

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, Sept. 28 @10:00 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
with Baptism
Rev. Julie Kline
Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31

Sunday, October 5 @10:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday
Rev. Julie Kline
2 Timothy 1:1-14

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. You can find previous recordings of worship services on our website (www.umc-kzo.org) under the Livestream tab, or find us on our YouTube page.

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor
Rev. Matt Weiler Community Formation
Jacqueline Stilger ..Organist/Dir. of Music
Cari Miller.....Associate Dir. of Music
Julia Librizzi.....Children & Families
Drew Bolton Bldg. Superintendent
Christine Landreville.....Office Manager
Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant
Erika Jones Communications
Cody Collmenter Bookkeeper
Bryan Heany AV Team Leader
Eamon Bronson..... Building Host
Alison Ericson..... Building Host
Samantha Lee..... Building Host
Jim Tiffany Custodian
Ruth Butters..... Young Adult Resident

Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's Call To Action

in response to racism and bias. As part of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's vow to resist oppression in all its forms, we commit ourselves to the decisive action that is needed to resist and dismantle racism at every level. This action must go beyond our historically empty rhetoric about repentance and broken promises to be a church that is a credible and active witness for peace, equity, and justice in the face of harm visited upon communities of color. We beckon our clergy and lay leadership to unapologetically shine the light of truth on our church community so that we recognize our complicity in systemic racism, recognize and condemn white supremacy as sin, and seek a deep knowing of what God calls us to do. We make these vows so that every person—especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)—may live in safety, health, and freedom.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Weiler,
Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon, Daniel Whitcomb,
Josiah Miller, Aria Antias, and Phil VanOrman
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Miller
Acolyte: Lilly Nolan

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,
Jamie Gruber, Kennedy Hayes, Mark Stucky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group: Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm in the lower-level youth lounge. Youth Group is open to all youth 6th—12th grades. Contact Pastor Matt Weiler for more information.

ASP Celebration and Offering: Today in worship we will gather a special offering to support future Youth Mission opportunities such as ASP. Your gifts will go towards the total cost of approximately \$500 per youth. Gift can be made in worship and online. Thank you for your generosity!

Join a Music Group this Fall! We would love to have you join us in Chancel Singers which rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:15-9:00. First Beats Children's Ensemble begins September 16 at 4:15 for 3rd-8th graders. For more information, please contact Jacqueline Stilger at jstilger@umc-kzo.org.

Manna, our young adult ministry, gathers every Tuesday evening in the youth lounge from 6:30—8:00pm. Contact Ruth Butters at ruthbutters@gmail.com.

Sunday School Classes for all ages meet today after the 10am worship service.

Fall Academy Classes. Rev. John Boley and others of our retired clergy are facilitating an Adult Academy Class after worship in the parlor entitled "A Potluck of Hot Potatoes." All of these Hot Potatoes present different understandings of God and the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The class will meet on Sundays from Sept. 14 - Oct. 19th. Topics will generate lively discussion. Today's topic will be "Calvinism and Determinism."

Splendid Suppers for Seven! We have four hosts who have offered to open their homes beginning in the middle of September. This is a great opportunity to get together with people in our church community. Once again, hosts' names will be secret throughout the sign-up. But this time we are introducing a twist that involves more mystery! Look for the drop boxes and sign-up strips on the Welcome Center desk.

Bronson Park Picnic, today! Join with other downtown Kalamazoo churches today for a post-worship afternoon event in Bronson Park from 11:30am-2pm! There will be food available from local caterer "Desserts Firsts," and donations will be accepted. We'll have ice cream for purchase. You may also bring your own picnic lunch. Enjoy live music and intentional fellowship with neighbor congregations! This event aims to bring the downtown church communities together for a fun time of fellowship.

The "Our Story is Never Over" Project continues! This is a series of creative opportunities inspired by *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves* by Dr. Shawn Ginwright. Look for the easel outside the sanctuary that invites your response to pivot-related questions. Consider joining the class called "A Potluck of Hot Potatoes"; the October 5th topic is uniquely suited to exploring what it might mean that "Our story is never over"! And keep an eye on the bulletin board for details, dates, and new opportunities!

Dawn Patrol Appreciation Dinner: Friday, Oct. 3, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and lemonade will be served at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30. No tickets needed, just call (269) 567-8023 or email dcshilts@hotmail.com to register.

September 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

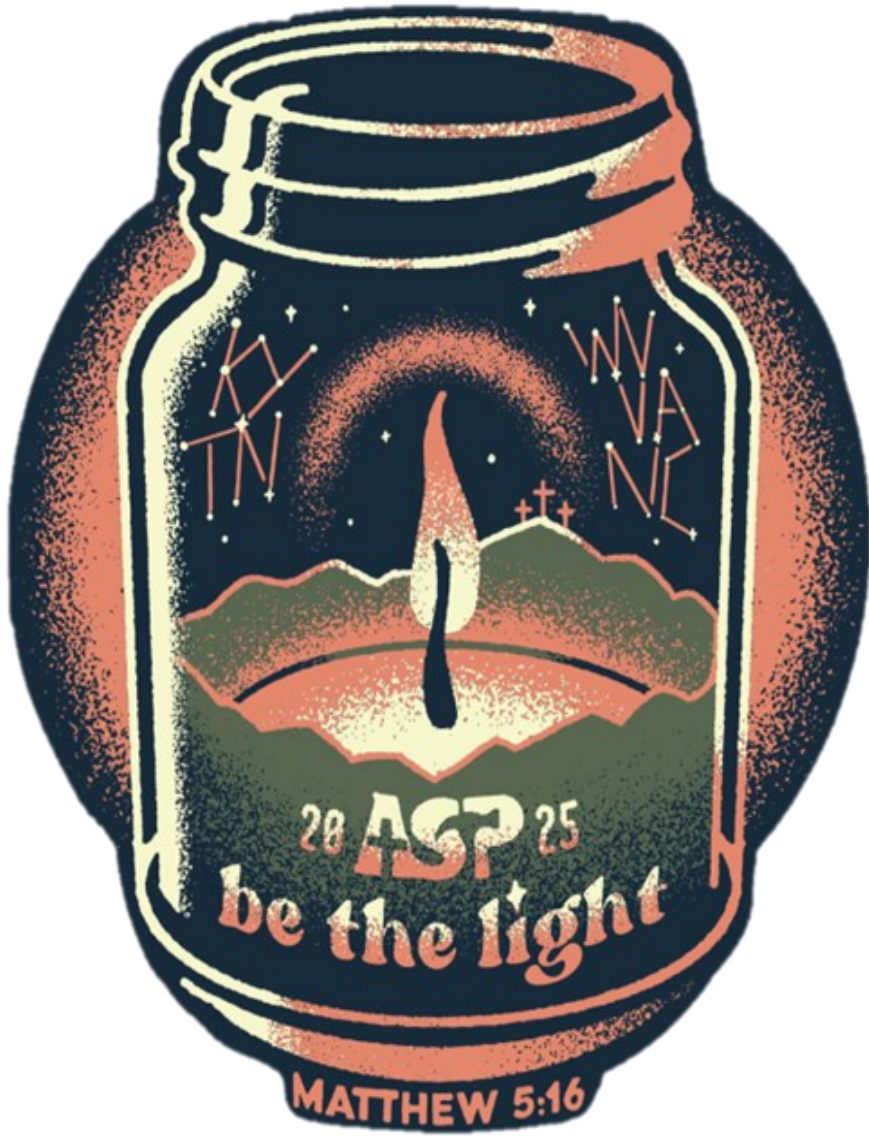


First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

ASP Sunday



APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

*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 *St. Anthony Chorale (from variations on a theme by Hayden)* (J. Brahms)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Daniel Whitcomb

ALL: **We gather, praying that as we hear testimony to the light of Christ we might be the light of Christ for the world.**

ONE: So come Holy Spirit and illuminate our hearts, our minds, and our souls by your word.

ALL: **Yes! Come Holy Spirit and illuminate our very lives that we burn with a desire to serve your purpose of love and justice in a hurting world.**

***OPENING HYMN #2237** (FWS, black hymnal) *As a Fire Is Meant for Burning*
We light the Christ Candle to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Evelyn Moon

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**
We invite you to turn to those nearby and offer a greeting as we share the Peace of Christ with one another.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASP TEAM *I Saw the Light* (Hank Williams)
I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night.
Now I’m so happy, no sorrow in sight,
Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

***GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:13-16** Lilly Harthorn

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, children 4 years old to 6th grade are invited to their own kind of worship on the second floor called “Godly Play.” Children will return to the sanctuary before the closing hymn.

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

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

TELLING THE STORY OF APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT Josiah Miller
Aria Antias
Phil VanOrman



MESSAGE “Visible Light” Rev. Matt Weiler

***HYMN #2190** (FWS, black hymnal) *Bring Forth the Kingdom*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Please use all terms of affirmation as we pray:

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 ANTHEM *My Lighthouse* (Gareth Gilkison and Chris Llewellyn)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Lilly Nolan

We give you thanks oh God for these gifts that empower your church to be the light of Christ for the world. We pray especially for those gifts dedicated to youth in mission, that you would multiply them today for your purposes tomorrow. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #2282** (FWS, black hymnal) *I’ll Fly Away*


BENEDICTION
At the close of worship, the acolytes take the Light of Christ down the center aisle to symbolize that as Christ’s followers we bear the Light of Christ to the world.


FWS = (The Faith We Sing, black hymnal)


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

Sunday, September 21
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:30 am All Church Picnic - Bronson Park
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center
6:00 pm Retired Clergy Group

Monday, September 22
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, September 23
9:30 am Worship Planning - Conference Room
10:00 am Book Club - Chapel
11:30 am Making Meaning - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
1:00 pm Garden Team - Parlor
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food Pantry Open
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, September 24
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am - Dawn Patrol
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 pm - Food Pantry Open
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, September 25
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
1:15 pm OLLI Dance Class - Wesley Hall
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Singers Rehearsal - Choir Room