UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 12

10 a.m. Worship

2nd Sunday

Rev. Matt Weiler Sweet Release

Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11, Mark 2: 23-28

February 19

10 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline We have seen the Light Matthew 5:4

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 trained and fully vaccinated 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

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 Sue Ellen Isacksen

Director of MusicOrganistClarinetistJacqueline StilgerBernie FoulkKarla Evans

Acolytes: Cora Welter, Penelope Librizzi

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Lead AV Technician: Casey Curran **AV Team:** Lucas McGinnis, Bryan Heany,

Drew Eaton

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

A History of Racism: An Experiential Journey via the Power of Film. You're invited to an immersive experience of what Black brothers and sisters have endured for centuries through images, sounds, and music from Hollywood movies and other video sources. Mark Stucky will lead three sessions pondering the periods of slavery, the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow, and then current issues (such as police shootings and reparations). The Academy class will meet in the Parlor from 11:15 to 12:15, Sundays, Feb. 12–26, Those not able to attend can view resources and links at cinemaspirit.info/race/, and those that will attend can use the links to preview, review, and delve deeper into the session experiences.

Manna and Mercy will be taking the week off and resuming on February 12. Manna and Mercy is a study focusing on the narrative arc of scripture from genesis to revelation. All are invited to join at any time. Next week's class will focus on the subversive little books of Jonah and Ruth as satire, mocking and challenging an exclusionary theological view of God.

Christian Nationalism & Dominionism. You've probably heard the terms "Christian Nationalism" and "Dominionism." What are these things and how do they affect us? Ending on February 5, John Boley will be teaching an Academy Class around these movements that are pervasive yet underreported in our society and culture.

Prayer in the Chapel: For the next three weeks throughout our worship series on grief, the chapel will be available following worship for quiet, candle lighting and Stephen Ministers will be available for prayer.

Winter Fun. The Children and Families Ministries Team invite all the church to gather for a skating party today, February 5. We will meet at Wings West off of Stadium Dr. for ice skating during their public skate time from 1:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$8 for admission and \$3 for skates. There is usually a long line to pay for your admission and get your rental skates so please arrive early! Contact Julia, with any questions, jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

Faith Milestones are those firsts as we grow in our faith experiences because we know it doesn't happen just on Sunday mornings. It's part of all we are and all we do as God's beloved people. Faith Milestones is a new opportunity for our 3rd - 5th graders! Sunday, February 26 we will share dinner and learn about prayer and communion with hopes of helping to lead communion on Sunday, March 5, 2023. Please email Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org for more info.

Save the Date. This year's Housing Resources, Inc. (HRI) Walk to End Homelessness is scheduled for Saturday March 18. Please consider supporting this local effort by either walking or supporting a walker. HRI has contacted us to determine if we any have members who would like to assist with the walk this year, either the pre-walk registration on March 16, the actual registration on March 18, or packing up the registration site and returning the materials to the Rickman House. If you are interested in assisting or would like additional information, there is a signup sheet, with additional information posted on the bulletin board outside the food pantry. Or, if you have any questions or need additional information contact Mark at 873-1114.

Contribution Records. Please pick up your 2022 annual giving statement at the table by the parking lot doors. There will be someone there before and after our 10:00 service. If you have any questions about your statement, please email finance@umc-kzo.org.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

February 5, 2023 10:00 a.m.

(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

You are invited in these beginning moments to request prayers using the prayer cards found in the pew pocket. The cards will be collected by an usher, shared with clergy, and if you wish, spoken during the Prayers of the People 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 Prelude G. Nivers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Ellen Isacksen

Leader: The Lord listens to us in times of trouble and joy.

All: We call to the Lord in our anxiety and fear.

Leader: God will not turn away from us.

All: God will heal us and restore us.

Leader: Let the Lord of life enter into your spirits.

All: Lord, come to us and heal our brokenness and sorrow.

*OPENING HYMN #122 God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale (UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE (praying together the **bold**)

Rev. Matt Weiler

Divine Darkness, when the night of grief swallows our feeble light, help us to feel you lovingly wrap us in that very darkness. May we know your peace. (Candle is lit)

Hidden God, we are angry. Where are you? Show yourself. Explain yourself.

Feel the heat of our frustration and fear we share only with you.

Burden-lifting God, our grief weighs us down. It feels as if our backs will break along with our hearts. We are smothered by the weight. When it feels as if we can bear no more, Loving Shepherd, bear us forward.

O, Answer to all Mysteries, we have unanswerable questions. We struggle with "If only . . . " and "What if?" and "Why?" Give us grace to live the questions in the confidence that we don't have to have all the answers.

Our Beginning and Our End, you have taught us about life; now teach us about death. Comforting Mother, let us lay our wearied selves next to you, to sense your breath, to feel your warmth, to hear you tenderly call our name.

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*.

(UMH)

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 5:1-10 (The Message)

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Julia Librizzi and children

PRAYER REFRAIN #2193 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Let us pray for the people of this faith community and our church.

Let us pray for those who are suffering or are in trouble.

Let us pray for our local community.

Let us pray for the world, its people, its leaders

(Prayer Refrain)

MESSAGE A Place of Solace

Rev. Julie Kline

Send Me Rains ANTHEM

Daniel Kantor

Calm this storm, Lord, that stirs deep within my spirit. Piercing my prayer-song, so wounded. How I try so to pray though these voices restraining, capture sleep from my call, broken thoughts meant for you. Send me rains, Lord, my soul thirsting for your waters. Shade me 'til evening embraces. When your wine-light appears, breathing winds of your morning, may I gently awake, centered only on you. Slow me down, Lord, a child longing for your stillness. Whisper to me words of comfort. How I yearn for your peace, yet so fearful of silence, give me courage to face quiet moments with you.

HOLY COMMUNION (Speaking together the **bold** text)

"The light radiates through the darkness and no amount of darkness can extinquish it." As light-seekers we come, O God, and we rejoice in Your light:

May our adoration open a window, that Your light may flood through.

As hope-seekers we come, O God, and we celebrate Your gift of hope:

Capture us as we worship, and make us prisoners of hope.

As Christ-followers we come, O God, and we open ourselves to Christ's life; Change us as we encounter Your glory, that we may carry Your light into the world.

Into this place we bring leaders, the carers, the protectors, and the teachers. We praise you for the light that shatters the darkness, the hope that rises from the ashes, the life that returns from the grave and we pray that they may fill the earth, as dawn fills the sky. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

Sanctus (Musical Setting A, UMH p. 17)

(Pastoral prayer)

Acclamation (Musical Setting A, UMH p. 18)

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY #101 From All That Dwell Below the Skies (v. 2)

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

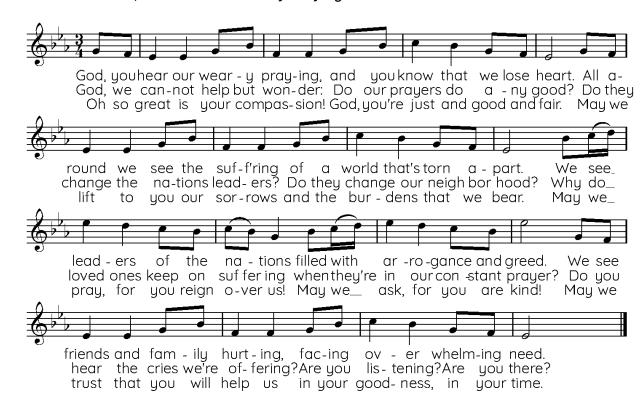
till suns shall rise and set no more.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (praying together)

God of all creation, source of every blessing: you have given us so much. As we bring our tithes and gifts to you this day, these seem small by comparison, unless we see that we are called to give ourselves back to the world. May we be the light that helps others find their way to your love and care. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus, who came to help us see all we could be. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

God, You Hear Our Weary Praying *HYMN



Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette copyright 2019 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Tune: Sacred Harp, 1844 att. to Benjamen Franklin White

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Passacaglia in g minor

G. Muffat

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, February 5

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class - 305

1:15 p.m. Youth Group - Meet in parking lot

1:45 p.m. Family Skating - Wings West

Monday, February 6

1:45 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

Tuesday, February 7

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom

12:30 p.m. Clergy/Directors - TBD

4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room

6:30 p.m. SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, February 8 8:00 a.m. Yoga - Zoom (All are welcome)

9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Parlor

12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live

12:30 p.m. Food Pantry

3:00 p.m. HON - Zoom

6:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministry Team - Friendship Village Clubhouse

Thursday, February 9

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

9:30 a.m. Office Team Meeting - Virtual

11:00 a.m. Youth Ministry Team - 305

6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall

7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers - Wesley Hall

Friday, February 10

Saturday, February11

Sunday, February 12

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship

11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center

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.

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale



WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983 MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1983 ROEDER 546.77



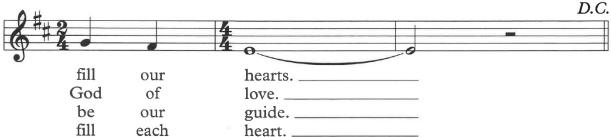


give us peace be-yond our fear, and hope be-yond our sor - row.



- 1. You who know our fears and sad-ness, grace us with your
- 2. In the pain and joy be-hold-ing how your grace is
- 3. Give us strength to love each oth er, ev ery sis ter,
- 4. You who know each thought and feel-ing, teach us all your

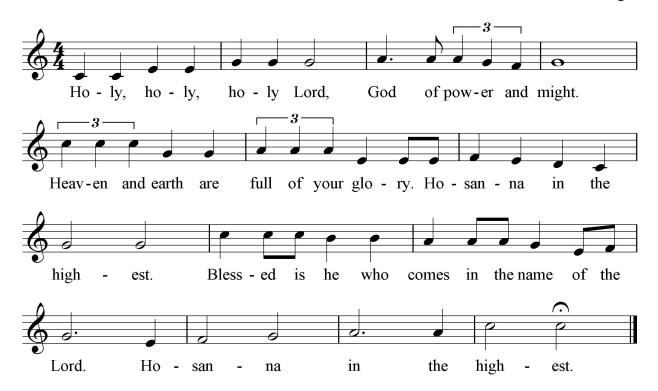




WORDS: Marty Haugen MUSIC: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL 88.63 with Refrain

Sanctus

Elise Eslinger



Acclamation

Elise Eslinger





WORDS: Sts. 1-2, Isaac Watts; sts. 3-4, anon., ca. 1781 (Ps. 117) MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET LM