

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that while you call us beloved we easily succumb to temptation and fail to believe this good news for ourselves. We have placed our trust in false leaders and we invested too much faith in powers that cause harm. We have become complacent to our own participation in injustice. Forgive us we pray. Call us to Holy Ground that we, like Moses, might shift; and, like Jesus, be strengthened. May we see ourselves and others as you see us: holy and beloved. Free us to joyfully be your witnesses in a broken and tempted world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

People of God hear the good news, that in Jesus Christ we are all forgiven and loved. In the hope of this good news, let us share signs of peace and reconciliation with one another today.

*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."

PSALM 91: On Eagle's Wings #143 (UMH, red hymnal)

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM *The Serpent* (Thomas Pavlechko)

What do you see the serpent said, the woman answered, Death. It is surely not death, the serpent said. I see what God told us to see, the woman quickly said. See what I say, the serpent said. What do you see? the tempter said, the Savior answered, Stone. Must it be stone? the tempter said, it surely could be Bread. Let it be stone, the Savior said, for life is more than bread. See what the scripture says, he said. We see what we are told to see—whom shall we listen to? Give us the grace, O God, to see what we are told by you.

*GOSPEL READING + Luke 4: 1-13

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, 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 "Temptation"

Rev. Matt Weiler

OUR STORIES: Temptation

Ruth Butters, Youth & Young Adult Resident

HYMN #2177 v. 1 (FWS, black hymnal) *Wounded World that Cries for Healing*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERTORY *How Can I Keep From Singing* (R. Lowry, arr. A. Sherman)

*DOXOLOGY *Into the Light* (Tune: Wareham by W. Knapp, 1738)

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God who sees us and loves us. We bring these gifts to you because we know we are loved. Help us use these gifts in ways that teach others to trust you and your unfailing love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

*HYMN 2105 (FWS, black hymnal) *Jesus Tempted in the Desert*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Kyrie* (F. Couperin)

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal | FWS - The Faith We Sing

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 9**
10:00 am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:15 pm Perks Coffee & Fellowship - Perks Area
11:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center
- Monday, March 10**
1:00 pm Building & Grounds - Parlor/Zoom
3:00 pm Leadership Team - Zoom
- Tuesday, March 11**
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
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
- Wednesday, March 12**
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:30 am Prayer Group - Chapel
12:00 pm Faithful Witness - Kalamazoo City Hall Steps
12:30 pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
2:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook
6:30 pm ASP Team Meeting - Youth Center
- Thursday, March 13**
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
- Friday, March 14**
6:00 pm Family Fun Night: Bowling - Airway Lanes
- Saturday, March 15**
11:00 am Memorial Service (Search) - Sanctuary

**UPCOMING SUNDAY
WORSHIP**

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

Sunday, March 23

10:00 a.m. Worship

Second Sunday of Lent

Rev. Matt Weiler

Theme Word: Barren

Luke 13: 1-9, Psalm 63: 1-8

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

[KALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch](http://www.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 Loncharte..... Building Host
Eamon Bronson..... Building Host
Jim Tiffany Custodian
Ruth Butters Young Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Bixler Weiler

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Acolytes: Cora & Hazel Welter

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 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. Join us in the parlor after worship as all are invited to delve more deeply into the stories, and consider our own moments of *Holy Shift* during the Sunday School hour .

Lent Devotional. Copies of “Coming Back to Life: Devotions and Activities for Lent” at the Welcome Center. The booklet is full of ideas and activities that can help you prepare your heart and mind for Easter’s great celebration. Grab your Bible and with the help of this devotional, spend the days of Lent exploring “wake up” activities and scripture. Please let the office know if you’d like an electronic copy of the devotional emailed to you instead of a paper copy.

Faithful Witness Wednesdays. Please join Pastors Julie and Matt and a multiple of Kalamazoo clergy colleagues on Wednesdays at noon throughout March on the steps of City Hall for a time of prayer, reflection, and call for action.

Cuppa. Pastor Julie’s Facebook times of reflection that you can view live on Wednesdays at noon will be moved to 2pm during the month of March.

Lenten Organ Series. Please join us for our organ recitals at noon 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. Your freewill offering will help to support our Music & Arts Ministry.

Round 6 of Splendid Suppers for Seven. 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!

Grief Group. Four Sundays after worship, March 16 through April 3 in the chapel. 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. No matter where you are in your grief process, you are invited to become part of a group in our faith community who understand and can walk with you. Class facilitators are Deb Search Willoughby, Jan Schoenherr, and Ann Kneas.

Family Fun Event: Bowling. Children & Families Ministries invites you to a time of fun and fellowship on Friday, March 14 from 6-7:30pm at Airway Fun Center on Portage Road. Contact Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org to let her know if your family is coming so she can reserve adequate lanes.

Faith Milestones. 3rd through 5th grade children are invited to this youth group-style get together that traditionally meets once a month. They meet next on Sunday, March 16 from 6-7:30pm to learn about Lent, play games, and share dinner together.

Lent Labyrinth. The Chartres labyrinth will be setup for contemplative walks in Wesley Hall on Sunday, April 6 through Good Friday, April 18 (after Sunday worship and Monday through Thursday, 9am-4pm). Explore the spiritual path of the Lent labyrinth and find the beauty of contemplative prayer and inner peace. Material to help your prayer walk will be available near the labyrinth.

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 9am-noon to help sweep pew pads, wash woodwork, vacuum banners, etc. Contact Dawn Wheaton with questions, 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.

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!

10:00 a.m.

March 9, 2025



212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

First 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. Matt Weiler

PRELUDE & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES *Lamb of God* (J.S. Bach)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bixler Weiler

ONE: In the book of Exodus, God called Moses to the Holy Ground. From that Holy Ground, Moses was changed. His sense of self, his knowledge of God, and his story were all transformed. Perhaps we, like Moses, might have moments of Holy Shifts in our lives. Perhaps we have already had these moments and have not yet recognized them for what they are. Perhaps this day, or this season of Lent, might be such a moment for us.

Let us pray. God who summoned Moses to Holy Ground,

ALL: you have called us to Holy Ground of this Sanctuary on this day.

ONE: May you open our hearts and our spirits to encounter you here.

ALL: May our encounter be holy, may it shift our sense and knowledge of you. May it weave our separate stories together with your story of redemption for the world.

ONE: Let us approach this holy ground and worship.

ALL: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Julie Kline

KYRIE #482 (UMH, red hymnal)