



**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**  
(269) 381-6340 + [www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)

January 7, 2024  
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**    *Blessed Jesus, We are Here*

J.S. Bach

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

Rev. Marilyn Barney

One: Creator God, when Jesus was baptized, he descended into the water:  
the waters of Creation, the Red Sea of liberation, the healing flow of your  
grace.

All: **We immerse ourselves in your creative Spirit, in your Word,  
in your Presence.**

One: Risen Christ, at the Jordan River God proclaimed you God's Beloved.

All: **We sink into your love. We soak up your grace.  
We are held in your hands.**

One: Holy Spirit, at Jesus' baptism you descended as a dove.

All: **Fill us: be our life and strength, our purpose and confidence.**

One: Baptize us in your light, O God, and make us new in the womb of your grace.

All: **Alleluia! Come, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

~by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**\*OPENING HYMN #608**    *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*

(UMH-red hymnal)

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

**WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Julie Kline

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**

Rev. Matt Weiler

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**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.*

\*GOSPEL READING     Mark 1:4-11

One: This is what the Spirit is saying to the church  
All: **Thanks be to God.**


A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL     Julia Librizzi

HYMN #2249     God Claims You     (FWS-black hymnal)

You are invited to insert your own name as we sing

MESSAGE     Accepting God's Claim Upon Us     Rev. Julie Kline

We will sing *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*, throughout the message.



Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
with this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di vine.

Text by Ronald S. Cole-Turner ©1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner. Used with permission.

BAPTISMAL RENEWAL     Rev. Kline, Rev. Weiler

Clergy: We come to this water because our souls thirst for you, O God, as in a dry and weary land.

People: **We come to this water to renew our love as siblings in Christ, and to renew our baptism in the death and resurrection of Christ.**

Clergy: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

People: **We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Clergy: Will you nurture one another in living the faith through the church?

People: **With God's help we will embody the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will surround each other with faith, hope, and love that we all may grow in grace and faith and learn to trust God and live in loving service in the world. We will pray for each other and walk with one another on our journey of discipleship together.**

Clergy: Pour out your Holy Spirit in this water and bless us as we remember it.

People: **Claimed by your Word, nourished in your grace, washed from all sin and borne by your Spirit, may we live in freedom, trust, and courage, sharing in the eternal life of Christ.**

Clergy: Children of God, you are God's Beloved, in whom God is well pleased.

People: **All praise to you, Eternal Father and Mother, Son and Holy Spirit, in the present moment and in eternity. Amen!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (praying together)

**Our God/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**     *Shall We Gather at the River* R. Lowry arr. J. Raney

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #2046 v.4**     *Womb of Life* (FWS-black hymnal)

**Mother, Brother, Holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever, One in three, and Three in one.  
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,  
ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (praying responsively)

One: God of the baptismal waters, we give these offerings in gratitude,  
All:   **rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.**  
One: We give these offerings in faith,  
All:   **trusting that you will provide for our needs.**  
One: We give these offerings in hope,  
All:   **knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.**  
One: And with these offerings, we give ourselves;  
All:   **May we live with generous hearts, with open hands,  
trusting that you have claimed us as your own. Amen.**

**OUR SHARED LIFE**

**\*HYMN #400**     *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (UMH-red hymnal)

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**     *Offertorio* D. Zipoli

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler  
Rev. Marilyn Barney

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

**Satellite Worship Coordinator:** Pastor Thom Victor

**AV Team:** Casey Curran, Bryan Heany

**Acolytes:** Arya McGinnis, Neela Parthasarathy

**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 by donating items from the following list: men's underwear (all sizes), women's underwear (sizes small, medium and large), hand warmers, socks, undershirts, winter gloves, women's and children's socks, underwear for adults and children, diapers sizes 3 - 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.

**Human Relations Day, January 14, 2024.** Human Relations Day is a denomination-wide Special Sunday celebrating and raising awareness about the strength of human relationship. The offering received contributes to building Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's vision of "the beloved community."

**Communion Sunday.** Next Sunday, Jan 14, we will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

**Adult Sunday School Opportunities.**

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.

The Methodist Movement in America Brought to Life. Did you know that we are living right now in a monumental moment of the Methodist Movement in America? We are in a dynamic time – this is our moment in history. But the truth is that the Methodist Movement has always been dynamic, both in England and America! John Boley will lead this class on the Methodist Movement in America for five weeks beginning on Sunday, January 7 and continuing through Feb 4. This will be a thorough survey, with focus on historical, theological, prophetic, cultural, and organizational aspects of this Movement. It will point to today's dynamic moment and the historical momentum that brought the Methodist Movement to Kalamazoo. All are invited for coffee and discussion after worship in the Parlor.

**Let's Go Swimming!** All Church Family Fun for January: The Children and Families Ministries Team invites you to join us for a potluck and family swim time at Ascension Borgess Health and Fitness, Friday, January 12, 2024 from 6-8 pm. We will swim first from 6-7 pm and then have a potluck in their meeting room together from 7-8. Email [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org) with any questions.

**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.

**UPCOMING WORSHIP**

Sunday, January 14

**10 am Worship**

Human Relations Sunday

Communion

Rev. Julie Kline

*Call to the Temple of Our Hearts*

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Sunday, January 21

**10:00 am Worship**

Rev. Matt Weiler

*Did We Meet on the Boat?*

Mark 1:14-20

**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 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](http://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, January 7**

9:00 am The New Storyteller - Rm 304  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
10:00 am Friendship Village Satellite Worship  
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
11:15 am Youth Council - Youth Lounge  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

**Monday, January 8**

12:45 pm Prayer Group - Chapel  
1:00 pm Building & Grounds - Zoom

**Tuesday, January 9**

9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom  
12:30 pm All Staff Meeting - Parlor  
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room  
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center  
6:30 pm SPRC - Parlor

**Wednesday, January 10**

9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor  
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live  
12:30 pm Food Pantry  
3:00 pm HON - Zoom

**Thursday, January 11**

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall  
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

**Friday January 12**

6:00 pm Swimming/Potluck - Ascension Borgess

**Saturday January 13**

**Sunday, January 14**

9:00 am The New Storyteller - Rm 304  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
10:00 am Friendship Village Satellite Worship  
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

## This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

1. This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the  
 2. Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that  
 3. Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for

wa - ter and the word, the cross of Je - sus  
 we must die each day, to rise a - gain by  
 your bap - tis - mal power that wash - es us through

on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 his de - sign as fol - lowers of his way.  
 all our days. Lord, cleanse a - gain this hour.

WORDS: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1972 (Rom. 6:3-4)  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON  
 CM

Word © 1972 Thomas E. Herbranson

# Where the Spirit of the Lord Is 2119

Where the Spir - it of the Lord is, there is peace; where the

Spir - it of the Lord is, there is love. There is

com - fort in life's dark - est hour; there is light and life, there is

help and pow - er in the Spir - it, in the Spir - it of the Lord.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are distributed across four systems of music. The first system contains the first line of the verse. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line. The fourth system contains the fourth line. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs in the Soprano and Alto parts.

WORDS: Stephen R. Adams (2 Cor. 3:17)

MUSIC: Stephen R. Adams

ADAMS  
Irregular

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# God Claims You

2249



\*\*“Dan - iel, Dan - iel,” God claims you, God helps you, pro -  
Child of prom - ise,



tects you, and loves you, too.

*Fine*

1. We this day do
- \*\*\*2. We your fam - ily
3. We are here to
4. And if you should

*D.C.*



all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.  
love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.  
say this day that we will help you on your way.  
tire or cry then we will sing this lul - la - by.

\*Sing Refrain twice at beginning and end, and once between stanzas.

\*\*May insert child's name.

\*\*\*May insert parents' names "Jeff and Kathy love you so, we vow ..."

WORDS: Stanley M. Farr

MUSIC: Stanley M. Farr

© 1981 Stanley M. Farr

FARR

Irregular with Refrain

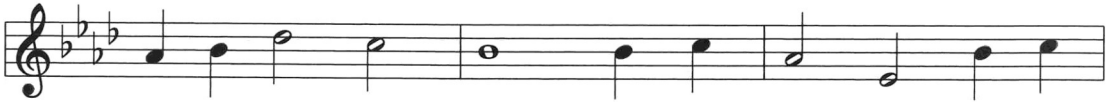


# Womb of Life

2046



1. Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of  
 2. Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to  
 3. Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our  
 4. Moth - er, Broth - er, Ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther,



ev - ery rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a -  
 bring us sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be -  
 part - ner, be our friend. When our mem - ory fails, re -  
 Spir - it, On - ly Son: We would praise your name for -



wak - ened; you have loved us from the  
 side us, know - ing weak - ness, know - ing  
 mind us whose we are, what we in -  
 ev - er, One - in - three, and Three - in -



start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er 'round you, at the  
 earth. Priest who shares our hu - man strug - gles, Life of  
 tend. La - bor with us, aid the birth - ing of the  
 one. We would share your life, your pas - sion, share your



ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing stor - ies, tears, and  
 Life, and Death of Death, Ris - en Christ, come stand a -  
 new world yet to be, free of ser - vant, lord, and  
 word of world made new, ev - er sing - ing, ev - er



laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.  
 mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.  
 mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.  
 prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (John 1:14; 20:19-23)

MUSIC: Skinner Chávez-Melo

RAQUEL

87.87 D

Words © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.; music © 1985 Skinner Chávez-Melo

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 400

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to  
 2. Here I raise mine Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -

sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
 help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure,  
 strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,

call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious  
 safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 bind my wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! I'm  
 stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to res - cue  
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O

fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
 me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 (1 Sam. 7:12)  
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

NETTLETON  
 87.87 D