

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Julia Librizzi
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 *This is Where Children Belong* (FWS-black hymnal)
FIRST BELLS *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

MESSAGE “The Gifts Entrusted to Us” Rev. Julie Kline

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all people, we confess we have separated ourselves. We have divided the Body of Christ. In our fear, heal us. For our “othering” of those not like us, forgive us. Receive our repentance, not in words alone but in reconciliation with our companions in Christ. Make us One, Love, make us One.

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2224 *Make Us One* (FWS-black hymnal)

HOLY COMMUNION musical setting A, pg. 17 (UMH-red hymnal)
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, coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread, dipping it in the cup of juice and eating. Servers will offer the bread by saying “the bread of life” and “the cup of love” given for you. You may respond with “amen.” Gluten-free bread is available at each station.

God is with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.
It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

We thank you, God, for you create all things out of your own being.
In you all things are One.
You create us in the image of your love, and call us as your beloved community.
You judge the forces of oppression and rescue us from all that enslaves us.
You make us one with all people, and break down the dividing walls we build.
You strike the rock of this world and out flows grace and blessing.
We feast in gratitude and awe.
You gather us at your table as the Body of Christ,
one in the love and Spirit of Christ, around the world, one with all Creation.
We feast in unity and love.
Therefore with all your Beloved around the world we sing your praise.

Sanctus pg. 17 (UMH-red hymnal)

Memorial Acclamation pg. 18

RECEIVING THE BREAD & CUP
You are invited to fill out an additional prayer card, praying for our world, and place it on the table in the basket as you come forward for communion.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *O Taste and See* (R. Vaughan Williams)

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.**

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN Nancy Hilliard
*“We are inviting you to invest in yourself through the resources that God has given you - your energy, your prayers, and your money - in this work to which God has called us.”
- A Spirituality of Fundraising - Henri Nouwen*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Will Sing With the Spirit* (John Rutter)

***DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious God, we bring our gifts to you today, knowing that we are called to be faithful stewards of all you have given to us.
Help us use our resources wisely, serve others with open hearts, and seek what is good for your sake. Teach us that where our treasure is, that is where our hearts will be, too. Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #2186** *Song of Hope* (FWS-black hymnal)
The choir will sing through once. The congregation is invited to join the second time.

BLESSING
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.

POSTLUDE *Soon and Very Soon* (Andrae Crouch arr. John Carter)
Pianists: Carol Hodges and Carol Grant

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.



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, October 5
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Faith Milestones
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, October 6
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
6:00 pm - SPRC - Parlor

Tuesday, October 7
9:30 am Worship Planning - Conference Room
10:00 am Book Club - Chapel
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
12:30 pm Staff Meeting - 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 8
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
2:30 pm Cares Committee - Chapel

Thursday, October 9
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
10:00 am Memorial Visitation
11:00 am Tom Kayser Memorial - Sanctuary
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall

Sunday, October 12
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center

UPCOMING WORSHIP

October 12 @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Matt Weiler

“Are You One of the Nine?”

Luke 17:11-19

October 19 @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Julie Kline

“The Gift of Persistence”

Luke 18:1-8

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 BoltonBldg. Superintendent

Christine LandrevilleOffice Manager

Linda Hamill.....Office Manager

Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant

Erika JonesCommunications

Cody CollmenterBookkeeper

Bryan HeanyAV Team Leader

Eamon BronsonBuilding Host

Alison EricsonBuilding Host

Samantha LeeBuilding Host

Jim TiffanyCustodian

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, Julia Librizzi, Steve Johnson - Generosity Team Co-Chair

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

Special Offering.

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord’s table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students. Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access training.

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 through - Oct. 19. Topics will generate lively discussion. Today’s topic will be “Prosperity Theologies.”

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.

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!

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!

Water is Life. You are invited to Hope for Creation’s Harvest of Unity event Sunday, Oct. 19, 5 pm downstairs in Wesley Hall. Featuring Dr. Nichole Keway Biber speaking. Learn more and RSVP at hopeforcreation.net/events.

October 5, 2025

10:00 a.m.

ABOUNDING HOPE

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

First United Methodist Church

212 S. Park St. Kalamazoo, MI 49007

www.umc-kzo.org

(269) 381-6340

“All flourishing is mutual.”

The Serviceberry. Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

Prelude (Alexandre Boëly)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Johnson, Generosity Team Co-Chair

One: Creator of the universe,

All: **you bring forth all Creation, and we belong.**

One: You give birth to all peoples;

All: **you create one human family, and we belong.**

One: You feed us with your love;

All: **you make of us one Body in your Spirit, and we belong.**

So we come, people of every race and nation and tribe and people, to worship together and to feast on your love. Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN #529

How Firm A Foundation

(UMH-red hymnal)

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

WELCOME & *PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Julie Kline

We invite you to turn to those nearby and offer a greeting as we share the Peace of Christ with one another.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Rev. Matt Weiler

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:1-14

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.