

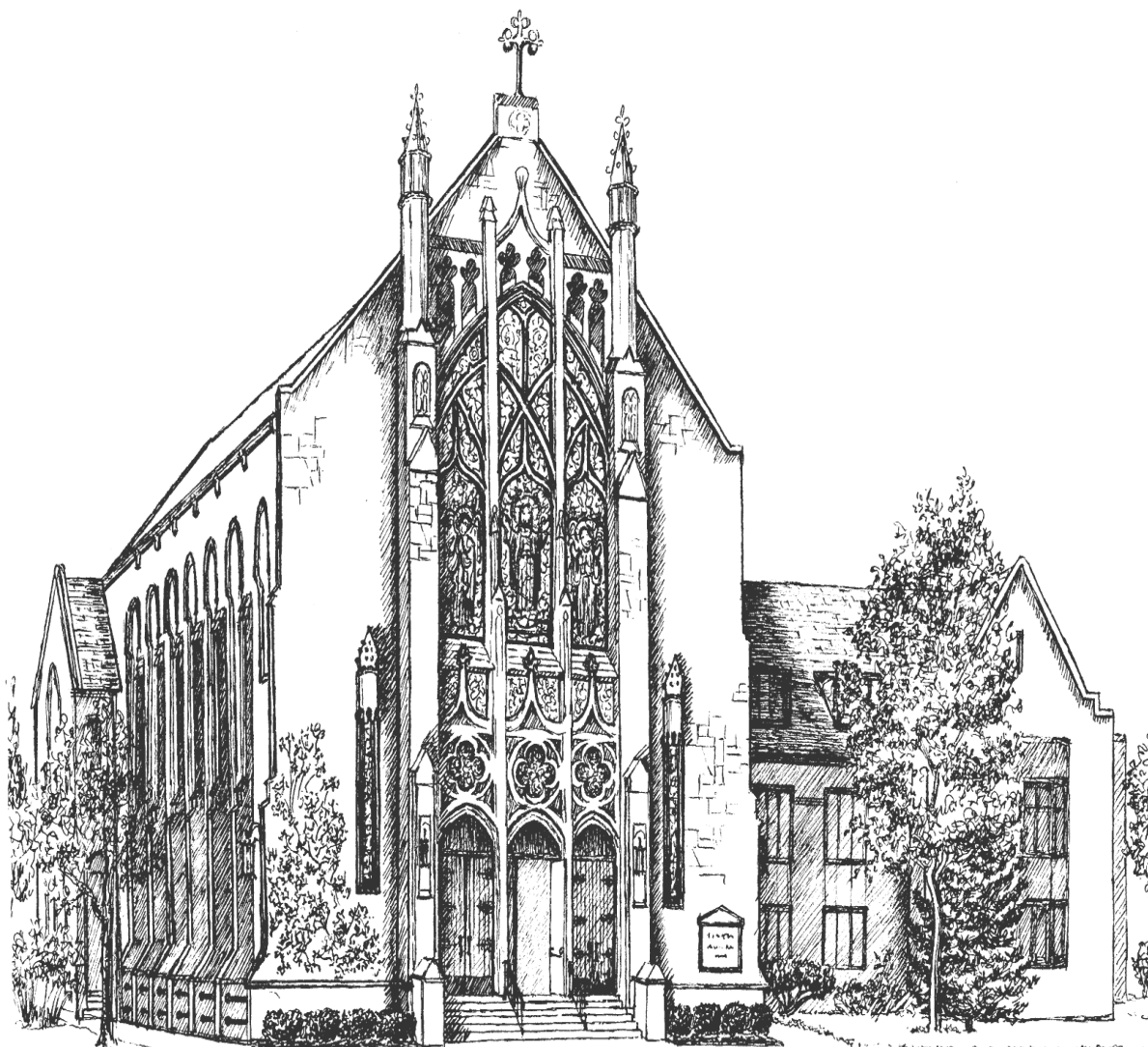


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

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

September 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.



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.*

We would like to connect with you.

Please fill out the attendance pad and introduce yourself as you pass it to your neighbor.
You are invited in these beginning moments to use the prayer cards found in the pews.

The cards will be collected by an usher, shared with clergy, and if you wish,
shared aloud during worship.

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (reading responsively)

Deacon Cara Weiler

One: This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: **Let us rejoice in it and be glad!**

One: Remind us of the joys found in being your gathered community, Oh Lord.

All: **To come to you in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and to give it, to pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all your promises.**

One: Open our eyes to see you, Lord.

All: **Open our ears to hear your World.**

One: Visit us through your Holy Spirit,

All: **and help us to celebrate our faith today. Amen.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2220** *We Are God's People* (FWS-black hymnal)

During the hymn, ushers will pass through the sanctuary collecting prayer cards.

WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Love Is*



Music by Abbie Betinis © 2017 Abbie Betinis Used with permission

The composer dedicates this song to the victims, and survivors, of hate crimes everywhere.

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:8-14

Jonathan Townley

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Love Is*

BLESSING FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 16:13-20

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

SONG #2233 *This Is Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

BLESSING FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE *Life Together*

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN OF RESPONSE #543 *O Breath of Life*

(UMH-red hymnal)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Christ is our Cornerstone*

Noel Rawsthorne

Christ is our cornerstone on him alone we build: with his true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled; on his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joy above. Here, gracious God, do thou for evermore draw nigh; accept each faithful vow, and mark each suppliant sigh; in copious shower on all who pray each holy day thy blessings pour. O then with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring; our voices will we raise the Three in One to sing; and thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long that glorious name.

***DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

(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**

**Holy God, in gratitude for your grace among us as we present these gifts.
And as our worship shapes our hearts to live more in the way of Christ,
may our generosity serve your purposes of sharing Christ’s love for the world.
In the name of one who has gathered us in and who sends us out. Amen**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #577** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

(UMH-red hymnal)

SENDING

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matt Weiler, Deacon Cara Weiler
Jonathan Townley

Director of Music **Organist** **Trumpet**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk Scott Thornburg

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Acolytes: Penelope Librizzi & Campbell Weiler

AV Team: Casey Curran, Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,
Max Miller

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

Adult Sunday School Opportunities.

Bible Basics: The Bible is Christianity's Holy Book, yet many of us experience it in small chunks with little-to-no context. Designed for those with a little (or a lot) of biblical knowledge, this class will explore some major biblical themes, address the complexities of Bible interpretation, and introduce members to new ways of looking at, reflecting on, and receiving the gifts of scripture. The class will be led by Tammy Eaton and meet in the church parlor.

Revival: John Wesley is considered the founder of the Methodist movement, but he didn't set out to create a new denomination. Wesley's basic message called for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. His story and his faith continue to speak to twenty-first-century Christians. In this dvd-based class, Adam Hamilton explores Wesley's life to challenge us to rediscover our spiritual passion. The class will be led by John Clark.

Family Foundations: A Sunday School class for parents of young children will begin with fellowship and coffee in room 209, next to the arches on the 2nd floor.

Youth Group. Youth Group Begins Sunday September 17 at 6pm downstairs in the youth lounge and is open to all youth 6th-12th grade. We gather weekly to create space for Christ-Centered friendship, joy, and spiritual formation through small group reflections, worship, and lots of play. Contact Pastor Matt Weiler for more information.

Music at First United Methodist Church. A broad array of musical ensembles share their love of music with this congregation. Music ministry happens in the church with the full participation of its congregants in the pews, choirs in the chancel, ringers at the tables, and instrument at a music stand. Whether vocalist or instrumentalist, please contact Music Director, Jacqueline Stilger, jstilger@umc-kzo.org for more information about any of the music ensembles. Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Save the date. FUMC Visioning Workshop, Saturday Oct 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This Fall our church will be spending some time working on our Vision/Mission as we seek to define who we are as First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo in 2023. This church-led work will include some weeks of pre-work culminating in a Visioning Workshop. Please reserve Saturday, October 21st in your calendar and join us in this important work!

Grief Group. You are invited to join with others in creating sacred space for losses. Beginning Sunday, September 17 from 6-7:30 p.m., a group led by Jan Schoenherr, LPC and Deb Search Willoughby, LMS, will gather in the chapel every 2 weeks until November 26. If you're interested in participating, please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/FUMCGrief>, or reach out to one of the leaders: Jan at schoenherrjan@gmail.com, Deb at dsearchwill@gmail.com, or any of our pastors.

Membership Class. In worship we refer to prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as vows we take. We also profess to accept the freedom and power given by God to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. If you would like to explore the commitment and joy of membership in The United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Julie, jkline@umc-kzo.org.

Usher opportunities. Ushers are needed for the upcoming season to assist during worship. Please contact Dan Bunker to sign up! 269-217-8780, djbunker@charter.net.

What is Godly Play? Children 4 years old to 6th grade are invited to their own kind of worship on the 2nd floor called, "Godly Play." We hear and see God's stories and wonder together about what it might mean. Children return to their families before worship ends.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

September 17

10:00 a.m. Worship

KSP (Service Project) Sunday

Rev. Matt Weiler

Youth Ministry is Joy

Psalm 100, John 15:10-17

September 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

God Sized Vision & Provision

Exodus 16:2-25

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 said 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 may request a free copy of the DVD from the office. Previous worship services may be found on our website: www.umc-kzo.org. You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: [Kalamazoofirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkalamazoofirstunitedmethodistchurch)

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



OUR MISSION

We are called to
Experience God's love
Celebrate God's love
Share God's love

OUR VISION

We are a Faith Community
Alive in Christ
Open to all
Growing in faith
Serving our neighbors
Active in the world

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 10

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 2nd floor
11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School - Parlor
11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class - 305
11:00 a.m. Family Foundations - 304

Monday, September 11

12:45 pm Prayer Group
1:00 p.m. Building & Grounds - Parlor

Tuesday, September 12

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. All Staff Meeting - Parlor
4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Manna - Rev. Weiler's Home

Wednesday, September 13

8:00 a.m. Yoga - Zoom (All are welcome)
9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Parlor
9:45 a.m. OLLI Curriculum Committee - Fellowship Rm.
12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 p.m. Food Pantry
3:00 p.m. HON - TBD

Thursday, September 14

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers
9:30 a.m. Admin Support Team - Virtual
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall
7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday, September 15

Saturday, September 16

2:00 p.m. LaMachia Memorial Service - Sanctuary

Sunday, September 17

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

We Are God's People

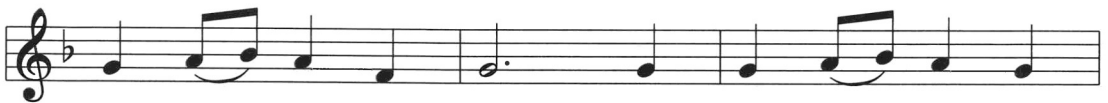
2220



1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ, our
 3. We are the bod - y of which the Lord is
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing



Lord, born of the Spir - it, es -
 Lord, for we have known it, the
 Head, called to o - bey Christ, now
 place, formed in great weak - ness, a



tab - lished by the Word. Our cor - ner - stone is
 love of God out - poured. Now let us learn how
 ris - en from the dead. God wills us be a
 cup to hold God's grace. We die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in Christ we stand; O
 to re - turn the gift of love once given; O
 fam - i - ly di - verse, yet tru - ly one; O
 on its own each em - ber los - es fire; yet



let us live trans - par - ent - ly and
 let us share each joy and care and
 let us give our gifts and to God and
 joined in one the flame burns on to



walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 live with a zeal that pleas - es heaven.
 so shall God's work on earth be done.
 give warmth and light and to in - spire.

WORDS: Bryan Jeffery Leech (John 3:5-8; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:9)

MUSIC: Johannes Brahms, adapt.

SYMPHONY

11 11 13.89

Words and adapt. © 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.

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.

The musical notation is written on three staves in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of lyrics. The melody is simple and melodic, with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

WORDS: James Ritchie
MUSIC: James Ritchie

RITCHIE
Irregular

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O Breath of Life

1. O Breath of Life, come sweep - ing through us,
 2. O Wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
 3. O Breath of Love, come, breathe with - in us,

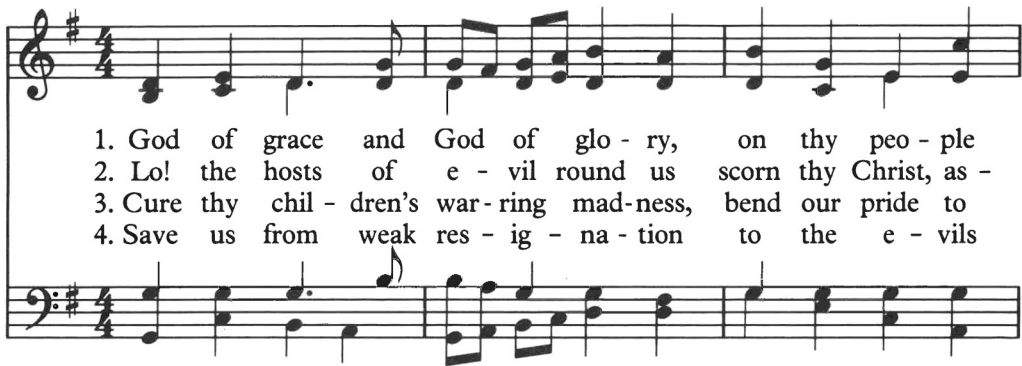
re - vive your church with life and power.
 till hum - bly we con - fess our need.
 re - new - ing thought and will and heart.

O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, re - new us,
 Then in your ten - der - ness re - make us;
 Come, love of Christ, a - fresh to win us;

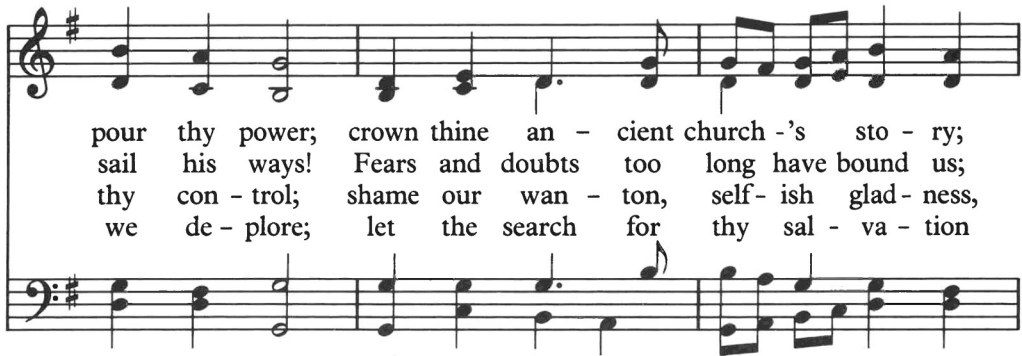
and fit your church to meet this hour.
 re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.
 re - vive your church in ev - ery part.

WORDS: Bessie Porter Head, 1920 (Acts 2; Jn. 20:22)
 MUSIC: David Ashley White, 1987

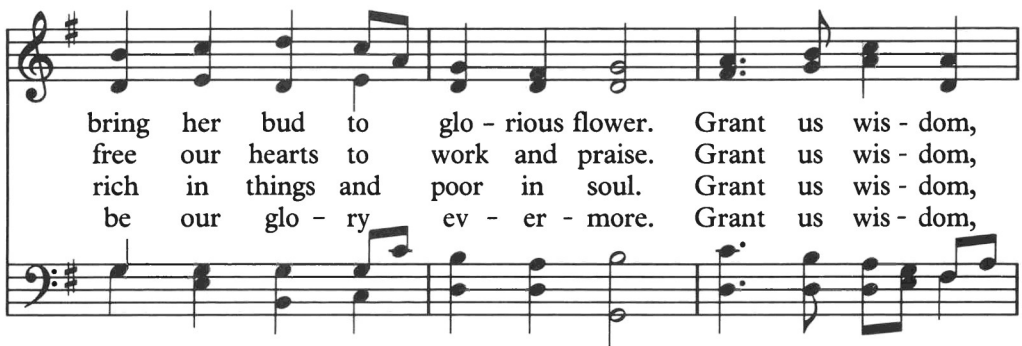
BISHOP POWELL
 98.98



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion



bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -



hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.