### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE & TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

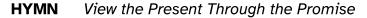
One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

One: Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

All: May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

One: May hope flow forth from here. Amen!





This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

\*SCRIPTURE

**MESSAGE** "You Are a Blessing"

Rev. Julie Kline

Luke 1:26-38

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

ONE: Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,

ALL: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

ONE: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

ALL: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Holy Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come by the center aisle to receive the elements. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Music during communion: For You O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits (M. Haugen)

# **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

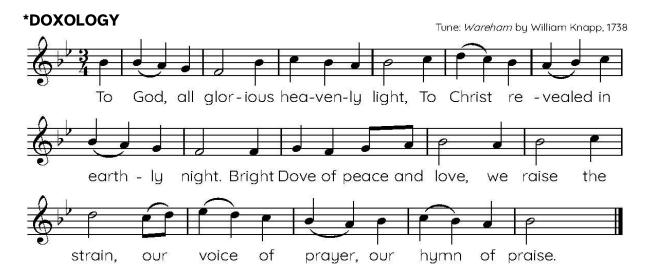
THE LORD'S PRAYER

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

We pass the plates as an expression of worship and thanksgiving to God. Our loose change will be given to UMCOR, the denominational disaster response and recovery.

**OFFERTORY** The Angel Gabriel

Basque Carol arr. by John Raymond Howell



\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Please follow words on screen)

### **OUR SHARED LIVES**

\*HYMN #203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

(UMH, red hymnal)

#### **BLESSING**

As a gong is played we breathe in... INHALE: Lead me, O God; EXHALE: My hope is in you.

**POSTLUDE** God Now be Glorified

J.S. Bach

### MISSION

We are called to:

- · Experience God's Love
- · Celebrate God's Love
- · Share God's Love

### VISION

We are a Christ-centered community where our stories are woven with God's story.

### **CORE VALUES**



Love: God is Love and all creation is made in love, by love, for love.



**Community:** Sacred relationship with God and on another.



**Inclusion:** All identities belong and are loved in Christ.



**Justice:** Restoration of equity and wholeness.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### Sunday, December 1

10:00 am Sunday Worship

11:15 am Sunday School for all ages

11:15 am Confirmation Class - 305

11:30 am Youth Orchestra Rehearsal - Wesley Hall

# Monday, December 2

# **Tuesday, December 3** 9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom

12:30 All Staff Meeting - Parlor

4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room

4:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry

6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

6:30 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

### Wednesday, December 4

8:00 am Yoga

9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor

9:00 am Immigration Law & Justice Clinic - 304

10:00 am OLLI Curriculum Committee - Fellowship Room

11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel

12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook

12:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry

# Thursday, December 5

9:00 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room 12:00 pm Advent Concert: Frank Silva Trio - Sanctuary

5:45 pm Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall

6:00 pm Grief Group - Chapel

7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

# Friday, December 6

6:00 pm Children & Families Ministry Family Fun Event Gingerbread house making - Wesley Hall

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal | FWS - The Faith We Sing

### **UPCOMING WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 8 10:00 a.m. Worship

Second Sunday of Advent Rev. Matt Weiler "We Can't Go Alone" Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Sunday, December 15

10:00 a.m. Worship

Third Sunday of Advent Rev. Julie Kline

'Do the Good That is Yours to Do" Luke 3:7-16 | Isaiah 58:9b-12

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

**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: <a href="http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp.">http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp.</a> You may view worship services on our YouTube channel: YouTube.com/c/ KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch

# **Church Staff**

Pay Julia Klina Land Paston
Rev. Julie KlineLead Pastor
Rev. Matt WeilerComm. Formation
Jacqueline Stilger Director of Music
Julia Librizzi Children & Families
Thom VictorTech Support Specialist
Bernie FoulkOrganist
Drew Bolton Bldg. Superintendent
Christine Landreville Office Manager
Christiane Stakely Office Assistant
Jennifer StupicaCommunications
Walt WhitfieldBookkeeper
Bryan Heany Lead A/V Technician
Andrew WeareBuilding Host
Ava LoncharteBuilding Host
Eamon BronsonBuilding Host
Jim TiffanyCustodian
Ruth Butters Young Adult Resident

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Mary Whittaker Duncan

**Director of Music:** Jacqueline Stilger

**Organist**: Bernie Foulk Soloist: Kameran Long

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,

Lucas McGinnis, Zachary Jackson

Acolytes: Campbell Weiler, Grace Harthorn

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perks! Please stop in the Perks Café area by the parking lot after worship for refreshments and fellowship!

**Advent Devotional.** You are invited to pick up an Advent Devotional that will correspond with our Advent Worship Series, "Words for the Beginning." Each week of Advent will include art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to give you strength, courage, and grace on the journey through Advent. May all find words for belovedness and hope, and words for beginning again. Devotionals will be available at the Welcome Desk every Sunday in Advent. If you would prefer a virtual copy of the devotional, please leave a note in the office for Chris to email it to you.

Adult Academy Class. DOUBT is a class based on ing the Generosity tab. the book/video, "Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Audio/Visual Team Members Needed! The Faith" by Adam Hamilton. Meets on Sundays through Dec. 8.

December Mission of the Month: Angel Tree. through assisting with worship services, wed-Thank you for taking a tag to help support the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. Please return gifts unwrapped, with the gift tag attached, to the church by Training is provided to all volunteers. Sign-up Sunday, December 15. Gift cards should be placed to help in accordance with your availability into the lock box (below the key box, besides Chris Stakely's desk) for safekeeping.

Immigration Naturalization Clinic. On Wed., Dec. 4 emailing bheany@umc-kzo.org. from 9am-4pm in room 304, the Immigration Law & Justice Team will need volunteers to help the clinic with hospitality. Contact Ann Sweany by emailing rasweany@iljmi.org if you would like to help with food or greeting.

Advent Concert Series. Enjoy your lunch hour on The Children's Clothes Closet is open to the Thursdays during Advent with an uplifting 50minute concert. Meet the musicians and share in re- a month, the community is able to "shop" for freshments after the concerts. Freewill offering. For children in their household. . our first concert on Dec. 5, we welcome back the popular Frank Silva Jazz Trio, presenting tunes of

**Kalamazoo Community Chorale Concert.** Directed Snow" will be offered at 3 and 7pm. by our own Jackie Stilger, "Tree of Peace" Concert will be in our sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 3pm. Freewill offering and open to the public.

### Children & Families Advent Fun Event!

Mark your calendar to join us on Fri., Dec. 6 from 6-8pm in Wesley Hall to create your family's Christmas gingerbread house. Please RSVP to Ms. Julia at <u>ilibrizzi@umc-kzo.org</u> to reserve a gingerbread house for your child by Wed., Dec. 4. Please also bring a dish to pass so we can share a potluck dinner together also. Drinks and place settings will be provided. Christmas Caroling. Manna, Youth, Children and Families will be caroling on Sunday, Dec. 15. No sign- ups necessary, just meet at the church at 5pm and we will caravan around the community to church member's homes, and to Friendship Village. Plan on returning to the church around 7:30pm.

Generosity Capital Campaign. Thank you to all those who have submitted their 2025 Estimate of Giving card for 2025! Your pledge is invaluable in helping us build a balanced budget for 2025. If you need an Estimate of Giving card, they can be found in the pew pockets. You can also uphold the church and its work in the community by submitting your pledge on our website, www.umc-kzo.org, us-

church's A/V Team offers ongoing opportunities to learn audio and video production skills dings, memorials, and occasionally for other rental events. All skill levels are welcome. and interest. Please contact Lead A/V Technician, Bryan Heany, for more information by

Children's Clothes Closet. This free clothing ministry of St. Luke's is asking for donations of fall and winter clothing for children's sizes newborn to teen. You can drop off donations at any time the St. Luke's church office is open. public on Thursdays from 10am to 1pm. Once

Kalamazoo Ringers Concert. Enjoy this annual Christmas Concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, Dec. 14. Two identical concerts of "Let it



212 S. Park St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007 www.umc-kzo.org (269) 381-6340

December 1, 2024

10:00 AM

# First Sunday of Advent

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 Come Now Savior of Nations J.S. Bach

Advent signifies the coming of the Light. We will begin our Advent worship by passing lanterns through the congregation to the acolytes, who will place them on the altar, symbolizing the light of Christ within us. May we keep this light bright by kindling it in one another.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Whittaker Duncan, Co-Lay Leader

ONE: God savs.

ALL: "Do not be afraid."

ONE: God says,

ALL: "I have called you by name."

ONE: God says,

ALL: "You are precious and honored in my sight."

ONE: At the beginning of this season, ALL: at the start of this week,

ONE: at the top of this hour,

ALL: may we wrap ourselves in these words.

ONE: May we begin again.

ALL: Let us worship our Holy God!

\*OPENING HYMN #196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

## WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Julie Kline

Rev. Matt Weiler

# \*THE CALL OF PEACE & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.