



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

April 28, 2024
10:00 AM

Grace Filled Pruning

JOHN 15: 1-8

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

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 *Prelude*

D. Zipoli

INTROIT *Be Glad in the Lord*

Hal H. Hopson

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

Chris Bovid

One: Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

All: **We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

One: We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

All: **We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

One: When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

All: **We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

One: Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

All: **We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #122** *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

(UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

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

One: Loving God, we remember that Jesus taught us to pray saying, "Our God..."

All: **You created us, you made this world, and you called your creation very good. Yet often we forget that you are our loving Parent who continues to bless your world.**

One: Jesus told us that you are "...in heaven..."

All: **Yet we fail to live in awe of you. We take you for granted, and we don't see the awesome beauty of the world you have made.**

One: We pray, "Hallowed be your name..."

All: **We confess that our reverence for you does not always lead us to care reverently for your earth, sky and sea.**

One: We pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven..."

All: **We confess that we often put our own interests first-exploiting your creation, and living for our own convenience and self-interest.**

One: We pray, "Give us today our daily bread."

All: **We confess that we consume more than our share of the world's resources, while billions go hungry every day and your whole creation suffers.**

One: We pray, "Lead us from temptation"

All: **Help us to resist the temptations of spending more, using more, acquiring more, and wasting more.**

One: We pray, "Deliver us from evil..."

All: **Free us from greed and self-centeredness that separate us from you and others.**

One: We pray, "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever."

All: **Help us to know that in caring for your wonderful world, we are working for your kingdom, being good stewards of your creative power, and giving you glory.**

One: Let us pray the Lord's Prayer and commit ourselves to being faithful disciples by your grace.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

HYMN #2233 *Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & SCRIPTURE *1 John 4:7-21*

Grace Harthorn

***PASSING THE PEACE**

ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

***GOSPEL READING** *John 15: 1-8*

MESSAGE *Grace Filled Pruning*

Rev. Julie Kline

Our God, who is in our hearts, we honor and respect your name, your Kingdom Come, your Plan be done on earth as it is in the Universe. Give everyone, everyday what we need to live, and forgive us our mistakes, as we forgive those who hurt and disappoint us, and help us to make good choices and show us the loving ways and solutions, for yours is the world, the power and the glory, forever and always. Amen.

HYMN *The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He*



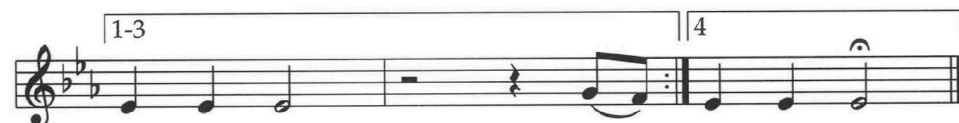
1. The Lord of Life, a vine is he and
(2. If) we be joined to him we know his
(3. The) vine is he, the branch - es we for
(4. The) Lord of Life, the Source Di - vine calls



graft - ed to him we must be; and
strength and power will help us grow. His
now and to e - ter - ni - ty. His
us to come, with him en - twine. Will



thus we yield a - bun-dant - ly sweet fruit for all to
Spir - it's grace through us will flow to prune and shape us
word sown deep in us will be both sun and rain... suf -
we, un - hear - ing, dare de - cline the call of Christ, the



taste and see.
as we go.
fi - cien - cy.

2. If
3. The
4. The

One True Vine?

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CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Bwana Asifiwe!* (Swahili for Praise the Lord)

Cathy Moglebust

DOXOLOGY #94 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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

Creating God, help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #2008** *Let All Things Now Living*

(FWS-black hymnal)

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *Rigadoun*

A. Campra

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Julia Librizzi, Chris Bovid

Director of Music **Organist**
Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk
Guest Choral Conductor
Lauren Estep

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

Acolytes: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Sunday School Opportunities.

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

Family Foundations: 11:15 am - Room 209

Living the Questions; Honoring Creation: 11:15 am
The class will run until May 15th in the Parlor.

Round Two of Splendid Suppers for Seven will take place in June and July and we are recruiting hosts! If you're willing to open your home for an evening of fabulous food and great conversation, please email us at: Layleaders@umc-kzo.org. As host (s), you choose the date that works best for you, and provide the main course and beverages. Guests sign up for the date that works best for them and bring a side dish, salad or dessert to contribute to the meal. This is a great chance to get to know people in our congregation that you may not have met before! Sign-up to attend will begin on May 5th.

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. For questions, or to sign up, please contact Dan Duncan.

Bay Shore Day Camp On The Road: Attention families of K-5th graders, Bayshore is back! Lunch and snacks will be included! The theme for this year will be "I AM " Through Old Testament stories about Moses and the Israelites and New Testament stories about followers of Jesus. This day camp is for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. Monday August 12 - Thursday August 15, 2024, 8:30am to 4:30pm. There is no cost but space is limited so please register your children today. Contact Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc.org for more information.

New Membership Opportunity: As we worship together, we frequently refer to the vow of faithfully participating in the congregation through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. This is one of the vows that is made as persons are received into our community of faith. Another profession of faith that is regularly used as a part of our communal prayer life is that we accept the freedom and the power given by God to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. A series of new membership classes will be held on May 5, 12, and 19 after worship in the chapel. If you would like to explore further the commitment and joy of membership in The United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Julie at jkline@umc-kzo.org.

Pickleball for Beginners: Join our pickleball class at Parchment United Methodist Church, located at 225 Glendale Blvd., Parchment, MI. The class takes place on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. There is no cost, just a lot of fun and laughter. Remember to bring your own water bottle and wear tennis shoes. We'll provide the rackets and pickleballs for you to use. Call Carol Shilts at (269) 720-9638 to sign up.

Congregational Easter Picture: Before you leave today, please stop by the Perks Area and check out our second annual Easter picture. It's a great reminder of our value of sacred relationships and inclusion. It also captures the joy and spirit of our Easter celebrations.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, May 5

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Conquering Love & Complete Joy

1 John 5:1-6 & John 15:9-7

Sunday, May 12

10:00 am Worship

Rev. Matt Weiler

Mental Health Awareness Sunday

Deacon Michelle King

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 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 Host
Ava Loncharde Building Host
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, April 28

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

11:15 am Sunday School for all ages

6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, April 29

11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel

5:00 pm Finance - Zoom

Tuesday, April 30

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom

4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room

4:30 pm Food Pantry

6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, May 1

8:00 am Yoga - Zoom

9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor

10:00 OLLI Curriculum Committee - Fellowship Rm.

12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live

12:30 pm Food Pantry

3:00 pm HON - Zoom

Thursday, May 2

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

6:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Hall

7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday May 3

Saturday May 4

9:30 am Suppers for Seven Wrap up mtg. - Parlor

Sunday, May 5

9:00 am Bible Study in Acts - Rm 304

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

11:15 am Sunday School for all ages

11:15 am New Member Class - Chapel

11:15 am Youth Council - Youth Center

3:00 pm Kalamazoo Community Chorale Concert

6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

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

God of the Sparrow
God of the Whale

Unison

1. God of the spar-row God of the whale
2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm
3. God of the rain-bow God of the cross
4. God of the hun-gry God of the sick
5. God of the neigh-bor God of the foe
6. God of the a-ges God near at hand

God of the swirl-ing stars
God of the trum-pet blast
God of the emp-ty grave
God of the prod-i-gal
God of the prun-ing hook
God of the lov-ing heart

How does the crea-ture say
How does the crea-ture cry
How does the crea-ture say
How does the crea-ture say
How does the crea-ture say
How do your chil-dren say

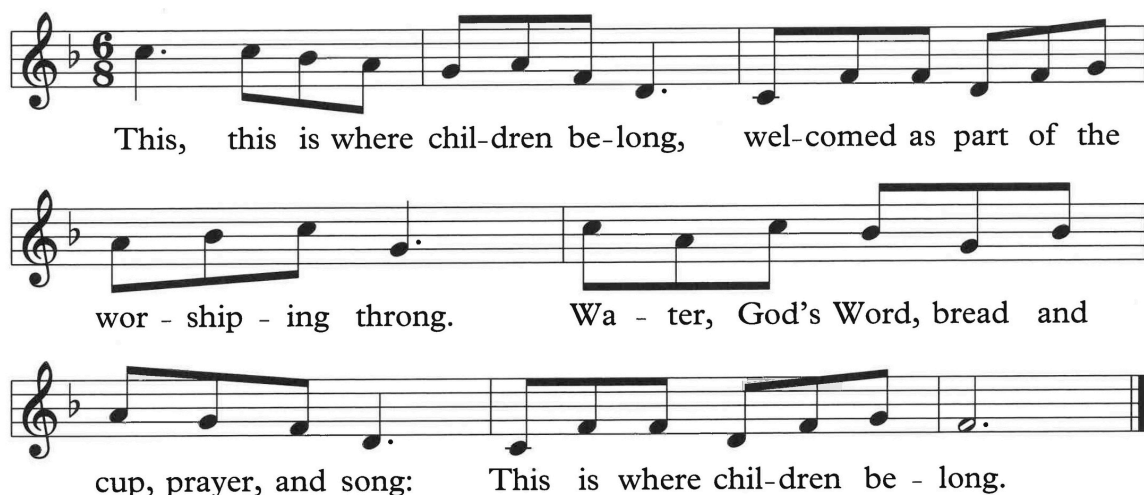
1-5 6

Awe
Woe
Grace
Care
Love
Joy

How does the crea-ture say Praise
How does the crea-ture cry Save
How does the crea-ture say Thanks
How does the crea-ture say Life
How does the crea-ture say Peace
How do your chil-dren say Home

*last time

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

RITCHIE

Irregular

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HYMN *The Lord of Life, a Vine Is He*


1. The Lord of Life, a vine is he and
 (2. If) we be joined to him we know his
 (3. The) vine is he, the branch - es we for
 (4. The) Lord of Life, the Source Di - vine calls

graft - ed to him we must be; and
 strength and power will help us grow. His
 now and to e - ter - ni - ty. His
 us to come, with him en - twine. Will

thus we yield a - bun-dant - ly sweet fruit for all to
 Spir - it's grace through us will flow to prune and shape us
 word sown deep in us will be both sun and rain... suf -
 we, un - hear - ing, dare de - cline the call of Christ, the

1-3 taste and see.
 as we go.
 fi - cien - cy.

2. If
 3. The
 4. The

One True Vine?

2008

Let All Things Now Living



1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing to
2. The law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es and



God the Cre - at - or tri - um-phant - ly raise, who
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the



fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains, the



guides us and leads to the end of our days. God's
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim the Di - vine. We,



ban - ners fly o'er us; God's light goes be - fore us, a
too, should be voic-ing our love and re - joic - ing; with



pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night, till
glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise, till



shad-ows have van-ished and dark - ness is ban-ished, as
all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks-giv - ing: To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est ho - san - na and praise!

WORDS: Katherine K. Davis (Exod. 13:21; Ps. 148; 150:6)

MUSIC: Trad. Welsh melody

Words © 1938, 1966 E. C. Schirmer

THE ASH GROVE

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