

PSALM READING + Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Rev. Julie Kline

*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.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON + Luke 19: 28-40

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Every child is invited to come forward to ring bells with First Bells. Children 4 years old to 5th grade are then 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 #278 (UMH, red hymnal) Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (vs. 3 only)
Please sing verse 3 when indicated.

MESSAGE “To Shout Hosanna”

Rev. Matt Weiler

CALL TO CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON #482 (Lord Have Mercy) (UMH, red hymnal)
Translation: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we thankfully remember the life of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth. Yet we also acknowledge our failure to respond to his witness. We mistake Jesus for a mere friendly companion, or problem-solver, failing to see him as the ruler of all creation. We do not appreciate the depth of his passion and still look for other sources for our salvation. Forgive us Lord, as we come nearer to the cross. Free us and bring us ever more fully into the joy of your love in Jesus Christ that we, too, might have the courage to live in love and justice. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

Hear these words of good news, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.” In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN #2129 (FWS, black hymnal) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, 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 He Was Wounded (Antonio Vivaldi)
He was wounded, Lamb of God most holy. He was despised, rejected. Surely He has borne our griefs. All his stripes have healed us. Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

*HYMN #2083 (FWS, black hymnal) My Song is Love Unknown
A soloist will sing verse 1, and the choir verse 2. All are invited to join in singing verses 3, 4, and 5.

You are invited to leave your palm branches at the cross, and exit worship in silence.

ALL are invited to a light brunch in Wesley Hall immediately following worship today.
There will be baskets by the doors of Wesley Hall to take a goodwill offering for the brunch.
We hope you will join us!

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

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.

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, April 13 PALM SUNDAY
10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:00pm Palm Sunday Brunch - Wesley Hall
6:00pm Youth Group - Youth Center
6:00 pm Faith Milestones
- Monday, April 14
9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall
1:00pm Building & Grounds - Parlor
6:00pm Leadership Team - Zoom
- Tuesday, April 15
9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall
9:30am Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30pm Staff Meeting—Parlor
4:15pm Readers’ Theatre Rehearsal - 304
4:15pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
6:30pm Manna - Youth Lounge
- Wednesday, April 16
9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall
8:00am Yoga - Zoom
9:00am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:30am Prayer Group - Chapel
12:00pm Faithful Witness - Kalamazoo City Hall Steps
12:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
2:00pm CUPPA inspiration - Facebook
4:15pm Readers’ Theatre Rehearsal - 304
- Thursday, April 17
9:00am - 8:45 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall
9:30am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
7:00pm Holy Thursday Worship
- Friday, April 18
6:15pm - 8:30pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall
7:00pm Good Friday Worship - Sanctuary

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Thursday, April 17

Holy Thursday Worship @ 7pm

Rev. Julie Kline

Holy Communion & Hand Washing

John 13: 1-7, 9-17, 31b-35

Livestream and childcare available

Friday, April 18

Good Friday Worship @ 7pm

Rev. Matt Weiler

The Passion Story from the Gospel of Matthew

Livestream and childcare available

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday Worship @ 10am

Rev. Julie Kline

“He is Not Among the Dead”

Luke 24: 1-12

WE ARE 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.

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler...Community Formation

Jacqueline StilgerDirector of Music

Julia LibrizziChildren & Families

Bernie Foulk.....Organist/IT/Website

Drew Bolton.....Bldg. Superintendent

Christine Landreville.....Office Manager

Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant

Jennifer Stupica.....Communications

Marilyn StorchInterim Bookkeeper

Bryan Heany..... A/V Team Leader

Andrew Weare Building Host

Ava Loncharte Building Host

Eamon Bronson..... Building Host

Sofia Fleming Building Host

Jim Tiffany Custodian

Ruth Butters Young Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Larry Stuart

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Acolytes: Cora & Hazel Welter

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASP Fundraiser TODAY. The youth have worked hard to bake and decorate fabulous and delicious cookies for their ASP summer trip fundraiser. You will be able to purchase them after worship and during the Palm Sunday brunch. Suggested donation: \$20/6 decorated cookies.

Faith Milestones. This small group for children in grades 3-5 will meet tonight from 6-7:30pm for stories of Lent, games, and a meal.

Join Us For Holy Week Worship

Nursery care and livestreaming available at all Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, April 17 @ 7pm. With water and a basin, we remember that Jesus tells the disciples that He wants to wash their feet. They are bewildered by this gesture of humility and service that reverses all normal roles of authority. In humility, we symbolically wash our hands and hear the call to serve and love.

Good Friday, April 18 @ 7pm. Good Friday is the day when we solemnly remember the death of our Savior. In our worship we will listen to the story of Christ’s passion from the Gospel of John and sing the hymns of our faith. These hymns reflect on the text of choral anthems that acknowledge Jesus’ willingness to go to the cross for the love of the world. In our sanctuary, stripped of all decor, we will witness the cross. We will touch, pray, and meditate at its foot.

Easter Sunday, April 20 @ 10am. Christ the Lord is risen! Alleluia. Come, join us for Easter as we sing our praise and raise our joys and triumphs high with brass, choir, organ and timpani declaring that love’s redeeming work is done. Easter begins in the dark and moves into our lives as the dawn lights up the sky and our hearts are filled once again with the hope that Christ leads us to a redemptive love. Invite family & friends!

Pastor Julie’s Renewal Leave will begin on April 21, and continue to July 7, 2025. During this time she will rest and restore her spirit while renewing her call to ministry. This is also a time for the congregation to trust that God abides and will do wonderful work through our laity leaders, staff, and ministries. During Pastor Julie’s renewal leave, we will welcome several guest worship leaders on Sundays. In addition, retired clergy and Stephen Ministers will be available for congregational support if needed.

Lent Labyrinth. The Chartres labyrinth is available for one more week for contemplative walks in Wesley Hall. Holy Week hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9am to 4pm; Holy Thursday, 9am to 8:45pm; Good Friday, 6:15pm to 8:30pm. We invite you to explore this spiritual journey!

Staged Reading. On Sunday, April 27 @ 11:30am in the sanctuary, we invite you to a dramatic staged reading of “Who Stole Them Church Hats?” written and directed by local playwright Buddy Hannah. The reading is a collaboration of The Allen Chapel AME and our church as we continue “Our Story is Never Over” project and the four pivots of awareness, connection, vision, and presence by Dr. Shawn Ginwright. This reading ties in with the “connection” pivot. A reception will follow.

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. First Church has two teams walking this year: the youth and young adults, and a separate team formed by the Outreach Team. You can donate online to either team (or both!) and monitor their progress. If you would like to receive more information concerning the walk, or make a donation, stop by the information table by the food pantry today.

****May 4 Worship Time Change!**** Because of the 2025 Ziegler Kalamazoo Marathon in the morning of May 4 in downtown, worship is at a *special time of 5pm*. Please mark your calendars for this change.

Join the CARES Team. This ministry team connects and cares for members and friends of our church, especially our elders and those with ongoing health concerns or significant life events. Contact Judy Kingsley at judy-kings@charter.net to learn more and join our efforts to share God’s love or receive care from a team member.

April Mission of the Month: Seita Scholars. Seita Scholars are students who have aged out of the foster care system. Items needed are toilet tissue, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, feminine hygiene products, shampoo/conditioner, lotion, razors (multi-pack), and body wash. There is a collection box by the food pantry for your donations. Meijer gift cards (\$10-25) are also welcome. Gift cards may be put in the offering plate on Sunday or turned in at the church office.

10:00 a.m.

April 13, 2025



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

Palm 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

*A CALL TO WORSHIP

Larry Stuart

ONE: On this Palm Sunday we remember that day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the people scattered their palm branches and cloaks before him, shouting “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

ONE: Rejoice greatly O daughter Zion!

ALL: Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

ONE: Lo, your king comes to you;

ALL: triumphant and victorious is he,

ONE: humble and riding on a donkey,

ALL: on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

ONE: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Hosanna in the highest!

HANDBELL PROCESSION

Processional (Larry Sue)

*OPENING HYMN #280 (UMH, red hymnal)

All Glory, Laud and Honor

All are invited to join in the procession as it passes by your pew.

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler