

Welcome to Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church

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 W J

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dawn Wheaton

ONE: We gather in the presence of God to encounter Love that sets free.

ALL: **We do not come seeking crumbs of justice but a way of life that liberates.**

ONE: Together, we practice courage in resisting evil and rejecting the temptations of complicity and complacency.

ALL: **The Spirit leads us in power and truth.**

ONE: Our faith is placed in Love Eternal that lifts broken spirits and brings life from places of ruin.

ALL: **With hope that is neither narrow nor fragile, we come to follow Christ.**

***OPENING HYMN #144** *This is my Father's World*

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.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES



Music by Abbie Betinis © 2017 Abbie Betinis Used with permission
The composer dedicates this song to the victims, and survivors, of hate crimes everywhere.

WELCOME & *SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Julie Kline

We invite you to turn to those nearby and offer a greeting. You may use a simple gesture such as a nod of the head, a wave, a smile, handshake, or a verbal greeting with the words, "Peace of Christ be with you."

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE - Psalm 19

Revs. Julie Kline & Matt Weiler

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Rev. Matt Weiler

The children are invited to come forward to the front to hear a message. After the Time for the Child Within, children 4 years old to 5th grade are invited to their own kind of worship on the 2nd floor called "Godly Play." Nursery care is also available for infants through four years on the second floor.

HYMN #2233 *Where Children Belong*

(FWS, black hymnal)

BLESS THE CHILDREN

*GOSPEL LESSON + Luke 4: 14-21

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "The Meditations of Our Hearts"

Rev. Julie Kline

***HYMN #2166** *Christ Beside Me*

(FWS, black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(praying together)*

**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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Song for My Father*

Horace Silver

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #529** *How Firm a Foundation*

(UMH, red hymnal)

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE K

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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 one another.

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

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

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm

Sunday, January 26

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Faith Milestones - Wesley Hall
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, January 27

Tuesday, January 28

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
9:45 am Book Club - Chapel
12:30 pm Staff Meeting - Parlor
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Lounge

Wednesday, January 29

8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook
12:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry

Thursday, January 30

9:00 am First Stitches - Fellowship Room
5:45 pm Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday, January 31

9:00 am Communities in Schools - Wesley Hall

Saturday, February 1

**UPCOMING SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

Sunday, February 2

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Matt Weiler

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
"How to Get Thrown Off a Cliff"
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, February 9

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

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...Community Formation
Jacqueline StilgerDirector of Music
Julia LibrizziChildren & Families
Thom VictorTech Support Specialist
Bernie Foulk.....Organist
Drew Bolton.....Bldg. Superintendent
Christine Landreville.....Office Manager
Christiane Stakely.....Office Assistant
Jennifer Stupica.....Communications
Walt WhitfieldBookkeeper
Bryan Heany.....A/V Team Leader
Andrew WeareBuilding Host
Ava LoncharteBuilding Host
Eamon Bronson.....Building Host
Jim TiffanyCustodian
Ruth ButtersYoung Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Dawn Wheaton

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Acolytes: Lilly Nolan, Vera Warzybok

Jazz Musicians: Frank Silva (saxophone), Jude Fleishman (percussion), Noah Price (bass)

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton, Lucas McGinnis, Patrick Nolan, Jamie Gruber, Georgia Hutton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Academy Class. Join Pastor Matt after worship in the parlor for "God is Good, All the Time? A study in the book of Genesis." We claim that God is good all the time, and yet, is this true? And where does this come from? While studying the narrative of the Book of Genesis, this class will explore the biblical foundations of this claim. We may not draw any conclusions, but our curiosity will take us a long way. Class will meet on Sundays through Feb. 16.

Grief Group. Sundays after worship, Jan. 12-Feb. 2 in the chapel. Working through times of grief in our lives can be an ongoing process, and losses may be due to a death or a major life change. No matter where you are in your grief process, you are invited to become part of a group in our faith community who understand and can walk with you there. The group is facilitated by Deb Search Willoughby, Ann Kneas, and Jan Schoenherr.

Year-End Statements. Bookkeeper Walter Whitfield will be available to hand you your 2024 year-end statement today by the parking lot door. All remaining unclaimed statements will be mailed.

Faith Milestones. This group for 3rd—5th graders are those firsts as we grow in our faith. Faith Milestones is happening today from 6-7:30pm in Wesley Hall. We will learn about what communion is and why we take it. We will also share dinner and play games. Contact Julia, jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org for more information.

Family Fun Event. Children & Families Ministries invites our families for a potluck and family swim at Ascension Borgess Health and Fitness on Gull Rd. on Friday, January 24 from 5-7pm. They will swim for an hour and then have a potluck in the meeting room from 6-7pm. Questions? Email Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

Ice Skating. All are invited to join us for public skating at Wings Stadium West on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 1:45-3pm. The cost is \$13/person (\$10 for admission and \$3 for skate rental). Ages 4 and under skate free. The youth are invited to meet at the church at 1:30pm to car-pool together.

Wesley Woods Camp. Youth! Need a mid-winter recharge? Wesley Woods Winter Blast for grades 6-12 is a fun camp where you'll do some fun snow activities as well as get charged up to walk with God and make a difference in the world! Check in is at 5pm Fri., check out at 7pm Sat. \$85. Register until 2/11 online at Grace Outside, a program of UM area camps.

January Mission of the Month. We are collecting the following items for Ministry with Community and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. A collection box for your donations is located outside the food pantry.

Ministry with Community

- T-shirts and underwear for men, women
- Hand warmers

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission - Women's Shelter

- Socks (adult and children's sizes)
- Underwear (adult and children's sizes)
- Diapers (size 3, 4, 5, 6)

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission - Men's Shelter

- Socks
- Men's underwear and undershirts
- Winter gloves

Young Adults. Manna is a weekly gathering for young adults every Tuesday evening in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-8pm. If you are a young adult looking for deeper connections, contact our Youth and Young Adult Resident, Ruth Butters, at RuthTButters@gmail.com.

Food Pantry Needs. The following items are often requested by our guests to the pantry, but are not supplied by Loaves & Fishes. If you can help with any of these items, please leave them in the box outside the food pantry: toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste/brushes, salad dressings, condiments, coffee, jars of baby food, and can openers.

Prayer Team. Consider joining the prayer team! They meet to pray for one another, our church family, and for any prayer requests made known to them. Join them on Wednesdays at 11:30am in the chapel. All are welcome.

January 26, 2025

10:00 AM



First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

www.umc-kzo.org
(269) 381-6340

*Third Sunday After
the Epiphany*

*The celestial realms announce God's glory;
the skies testify of God's hands' great work.
Each day pours out more of their sayings;
each night, more to hear and more to learn.
Inaudible words are their manner of speech,
and silence, their means to convey.*

Psalm 19: 1-3