

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**  
Let us go out into the world as people made new by God.  
**Amen.**

\*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.”*

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION based on Psalm 126

Holy God, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. We need Jesus as much today as in times of old. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, wipe away the tears of despair.

**As we worship today, we tilt an ear to listen close. May your presence fill our minds with new understandings. We are waiting for you. Speak to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON + Isaiah 43: 16-21

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

*The children are invited to come forward to the front to hear a message. After the Time for the Child Within, the children will return to the pews and participate in Holy Communion. Following communion, children 4 years old to 5th grade are invited to their own worship on the 2nd floor called “Godly Play.”*

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION #21 Musical Setting C (UMH, red hymnal)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

May the God of the Table be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Seek God with all your hearts.  
**We bring them to the One who fills them with life.**  
Join all creation in praising our God.  
**We lift glad songs to the One whose love is constant.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*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 coming forward by the center aisle. As you receive a piece of bread, dip it into the cup of juice, eat, and return to your seat by the side aisle.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM Angus Dei (W.A. Mozart)

Translation: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us and grant us peace.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

MESSAGE “Becoming New”

Rev. Julie Kline

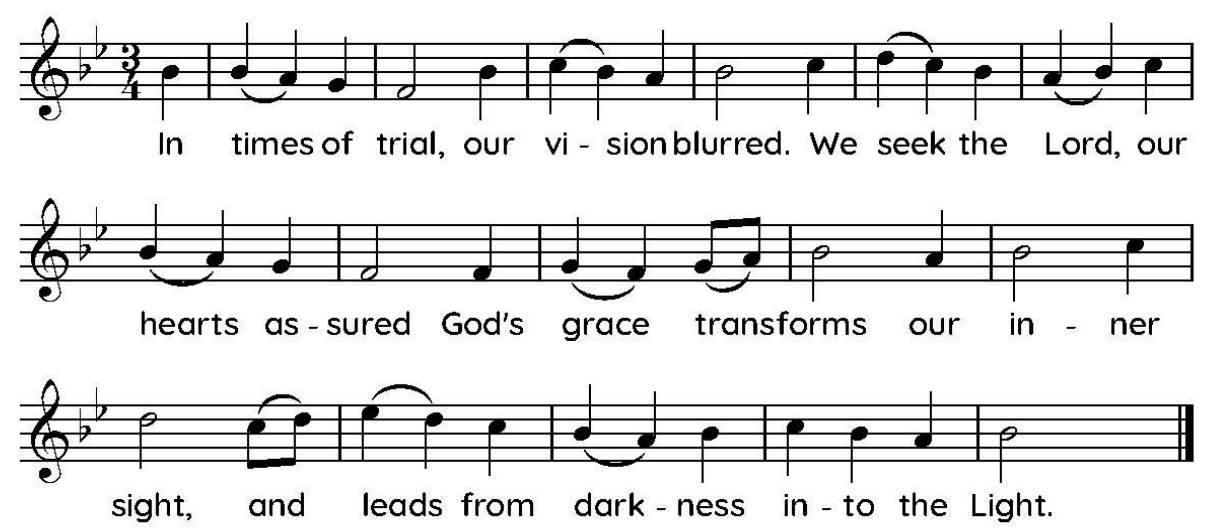
OUR STORIES: Newness

Mark Stucky

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY O Bless the Lord, My Soul (Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov)

\*DOXOLOGY Into the Light (Tune: WAREHAM by William Knapp, 1738)



In times of trial, our vi - sion blurred. We seek the Lord, our hearts as - sured God's grace transforms our in - ner sight, and leads from dark - ness in - to the Light.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Acolyte

**Gracious God, with hearts overflowing with gratitude, we present these gifts as a reflection of the abundance you have graciously poured into our lives. May they be used to provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and comfort for the broken-hearted, bringing renewal and hope to those who are weary. We seek for this offering to be a source of transformation, turning sorrow into joy and giving a taste of your love and grace to all who are in need. We pray in your holy name. Amen.**

\*OUR SHARED LIFE

\*HYMN #383 (UMH, red hymnal) This is a Day of New Beginnings

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Postlude (G.G. Nivers)

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 6

9:00am -12:00pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall

10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

11:00pm Perks Coffee & Fellowship - Perks Area

11:00am Sunday School for All Ages

11:00am Grief Group - Chapel

6:00pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, April 7

9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall

1:00pm Building & Grounds - Zoom

6:00pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

Tuesday, April 8

9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall

9:30am Worship Planning - Zoom

4:15pm Readers’ Theatre Rehearsal - 304

4:15pm First Beats - Choir Room

4:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry

5:30pm Moms Demand Action Board - Fellowship Rm.

6:30pm Manna - Youth Lounge

Wednesday, April 9

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

6:30pm ASP Team Meeting - Chapel Hill UMC

Thursday, April 3

9:00am - 4:00 pm Open Labyrinth Walk - Wesley Hall

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

12:00 pm Lenten Organ Recital - Sanctuary

5:45 pm Handbell Ensemble - Wesley Hall

7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

UPCOMING SUNDAY  
WORSHIP

Sunday, April 13  
Palm Sunday in the Park @ 9:45am  
Palm Sunday Worship @ 10am  
Rev. Matt Weiler  
“Hosanna and the Subversive  
Call of the Gospel”  
Luke 19: 28-40  
Palm Sunday Brunch @ 11am

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

**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.**

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor  
Rev. Matt Weiler...Community Formation  
Jacqueline Stilger .....Director of Music  
Julia Librizzi .....Children & Families  
Bernie Foulk.....Organist/IT/Website  
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 Loncharte ..... Building Host  
Eamon Bronson..... Building Host  
Sofia Fleming ..... Building Host  
Jim Tiffany ..... Custodian  
Ruth Butters ..... Young Adult Resident

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Mark Stucky  
**Director of Music:** Jacqueline Stilger  
**Organist:** Bernie Foulk  
**Acolytes:** Campbell Weiler, Jude Watkins  
**Audio-Visual Team:** Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton, Lucas McGinnis

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lent Sermon Series and Academy Class.** “Our Story is Never Over: From Lens to Mirror.” This year during Lent we are listening to storytellers in worship speak to moments of *Holy Shifts* in their lives. Worshipers are invited to consider their own moments of *Holy Shift* during the Sunday School hour following worship today in the parlor.

**Grief Group.** 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. You are invited to the chapel after worship and become part of a group in our faith community who understand and can walk with you.

**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 contemplative walks in Wesley Hall through Good Friday (April 18). We invite you to explore this spiritual journey on Sundays before or after worship, or Monday-Thursday between 9am-4pm.

**Easter Memorial Tulips.** Members and friends can remember loved ones with a gift of a tulip plant or a monetary memorial gift. Please complete the pink bulletin insert to place an order, and place it in the offering plate along with your payment. You may also drop it off in the church office. *Today is the last day to submit your order.*

**Lenten Organ Series.** Please join us for an organ recital this Thursday, April 10 at noon. This final recital of our 2025 Lenten Organ Series will feature our own organist, Bernie Foulk. Refreshments will follow. Join us for 45 minutes of music that will stir the soul and ignite the spirit. Freewill offerings accepted.

**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.

**Palm Sunday Events.** Our Palm Sunday celebration on April 13 begins in Bronson Park at 9:45am. Meet at 9:30am at the Welcome Center to get a palm and bulletin and we will walk over together to the park. We continue worship back in our sanctuary after blessing the palm branches. The children’s procession of the palms follows our call to worship. All are invited to join the procession as the parade passes by! After worship, join us for a delicious brunch in Wesley Hall. There will be baskets by the doors to accept your goodwill offering to cover the cost of brunch. *There is no Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter.*

**April Mission of the Month: Seita Scholars.** Seita Scholars are students who have aged out of the foster care system and attend WMU. 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.

**Staged Reading.** On Sunday, April 27 @ 11:30am in the sanctuary, we invite you to a 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 light 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. Kick off for the 1.25 mile or 3.1 mile walk is 2pm. First UMC has pledged to raise \$3,000. Stop by the information table by the food pantry after worship today for additional information on how to sponsor our church teams.

**High School Seniors.** On May 11 during worship (also Mother’s Day), all graduating seniors are invited to join us for worship, be recognized, and receive a blessing as part of our liturgy. Please email [mweiler@umc-kzo.org](mailto:mweiler@umc-kzo.org) to let Pastor Matt know if you will be present in worship on May 11 and if you have interest in also being a participant in worship.

10:00 a.m.

April 6, 2025



First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

PRELUDE & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Stucky

ONE: All creation proclaims the greatness and love of God.  
ALL: **God’s love permeates even the deepest darkness.**  
ONE: The light of God shines on us with new hope.  
ALL: **We are called to be people of compassion and justice.**  
ONE: Open our hearts, O Lord, to see your light and live in your hope.  
ALL: **Prepare us for service to all people and to this world.**

HYMN #2182 (FWS, black hymnal) When God Restored Our Common Life

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Matt Weiler

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.