meador Testerman

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Zoe Newman
Holy God, You are our home. You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

*HYMN #209 Blessed Be the God of Israel (UMH-red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Praise to Almighty God J.S. Bach

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

- Sunday, December 4
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. Parent Fellowship - Rm 209
11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class - 305
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center
- Monday, December 5
11:30 a.m. Prayer Group - Parlor
6:30 p.m. Reconciling Team - Friendship Village
7:00 p.m. KCC Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- Tuesday, December 6
9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. Clergy/Directors - TBD
4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room
5:15 p.m. Finance Team - Zoom
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center
6:30 p.m. SPRC - Zoom
- Wednesday, December 7
8:00 a.m. Yoga - Zoom
9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Parlor
10:30 a.m. Helping Our Neighbor - Zoom
12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 p.m. Food Pantry - Curbside Only
6:00 p.m. Moms Demand Action - Parlor
- Thursday, December 8
9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:00 a.m. Youth Ministry Team - Rm 305
12:00 p.m. Advent Concert - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers - Wesley Hall
7:30 p.m. Junior First Strings & Winds - Choir Room
- Friday, December 9
6:30 p.m. First Beats Rehearsal
- Saturday, December 10
9:00 a.m. KCC Rehearsal - Sanctuary

UMH -The United Methodist Hymnal

Winter Weather Closing Policy

The church will always be open for worship on Sunday.

Please use discretion deciding when to venture out.

Weekday meetings may be cancelled if travel is dangerous.

Team and committee chairs are asked to contact the church and their team/committee if a meeting is cancelled.

Please check Channel 3 news, our website, Facebook, and email for closing notices.

Please note the church may be open even when area schools are closed.

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en - sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain
 un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict

5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home.
The captives from their prison free,
and conquer death's deep misery.

Refrain

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

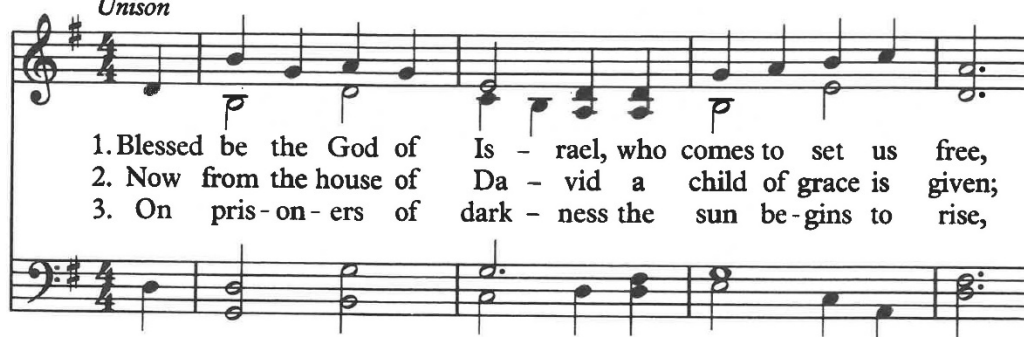
7. O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

Refrain

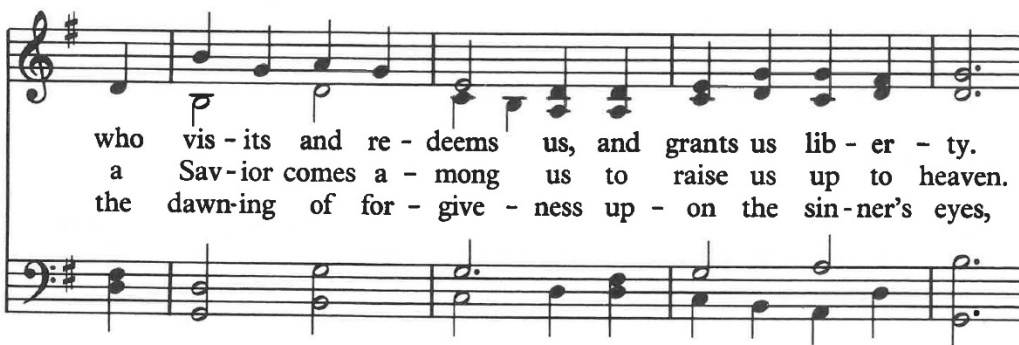
Blessed Be the God of Israel

209

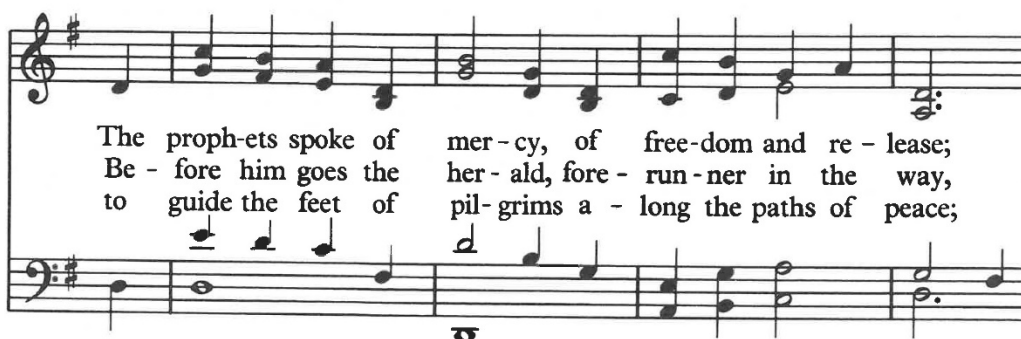
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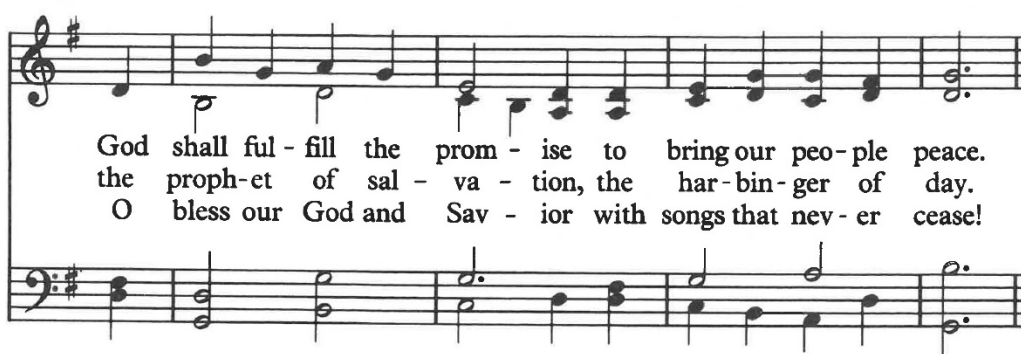
1. Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is given;
3. On pris - on - ers of dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1973 (Lk. 1:68-79)

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

MERLE'S TUNE

76.76 D

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