

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 *Mad Rush* (Philip Glass)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Bob Isacksen

ONE: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor, there is a glory rising born of heaven and reaching out to each one of us

ALL: **a light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who we are that transfigures the world**

ONE: that transforms darkness into hope, that brings life from a cross where old life ends and new life is born.

ALL: **In glory, Jesus meets us here, raising us from the depths of the valley to the height of the mountain, carrying the weight of our humanity to the heights of heaven's glory.**

ONE: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

***OPENING HYMN #2103** (FWS, black hymnal) *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

***WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE** 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

***GOSPEL LESSON + Luke 9: 28-36**

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Julia Librizzi
The children are invited to come forward to the front to hear a message.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God's creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning by intinction. As you receive a piece of bread, dip it into the cup of juice, eat, and return to your seat by the side aisle.

HOLY COMMUNION #2257-b, -c (FWS, black hymnal) Rev. Julie Kline
Rev. Dean Prentiss, Superintendent of the Greater Southwest District

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 & CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Bread of Heaven* (Thomas Pavlecho)

MESSAGE "Such Lovely Light" Rev. Julie Kline

SILENT PRAYER

***HYMN #206** (UMH, red hymnal) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Salmo 150* (Ernani Aguiar)

Translation: Praise the Lord in his sacred places, praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts, praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with the psaltery and the harp. Praise him with the timbrel and the dance, praise him with strings and pipes. Praise him with high-sounding cymbals, praise him with cymbals of joy. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

***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

**Glorious God, who reveals the light of your presence, we bring these gifts
as a witness to your transforming power. Transform us to reflect your love
and grace. Use these offerings to shine your light in the world, bringing
hope and healing. In the name of your beloved Son, we pray. Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #258** (UMH, red hymnal) *O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair*

CHURCH CONFERENCE

BLESSING

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, March 2

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

Monday, March 3

1:00 pm Building & Grounds - Zoom
6:00 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

Tuesday, March 4

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 Manna - Youth Lounge

Wednesday, March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY

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
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

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

Sunday, March 9

10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 5

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

with Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Matt Weiler

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 9

10:00 a.m. Worship

First Sunday of Lent

Rev. Matt Weiler

Theme Word: Temptation

Luke 4: 1-13

Sunday, March 16

10:00 a.m. Worship

Second Sunday of Lent

Rev. Julie Kline

Theme Word: Covenant

“Covenant Love: Enduring &

Empowering”

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Child care with trained and fully vaccinated staff is provided on the second floor for infants through three-year-olds.

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/](https://www.youtube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

[KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch).

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler...Community Formation

Jacqueline StilgerDirector of Music

Julia LibrizziChildren & Families

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. Julie Kline, Rev. Dean Prentiss, Bob Isacksen

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Acolyte: Grace Harthorn

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,

Lucas McGinnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Conference TODAY. Please plan to attend a brief Church Conference at the end of worship today 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 gifts to be allocated 25% to the Endowment Fund and 75% to the Board of Trustees. It would also provide more flexibility for the use of Endowment Funds, e.g., major church projects and borrowing from the Endowment principle. The summary version of the policy is included in today's bulletin. 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.*

Lent Sermon Series and Academy Class. “Our Story is Never Over: From Lens to Mirror.” This year during Lent we will listen to storytellers in worship speaking to moments of *Holy Shifts* in their lives—moments, as with Moses, they were summoned to holy ground and walked away with a new awareness of themselves and their world. Worshipers will be invited to delve more deeply into the stories, and consider their own moments of *Holy Shift* during the Sunday School hour following worship. Our Story Is Never Over begins the first Sunday in Lent, March 9.

Ash Wednesday Service. On March 5 at 7pm we will celebrate the beginning of the season of Lent with a service that includes the blessing and imposition of ashes. Livestreaming and childcare available.

Lenten Organ Series. Mark your calendar for our upcoming noontime organ recitals on Thursdays here at First Church during Lent beginning March 13. The March 13th organ recital will present Thunder & Wind featuring Carolyn Knobel on percussion, and Rhonda Sider Edgington on organ. Join us for 45 minutes of music that will stir the soul and ignite the spirit as we welcome the Lent Season. Open to all. Refreshments will be served.

Refugee Resettlement. Due to recent executive orders, federal funding to support newly arrived refugees has been suspended leaving several families in Kalamazoo with minimal support. First UMC has agreed to provide support for a family of six from Central African Republic. The support of this family will require a significant team to divide responsibilities evenly and sustainably. If you would like to join the support team, please contact Pastor Matt immediately.

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. Most needed diaper sizes are 5 & 6. There is a collection box by the food pantry for your donations. Thank you for supporting this important community program!

Round 6 of Splendid Suppers for Seven. We have two spots for guests open for March 19. If you are interested in hosting our next round of dinners, please sign-up at the Welcome Center. Hosts choose a date of their choice in mid-April or May. 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!

Sanctuary Cleaning. Each year, we prepare our beautiful sanctuary for Easter by thoroughly cleaning it! This year, we invite you to join us on Saturday, April 12, from 9 am to noon to help sweep pew pads, wash woodwork, vacuum banners, and more! This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to participate and build community together as we care for our almost 100-year-old sanctuary. Families are especially welcome! Contact Dawn Wheaton with questions, 269.330.5152 or dawheaton53@gmail.com.

Crop Walk. Save the date of Sunday, April 27 for the annual Kalamazoo Valley Crop Hunger Walk. The walk will begin and end at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave. More info will be available in the coming weeks.

Book Club. The book club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the parlor. If you have not joined them in the past and would like to attend, please contact Jan Schoenherr at schoenherrjan@gmail.com. If the group is large, they will need to break into two groups with two facilitators, so it is important to have a count before discussion day. The book they are reading for March is the 2025 Kalamazoo Reading Together book, *Solito* by Javier Zamora.

10:00 a.m.

March 2, 2025



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

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Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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Transfiguration Sunday

