



BRAIDING OUR STORY

Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church

Sunday October 29, 2023

Values | Generosity | Mission | Vision

umc-kzo.org
(269) 381-6340

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*

D. Buxtehude

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

Jeremy Welter

One: You, loving God, are the ground of our being and the river of life;
All: **you both steady our roots and draw them to seek the living waters.**
One: You are like the sunlight enticing us taller
All: **and like the breeze rustling our leaves.**
One: You are with us through hard seasons of summer heat,
All: **and in the nights when winter's frost ices the landscape.**
One: Your love warms and sustains us.
All: **You are everything to us.**
One: O let our gratitude be great,
All: **let our praise be plentiful and our worship wonder-full!**

inspired by Psalm 1

***OPENING HYMN #87** *What Gift Can We Bring*

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

Rev. Matt Weiler

MUSICAL RESPONSE #432 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* (vs 1-3)

CONSECRATING OUR GIFTS

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.*

One: God, we give you all our gifts, for they have come by grace from you.
 All: **Take them, bless them, use them for the work that you intend to do.**
 One: We are grateful for your blessings, grace you give in many ways.
 All: **May our gratitude resound through all our lives with joyous praise.**
 One: All that you entrust to us is meant for all the world to share;
 All: **we are stewards of your grace to scatter wide your loving care.**
 One: All our gifts are yours, not ours, and meant for us to humbly bear
 All: **to the world, in trust that in our grateful giving you are there.**
**Take our prayers, our loving presence; let compassion be our creed;
 help us be there for each other and for those in greater need.**
Take our many, varied gifts, our works and service, God.
Let our lives bear witness to your grace, with thanks and boundless joy.
Amen!

HYMN *'Round the River's Bend* (facing page)

A soloist will sing vs. 1-2. Please join in singing vs. 3-6 in turn with the pulpit side singing the odd and the lectern side singing the even. We will all sing vs. 7 together.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:34-46 Steve 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 *Love God. Love Neighbor* Rev. Julie Kline

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2168 *Love the Lord Your God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

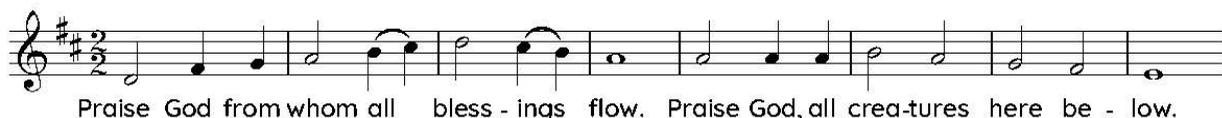
CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Doxology For A New Day* Thompson/Miller/Hatton

You are God, we are Your children, formed by love, we are your own. Holy one, your heart our home. From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise, let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue. Eternal are your mercies, Lord, eternal truth attends your word. Your praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.

***THE DOXOLOGY** Tune: Duke Street

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (praying together)



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here be low.



Praise God above, the heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Holy Spirit of Love, we open our hearts to you. We receive your love. We wonder at your love. We offer your love to all the world. Fill us with your love. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN #384** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (UMH-red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *In Unity We Lift Our Song* J. Pachelbel

Lyrics by Jennifer Clark

'Round the River's Bend

Music by Jacqueline Stilger
Tune name: ACADEMY



- (solo) 1. Here I am, just wad-ing on the shores of grief, shed-ding
(solo) 2. Here you are, I see you 'round the ri-ver's bend, hear your
Pulpit side 3. Here I am, just churn-ing on this isle of storm, shout-ing
Lectern side 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.

- Pulpit side 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.
- Lectern side 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.
- ALL 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, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi,
Steve Johnson, Jeremy Welter

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

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Acolytes: Kaden Seals

AV Team: Casey Curran, Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton

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

Celebration! Please join our time of fellowship after worship to celebrate your generosity and abundance with cake! All are invited.

Adult Sunday School Opportunities.

John Wesley: The Faith That Sparked the Methodist Movement: A screening of the 2014 documentary on the founder of the Methodist movement. Parlor.

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

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.

November 5th is All Saints Sunday. In worship we will light a candle, ring a bell, and after all names have been shared, we will stand for the saints that have died this year. Often, we come to All Saints worship remembering the saints that have influenced our lives. We invite you to light a candle for these saints, even if it is not this year that they have died. There will be tables in the front of sanctuary, and you can light a candle before worship, during the opening hymn or as worship concludes. This practice will express gratitude for all the saints that have influenced and shaped our lives.

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!

Grief Group. You are invited to join with others in creating sacred space for losses led by Jan Schoenherr, LPC and Deb Search Willoughby, LMS. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to one of the leaders: Jan at schoenherrjan@gmail.com, Deb at dsearchwill@gmail.com, or any of our pastors. Meeting Oct. 29, Nov. 12 and 26 at 6 p.m.

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, and 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.

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.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

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

November 12

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sing Out Sunday

Lectionary Readings:

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7

1 Thess. 4:13-18;

Matt. 25:1-13

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, October 29

9:00 a.m.. The New Storyteller - Parlor

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Friendship Village Satellite Worship

11:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

3:00 p.m. Youth and Children & Families Fun Harvest Party - Gobles

6:00 p.m. Grief Group - Chapel

Monday, October 30

12:45 pm Prayer Group

6:00 p.m. Vision Writers Group - Parlor

Tuesday, October 31

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom

9:45 a.m. Book Club - Chapel

6:00 p.m. KR Rehearsal - Wesley Hall

6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, November 1

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

1:30 p.m. OLLI Curriculum Comm. - Fellowship Rm.

3:00 p.m. HON - TBD

Thursday, November 2

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

4:00 p.m. Leadership Team - Zoom

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall

7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday, November 3

Youth Retreat through Sunday November 5

Saturday, November 4

Sunday, November 5

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

11:15 a.m. Church Council Vision Follow-up - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Small Groups at church

What Gift Can We Bring

Unison

1. What gift can we bring, what present, what to - ken?
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,
 3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of sur - pris - es,
 4. This gift we now bring, this present, this to - ken,

What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?
 who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.
 for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,
 these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!

When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,
 Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,
 the Word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;
 When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,

what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?
 for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.
 we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.
 this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!

WORDS: Jane Marshall, 1980
 MUSIC: Jane Marshall, 1980

ANNIVERSARY SONG
 11 11.11 11

Jesu, Jesu

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

D.C.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)

MUSIC: Ghana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI
Irr. with Refrain

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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Love the Lord Your God

2168

Love the Lord, your God, _____ with all your
 heart. _____ Love the Lord, your God, _____ with
 all your soul. _____ Love the Lord, your
 God, _____ with all your mind. _____ Love the
 Lord, your God, _____ with all that you are. _____

WORDS: Jean and Jim Strathdee (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27)
 MUSIC: Jean and Jim Strathdee

GREAT COMMANDMENT
 Irregular

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384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.