



First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

March 10, 2024

10:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

JUSTICE:

Restoration of equity and wholeness

JOHN 3:14-21

WWW.UMC-KZO.ORG

** Please rise in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE *Prelude*

F. Couperin

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (praying responsively)

Ginnie Hessler

One: Let all who have gathered give praise to God who has called us here

All: **For God is good, and steadfast, and God's love endures forever.**

One: Let all who have gathered look upon the cross of Jesus Christ

All: **For in Christ there is healing and restoration.**

One: Let all who have gathered find equity and wholeness

All: **For the Spirit meets us here and moves among us with justice.**

One: We who have gathered are woven together, our lives with God's story

All: **Let us lift high the cross, and tell a story that brings glory to God and hope for a hurting world.**

***OPENING HYMN #159** *Lift High The Cross*

(UMH- red hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

CALL TO CONFESSION - verse 1 (sing twice)



1. O - pen our hearts and our minds to your love. Let us
2. For - give us our fail - ings, our fears and our doubts. Let us



seek your grace and wis - dom.
seek your love and com - pas - sion.

Text & tune by J. Stilger ©2024

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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Jesus Christ, we come to you in need of mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We fail to trust in your newness, preferring the comfort of familiar ways. We perpetuate harm and injustice choosing self preservation over sacrificial love. We worship you in the sanctuary on Sunday and ignore the suffering of the world the rest of the week. Forgive us we pray. Embolden us to raise our crosses, that a hurting world might look upon your glory and be made whole. Amen.

REFRAIN (see page 1) Verse 2 of Call to Confession (sing twice)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND STORY

Magen Lindstrom

PASSING THE PEACE

One: Each one of us has an individual story

All: **a story that is living, unfolding, and continually created anew.**

One: Our faith community has a collective story

All: **entwining our individual stories together and weaving with God's story.**

One: The Holy Spirit is guiding and shaping our story

All: **and there is much more to be discovered and lived.**

One: We dwell in a story that in the end is filled with hope, resurrection, life, and love eternal.

All: **This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

One: As we journey through Lent and seek the Easter dawn,

All: **may we dedicate our stories to being the kingdom of God here on earth.**

One: It is a story to be told and celebrated. In this light of this good news, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***GOSPEL READING** John 3: 14-21

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

MESSAGE *What the Cross Means for Justice*

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2174 *What Does The Lord Require of You?*

(FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

OFFERTORY *God Has Work For Us to Do*

Mark A. Miller

'Til all the jails are empty and all the bellies filled; till no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled; God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us to do! 'Til age and race and gender no longer separate; 'til pulpit, press and politics are free of greed and hate; God has work for us to do. In tenement and mansion, in factory, farm and mill, in board room and in billiard hall, in wards where time stands still. In classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street, in every place where people thrive, or starve, or hide, or meet. God has work for us to do. By sitting at a bedside to hold pale, trembling hands, by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands. By praying through our doing and singing, and singing though we fear, by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God's harvest near: God has work for us to do, 'til God's will is done and all things are made new, God has work for us to do!

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the Wea - ver of our days. In ev - ery thread God's
love dis - played. To Christ, the Son, our prais - es
soar. Wea - ving our stor - ies ev - er - more.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (praying together)

Dear God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts but ourselves in gratitude, for your call on our lives, your guidance in the Christian journey and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray, Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

HYMN #121 *There's a Wideness In God's Mercy*

(UMH-red hymnal)

BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE *Dialogue*

L. Marchand

† A Lenten practice suggestion from The Poetry of Lent devotional booklet, available at the Welcome Center or get an electronic copy. Please email jcelorio@umc-kzo.org for more information.

Look for moments – a conversation, a Social Media post, a phone call – in which you might be tempted to offer words of judgement, and instead offer words of grace and understanding.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Ginnie Hessler

Director of Music **Organist**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,
Thom Victor, Lucas McGinnis

Acolytes: Kaden Seals & 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

Adult Sunday School Opportunities.

Bible Study in Acts: 9:00 am in room 304.

Searching for Peace in the Middle East: John Clark will lead the discussion in the Parlor.

Family Foundations: 11:15 am - Room 209

Immigration Law & Justice Michigan Event: You are invited to join staff and volunteers from ILJ-MI Today, Sunday, March. 10, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. in the church parlor for discussion with Maya Barak, Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at University of Michigan-Dearborn and author of *The Slow Violence of Immigration Court*.

Prayer Wall: You are invited to make use of our prayer wall in the chapel. The prayer wall has two options: write on the large sheet of paper for all to see your prayers and pray along with you. Or write on a piece of paper and roll it up and place it in the prayer wall for a personal petition. This is a space to share our hearts, concerns, and aspirations with God. Whether personal or global all intentions are welcome. Frequently we feel overwhelmed by the wars that rage around the world. Let us pray for compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation particularly in the Middle East and Ukrainian/Russia conflicts, along with the many other places that war and violence are doing harm. Together may our prayers illuminate the path towards peace and understanding for all humanity.

Family Fun Night: The Children and Families Ministries Team invite all to save the date for the March All Church Family Fun Night Bowling Party at Airway Lanes, ! From 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 15, 2024, please RSVP to: jlibrizz@umc-kzo.org today with how many bowlers will attend so we have enough lanes for all of us! Cost is \$10 per person, which includes shoes. We'll have the alleys from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Airway Lanes (5626 Portage Road), plan to arrive by 6:00 pm

Organ Recitals: Thursdays at noon during Lent. This Thursday, March 13, we welcome Dr. Mark Wells, Director of Music, St. Joseph Catholic Parish, St. Joseph, MI.

Adult Mission Trip: We invite adults of any age to join us on a mission trip to Detroit, October 3-6. We will be staying at and working through Cass Community Social Services, a Detroit-based agency connected with Cass Community United Methodist Church with a person-centered philosophy, dedicated to providing food, housing, health/mental health services, and job programs in areas of concentrated poverty. Cost is only \$150 for the long weekend (we'll stay in their church basement and they provide meals). For questions, or to sign up, please contact Dan Duncan.

Palm Sunday Brunch: The whole church is invited to a light brunch in Wesley Hall immediately following Palm Sunday worship on March 24, 2024. Many thanks to Donna Donyak for organizing this. There will be baskets by the doors of Wesley Hall to take a goodwill offering for the brunch. We hope you will join us! All are welcome!

Lent Labyrinth: The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall throughout the season of Lent. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday, 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.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, March 17

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

The Call of Love and Life

John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24

10:00 am Worship

Palm Sunday

Rev. Matt Weiler

Because Jesus Said So

Mark 11: 1-11

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/cl](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)
[KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor
Rev. Matt Weiler Comm. Formation
Jacqueline Stilger Director of Music
Julia Librizzi..... Children & Families
Thom Victor..... Technology Specialist
Bernie Foulk Organist
Drew Bolton Bldg. Superintendent
Christine Landreville..... Office Manager
Walt Whitfield..... Bookkeeper
Christiane Stakely Office Assistant
Jose Celorio ... Communications Coord.
Michael Lee..... Custodian
Andrew Weare Building Hospitality
Ava Lonchante Building Hospitality
Jonathan Townley Youth/YA Intern

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, March 10

9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am Youth Council - Youth Center
1:00 pm ILJ Event-Parlor
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, March 11

11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel

Tuesday, March 12

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30 pm Food Pantry
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center
6:30 pm SPRC - Zoom

Wednesday, March 13

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

Thursday, March 14

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
12:00 pm Lenten Organ Recital - Sanctuary
6:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall
6:30 pm Reconciling Ministries - Parlor
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday March 15

6:30 pm Family Fun Bowling

Saturday March 16

Sunday, March 17

9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 am Confirmation Class - Rm 305
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Faith Milestones- Arches
6:00 pm - Small Groups
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Lift High the Cross

159

Refrain (Unison)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim

Fine

till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

Harmony

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri-um-phant sign. The
 2. Each new-born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo-rious tree, as
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise

D.C.

hosts of God in u-ni-ty com-bine.
 on the brow the seal of him who died.
 thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to thee.
 to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916

CRUCIFER
 10 10 with Refrain

2233

Where Children Belong

This, this is where chil-dren be-long, wel-comed as part of the
 wor - ship - ing throug. Wa - ter, God's Word, bread and
 cup, prayer, and song: This is where chil-dren be - long.

What Does the Lord Require of You 2174

1. (*Basses*)
 What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2. (*Altos and Tenors in unison*)*
 Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3. (*Sopranos*)**
 To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

Repeat as desired.

What does the Lord re - quire of you? you?
 walk hum - bly with your God. God.
 and walk hum - bly with your God. God.

*Enter on first repeat.

**Enter on second repeat.

WORDS: Jim Strathdee (Mic. 6:8)

MUSIC: Jim Strathdee

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MOON
Irregular

