

One: For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.

All: **May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.**

**\*HYMN #383**     *This is a Day of New Beginnings*     (UMH-red hymnal)

**\*GOSPEL READING**     Mark 4:26-34

**TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL**     Rev. Dan Duncan

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

**MESSAGE**     Rev Matt Weiler

**HYMN #2260**     *Let Us Be Bread*     (FWS-black hymnal)

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

One: God be with us as we come to share in this feast.

All: **And with all who have been turned away or forced to leave part of themselves at the door in order to be received.**

One: Let us lift our hands in praise and our hearts in lament.

All: **There is room for mixed emotions and a multitude of experiences.**

One: It is a healing and holy thing to set this table with the fullness of our lives and loves, longings and losses.

All: **The time is now to extend this table, set more seats, and serve first those who stand at the end of the line.**

One: Our appetites...We come from worship services that weaponize the meal to instill fear and maintain control.

All: **God, we name the complex variety of memories and experiences, as we give thanks for the grace that makes room for all the paths that bring us here today. We remember those who taught us to plan a meal, prepare a table, to be a generous host, and an honored guest.**

One: For Eve and Adam and the trees they tended in the garden...for the disciples who showed us to fish and join a radical crew; for Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Harvey Milk, Pauli Murray, Henri Nouwen, Baynard Rustin, Matthew Shepherd, Rev. Troy Perry, Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, Bishop Gene Robinson, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, and Bishop Karen Oliveto;

All: **we give thanks. And we admit that we’ve spoiled the recipe of sacred mystery by seeking to own and claiming to fully understand it.**

One: Outcasts, lepers, tax-collectors, women, children, and eunuchs....Expand our table, cushion our chairs, enhance our menu, enliven our recipes, remind us that inclusion is the finest spice and queerness the boldest flavor, that when we break the binaries of sexuality, and pour out the expansiveness of gender we are bringing the aroma and seasons of paradise to earth.

All: **Pride never ends, but transforms into a parade with the volume ever rising; taking the church from the building to the street; offering food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty; learning from those already full and quenched; celebrating, advocating, protesting, and pronouncing that God is here.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**CALL TO OFFERING**     Chris Stamper

**OFFERTORY**     *Spring Song*     Frank Bridge  
Cello: Amelia Isacksen

**DOXOLOGY**     *Praise God who made all people one.*

Musical notation for the Doxology, featuring a treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: Praise God who made all\_\_ peo - ple\_\_ one. Whose heal-ing work is nev - er done. Whose jus-tice rais - es\_\_ up\_\_ the\_\_ least. God's mer-cy is our hope and peace!

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Bless, O God, the gifts that we bring this day, that they may be a sign of our commitment to your work in this world and an expression of our love for you. Multiply the work done by our time, treasures, and talents, that your presence and compassion may be known in all the earth. Amen.**

**OUR SHARED LIFE**     Derek Wheaton  
Caring Committee

**\*CLOSING HYMN #2190**     *Bring Forth the Kingdom*     (FWS-black hymnal)

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**     *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*     J. Pachelbel

**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, June 16**  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
- Monday, June 17**  
12:00 pm Prayer Group - Zoom/Chapel  
5:00 pm Finance - Zoom
- Tuesday, June 18**  
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
12:30 pm Staff Meeting - Parlor  
4:30 pm Food Pantry
- Wednesday, June 19**  
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom  
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor  
9:00 am Free Store - Wesley Hall  
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live  
12:30 pm Food Pantry  
3:00 pm HON - Zoom
- Thursday, June 20**  
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
6:15 pm Softball - Pathfinder
- Friday June 21**
- Saturday June 22**  
2:00 pm David Lundquist Memorial - Sanctuary
- Sunday, June 23**  
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School - Parlor

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, June 23  
10:00 am Worship  
Juneteenth Celebration  
Rev. Julie Kline

Sunday, June 30  
10:00 am Worship  
Rev. Matt Weiller  
Mark 3:20-35  
Outta My Way Satan

**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..... Tech. Support Specialist  
Bernie Foulk.....Organist  
Drew Bolton ..... Bldg. Superintendent  
Christine Landreville .....Office Manager  
Walt Whitfield..... Bookkeeper  
Christiane Stakely .....Office Assistant  
Jose Celorio ... Communications Coord.  
Andrew Weare .....Building Host  
Ava Loncharte .....Building Host  
Maggie Loncharte.....Building Host  
Jonathan Townley .....Youth/YA Intern

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Dan Duncan, Sue Ellen Isacken, Derek Wheaton.

Director of Music  
Jacqueline Stilger

Organist  
Bernie Foulk

Cello  
Amelia Isacksen

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

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

**Celebrating our Graduates:** Today is Graduation Sunday, a day on which we celebrate those who have completed a step in their educational journey. Let's honor their efforts and commitment.

**Juneteenth Free Store:** Join us for our annual Free Store event on June 19, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm! We need your help to make this event a success. Starting Today, June 16, we're accepting donations of clean clothing, shoes, toys, books, small appliances, and more at Wesley Hall. We also need volunteers for sorting, hosting, and packing up, so make sure to sign up at the welcome desk. Remember, every contribution counts, and together, we can make a difference. Please note, we cannot accept car seats, cribs, large furniture, or damaged items. Thank you for your support!

**FUMC Softball:** Join us for FUMC Softball at Pathfinder Church, Portage, MI on June 13th at 6:15 PM! Enjoy a friendly, co-ed game followed by Ritter's Frozen Custard. All above 13 are welcome, and fans are appreciated!

**David Lundquist Memorial:** Please Join us this June 22 to honor and celebrate the life of David Lundquist. His celebration of life will take place in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church starting at 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 22.

**Celebrate with Cake:** Join us for cake after worship to celebrate Bill and Mary Lee Diamond's 70th anniversary


**Bayshore Camp:** Families of K-5th graders, Bayshore is back! This year the children will explore the theme "I AM" through Old Testament stories about Moses and the Israelites, as well as New Testament stories about followers of Jesus. The camp will run from Monday, August 12 to Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. There is no cost, but space is limited, so please register your children today. For more information, contact Julia Librizzi at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org)

**Ministry Fair:** We want to celebrate all the different ministries of our church. Each ministry, with its unique mission and dedicated members, contributes significantly to our spiritual journey. Discover what they do, how they do it, and most importantly, who forms these ministries. This week, we want to honor and celebrate our Congregational Care Committee . Learn more about all the good work they do and how you can get involved.

**Educational Opportunity:** Join us on June 23 after worship for a special class in the Parlor to discuss the key takeaways from the 2024 UMC Michigan Annual Conference. In this class, we'll explore the strategies discussed during the conference for welcoming and engaging with our communities.

**June Mission of the Month:** We are hosting a diaper drive for the Diaper Bank at St Lukes Episcopal Church. Several days each week diapers are available free of charge to the community. Please bring any size and amount of diapers to the marked donation box in our church lobby. We will deliver all diapers at the end of the month. Additionally if you would like to volunteer at St Lukes with sorting, repackaging or dispensing diapers, please contact the Diaper Bank for those opportunities. Thank you in advance for your support of this valuable ministry. Diapers size Newborn, 1, 5 and 6 are most requested

**Lost & Found:** Check for lost items at the welcome desk. Unclaimed items will go to the Free Store.



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

June 16, 2024  
10:00 AM

Graduation Sunday  
Mark 4:26-34

212 S Park St  
Kalamazoo, MI  
[www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE    Prelude

N. de Grigny

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Ellen Isacksen

One: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name,  
O Most High;

All: **to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.**

One: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. The righteous will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

All: **For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God.**

One: Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.

All: **They will declare, "The Lord is just! The Lord is our rock! Come, let us gather and worship."**

\*OPENING HYMN #2236    Gather Us In

(FWS-black hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Matt Weiler & Julie Kline

GRADUATE BLESSING

Rev. Matt Weiler & Julie Kline

One: God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

All: **We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.**

One: Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

All: **Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.**

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.*