

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, Sept. 21 @ 10:00 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Matt Weiler

ASP Sunday

Matthew 5:13-16

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Julie Kline

Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31

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 MillerAssociate Dir. Of Music

Julia LibrizziChildren & Families

Drew Bolton.....Bldg. Superintendent

Christine Landreville.....Office Manager

Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant

Erika JonesCommunications

Cody Collmenter.....Bookkeeper

Bryan Heany..... AV Team Leader

Andrew Weare Building Host

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. Matt Weiler, Ruth Butters, Julia Librizzi and Penelope Librizzi
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Miller
Acolytes: Michael Bovid, Zachary Bovid
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: In July FUMC sent a large group of youth and adults to Johnson County Tennessee for another summer mission trip with Appalachia Service Project. This year’s theme verse was Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world...” Our worship will feature participants from our trip telling the story of how they experienced the light of Christ and shined the light of Christ through photos, storytelling and music. A special offering will be held at the September 21st Sunday worship to support next year’s ASP trip.

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.

Sunday School Classes for all ages start 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. Beginning today, Rev. John Boley and others of our retired clergy will be 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 run for six Sundays. Topics will generate lively discussion. Today’s topic will be “Biblical Fundamentalism.”

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, Sept. 21 Join with other downtown Kalamazoo churches for a post-worship afternoon event in Bronson Park from 11:30am-2pm! There will be food trucks around the park or you can bring your own lunch. Enjoy live music! 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 14, 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

Largo (G.F. Handel)

*CALL TO WORSHIP (by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries)

Ruth Butters

ONE:

We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

ALL:

God is our hope and our refuge.

ONE:

We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

ALL:

God is our hope and our refuge.

ONE:

We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

ALL:

God is our hope and our refuge.

ONE:

Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

ALL:

May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

We light the Christ Candle to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

Refrain

The musical score for the Refrain is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Sing-ing wel - come, wel-come to__ this place. You're in - vit - ed to' are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, including a half note. The lyrics 'come and know God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share____ 'cause' are written below. The third staff continues with a similar melodic pattern, ending with a quarter rest. The lyrics 'all of us__ are wel - come__ here;__' are written below. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a half note and a quarter rest, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'all are wel- come in this__ place.____' are written below.

Sing-ing wel - come, wel-come to__ this place. You're in - vit - ed to

come and know God's grace. All are wel - come the love of God to share____ 'cause

all of us__ are wel - come__ here;__

all are wel- come in this__ place.____

ALL: May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!

POSTLUDE *Impromptu* (David Lasky)

Sunday, September 21
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

Covenant of Baptism and Confirmation

The United Methodist Hymnal

Siblings in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism

we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.

We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation

and given new birth through water and the Spirit.

All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Today we present Benjamin Cramer-Erbes for baptism.

And we present Benjamin Cramer-Erbes and Coulter Weiler for confirmation.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these
persons who are now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the
example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love
and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way
that leads to life.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark
waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark
through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your
people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children
you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was
baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in
the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to
wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that,
dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in Christ's final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you
and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever.**

Amen.

BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS AND COMMISSIONING

Ben, we baptize you in the name of the God who is Creator, Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who is our sustainer.

Amen.

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

Now it is our joy to welcome our newest siblings in Christ.

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Spirit of God, Enfold Me* (Simon Lole)

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
we commend these young people to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you
in the body of Christ and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**