

UPCOMING WORSHIP

May 28

Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Wild Spirit of God

Acts 2:1-21

June 4

Children's Musical

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Dan Duncan

Whose World Do We Live In?

Daniel 3:19-27, Jeremiah 17:7-8

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](https://www.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. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Julia Librizzi

Carolyn Librizzi, Bixler Weiler, Nick Dolislager,

Lucas McGinnis

Director of Music

Organist

Jacqueline Stilger

Bernie Foulk

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

AV Team: Lucas McGinnis, Bryan Heany, Bob Lane, Casey Curran-Lead AV Technician.

Acolytes: Max Newman, Penelope Librizzi

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

Visiting Missionary Today, May 21. Joy Eva A. Bohol is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church assigned as Program Executive for Youth Engagement at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, Switzerland. WCC is a community of churches on the way to visible unity in one faith and one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and in common life in Christ. It seeks to advance towards this unity, as Jesus prayed for his followers, "so that the world may believe." (John 17:21). The UMC is a member of WCC. Joy's primary role is to ensure youth active involvement and participation all throughout the WCC. She is a former mission intern, and was commissioned to her present work in October 2015. Joy will be speaking after worship in the Parlor about her new work with refugees. The Saving Jesus class will take a break next week so that all may hear the visiting missionary.

Small Groups. Our next small group gathering is this evening 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. "Saving Jesus," is taking this week off so that all may welcome Joy Eva Bohol and learn of her new work.

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. Through Old Testament stories about David, kids will learn that God is Loving! There is no cost but space is limited so please register your children today. Contact Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org, for more information.

Graduation Sunday. All recent and upcoming graduates are invited to join us in worship on June 18 when we will celebrate all graduates. Those who plan on joining us that day, please RSVP to 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. Please include your name, school of graduation, future plans, and a favorite church memory.

May Mission of the Month: WMU Seita Scholars. The Seita Scholars Program at WMU helps create transitions for students who have aged out of the foster system. The program relies on the community to provide for the personal needs of the students. You can help by purchasing any of the following items and placing them in the collection box at the church: laundry detergent, dryer sheets, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, full size shampoo, body wash, lotion, and deodorant.

Confirmation. Thank you for joining us on this confirmation Sunday! This was the first year of our new two-year confirmation cycle open to all youth in 7th grade or older. In this new cycle, over a two-year period students learn scripture by studying 8 core stories of the Bible, along with basic United Methodist beliefs and practices, while discerning whether they desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and confirm their baptism in this local church. Confirmation in the coming cycle will also include one retreat at Wesley Woods Camp, and a weekend service trip at a location to be determined. If you are interested in joining next fall or have any questions please contact pastor Matt at mweiler@umc-kzo.org.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

(269) 381-6340 + www.umc-kzo.org

May 21, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Confirmation Sunday

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** (Reading responsively)

One: Redeeming God, you have gathered us in for worship

All: **that we might be one with each other and one with you as you are one with Christ.**

One: As Jesus' love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, united us by your grace.

All: **May we find purpose, and identity, and power in the waters of baptism on this day.**

One: Redeeming God, you have gathered us in for worship.

All: **Make us your own and send us in your power. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #2236** *Gather Us In*

(FWS-black hymnal)

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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This morning’s prayer is a bidding prayer. The leader will offer a prayer, ending with “Lord, in your mercy.” Please respond at each call with “**Hear our prayer.**”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our 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 glory forever, amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

SOLO Cantilena Georg Golterman
Carolyn Librizzi: cello

TESTIMONY OF THE CONFIRMANDS

Video: Why We are Saying “Yes”
Reflections: Carolyn Librizzi, Bixler Weiler

*SCRIPTURE John 17:1-11 Nick Dolislager

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

SERMON On Behalf of These Ones Rev. Matt Weiler

COVENANT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION (see insert)

HYMN #143 On Eagles Wings (UMH-red hymnal)
Evelyn Moon, soloist
The verses will be sung by a soloist. The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain found in the hymnal.

A CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Waymaker Osinach Okoro
Bixler Weiler, soloist

*THE DOXOLOGY #94 (UMH-red hymnal)

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

God of grace and provision, We offer to you these gifts, trusting that this place of worship will bear the light of your love for generations to come, as it has for the many who have come before us. May your work among us answer Jesus’ prayer, binding us together as one body, sending us in love and in power. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN This Little Light of Mine Harry Dixon Loes
Song leaders will sing the verse. Please join in singing the refrain when indicated.

Refrain

This lit-tle light of mine, I’m gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,

I’m gon-na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine.

I’m gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE The Heavens Declare the Glory of God B. Marcello

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, May 21
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 Reception - Perks
6:00 p.m. Small Groups
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center
Monday, May 22
12:45 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
Tuesday, May 23
9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
10:00 a.m. Book Club - Parlor
12:30 p.m. Facilities Team - Parlor
4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center
Wednesday, May 24
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 25
9:30 a.m. First Stitches - Fellowship Room
11:00 a.m. Youth Ministry Team - 305
4:00 p.m. Outreach Team - Parlor
6:30 p.m. Chancel Singers Potluck and Rehearsal - Off-site
Friday, May 26
No events scheduled
Saturday, May 27
No events scheduled
Sunday, May 28
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
12:30 p.m. Memorial Service - Virginia VanPeenen.
6:00 p.m. Small Groups - Church
Monday, May 29
The church building is closed for the holiday.

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.



Covenant for Baptism and Confirmation

People of Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

We present:

Carolyn Librizzi, Bixler Weiler, and Nick Dolislager

Pastor Matt to the candidates:

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

According to the grace given you,
will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world
and will you faithfully participate in the ministries of this
congregation by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your
service and your witness?

I will.

Pastor Julie addresses the congregation:

Do you, as Christ body, the church, reaffirm both your
rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and life and
include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live
according to the example of Christ. We will surround
these persons with a community of love and
forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others. We will
pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk
in the way that leads to life.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

One: The Spirit of God is among us.

All: The blessing of the Beloved is upon us!

One: Let us pray. Loving, life-giving God, we give you thanks,
for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters
and you brought forth Creation.

You brought us to freedom through the waters of the Red
Sea.

You gave us new birth through baptism into Christ,
and gave us life that cannot die.

**All: The river of God is full of water,
the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the heart of God.**

One: We who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into his
life, born in the water of a womb; we are baptized into his
ministry, giving water to the thirsty, washing the feet and
sharing the tears of all who suffer; and we are baptized into
his death, so that just as Christ was raised by the glory of
God, we too might walk in newness of life.

**All: Born of water and the Spirit,
may we enter into the Realm of God
as children of God,
born not of human will, but of God.**

Remembrance of Baptism for Confirmation

The pastors address the confirmands:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

The Holy Spirit continue to work within you that being born of
water and spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Members of the household of God,
We commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
 2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 we are the old — who yearn for your face,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. ____
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. ____
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth. ____
 now is the King-dom, now is the day. ____



Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the
 Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. ____
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. ____
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. ____
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone. ____

2233

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-come as part of the



wor - ship - ing throng. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and



cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

WORDS: James Ritchie

MUSIC: James Ritchie

RITCHIE

Irregular

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On Eagle's Wings

143

D Asus4 A7 D

And God[†] will raise you^{*} up on ea-gle's wings,

Em A7 D D7 G Em A

bear you^{*} on the breath of dawn, make you^{*} to shine like the sun, and

Bm F#m Em7 A7 D

hold you^{*} in the palm of God's[‡] hand.

† or "you"
 * or "us"
 ‡ or "your"

WORDS: Michael Joncas, 1979 (Ex. 19:4)
 MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

ON EAGLE'S WINGS
 Irr. with Refrain

© 1979, 1989 North American Liturgy Resources

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all creatures here be - low: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Unison

lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
 MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House,

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 88.44.88 with Refrain

This Little Light of Mine

Harry Dixon Loes

Song leaders will sing the verse. Please join in singing the refrain when indicated.

Refrain



The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain: 'This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,'. The second staff contains the second line: 'I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine.'. The third staff contains the third line: 'I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.'.

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,
I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine.
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.