



FIRST WORD

J U N E

GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE, SO DO WE

212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

(269) 381-6340

www.umc-kzo.org



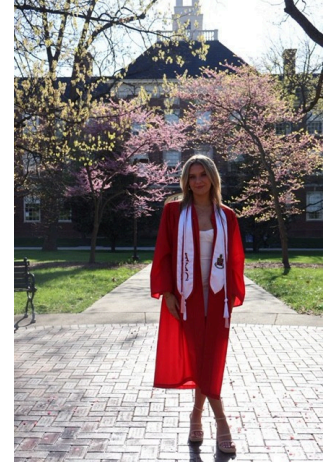
Photo taken by keith mumma during the children's musical on 06/02/2024



AMELIA ISACKSEN
GRADUATING FROM: LOY NORRIX



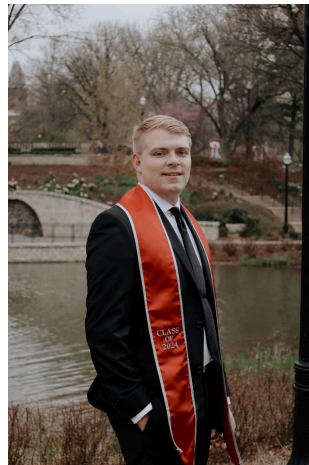
SEAN WILLOUGHBY
GRADUATING FROM: KALAMAZOO CENTRAL



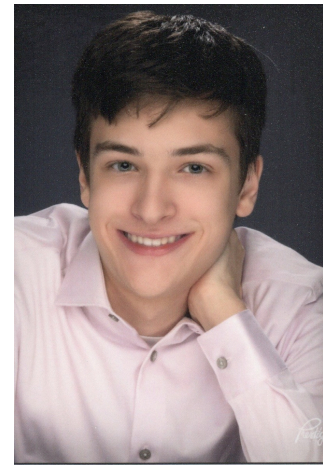
HANNAH GEERLINGS
GRADUATING FROM: UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



NATALIE GROSS
GRADUATING FROM: KALAMAZOO COLLEGE



CARTER HORNISH
GRADUATING FROM: THE OHIO STATE



ZACKERY HORNISH
GRADUATING FROM: MAINE WEST H.S.

On Sunday June 16 we celebrated graduation Sunday a day in which we celebrated and honored the hard work and dedication of our graduates. We invited each graduate to share their inspiring stories, future aspirations, and the exciting paths they are embarking upon. As they step forward into new beginnings, we hold their stories close to our hearts and lift them up in prayer, wishing them success and divine guidance on their journey ahead.

Amelia Isacksen: is graduating from Loy Norrix.

Sean Willoughby: is graduating from Kalamazoo Central and will be attending Michigan Tech in the fall. Sean's parents are Scott and Yulia Willoughby, and his grandparents are Deb and Jim Willoughby. Sean fondly recalls the musicals and the music ministry, especially the "David and Goliath" musical, which Sean holds dear to his heart.

Hannah Geerlings: is graduating from the University of Miami. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin Law School in the Fall 2024. Her favorite church memories are the ASP mission trips with the youth group as well as singing with the First Beats.

Natalie Gross: is graduating from Kalamazoo College with a double major in Computer Science and French. Her favorite church memories include the trips with the youth group to Appalachia for ASP.

Carter Hornish: is graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in Business Administration and will start a job with a financial firm in Columbus, Ohio, in June.

Zackery Hornish: is graduating from Maine West High School in Des Plaines, IL. He will begin college in the fall.

BUILDING EXTERIOR PROJECT

You may recall back in 2019 a piece of our facade facing Park Street fell to the sidewalk below. Fortunately, no one was injured. We contracted with Building Restoration (BRI) to repair the facade, but as it turns out, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Later in 2019, the Trustees along with the Building & Grounds committee had BRI conduct a full scale inspection of the entire building exterior. As you might expect, with a building the age of ours along with our Michigan weather, there were many repairs identified that had accumulated over time. Most of these were related to the stonework, mortar joints, flashing, and reinforcing of the various external elements. All told, the initial repair estimate from BRI was over \$380,000. Because of the cost, we asked BRI to develop a five phase approach over five years to the exterior based on addressing the most pressing repairs first. The phases were developed as follows:



Phase 1: West exterior of Sanctuary
(completed 2021 - \$69,000)

Phase 2: South exterior of Sanctuary
(completed 2022 - \$82,000)

Phase 3: East Sanctuary and North 1950
addition (2024 planned completion)

Phase 4: North and west elevations
(2024 planned completion)

Phase 5: East Sanctuary gable
(2024 planned completion)

As you can see, we completed phases 1 and 2 in 2021 and 2022 respectively. No work was done in 2023 due to a lack of funding. Recently, a bequest was received and the Trustees voted to use these funds to complete phases 3, 4, and 5 this year. The total for these three phases will be in excess of \$283,000, with work beginning in late June and continuing into September. We are feeling very blessed that we will be able to keep our building safe and functional due to the thoughtfulness and generosity of one of our long term members of the congregation.

You also may notice the plexiglas coverings on the outside of our beautiful stained glass windows have become cloudy and yellow over time. This project does not include those coverings, however, we are beginning the process of getting quotes and developing a plan to replace those coverings as well.

Our church has been a cornerstone of the community and the Bronson Park area for many decades, serving as a place of worship, community gathering, and outreach programs. By undertaking this extensive exterior building repair project, the church will continue to stand as a beacon of faith and service for generations to come!

First Word for July

Articles for the next issue are due no later than July 8, 2024.

Articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent to jcelorio@umc-kzo.org. Articles may be edited for space and content.

Children and Families Ministry

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.

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.

Thank You from WMU Seita Scholars

A big Thank You to all that contributed supplies to the WMU Seita Scholars, for the May Mission of the Month. Items collected included gift cards, toothpaste and brushes, body wash, deodorant, sunscreen, shampoo and conditioner, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and laundry soap.

Everything is greatly appreciated!

JUNE 16, 2024 BUDGET UPDATE

The Church's Finance Committee and its co-chairs, Tom Lundquist and Dana Stuart, would like to share an update on the church's current financial situation.

First, the 2024 budget was finally approved at May 28's church council meeting. This is a bit later than usual, due to Ruth's retirement and the restructuring of the responsibilities associated with her position. However, we have been operating with a tentative budget since the 1st of the year. Please be assured that all church staff and volunteer leaders have been monitoring the church's financial position and expenditures closely, and have been responsible stewards of the church's financial resources in the intervening five months, and will continue to do so throughout the remaining portion of 2024.

The approved budget was projected by the Finance Team to be a deficit budget, which is not uncommon given the current economic conditions in the community and the changes occurring in church membership. Our projected pledges and other income are about \$130,000 short of projected expenses to fulfill our plans throughout 2024.

As you might expect, our largest expenses are related to the tremendous clergy and staff that guide our church on a daily basis, as well as the costs of caring for this amazing structure we call our church home. These ongoing expenses are difficult to modify, and we believe the projected deficit will be manageable through diligent expense management, as well as the rather significant savings the church carried over from last year. While we encourage and appreciate additional giving as you are able, we do not intend to ask for a specific appeal like the "step up" campaign from last year.

Recognizing that there is a need to make important modifications to our annual budget, the Stewardship and Finance Teams will continue to seek new and creative ways to financially support the missions of our church into the future.

If you have questions or would like more detailed information or to talk about the church's financial picture, please reach out to Tom Lundquist and Dana Stuart (their contact information can be attained through the Church Office).

-Finance Committee

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for volunteers to join our team as bus drivers for Sunday morning worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to our church community by helping members who lack transportation to attend our services. If you have a valid driver's license, enjoy interacting with people, and want to serve in a meaningful way, please consider this role. Please contact Robin Entenman at: (269) 910-3963

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a custodian. The purpose of this position is to be responsible for the appearance and cleanliness of the building as well as facility preparation for First United Methodist Church. Responsible to the Building Superintendent, who will offer support, guidance, and resources to equip in their ministry. They will meet on a regular basis for communication, coordination, and evaluation of their work.

If you or someone you know is interested please contact Drew Bolton at: dbolton@umc-kzo.org

Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Family and Friends of:

David Lundquist who died on May 2nd

Allan Arvidson who died on May 31st

Please keep these friends in your prayers:

- Don Chalker
- Christine
- Lenora Holliday
- Judy McClelland
- Susan Noble
- Anna Rassmussen
- Mary Lou Sanderson
- Barb Skuza
- Tom and Marcia Stobie
- Lori Valkema
- Carol & family
- Sally Stevens
- Hank Rohs
- RuthAnn and Bill Uggen
- Michael Seals
- Willoughby family

Prayer Requests

If you would like to share a prayer request with our clergy and prayer ministry team, please visit www.umc-kzo.org/contact-us/prayer-request/, or, please call the church at **(269) 381-6340** and leave a message.



After Worship Coffee Service

Coffee service happens every Sunday at Kalamazoo FUMC. Join us after worship in the Perks Area on the first level of the church. We look forward to sharing coffee and fellowship with you!