

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, October 5 @10:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday
Rev. Julie Kline
“The Gifts Entrusted to Us”
2 Timothy 1:1-14

Sunday, October 12 @ 10:00 a.m.
Generosity Campaign
Rev. Matt Weiler
“Are You One of the Nine?”
Luke 17:11-19

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. Julie Kline, Rev. Dan Duncan
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Miller
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.

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

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.

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. 19. Topics will generate lively discussion. Today’s topic will be “Atonement Theories.”

New Membership Opportunity: A new membership class will begin October 19 - November 9, with the reception of new members in worship on November 16. If you would like to explore further the commitment and joy of membership in First United

Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Julie at jkline@umc-kzo.org.

Splendid Suppers for Seven! We have four hosts who have offered to open their homes beginning in the middle of September. 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.

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!

Parents’ Day Out: Come enjoy tailgating and the WMU vs. CMU football game on Nov. 1! Tickets are \$26 each. Parking \$15/car. Bring food to share, camp chairs, and drinks. Tailgating starts 4 hours before kickoff (game time TBA). RSVP needed by Sept. 25. Contact Katy McGinnis at mcginnik82@gmail.com.

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.

Celebrate Christi Landreville, our Office Manager, who retires on October 16, with a card shower! Christi Landreville has dedicated many years of service to First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo. Her unwavering commitment, compassionate spirit, and tireless efforts have profoundly impacted our community, leaving a lasting legacy. As she embarks on this new chapter of her life, we celebrate her remarkable journey and the countless lives she has touched. Join us in honoring Christi’s contributions and wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement by **giving her a card placed in her office mailbox, mailed, or emailed** (call the church office to request her address or email). We want to soak her with appreciation and gratitude!

September 28, 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



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 *Allegretto* (William Boyce)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(by Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

Rev. Dan Duncan

ONE: God of abundant generosity, you bless us.

ALL: **We are rich in your grace.**

ONE: Loving Christ, you bless the broken and the needy, and you come to us.

ALL: **We are poor in spirit.**

ONE: Holy Spirit, you rouse us, you open our eyes, you stir us to compassion.

ALL: **We open the gates of our hearts to you. Come in, and be our love.**

***OPENING HYMN & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES**
We light the Christ Candle to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

O God, You Call for Justice

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette/Samuel Wesley

1. O God, you call for jus - tice, for good - ness, ne - ver greed! You
2. O God, you call for kind - ness in - stead of keep - ing score; You
3. You call us to walk hum - bly, for we are not our own; We
4. O God, may our great na - tion seek jus - tice, as we should, and

seek a world of fair - ness where all have what they need. Where
seek a world that wel - comes the hun - gry and the poor. Lord,
all are poor and need - y, we need the grace you've shown. May
work with ded - i - ca - tion to seek the com - mon good. We're

all have food and wa - ter and homes in which to thrive, where
where there is in - jus - tice may we work to pro - tect the
we re - spond to oth - ers re - flect - ing what you give: Com -
blessed to be a bless - ing; may we with - in our law seek

all have hope and laugh - ter and joy to be a - live.
strugg - ling ones, the voice - less that oth - ers would re - ject.
pas - sion, kind - ness, jus - tice, so all may glad - ly live.
jus - tice and com - pas - sion that reach - es out to all.

Tune: AURELIA. Text: ©2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

WELCOME Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PASSING THE PEACE Rev. Dan Duncan
We invite you to turn to those nearby and offer a greeting as we share the Peace of Christ with one another.

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*

HOLY BAPTISM (see insert) Hugo Warzybok, son of Brandon and Britnee
On the altar, a memory candle has been lit for Henrik Warzybok, Hugo’s twin brother, who died at birth. In the spirit of love, we remember him.

HYMN #2249 (FWS, black hymnal) *God Claims You*

***GOSPEL READING Luke 16:19-31** Rev. Dan Duncan
This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE “Deep Hunger” Rev. Julie Kline

***HYMN #583** v. 1 & 3 (UMH, red hymnal) *You Are the Seed*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Dan Duncan

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 *Poor Man Lazrus* (Jester Hairston)

***DOXOLOGY #94** (UMH, red hymnal)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Acolyte
Compassionate God, as we offer our gifts today, we are reminded of the divide between those who live in comfort and those who suffer. Help us to care for the poor, the oppressed, and those on the margins of society. Guide us to use what we have to help others and show compassion. May our offerings reflect our desire to build bridges of love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #584** (UMH, red hymnal) *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

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.

CHORAL BLESSING *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* (Peter Lutkin)

POSTLUDE *In Classic Style* (Gordon Young)

FWS -The Faith We Sing, UMH - The United Methodist 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 28
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
12:00 pm Manna Apple Orchard Outing
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, September 29
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, September 30
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, October 1
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am - Dawn Patrol
10:00 am - OLLI Curriculum Comm. Fellowship Rm.
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 pm - Food Pantry Open

Thursday, October 2
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

Friday, October 3
6:00 pm Dawn Patrol Dinner - Wesley Hall

Saturday, October 4
5:00 pm Family Fun Night - Backyard of Kalamazoo

Covenant of Baptism for a Child.

Adapted from the United Methodist liturgy by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We come to this water to baptize Hugo and to bathe Hugo in your love for him.

We come to this water as a community.

**We come to this water to renew our love as siblings in Christ,
and to renew our baptism in the death and resurrection of Christ.**

THE BAPTISMAL VOWS

Pastor to the Parents

As we behold the mystery of God's grace, I invite you to profess your faith,
and to confirm the baptismal covenant made in your name:

Pastor to the Parents:

Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness?

We confess our need for the saving, life-giving grace of God!

Will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you receive God's grace, give yourselves wholly to God,
and live as disciples of Jesus, Christ's body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in Christ's grace,
and promise to serve Christ as our Savior, in union with the church which Christ
has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

A special blessing from the children

Do you promise to include Hugo in your play and in your learning? Do you promise to
accept him and love him? Do you promise to help Hugo learn about following Jesus, and
to show him Jesus's love?

Yes we promise!

Pastor to Parents

Will you, nurture Hugo in Christ's holy church?

**By teaching and example we will guide Hugo to accept God's grace, to grow in faith,
and to lead a Christian life.**

Pastor to the Congregation

Do you, Christ's Body, the church, reaffirm your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel,
individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will live as faithful members of the Body of Christ
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you nurture one another in living the faith through the church
and include Hugo in your care?

With God's help we will embody the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**We will surround Hugo with faith, hope and love that he may grow in grace and
faith and learn to trust God and live in loving service in the world.**

We will pray for him and walk with him on his journey of discipleship among us.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of God is among us.

The blessing of the Beloved is upon us!

Let us pray. Loving, life-giving God, we give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit
brooded over the waters and you brought forth Creation.

You brought us to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea.

You gave us new birth through baptism into Christ, and gave us life that cannot die.

**The river of God is full of water, the river of the water of life,
bright as crystal, flowing from the heart of God.**

We who are baptized into Christ Jesus are baptized into his life,
born in the water of a womb; we are baptized into his ministry,
giving water to the thirsty, washing the feet and sharing the tears of all who suffer;
and we are baptized into his death, so that just as Christ was raised by the glory of God,
we too might walk in newness of life.

**Born of water and the Spirit, may we enter into the Realm of God
as children of God, born not of human will, but of God.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this water and bless Hugo who receives it,
that claimed by your Word, nourished in your grace, washed from all sin and borne by
your Spirit, he may live in freedom, trust and courage,
sharing in the eternal life of Christ.

Hugo, you are God's Beloved, in whom God is well pleased.

All reverence and delight is yours, infinite and loving God, now and forever.

All praise to you, Eternal God, Creator

Son and Holy Spirit, in the present moment and in eternity. Amen!

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Hugo, we baptize you in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit,
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ.

**Hugo, Child of God, claimed by water and the Spirit,
you are joined to God's new creation.**

**We are one in Christ Jesus,
sharing in Christ's royal priesthood.**

**With joy and thanksgiving
we welcome you as a member of Christ's church.
God bless you now and in eternal life. Amen.**