

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**

Deb Search Willoughby and Matthew Cook

(reading the **boldface** together)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

**We believe in the goodness of God.****We believe God hears and responds to our needs.****We believe God responds to all children everywhere.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters,

He restores my soul.

**We are grateful that we've been blessed with enough water.****But we know that many do not have enough.****Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.**

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Too many children do not see God's righteousness.****Too many children watch violence, taste hunger, feel fear.****Too many children cry from the unspeakable horror of war.**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.****Our hearts may be broken and our lives may be threatened.****Yet we hear god calling and we can no longer hide.**

Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of my enemies;

Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

**Our steps may be small and timid. We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift. But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**God is more relentless than war.****God is more pervasive than hatred. God is more insistent than despair.**Amen. **Amen.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #2043***Alleluia*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**\*GOSPEL READING**

John 10:1-10

This is what the spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.****A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL**

Julia Librizzi

**HYMN #2233***Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**CHILDREN'S BLESSING****ANTHEM***The Lord Is My Shepherd*

John Rutter

*The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me; Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***MESSAGE***Meadows of Love: Beyond the Hustle*

Rev. Julie Kline

**MUSICAL RESPONSE #2058***Shepherd Me, O God*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**A TIME OF ANOINTING**

Rev. Matt Weiler

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER****Our Mother/Father/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 AND STEP-UP CAMPAIGN**

Chris Stamper

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM***Mfurahihi, Haleluya (Christ Has Risen, Alleluia)*

Traditional Tanzanian song arr. Cathy Moglebust

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #94***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;****Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!****Praise God, the source of all our gifts!****Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!****Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!****\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Deb Search Willoughby

**God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us****in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you.****Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance,****walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion.****Amen.****OUR SHARED LIFE****\*HYMN #2197***Lord of All Hopefulness*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**BLESSING****POSTLUDE***Lord God, Now be Glorified*

J.S. Bach

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS****Sunday, April 30**

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship

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

4:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Male Chorus Concert

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

**Monday, May 1**

12:45 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

4:00 p.m. Memorial Service, Chris Mumma - Wesley Hall

**Tuesday, May 2**

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom

12:30 p.m. Clergy/Director Meeting - 305

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

6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

6:30 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

**Wednesday, May 3**

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 - TBD

**Thursday, May 4**

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

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

12:30 p.m. Downtown Outreach CC - Parlor

6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - Sanctuary

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

**Friday, May 5**

No events schedule

**Saturday, May 6**

No events schedule

**Sunday, May 7**

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 - 305

5:30 p.m. Faith Milestones

6:00 p.m. Small Groups - Church

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

Scan the QR code below to be directed to our Connect Card and let us know you were here, share requests for prayer, or messages for our church leaders and worship leaders.



## UPCOMING WORSHIP

May 7

5th Sunday of Easter

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

Rev. Matt Weiler

*The New Storyteller*

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16, Acts 7:55-60

May 14

6th Sunday of Easter

**10:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday Worship**

Rev. Julie Kline

*An Advocate For Love*

John 14: 15-21

### 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** with trained and fully vaccinated staff is provided on the second floor for infants through three-year-olds.

**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](http://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**

Pastor of Congregational Care

**Ruth LaMachia**

Director of Business Administration

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Matthew Cook, Deb Search Willoughby

**Director of Music**

Jacqueline Stilger

**Organist**

Bernie Foulk

Oboe, Maria Schneider

**Acolytes:** Grace Harthorn, Campbell Weiler

**Satellite Worship Coordinator:** Pastor Thom Victor

**AV Team:** Lucas McGinnis, Bryan Heany, Drew

Eaton, Casey Curran-Lead AV Technician.

## 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

**Small Groups.** Our next small group gathering will be May 7 at 6:00 p.m. We start off with a time of community gathering and an informal potluck dinner, so bring something to share if you'd like (no pressure) and plan to join in the fun! Hope to see you there!

**Saving Jesus.** Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? "Saving Jesus" is a DVD-based exploration of a credible Jesus for the 21st century. John Clark will facilitate the discussion. The class will run for 12 more-or-less consecutive Sundays (except Easter and probably Memorial Day). The class will meet in the parlor on Sundays after worship.

**Bay Shore Day Camp On The Road.** Attention families of K-5th graders! Join us Monday, August 14 - Thursday, August 17, 2023, for a day camp from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. located in our church, collaborating with our neighbors at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church. Lunch and snacks will be included! Through Old Testament stories about David, kids will learn that God is Loving! Activities will include arts and crafts, archery, Bible study, climbing wall, games, and water activities. There is no cost but space is limited, so please register your children today. Contact Ms. Julia at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org), for more information.

The Faith Milestones program for 3rd - 5th graders comes to a conclusion on May 7th, 5:30 pm - 7:30 p.m., with a fun and engaging event. This final gathering is an opportunity to celebrate the growth and connections our young ones have made during the previous Faith Milestones. The evening will feature a scavenger hunt through downtown, allowing participants to explore their surroundings and strengthen their bonds with one another and with their faith. After the scavenger hunt, we'll gather for dinner downtown, where everyone can share stories and memories while discussing the adventures they've experienced throughout the program.

**The CROP Walk** is Sunday, April 30, beginning at First Presbyterian Church, in the Lovell Street parking lot. Registration and lunch at First Pres. begin at 11:30 a.m. with the 2 mile walk starting around 12:15 p.m. 25% of the funds collected are provided to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and the YWCA Domestic Assault Shelter, with the remaining funds going to Church World Service. Contributions may be made at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org>.

**FOUR Score & More Luncheon.** We're thrilled to invite all of our church community members who are 80-yrs-old or more to the Four Score and More Luncheon, a celebration of life and wisdom! Join us on May 11th at noon in Wesley Hall to enjoy lunch, share stories, laughter, and cherished memories. This event provides a unique opportunity to build connections and engage in conversations with your peers. The church honors your incredible journey and the wisdom you bring to our community. Don't miss this wonderful celebration! Please RSVP by May 4 to Robin Entenman at 269-910-3963.

**Graduation Sunday.** All recent and upcoming graduates are invited to join us in worship on June 18 where you will be invited to briefly share with the congregation. Those who plan on joining us that day, please RSVP to [cstakely@umc-kzo.org](mailto:cstakely@umc-kzo.org) and send a photo to be shared in worship. Additionally, we would like to share information from you in the May First Word, and an Around the Corner Email in June. Whether or not you are able to attend on June 18, please submit to our communications director, José Celorio, [jcelorio@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jcelorio@umc-kzo.org); your name, school of graduation, future plans, and a favorite church memory, along with a photo by May 1.



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

(269) 381-6340 + [www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)

April 30, 2023

10:00 a.m.

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.

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

**PRELUDE** *Gabriel's Oboe*  
Maria Schneider, Oboe

Ennio Morricone

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Matthew Cook

One: In the darkest valley  
All: **at the banquet table**  
One: in the hard work of life,  
All: **at the moments of ease;**  
One: in our day-to-day reality,  
All: **at times set aside—**  
One: like this time, now—  
All: **for worship, for listening, for paying attention;**  
One: with every step we take:  
All: **goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.**  
**Let us celebrate God's love.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #138** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

(UMH-red hymnal)

**WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Julie Kline

**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.*