

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 Slane (arr. by John Behnke)

INTROIT Rejoice in the Lord (by Hal Hopson)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Based on Psalm 65) Jim Frey (Generosity Team Co-chair)

ONE: What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

ALL: **You are the hope of everyone on Earth.**

ONE: Answering our prayers with mighty deeds,
and forgiving our sins with endless love.

ALL: **You are the hope of the whole world.**

ONE: From where the sun rises to where it sets,
You inspire shouts of joy.

ALL: **We will fulfill the promises we’ve made to you,
in the company of your people,
in this sanctuary where You meet us.**

***OPENING HYMN #178** Hope of the World (UMH-red hymnal)
We light the Christ Candle to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

WELCOME Rev. Julie Kline

***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.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

GENEROSITY SPEAKER Carol Hodges

SCRIPTURE Romans 15: 4-13 Jim Frey

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Rev. Dan Duncan

HYMN #2233 This is Where Children Belong (FWS-black hymnal)

Blessing the Children

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

MESSAGE “Abounding Hope” Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #2197 Lord of All Hopefulness (FWS-black hymnal)

CONSECRATING OUR GIFTS

Everyone is invited to come forward to touch our colorful braided basket which was created by this congregation to symbolize that our stories are part of God’s story. As you touch the basket, give thanks and bless the gifts; if you have not yet given your card, please place it in the basket. You are invited to bring your weekly offering forward and place it into the offering plates to the far left and right of the basket.

ONE: We are gathered here because we believe
that we are called together into a work
we cannot yet know the fullness of.

ALL: **Still, we trust the voice of the One who has called us.**

ONE: And so, we offer to you, O God, these things:

ALL: **Our dreams, our plans, our vision, our prayers.**

ONE: Shape our prayers as you will.

ALL: **Our moments and our gifts**

ONE: May they be invested toward bright, eternal ends.

ALL: **You alone, O God, by your gracious and life-giving Spirit
have power to knit our imperfect hearts,
our weaknesses, our strengths,
our stories, and our gifts, one to another.
Unite your people and multiply
our meager offerings, O Lord,
that all might resound to your glory.**

ONE: May our love, our labors, our service echo your love, O Lord.

ALL: **O Spirit of God, now shape our hearts.**

O Spirit of God, now guide our hands.

O Spirit of God, now build your kingdom among us.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM How Firm A Foundation (arr. Alice Parker)

***DOXOLOGY #94** Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH-red hymnal)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Steadfast God, receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness,
but as an offering from those who know they need your grace and hope.
Teach us again that generosity begins in gratitude—not in proving our
worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy,
justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own.
In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #2186** Song of Hope (FWS-black hymnal)

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 Grand Choeur in G (Theodore Dubois)

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

Sunday, October 26
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am Membership Class

Monday, October 27
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, October 28
9:00 am Worship Planning - Zoom
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 29
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am - Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm First Word mailing - Perks
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 pm - Food Pantry Open
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting - Parlor

Thursday, October 30
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Sunday, November 2
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am Membership Class
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

UPCOMING WORSHIP

November 2 @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Matt Weiler
All Saints Day
Ephesians 1:11-14

November 9 @ 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Julie Kline
“Imagine”
Haggai 2:1-2:9

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 3-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 Librizzi Children & Families
Drew Bolton Bldg. Superintendent
Linda Hamill Office Manager
Christiane Stakely Office 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

We are a Reconciling
Congregation, welcoming all.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with **open hearts, open minds, open doors.**

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Jim Frey, Larry Stuart, Carol Hodges, Rev. Dan Duncan
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Miller
Audio-Visual Team Leaders: Bryan Heany and Drew Eaton; Lucas McGinnis, volunteer; Kennedy Hayes, backup

◀◀ **We are always looking for A/V volunteers.** ▶▶
Training is provided. All ages welcome. We’ll work around your availability. Inquire with Bryan Heany for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration! Please join our time of fellowship after worship to celebrate your generosity and abounding hope with cake! All are invited.

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.

New Academy Classes:

- ♦ Meeting **today** after worship: The Emmy Award-winning documentary "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights" tells the story of Fred Korematsu, an American citizen who challenged the constitutionality of Japanese-American internment camps during World War II. We'll watch the documentary and discuss what it means for us as a Reconciling congregation committed to anti-bias, anti-racist justice. John Clark will lead the discussion in the Parlor.

- ♦ “Unlocking Possibilities: Five Secrets to a Fulfilling Life.” Drawing on research she did for her new book on saints, Jennifer Clark will introduce us to individuals who range from inspirational to outrageous. In learning their stories and unlocking their secrets, we’ll learn more about ourselves and lean into the possibilities for living an even more creative, generous, and courageous life. This class will meet in the Parlor following the worship service, November 2, 9, and 16.

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. Keep an eye on the bulletin board for details, dates, and new opportunities!

All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2: At this service we will remember and honor our family members who have died in the past twelve months. If there was a death in your family since last year please contact the church office at (269) 381-6340 or email kalamazoofumc@umc-kzo.org. Please include a photo of your loved one for the worship video. Last day to receive names and photos is October 29.

First United Methodist Church Conference: This annual business meeting will be held on Nov. 1 at 3pm at Westwood UMC, presided over by District Superintendent Rev. Dean Prentiss. We will gather as Branch 5 of the Greater Southwest District, which includes Milwood, Sunnyside, Westwood, Otsego, Parchment, Plainwell, and FUMC. Members will vote on the 2026 elected lay leadership roster, clergy and staff salaries, any membership deductions, and celebrate our past year of ministry accomplishments. Please plan to attend and be part of this significant event. We need your presence and input as we make important decisions for the governance of our church community.

Grief Group: Sundays after Worship, November 9, 16, 23 & Dec. 7 & 14, in the chapel. The group will be facilitated by Ann Kneas and Deb Search Willoughby. Retired pastor Doug Vernon will also join us and bring some thoughts about caregiving and loss.

⌚**Time Change:** Saturday night make sure to turn the time back by an hour.

October 26, 2025

10:00 a.m.

ABOUNDING
HOPE

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION



First United Methodist Church

212 S. Park Street | Kalamazoo, Michigan | 269.381.6340 | umc-kzo.org

Consecration
Sunday

Romans 15: 4-13 and Psalm 65



“All flourishing is mutual.” ~The Serviceberry, Robin Wall Kimmerer