

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

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

MESSAGE "We've Heard This Before" Rev. Matt Weiler

***HYMN #245** *The First Noel* (UMH, red hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Have Mercy* S. McCracken/T. Cockrell

Have mercy on me. O Lord, have mercy. O Lord, have mercy.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Dear travelers, no matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1* by Kimberly Bracken Long

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sung responses can be found in the black hymnal on pages 2257b and 2257c

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CALL TO OFFERING

We pass the plates as an expression of worship and thanksgiving to God. Loose coins received will be designated for the support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their work around the world.

OFFERTORY

***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

Holy one, as you led three wise ones to present their gifts to the Christ child we now bring you our gifts, in adoration and praise of the Child who became Christ. May these gifts bring glory to you and may they spread the good news of Christ's love to all the corners of the earth. Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #254** *We Three Kings* (UMH, red hymnal)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* J. Mouret

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 5
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, January 6

Tuesday, January 7
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 pm Staff Meeting - Parlor
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
6:30 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Lounge

Wednesday, January 8
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel
12:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
2:00 pm Stephen Ministry - 310

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

Friday, January 10

Saturday, January 11
6:00 pm Mom's Night Out - Outside location

**UPCOMING SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

Sunday, January 12

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Matt Weiler

First Sunday After Epiphany

The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Worship

Rev. Julie Kline

Second Sunday After Epiphany

“Ordinary & Wonderful Ways of Life”

Psalms 19, Luke 4: 14-21

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/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor
Rev. Matt WeilerComm. 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 LonchanteBuilding Host
Eamon Bronson.....Building Host
Jim TiffanyCustodian
Ruth Butters Young Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Rev. Ed Ross

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Acolytes: Grace Harthorn, Campbell Weiler

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

January Mission of the Month. Many individuals in Kalamazoo are homeless and living outside in tents and many others are living in shelters. Others cannot afford warm winter clothing. We are hoping to help keep them warm by 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 (adult sizes medium-4XL)
- Men's underwear (medium-4XL)
- Women's underwear (sizes small, medium and large, NO X-large or XXL)
- Hand warmers

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission - Women's Shelter

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

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission - Men's Shelter

- Socks
- Men's underwear (all sizes)
- Undershirts (all sizes)
- Winter gloves

TODAY! Christian education classes for all ages, Godly Play, and Youth Group resume today.

Academy Class. TODAY after worship in the parlor, Pastor Matt will lead an adult class, “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, but will not meet on Jan. 19.

Understanding Grief. This class will meet in the chapel after worship for four Sundays beginning Jan. 12. Working through times of grief in our lives can be an ongoing process. Losses may be due to a death or a major life change. We may find we cycle back through earlier losses as we come upon new grief.

The class will use a few resources, including “The Spirituality of Grief: Ten Practices for Those Who Remain” by Fran Tilton Shelton. You do not need the book to participate. Deb Search Willoughby, Ann Kneas, and Jan Schoenherr will lead this class.

CUPPA. On Wednesdays at noon, Pastor Julie shares a time of reflection and spiritual rejuvenation LIVE on our Facebook page. These uplifting messages are also available for viewing at any time on Facebook. NOTE: CUPPA will resume on January 15.

Youth Group. All youth 6th - 12th grade are invited to participate in youth group every Sunday evening in the Youth Lounge from 6pm-7:30pm. We hope to see you this evening when our meetings resume after the holiday!

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.

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.

Stephen Ministers. For the last 39 years, we have been a Stephen Ministry congregation. This is a one-to-one confidential, caring ministry. As we begin a new year, we'd like to invite anyone interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry to a meeting at our church on Wednesday., Jan. 8 at 2pm in the parlor. The leader of Stephen Ministry from Haven Church will share information about their program. Our hope is to grow this important ministry.

Mom's Night Out. Moms with children at home are invited for a “Favorite Things Party” on Saturday, January 11 from 6-9pm (address: 10220 S. 10th St., Schoolcraft). Buy three of your favorite things (each around \$25) and bring them wrapped. We will draw names and everyone leaves with three new fun things! For more info, please contact Julia Librizzi, by emailing her at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

Weather Closing Policy. We are always open on Sundays (except for extreme circumstances). Please check Channel 3 news, WWMT News website, and our Facebook page for church closing notices.



212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

Epiphany Sunday

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 *In Dulce Jubilo*

P. Manz

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Ed Ross

One: How did you get here?
LECTERN SIDE: **We walked, eyes looking up, following the star.**
PULPIT SIDE: **We ran, longing for a love that is bigger than ourselves.**
LECTERN SIDE: **We tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.**
PULPIT SIDE: **We ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.**
One: Tell me again. How did you get here?
ALL: **We are here by God's grace and love's pull.**
One: Welcome home.
ALL: **This is God's house.**
One: There is room for you here.
ALL: **Let us worship our gracious God.**

***OPENING HYMN #250** *Once in Royal David's City*

(UMH, red hymnal)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLES

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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.”

***GOSPEL READNG**

Matthew 2: 1-12