



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT: MEETING THE
TRANSCENDENT LIGHT

December 3 2023; 10 am

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 *Veni Emmanuel*

G. Krapf

ADVENT BELLS

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1-9

Rev. Julie Kline

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #196** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (UMH-red hymnal)

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

WELCOME

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christine Charles

KYRIE #2275

(FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that we are not ready. We call on you to rend the heavens and come down, and yet we aren't ready for you to rend our hearts and enter in. When it comes to meeting you face-to-face, we hesitate. We fear what you will find in us and among us. We are uncertain that we really want our lives to be turned upside down by the good news. We want the hope that comes with knowing you are coming to us, but we're not sure we're ready for the shock of that hope. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our fear that we might joyfully live in the hope that shakes us up and turns us around to follow you.

ASSURANCE

Rev. Matt Weiler

One: Hear the good news: God is the Potter, and we are the clay.

All: **We are the work of God's hand. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

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.*

REFRAIN *Christ Be Our Light*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gather-ered to - day.

Words and Music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993, Published by OCP Pub.
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***GOSPEL READING** Mark 13:24-37

A TIME FOR THE CHILD AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Julia Librizzi

**So we gather to light a candle, because this might be the spark we need:
Hope. Here. With us.**

HYMN #206 vs. 1 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (UMH-red hymnal)

MESSAGE *The Radiance of Hope* Rev. Julie Kline

HOLY COMMUNION (sung responses may be found on pg. 21-22, UMH)

All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God's creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning, coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread, dipping it in the cup of juice and eating. Servers will offer the bread by saying "the bread of life" and "the cup of love" given for you. You may respond with "amen." Gluten-free bread is available at each station.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Aramaic translation Neil-Douglas Klotz

O Birther! Father- Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of You, the astonishing fire, returning light, and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

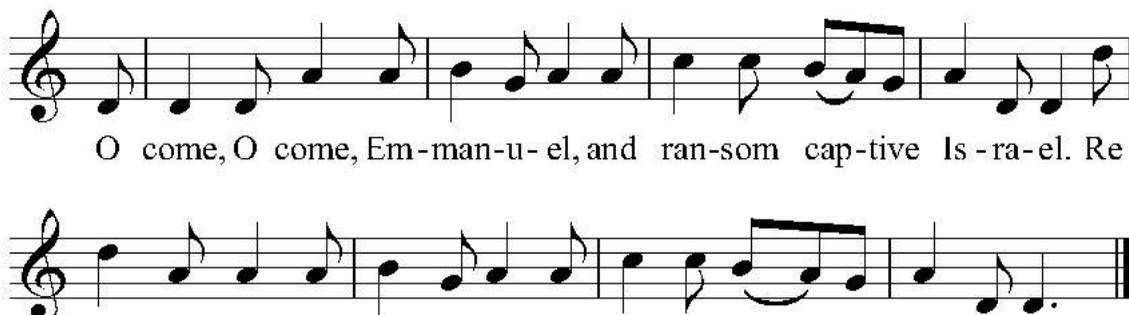
COMMUNION HYMN #626 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (UMH-red hymnal)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Donald Pearson
Please join the choir in singing the refrain when indicated.

Congregational Refrain



O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el. Re
joice! Re-joyce Em-man - u - el, shall come to thee, — O Is - ra - el.

***THE DOXOLOGY** (singing together) Tune: Duke Street

**To God, All Glorious Heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night
To God, the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise**

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

Gracious God, we thank you for the mystery that you give yourself to us. You have filled us with the bread of hope, the bread of longing. We offer our gifts, to feed the hunger of the world. Send us into the world to live prayerfully and serve lovingly, in the name and the Spirit of Christ, who is coming. Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN #213** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (UMH-red hymnal)

PEACE CANDLE AND PASSING THE PEACE

As you leave this sanctuary illuminated by the transcendent light, go now and share with all you encounter.

POSTLUDE *Come Now, Savior Of Nations* J.S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi

Christine Charles

Director of Music **Organist**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

Acolytes: Max Newman and Kaden Seals

AV Team: Casey Curran, Bryan Heany

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.

I Prepare My Heart for the Manger: Reflecting on Advent Through Poetry. (Parlor) Over two classes, December 3 & 10, we'll use poetry to reflect on advent themes such as waiting, preparing, and wondering. Jennifer Clark will facilitate, offering the opportunity for small and large group discussion. Through various works, including selections from Advent Anticipations: Poems for Meditation (which includes original writings by FUMC members and friends), we'll prepare our hearts for the manger.

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

The New Storyteller! 9:00 a.m. in room 304. This study is a deep dive into the Book of Acts - the writer, Luke, was a New Storyteller.

Advent Labyrinth. The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall throughout the season of Advent. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday or Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 9 am-and 4pm and Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 am-noon. This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes and can take 10-20 minutes to walk. There will be prayer stations set up outside the four corners of the labyrinth to enhance your time of prayer and contemplation. We encourage you to try this ancient prayer practice to quiet your mind, center yourself, and allow your spirit to be in prayer. Peace be with you.

December 5 Church Conference. Kalamazoo District Superintendent Rev. Dwayne Bagley will preside over the church's annual business church conference on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend this important annual meeting and learn of all the ways our church has been, and continues to in ministry.

Advent Concert Series. Take a break in your day and come experience the sounds of the season in our beautiful sanctuary at noon on Thursdays. Sponsored by the Music and Arts Committee, you may contact Jackie, jst-ilger@umc-kzo.org for more information. A free will offering will be accepted.

December 7 - Selkie, a trio of Celtic musicians playing traditional and original music with flute, fiddle, bouzouki, banjo, guitar, accordion, harp, and voice.

December 14 - Gary & Martha Matthews, a musical and spiritual journey with classical and jazz arrangements of well-known hymns using piano, organ, trumpet, flute, handbells, and voice.

December 21 - Aris Chaplin, an international award-winning jazz pianist and keyboardist at Western Michigan University.

Christmas Eve Service 4 pm Prelude. Does your child play a musical instrument? Our musical director, Ms. Jackie, would like to invite all the children to begin thinking about a musical prelude for the 4 pm Christmas Eve service! Please email Ms. Jackie Stilger at jst-ilger@umc-kzo.org if interested in participating.

New Year's Fest. Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors to our church during New Year's Fest. A Signup sheet is in the Perks area or contact Dan. (djbunker@charter.net, 269-217-8780) Featured events include Alan Smola with illusions and magic; the Otsego Jazz Band, and Ventriloquist Richard Paul. Everyone who volunteers will receive free admission buttons to enjoy other entertainment around the park. (www.NewYearsFest.com)

Faith Milestones, Manna, & Youth Caroling. December 10, from 5 pm to 8 pm Faith Milestones (students in 3rd - 6th grade) will join the Youth Group and Manna for a night of caroling. Meet at the church and join the caravan around town.

Kalamazoo Community Chorale Christmas Concert here today at 3 pm. All are welcome!

UPCOMING WORSHIP

December 10

10:00 a.m. Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Matt Weiler

What is So Good About This News?

Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

1 Thess. 2:9-13

December 17

10 am Worship

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Rev. Julie Kline

The Liberation of Joy

Isaiah 60:1-4, 8-11;

1 Thess. 5:16-24

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 Christ-centered community where our stories are woven with God's story.

OUR VALUES

Love: God is Love and all creation is made in love, by love, for love.
Community: Sacred relationship with God and one another.
Inclusion: All identities belong and are loved in Christ.
Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, December 3

9:00 a.m. The New Storyteller - 304

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Friendship Village

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

3:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Community Chorale Concert - Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center

6:00 p.m. Small Groups at church

Monday, December 4

12:45 pm Prayer Group

Tuesday, December 5

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom

12:30 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting

4:15 p.m. First Beats

6:30 p.m. Manna - Youth Center

6:30 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

7:30 p.m. Church Conference - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 6

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 Committee - Fell. Rm.

3:00 p.m. HON - TBD

6:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Team - Parlor

Thursday, December 7

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

12:00 p.m. Advent Concert Series - Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Leadership Team - Zoom

6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall

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

Winter Weather Closing Policy

We share closures on WWMT, Facebook, our webpage, and email.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is-rael's strength and con - so -
now thy gra-cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

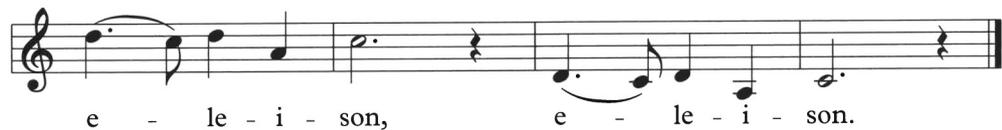
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL

87.87 D

2275

Kyrie



WORDS: Ancient Greek

MUSIC: Based on Mvt. II from *Symphony No. 9* by Antonín Dvořák;

arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

NEW WORLD

Irregular

Arr. © 1998 Alfred Publishing Co.

206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear Sun of Righteous-ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Continues on next page

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God. (☺)

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus. (☺)

WORDS: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966
MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

HOUSTON
10 7.10 8 with Refrain

© 1970, 1975 Celebration

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 626

Unison

1. Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Ma-ry, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard
 4. At his feet the six-winged ser-aph, cher-u-bim, with

trem-bling stand; pon-der noth-ing earth-ly - mind-ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de-scend-eth
 sleep-less eye, veil their fac-es to the pres-ence,

for with bless-ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod-y and the blood; he will give to
 from the realms of end-less day, that the powers of
 as with cease-less voice they cry: Al-le-lu-ia,

earth de-scend - eth, our full hom-age to de-mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heaven-ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark-ness clears a-way.
 Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!

WORDS: Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864 (Jn. 6:35-58; Rev. 4)
 MUSIC: French carol melody; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

PICARDY
 87.87.87

213 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
 2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
 3. Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide;
 4. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it lead us on

be - hold, the King of glo - ry waits;
 make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 our hearts to thee we o - pen wide;
 un - til our glo - rious goal is won;

the King of kings is draw - ing near;
 from earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy,
 let us thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
 e - ter - nal praise, e - ter - nal fame

the Sav - ior of the world is here!
 a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 thy grace and love in us re - veal.
 be of - fered, Sav - ior, to thy name!

WORDS: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855 (Ps. 24)
 MUSIC: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
 LM