

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, January 7
10 am Worship
Rev. Julie Kline
Accepting God’s Claim Upon Us
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14
10 am Worship
Rev. Julie Kline
2nd Sunday After the Epiphany

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 side 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 can request a free copy of the DVD from the office. You can find previous worship services on our website: <http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>. You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

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

WORSHIP LEADERS
Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Julia Librizzi, Deb Search Willoughby, Robin Entenman, Alex Moon

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

Piano - Alex Moon

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor

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

January Mission of the Month
While it seems that Winter has been delayed, many individuals in Kalamazoo are homeless and living outside in tents and many others are living in shelters. Others cannot afford warm winter clothing. We are hoping to help keep them warm by collecting the following items for Ministry with Community and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Please consider helping our neighbors in need:

- Ministry with Community**
- Men's underwear (all sizes)
 - Women's underwear (sizes small, medium and large NOT ex-large and above)
 - Hand Warmers

- Kalamazoo Gospel Mission**
- Men's Shelter**
 - Socks
 - Men's underwear all sizes
 - Undershirts
 - Winter gloves
 - Women's Shelter**
 - Socks Adult and Children
 - Underwear Adult and Children
 - Diapers size 3,4,5,6

The Mission of the Month collection point is near the entrance to the food pantry.
The Outreach Team thanks you for your assistance in helping others in our community.

Adult Sunday School Opportunities resume January 7.

Family Foundations: *I Guess I Haven’t Learned That Yet* by Shauna Niequist. Using Weekly videos guided by the author, discussion questions, and reflections we join this journey of unlearning what is no longer helpful, embracing curiosity, and accepting the unknowns.

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.

New Years Fest
Join us this evening at 6 pm for the New Year’s Fest! Featured events will include Alan Smola, returning with new illusions and magic in the sanctuary; the Otsego Jazz Band, and Ventriloquist Richard Paul in Wesley Hall.

Winter Weather Closing Policy. Every attempt will be made for the church to be open on Sundays. Please use discretion deciding when to venture out. Weekday meetings may be cancelled if travel is dangerous. Team and committee chairs are asked to contact the church and their team/committee if a meeting is cancelled. Please check Channel 3 news, our website, Facebook, and email for closing notices. Please note the church may be open even when area schools are closed.

Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist. As part of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church’s vow to resist oppression in all its forms we, the Church Council, commit ourselves to the decisive action that is needed to resist and dismantle racism at every level. This action must go beyond our historically empty rhetoric about repentance and broken promises to be a church that is a credible and active witness for peace, equity and justice in the face of harm visited upon communities of color. We beckon our clergy and lay leadership to unapologetically shine the light of truth on our church community so that we recognize our complicity in systemic racism, recognize and condemn white supremacy as sin, and seek a deep knowing of what God calls us to do. We make these vows so that every person – especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) —may live in safety, health, and freedom.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

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

December 31, 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

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

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God’s salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.
We watch and work for God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.
We watch and work for God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.
We watch and work for God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Come, let us worship God, Whose love endures from generation to generation, Guiding us from one year to the next.
Come let us worship as we live
In anticipation of God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #220** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (UMH-red hymnal)
During the hymn, ushers will pass through the sanctuary collecting the green prayer cards.

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

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.*