

***OPENING HYMN #280** *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & SHARING THE PEACE

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Julia Librizzì

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong* (FWS-black hymnal)

FIRST BELLS Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Every child is welcome to come up to play the bells with First Bells

***GOSPEL READING** Mark 11:1-11
This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Julie Kline

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Intrada Festiva!* Ronald Kauffmann

*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

Holy one, as your Son Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace, may these gifts we offer, empower us to be a Christ-Centered Peace in a fragile world. In praise to you who is our provider and whose abundance exceeds all we could ever ask or imagine. Amen.

MESSAGE *Threshold: A Spacious Place* Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #285 *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord* (UMH-red hymnal)

CALL TO COFESSION - 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

PRAAYER OF CONFESSIION

Loving God, you rode a donkey and came in peace, humbled yourself and gave yourself for us. We confess our lack of humility. As you entered Jerusalem, the crowds shouted ‘Hosanna: Save us now!’ On Good Friday they shouted ‘Crucify!’ We confess our praise is often empty. We sing ‘Hosanna,’ but cry ‘Crucify.’ As the crowd laid their palms in front of you, you took no glory for yourself. We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way. We do not stay true to your will. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to follow in the way of faithfulness. Amen.

REFRAIN Verse 2 of Call to Confession (sing twice)

ASSURANCE & FORGIVENESS

ANTHEM *Forsaken* Text by Dustin Battles, music by Dan Forrest

“How long, O God, will You neglect my prayer? Will you forget these tears of dark despair? Yet not my will, but yours alone be done: forsake not man, but me, your sinless son. I, Christ the son, obey your great command, enduring punishment for sinful man. As son and silent lamb, I choose this path. O why, my God, have you forsaken me? Why have you now refused my final plea? I cry in pain and fear, in silence you disappear. I, Christ the son, bear all their sin alone, embracing judgement from your glorious throne. As son and spotless lamb, I shed my blood to bring them boldly to your face, my God.”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN #2198 *Stay With Me* (FWS-black hymnal)

BENEDICTION

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 24
 9:00 am Lent Labyrinth
 9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304
 9:45 am Blessing of the Palms - Bronson Park
 10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
 11:00 am Palm Sunday Brunch
 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages - Parlor
 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, March 25
9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth
11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel
5:00 pm Finance Team - Zoom

Tuesday, March 26
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Lent Labyrinth
 9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
 9:45 am Book Club - Chapel
 4:30 pm Food Pantry
 6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, March 27
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth.
 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 28
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Lent Labyrinth.
 9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday - Sanctuary

Friday March 29
7:00 pm Good Friday - Sanctuary
8:00 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Saturday March 30

Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday
 9:00 am Lent Labyrinth
 9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304
 10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

*UMH-United Methodist Hymnal,
FWS-The Faith We Sing*

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 pm Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 pm Worship

Rev. Matt Weiler

Sunday, March 31

10:00 am Worship

Easter Sunday

Rev Julie Kline

Terror and Amazement.

Mark 16:1-8

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).

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline.....Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt WeilerComm. Formation

Jacqueline StilgerDirector of Music

Julia Librizzi.....Children & Families

Thom Victor.....Technology Specialist

Bernie Foulk.....Organist

Drew BoltonBldg. Superintendent

Christine LandrevilleOffice Manager

Walt Whitfield.....Bookkeeper

Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant

Jose Celorio ... Communications Coord.

Michael Lee.....Custodian

Andrew WeareBuilding Hospitality

Ava LoncharteBuilding Hospitality

Jonathan TownleyYouth/YA Intern

WORSHIP LEADERS

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

Director of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Violinist

James Saunders

Organist

Bernie Foulk

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

Acolytes: Campbell Weiler & Grace Harthorn

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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Please join us as we journey together with Christ into the most sacred time of our Christian faith and experience God's story through our special worship services:

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7pm

With water and a basin, we remember that Jesus tells the disciples that He wants to wash their feet. They are bewildered by this gesture of humility and service that reverses all normal roles of authority. In humility, we symbolically wash our hands and hear the call to serve and love.

Good Friday, March 29, 7 pm

Good Friday is the day when we solemnly remember the death of our Savior. In our worship this year, we will listen to the story of Christ's passion from the Gospel of John and sing the hymns of our faith. These hymns reflect on the text of choral anthems that acknowledge Jesus' willingness to go to the cross for the love of the world. In our sanctuary, stripped of all decor, we will witness the cross. We will touch, pray, and meditate at its foot. As we read the reproaches—words of lament written from the perspective of Jesus against a church that nailed Him to the cross—we will leave in silence, carrying the grief of Jesus' death in our hearts.

Yet, even in this solemn moment, we hold onto the hopefulness of Easter resurrection that will come on the third day. Jesus remains with us through our times of suffering; let us stay with Him.

Easter Sunday, March 31, Worship, 10am

Christ the Lord is risen! Alleluia. Come, join us for Easter as we sing our praise and raise our joys and triumphs high with brass, choir, organ and timpani declaring that love's redeeming work is done. Easter begins in the dark and moves into our lives as the dawn lights up the sky and our hearts are filled once again with the hope that Christ leads us to a redemptive love. Invite your friends and family to join us for worship as we remember that we rise with the Resurrected One to be renewed, redeemed, and enlivened people who serve the God of Love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School Opportunities.

Bible Study in Acts: 9 am in room 304.

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

Palm Sunday Brunch:

The whole church is invited to a light brunch in Wesley Hall immediately following Palm Sunday worship today March 24, 2024. Many thanks to Donna Dunyak 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!

Prayer Wall:

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.

Lent Labyrinth:

The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall until April 1. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm . This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes and can take 10-20 minutes to walk.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

March 24, 2024

10:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY

MARK 11:1-11

212 S Park St
Kalamazoo, MI
www.umc-kzo.org

* Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Prelude

G.F. Handel

INTROIT

Hosanna

David Ogden

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Steve Harthorn

One:O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

All: **Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: **This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

All: **The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

One: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: **This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

All: **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.**

One: The Lord is God, and the Lord has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

All: **You are our God, and we will give thanks to you; you are our God, we will extol you.**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

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.*