



F I R S T U N I T E D
M E T H O D I S T
C H U R C H O F K A L A M A Z O O
(269) 381-6340 + www.umc-kzo.org

October 22, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church

BRAIDING OUR STORY

2023



Values | **Generosity** | **Mission** | **Vision**

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 green prayer cards found in the pews.

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

* Please rise *in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE *Prelude* G. Nivers

INTROIT *Rejoice in the Lord* Hal Hopson

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (reading responsively) Deb Search Willoughby

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!

All: **Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!**

One: God has remembered God's faithful ones.

All: **God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!**

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!

All: **Rejoice, for God is truly with us. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #92** *For the Beauty of the Earth* UMH-red hymnal)

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

WELCOME Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Rev. Matt Weiler and Danette Johnson

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHORAL RESPONSE *O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines* H.H Parry and C. Daw

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small; as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord; the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

***GOSPEL READING** Luke 3:15-18 (NRSV) Danette Johnson

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)

MESSAGE *A Season of Sifting* Rev. Julie Kline

RITUAL OF LETTING GO AND HARVEST

MUSICAL RESPONSE *'Round the River's Bend (vs 1 & 2)* (following page)

PRAYERS FOR WRITING TEAM

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN - Aligning our generosity to our vision.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus* arr. by C. Mokelbust
Kait Garrison, flute

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 (praying together)

Healing One, generous in love and forever faithful, we bring an offering; our time, talent, and treasure. With the help of the gracious One, may these gifts be used with wisdom and justice in the church and its mission in the name of the Risen One. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN #383** *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* (UMH-red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* J. Mouret

'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



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



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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Danette Johnson, Deb Search Willoughby

Director of Music Organist

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Acolytes: Lilly Nolan and Grace Harthorn

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.

Revival: The class will be led by John Clark in the Fellowship Room.

Family Foundations: A Sunday School class for parents of young children will begin with fellowship and coffee in room 209

KUDOS. Our church is supporting the Kalamazoo United Day of Service (KUDOS) on Friday, October 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (lunch provided!). Here's your chance to help people who don't have the means to weatherize or otherwise improve their homes in ways that would make a huge difference. We encourage volunteers to engage with the residents as much as possible with questions and conversation. Please contact Dan Duncan (danduncan56@gmail.com or 616-502-5092) if you'd like to be part of our team this year.

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.

October Mission of the Month. Salvation Army Share the Warmth coat drive. New or gently worn coats, especially in youth sizes are needed. You may place items for donating in the cardboard box designated for Share the Warmth that is near the Welcome Desk.

October Children and Families Ministries

Fun. All are invited to join us for Fall Fun, Fellowship and Hayrides! Please join us Sunday, Oct. 29, from 3-5 p.m. for harvest fun at the Lindstrom's home in Gobles, 39110 28th Ave, 49055. Pumpkins and carving tools will be provided, please bring a beverage or snack to share! Please sign up with Julia by Tuesday, Oct. 24 and let her know how many pumpkins your family would like to carve, jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

All Saints Sunday November 5. Our tradition each year is to remember and honor our family members who have died in the past twelve-months. If there was a death in your family since last year please contact the church office at (269)381-6340 or email kalamazoo@umc-kzo.org. Please include a photo of your loved one for the worship video. The last day to receive names and photos is November 1.

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!

Something New! Pastor Matt will be teaching a Bible Study BEFORE worship from 9 a.m.-9:50 a.m. in the Parlor beginning October 29, continuing through December 17. The New Storyteller: A Bible Study in the Book of Acts.

Pastor Matt will be leading a Bible Study in the Book of Acts, 9 a.m.-9:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings beginning October 29th. This study will be a deep dive into the Book of Acts as we listen to a narrative essential to Christian identity – a narrative and identity formed by the Holy Spirit, calling the church to be a voice alternative to nationalism, racism, domination. The writer, Luke, was a New Storyteller. As the church reads this book we are called to be New Storytellers within an ancient history.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

October 29

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Braiding Our Story

Sacred and Generous Work

Psalm 1, Matthew 22:34-46

November 5

10:00 a.m. Worship

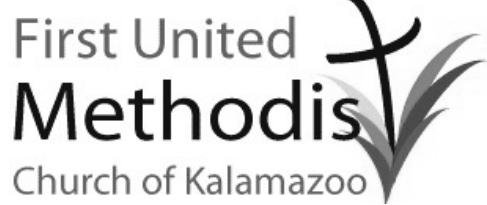
All Saints Sunday

Rev. Julie Kline

Sanctify Us

Ps. 107:1-7, 33-37;

1 Thess. 2:9-13



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

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

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

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, October 22

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
2:00 p.m. Manna - Apple Orchard
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, October 23

12:45 pm Prayer Group

Tuesday, October 24

9:00 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
9:45 a.m. Book Club - Chapel
12:30 p.m. Facilities Team - Parlor
4:15 p.m. First Beats - Choir Room
6:00 p.m. KR Rehearsal - Wesley Hall
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom
6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, October 25

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, October 26

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
4:00 p.m. Outreach Team - Parlor
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall
7:00 p.m. Generosity Team - Zoom
7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday, October 27

Saturday, October 28

Sunday, October 29

9:00 a.m. The New Storyteller - Parlor
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
3:00 p.m. Family Fun Harvest Party - Gobles
6:00 p.m. Grief Group - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Pastor Matt's Home

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5. For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 6. For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;
 friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 * Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*For Holy Communion

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

DIX
77.77.77

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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This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383

Unison

*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS
 98.98

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