



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**
(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

September 24, 2023
10:00 a.m.

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 green prayer cards found in the pews.

The cards will be collected by an usher during the opening hymn and shared with clergy and prayer team.

PRELUDE *Prelude*

F. Couperin

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

Rev. Jarell Wilson

One: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways. This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

All: **God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.**

One: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you. As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—faith, hope, and love.

All: **God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.**

One: All life is created and nourished by you! May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

All: **Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

HANDBELL PROCESSIONAL *Processional in D*

John Behnke

***OPENING HYMN #100** *God, Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us* (UMH-red hymnal)

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

WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

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.*

HYMN OF RESPONSE #2185 *For One Great Peace*

(FWS-black hymnal)

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 16:2-15

Rev. Jarell Wilson

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 *This is Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

CHILDRENS BLESSING

MESSAGE *Everything is a Gift. Manna*

Rev. Julie Kline

Within the message we will sing together verses of 'Round the River's Bend, found on the next page.

SHARING THE MINISTRY OF WESLEY

Rev. Jarell Wilson

CALL TO OFFERING

Carol Hodges

Coins received will be designated for the support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their work around the world.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *In Meeting We Are Blessed*

Music by Troy Robertson, text by R. Gatsnahos after John Donne

We are met together and in meeting we are blessed. Peace in coming and in going, peace in labor and in rest. Hold on, dear brother, dear sister! Hold on to me. You are not alone and you never more will be. I will be with you and I will carry you with me. Friendship endures and surely we will prove it is not ourselves, but our bodies that move.

***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**

O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #133** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

(UMH-red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Passacaglia*

G. Muffat

'ROUND THE RIVER'S BEND

Lyrics by Jennifer Clark

Music by Jacqueline Stilger

Tune name: ACADEMY



1. Here I am, just wad-ing on the shores of grief, shed-ding
2. Here you are, I see you 'round the ri-ver's bend, hear your
3. Here I am, just churn-ing on this isle of storm, shout-ing
4. Here you are, we see you 'round the riv-er's bend, hear your



songs that no one seems to hear. What re-lief it'd be to lay my
song that runs so deep and clear. What a gift it is to learn your
songs that no one wants to hear. What re-lief it'd be to lay my
song that rum-bles loud and strong. What a gift it is to learn your



sto-ry down, take your hand, and know that I am found.
sto-ry friend, take my hand and let us flow a-long.
sto-ry down, take your hand, and know that I am found.
sto-ry, friend, take our hands and let us flow a-long.

5. Here I am, though not quite sure just where I stand,
can't recall the songs that I once sang.
What relief it'd be to lay my story down,
take your hand, and know that I am found.
6. Here you are, we see you 'round the river's bend,
hear the stirring echoes of your song.
What a gift it is to learn your story, friend.
Take our hands and let us flow along.
7. Here we are, a braided story growing now,
joined and shaped by voices of all kinds.
What a joy it is to sing along with you
as we stream into the great Divine.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Julia Librizzi, Rev. Jarell Wilson -
Wesley Foundation Director, WMU.

Director of Music **Organist**
Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Acolytes: Neela Parthasarathy and Kaden Seals

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. Today, the two adult classes, Bible Basics led by Tammy Eaton and Revival led by John Clark will be attending the Wesley Foundation 100th Anniversary Luncheon in Wesley Hall after worship. Classes will resume next Sunday.

Bible Basics: The Bible is Christianity's Holy Book yet many of us experience it in small chunks with little-to-no context.

Revival: John Wesley's basic message called for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. In this dvd-based class Adam Hamilton explores Wesley's life to challenge us to rediscover our spiritual passion.

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.

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

Small group activities resume on the first and third Sundays of each month. We meet at 6 p.m. joining in a short time of sharing and a potluck meal prior to moving into chosen small groups.

Wesley Foundation 100th Anniversary Kickoff luncheon today. You are invited to attend a Wesley Foundation Centennial celebration lunch in Wesley Hall following this morning's worship service. The first gathering of Wesley students met at First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo on December 2, 1923! Alumni continued to meet at our church until 1964 when the original Wesley Foundation building was built on the Western Michigan University campus. Plan to attend lunch in Wesley Hall for a taco & fajita bar and brief program including trivia, a slide show, and fellowship.

Faith Milestones. A group for 3rd to 5th graders! 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. Please join us for our first "Faith Milestones," October 1, from 5:30-7:30 pm on the 2nd floor in the "Arches." We will share dinner, play games and have a time to learn about the bible and discover ways to use it in daily living. Please email Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org for more info.

Lectio. Lectio is a space of contemplative prayer and fellowship for young adults led by Jonathan Townley, our Youth and Young Adult Resident. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., starting September 27, in the youth center. We will be practicing Lectio Divina, imaginative prayer, and other prayer practices based in imagination and meditation. By slowing down and elevating a single scripture repetitively, contemplative prayer invites us to explore feelings beneath the rhetoric we focus on so often in church. Through the practice, we are invited to encounter our relationship to God and community. Newcomers are welcome!

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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

October 1

10:00 a.m. Worship
World Communion Sunday

Rev. Julie Kline
Braiding Our Story
Called to the Table
Matthew 6:5-15

October 8

10:00 a.m. Worship
2nd Sunday

Rev. Matt Weiler
Braiding Our Story
Generous Like Jesus
Philippians 3:4b-14

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

First United
Methodis
Church of Kalamazoo



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 24

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School - 2nd floor
11:15 a.m. Wesley 100th Anniversary Lunch
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, September 25

12:45 pm Prayer Group

Tuesday, September 26

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. Facilities Team - Parlor
4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room
6:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Ringers - Wesley Hall
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center
6:30 p.m. Church Council - Parlor

Wednesday, September 27

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
6:30 p.m. Lectio - Youth Center
7:00 p.m. CFM Meeting - Zoom
7:00 p.m. Generosity Feedback Open Format- Parlor

Thursday, September 28

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
4:00 p.m. Outreach Team - Parlor
7:00 p.m. Generosity Team - Zoom

Friday, September 29

Saturday, September 30

Sunday, October 1

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
5:30 p.m. Faith Milestones - Arches
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center
6:00 p.m. Small Groups - Crafts, Games, Yoga

100 God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us

1. God, whose love is reign-ing o'er us, source of all, the
 2. Word of God from na-ture bring-ing spring-time green and
 3. Ho-ly God of an-cient glo-ry, choos-ing man and
 4. Cove-nant, new a-gain in Je-sus, Star-child born to
 5. Lift we then our hu-man voic-es in the songs that

end-ing true; hear the u-ni-ver-sal cho-rus
 au-tumn gold; moun-tain streams like chil-dren sing-ing,
 wom-an, too; A-br'am's faith and Sa-rah's sto-ry
 set us free; sent to heal us, sent to teach us
 faith would bring; live we then in hu-man choic-es

raised in joy-ful praise to you: Al-le-lu-ia,
 o-cean waves like thun-der bold: Al-le-lu-ia,
 formed a peo-ple bound to you. Al-le-lu-ia,
 how love's chil-dren we might be. Al-le-lu-ia,
 lives that, like our mu-sic, sing: Al-le-lu-ia,

Al-le-lu-ia, wor-ship an-cient, wor-ship new.
 Al-le-lu-ia, as cre-a-tion's tale is told.
 Al-le-lu-ia, to your cove-nant keep us true.
 Al-le-lu-ia, ris-en Christ, our Sav-ior he!
 Al-le-lu-ia, joined in love our prais-es ring!

WORDS: William Boyd Grove, 1980

MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

Words © 1980 William Boyd Grove

LAUDA ANIMA

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For One Great Peace



1. This thread I weave, this step I dance, this
 2. this pot I shape, this fire I light, this
 3. this check I write, this march I join, this



stone I carve, this ball I bounce, this nail I drive, this
 fence I leap, this bone I knit, this seed I nurse, this
 faith I state, this truth I sign, this is small part, in



pearl I string, this flag I wave, this note I sing,
 rift I mend, this child I raise, this earth I tend,
 one small place, of one heart's beat for one great Peace.

2233

Where Children Belong



This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed 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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Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing,
 lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean - ing on

ing, Je - sus, lean - ing, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.