



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO
(269) 381-6340 + www.umc-kzo.org

February 4, 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

WELCOME

Mandakini Brophy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (reading responsively)

Phil VanOrman

One: Creator God, when Jesus broke bread, poured wine, and shared a meal with his disciples, he prepared a table to be set for generations to come.

All: **We come to the table, fed by Manna, sustained by company, and filled with Your Spirit.**

One: Risen Christ, your sacrifice, your continuing presence builds a love that will not yield.

All: **We turn our ears and hearts to the hum of the Spirit as it draws us closer to each other and to You.**

One: Holy Spirit, your thread of being tightens the circle we are drawn into and reflects to us what we are made of.

All: **Show us the thread. Allow us to pull into each other in the spirit of love, connections, and reflection. Hold us together.**

One: Bring us to the truth of Your love, God.

Shower us in the warmth and resilience of collective faith.

All: **Alleluia! Come Gracious God, Living Christ, and Holy Spirit. Transform us by your presence and grace, Alleluia.**

Mandakini Brophy

*OPENING HYMN #2236 *Gather Us In*

(FWS-black hymnal)

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Daniel Whitcomb and Ruth Butters

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.*

CONFESSION

Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news, Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong*

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Julia Librizzi

READING Jason Brophy
This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us
by Cole Arthur Riley, p. 73.

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CHORAL ANTHEM *God’s Got the Whole World* Mark Miller

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Kerry Castor

Sermon *Belonging: Manna and More* Jonathan Townley

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

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. As you receive a piece of bread, dip it into the cup of juice and eat.

PREFACE #2257a (FWS-black hymnal)
Please join in singing responsively as indicated.

SANCTUS #2257b (singing together)

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION #2257c (singing together)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our God/Mother/Father, 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.**

WE RECEIVE COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *Broken Vessels* Joel Houston & Jonas Myrin
Mandakini Brophy, soloist

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Julie Kline

OFFERTORY *Allegretto* from Sonate 1, Op. 167 Camille Saint-Saëns
Karla Evans, clarinet

***THE DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (UMH-red hymnal)

**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) Karla Evans

**We sing to you God with thanksgiving,
making melody with our praise.
Use these gifts to spread our gospel near and far,
for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #2220** *We Are God’s People* (FWS-black hymnal)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Jonathan Townley, Youth & Young Adult Resident,
Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Julia Librizzi,
Mandakini Brophy, Phil VanOrman, Kerry Castor,
Christine Charles, Ruth Butters, Daniel Whitcomb,
Karla Evans

Director of Music	Organist
Jacqueline Stilger	Bernie Foulk

Clarinet
Karla Evans

Satellite Worship Coordinator: Pastor Thom Victor
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,
Lucas McGinnis

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

68th Wedding Anniversary. The flower arrangement on the chancel table is in celebration of the anniversary of Ashton & Mary Ellen Fredenburg.

Community Health. Acknowledging a community rise in illness of all sorts, please feel welcome to wear a mask while at church.

Retirement Reception. Please join us after church in the PERKS area on Sunday, February 25 for a Retirement Reception for long-time Director of Business Administration, Ruth LaMachia. There will be a basket for your cards and notes, as well as special treats. This is an opportunity to come together in community to celebrate and thank Ruth for her many years of dedicated service.

Winter Weather Closing Policy. 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.

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 am 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. We are in a dynamic time – this is our moment in history. The Methodist Movement has always been dynamic, both in England and America! John Boley leads this class on the Methodist Movement in America continuing through Feb 11. This will be a thorough survey, with focus on historical, theological, prophetic, cultural, and organizational aspects of this Movement. All are invited for coffee and discussion after worship in the Parlor.

Faith Milestones. A group for 3rd through 5th graders only. Faith Milestones are those firsts as we grow in our faith. We will meet monthly. Future meeting dates and explorations are planned as follows:

- Sunday, February 25, Communion
- Sunday, March 17, Prayer
- Sunday, April 14, Confirmation and Baptism
- Friday, May 17, Scavenger Hunt

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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 11

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12

Wednesday, February 13

7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Reconciling & Realigning

Our Hearts

Sunday, February 18

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Love: God is Love

Mark 1:9-15

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. 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, February 4

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
7:00 pm Youth Group - Portage Chapel Hill UMC

Monday, February 5

11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel

Tuesday, February 6

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 pm Clergy/Directors - 305
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center
6:30 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

Wednesday, February 7

9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 pm Food Pantry
1:00 pm OLLI Curriculum Committee - Fellowship Rm
3:00 pm HON - Zoom

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday February 9

Youth Retreat

Saturday February 10

Youth Retreat

Sunday, February 11

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



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
we are the old — who yearn for your face,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. ____
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. ____
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. ____
now is the King-dom, now is the day. ____



Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the
Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. ____
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. ____
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. ____
fire of love in our flesh and our bone. ____

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
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RITCHIE
 Irregular

2257-a

Communion Setting
(Preface)

Leader *All*
 The Lord be with you. _____ And al-
Leader
 so with you. _____ Lift up your
All
 hearts. _____ We lift them up to the Lord. _____
Leader *All*
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give our thanks and praise. _____

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
 MUSIC: Mark A. Miller
 Music © 2000 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

2257-b

(Sanctus)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

2257-c

(Memorial Acclamation)

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,

Christ will come a - gain. _____ Ho -

san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -

san - na in the high - est! _____

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller
Music © 1999 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Co.

We Are God's People

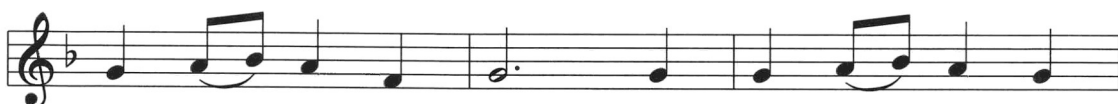
2220



1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the
 2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ, our
 3. We are the bod - y of which the Lord is
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing



Lord, born of the Spir - it, es -
 Lord, for we have known it, the
 Head, called to o - bey Christ, now
 place, formed in great weak - ness, a



tab - lished by the Word. Our cor - ner - stone is
 love of God out - poured. Now let us learn how
 ris - en from the dead. God wills us be a
 cup to hold God's grace. We die a - lone, for



Christ a - lone, and strong in Christ we stand; O
 to re - turn the gift of love once given; O
 fam - i - ly di - verse, yet tru - ly one; O
 on its own each em - ber los - es fire; yet



let us live trans - par - ent - ly and
 let us share each joy and care and
 let us give our gifts to God and
 joined in one the flame burns on to



walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 live with a zeal that pleas - es heaven.
 so shall God's work on earth be done.
 give warmth and light and to in - spire.

WORDS: Bryan Jeffery Leech (John 3:5-8; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:9)
 MUSIC: Johannes Brahms, adapt.

SYMPHONY
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Words and adapt. © 1976 Fred Bock Music Co.

Cole Arthur



For this first Sunday of black history month, we hear the words of a black woman who is a young adult, which is fitting, as we celebrate the ministries of young adults on this day in our worship.

Cole Arthur Riley is the creator of This Here Flesh and Black Liturgies, a space where Black words of dignity, lament, rage, and rest, are curated and integrated with a liberating spirituality. She serves as the content and spiritual formation manager for Chesterton House: A Center for Christian Studies at Cornell University. Cole Arthur Riley bring black theology that speaks to the beautiful concept of representing God fully. This includes language, bodies, values, and stories. The author's work gives language to her own experiences while touching on how spirituality can be impacted by identity and community.

From This Here Flesh, pg 73. by Cole Arthur Riley

...In mutuality, belonging is both a gift received and a gift given. There is comfort in being welcome, but there is dignity in knowing that your arrival just shifted a group toward deeper wholeness.

People talk about God as three distinct people in one. If this is true, it means the whole cosmos is predicated on a diverse and holy community. And if we bear the image of God, that means we bear the image of a multitude. And that to bear the image of God in its fullness, we need each other. Maybe every culture, every household, every community bears that image in a unique way.



While a lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School, Miller is also a Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer In Residence at Drew University in Madison, NJ. He further serves as Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey.

Mark Miller's hymns and anthems are sung by communities of faith throughout the world, Miller himself travels the world leading worship, preaching, teaching, and presenting concerts focused on creating community and advocating for social justice.

When he's not working Mark is home in Plainfield, NJ with his husband of 28 years, Michael Murden. Together they have raised two children. Today in worship, as we enter a month of lifting the voices of black hymn writers, composers, and the traditional African American Spirituals, the Chancel Singers are delighted to share with us Mark Miller's arrangement of the traditional African American Spiritual – God's Got the Whole World.