

**OLD TESTAMENT + Genesis 1: 26 - 2:3**

Josiah Miller

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

**HYMN #2233** (FWS, black hymnal) *Where Children Belong*

**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.*

**BLESSING THE CHILDREN**

ALL: **May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!**

**MESSAGE** "Faith in an Exhausted World"

Rev. Matt Weiler

**HYMN #2202** (FWS, black hymnal) *Come Away With Me*

**REFLECTIONS ON YOUTH MINISTRY**

Lilly Harthorn & Danette Johnson

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Mandakini Brophy

**INVITATION TO PRAYER** *Rest Awhile* (S. Wood & W. Beveridge)

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

*Following the words, "We raise our prayer to you," please respond with:*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**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.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Bixler Weiler

*Our special offering today is designated for camp scholarships.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *I Ask For One Day* (J. Paupolis)

Carolyn Librizzi,  
Zoe Newman, Bixler Weiler

**\*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**

Lilly Nolan

**We give you thanks O God for these gifts. May we use them well to create faith-forming spaces where all can grow in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**OUR SHARED LIFE**

Deb Search Willoughby

**\*HYMN** *All My Days*



1. You know my words be - fore they're said. You  
2. If I should fly be - yond the dawn, the  
3. Our ev - ery thought, each word we say, the  
4. O mend my heart and free my voice. From



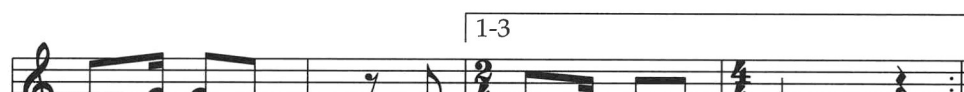
know my need and I am fed. You  
dark - ness will not o - ver - come. If  
whole of time, the pres - ent day, are  
sin re - leased, I will re - joice. O



give me life. You know my ways, my  
I lie down in deep - est night, still  
held with - in your might - y hand, too  
search me, Lord, my spir - it cries, and



strength, my path, for all my days, my  
you are there, my Lord, my light, still  
won - der - ful to com - pre - hend, too  
let my song of praise a - rise, and



strength, my path, for all my days. \_\_\_\_  
you are there, my Lord, my light. \_\_\_\_  
won - der - ful to com - pre - hend! \_\_\_\_  
let my song of



praise a - rise! \_\_\_\_

WORDS: Laurie Zelman  
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** *Ricercar* (G. Gabrieli)


**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, February 23**

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
11:15 pm Perks Coffee & Fellowship - Perks Area  
11:15 am Sunday School for Children & Youth  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center  
6:00 pm Faith Milestones

**Monday, February 24**

5:30 pm Building Blocks - Wesley Hall

**Tuesday, February 25**

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
9:45 am Book Club - Chapel  
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room  
4:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry  
6:00 pm Kalamazoo Ringers Rehearsal - Wesley Hall  
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Lounge  
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

**Wednesday, February 26**

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, February 27**

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
5:45 pm Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall  
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

**Sunday, March 2**

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary  
11:15 pm Church Conference - Sanctuary  
11:15 am Sunday School for Children & Youth  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

**UPCOMING SUNDAY  
WORSHIP**

**Sunday, March 2**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

Transfiguration Sunday

Rev. Julie Kline

“Such Lovely Light”

Luke 9:28-36 and Psalm 99

(Church Conference after worship)

**Sunday, March 9**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**

First Sunday of Lent

Rev. Matt Weiler

Theme Word: Temptation

Luke 4: 1-13

**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 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](http://YouTube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch).

<http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>

**Church Staff**

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor  
Rev. Matt Weiler...Community 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  
Christiane Stakely.....Office Assistant  
Jennifer Stupica.....Communications  
Marilyn Storch.....Interim Bookkeeper  
Bryan Heany..... A/V Team Leader  
Andrew Weare.....Building Host  
Ava Lonchante.....Building Host  
Eamon Bronson.....Building Host  
Jim Tiffany.....Custodian  
Ruth Butters ..... Young Adult Resident

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Matt Weiler, Ruth Butters, Mandakini Brophy and Youth

**Director of Music:** Jacqueline Stilger

**Organist:** Bernie Foulk

**Acolyte:** Lilly Nolan

**Audio-Visual Team:** Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton, Lucas McGinnis, Phil Van Orman, Jamie Gruber

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Celebrating Thom Victor.** Please join the Perks Reception TODAY after worship to thank Thom for his eight years of dedicated service as our Technology Support Specialist, Pastor of Congregational Care, Stephen Ministry Leader, and Office Assistant. Thom will continue working through February 27 and has accepted an IT position in Lafayette, IN. Come enjoy a piece of cake and wish Thom the best as he moves to Lafayette.

**Church Conference Next Sunday.** Please plan to attend a brief Church Conference after worship on March 2 to amend our Endowment policy. **We need 70 church members in attendance for this amendment to be considered.** The Endowment Committee is responsible to the Board of Trustees and Church Council for receiving donations and directing the investment activities of the Endowment Fund. The amended policy would allow undesignated planned giving-type gifts to be allocated 25% to the Endowment Fund and 75% to the Board of Trustees. It would also provide more flexibility for use of Endowment Funds in specified circumstances, including for major church projects and for borrowing from the Endowment principle. Copies of the proposed Amended and Restated Endowment Policy and the “Cliff Notes” version of the policy are available at the church office. The full motion to be voted on is: *The Endowment Committee, Board of Trustees, and Church Council hereby move the adoption of the Amended and Restated Endowment Policy presented at this Church Conference of March 2, 2025, to be effective immediately.*

**Adult Sunday school classes will resume March 9.**

**Round 5 of “Splendid Suppers for Seven.”** If you are interested in hosting or attending, please sign-up at the Welcome Center. Hosts choose a date of their choice in March. As host, you are asked to provide beverages and a main dish. Guests will bring a side dish or dessert. Come and enjoy some great conversation and laughter!

**Lenten Organ Recitals.** Mark your calendar for our upcoming noontime organ recitals on Thursdays during Lent beginning March 13. Refreshments will be served. Open to all to enjoy!

**Food Pantry Needs.** The following items are 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, and can openers.

**February Mission of the Month: YWCA Domestic Assault and Trafficking.** One of our Dream Team Partners, the Kalamazoo YWCA, provides shelter and assistance to women and children in a crisis situation, victimized by domestic assault and trafficking. Please consider donating the following. Donations can be placed in the box by the food pantry.

- NEW towels (bath, hand, washcloths)
- toothpaste (kids, adult)
- kids waterproof gloves/mittens
- soap/bath gel
- sanitary products
- lotion
- deodorant
- women’s socks

**March Mission of the Month.** Our Outreach Team is sponsoring a diaper drive for St. Luke’s Diaper Bank as the Mission of the Month for March. Please consider donating boxes of diapers, especially sizes 5 & 6. There is a collection box by the food pantry for your donations. Thank you for supporting this important community program!

**Ash Wednesday Service.** On March 5 at 7pm we will celebrate a special service that begins the Lenten season and includes the imposition of ashes. The service will be livestreamed and childcare will be available.

**Young Adults.** Manna is a ministry for Young Adults that meets each Tuesday evening at varying locations at 6:30pm. Times together include studying scripture, talking about recent events, praying together, and discovering who God is having us be for the journey ahead. We welcome new friends to join us. Contact Young Adult Resident Ruth Butters at [ruthbutters@gmail.com](mailto:ruthbutters@gmail.com) for more info!

**Are you on our mailing list?** If you would like to be added to our mailing list for our weekly *Around the Corner E-News* and monthly *The First Word* newsletter, please email Jennifer Stupica at [jstupica@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jstupica@umc-kzo.org).

**10:00 a.m.**

**February 23, 2025**



**First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo**

212 S. Park St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

[www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)  
(269) 381-6340

*Youth 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** *Allegro from Cello Concerto #4, Opus 65*

Carolyn Librizzi, cello

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Michael Bovid

ONE: Today we gather, called by the God of all creation.

ALL: **We gather in wonder and in awe. We gather in curiosity. We gather, hopeful for a glimpse of the new creation.**

ONE: Today we gather, those who feel well and whole, those exhausted by a weary world, those on the heights of joy and those in the depths of grief.

ALL; **We gather, called by the God who brought order from chaos, who formed us each from the dust of the earth and said “You are very good.”**

ONE: We gather with God who rested on the 7th day; whose desire is that we, too, find rest.

ALL: **We gather, pausing from the labors of the week behind us, and in preparation for all that is before us, trusting for faith renewed in an exhausted world. Let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #152** (red hymnal) *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

**WELCOME & \*PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Matt Weiler

*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.”*

**PSALM 8, RESPONSE 1** (red hymnal, p. 743)

Neela Parthasarathy & Ruth Butters

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**