

UPCOMING WORSHIP

November 23 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Matt Weiler  
Reign of Christ Sunday  
Colossians 1:11-20

November 30 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Julie Kline  
First Sunday of Advent  
Luke 1:5-13  
Lamentations 3:55-57

**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 to 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 Miller.....	Associate 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, Rev. John Boley, Julia Librizzi  
**Director of Music/Organist:** Jacqueline Stilger  
**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Miller  
**Musicians:** Chancel Singers and First Beats  
**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**

🌹 **The rosebud on the altar** is in celebration of the birth of Thlayli Ellowyn, born on October 3, 2025. Proud Grandpa is Michael Seals, and she is his first grandchild!

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

**Grief Group:** Sundays after worship, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7 & 14. Today we will meet 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.

**Academy Class: “Unlocking Possibilities: Five Secrets to a Fulfilling Life”** meets today after worship in the Parlor. 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.

**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.

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

**Splendid Suppers for Seven Sign-ups:** We have four hosts who have offered to open their homes on December 5, 6, and 10. This is a great opportunity to get together with people in our church community. Hosts’ AND guests’ names will be secret throughout the sign-up. Look for the drop boxes and sign-up strips on the welcome center desk! For more information, contact one of our co-lay leaders, Mary Whittaker Duncan and Vickee Seals.

**The Annual Loaves & Fishes Concert** will be Saturday, Nov. 22 in the sanctuary. Doors open at 4:30pm, the show starts at 5:30pm. Five bands will be playing, with a wide range of musical genres. Bring a shelf-stable food item or monetary donation.

**“Looking Deeply: A Meditative Journey with Our Stained Glass Windows” Class**, taught by Mark Stucky. Our church has the finest collection of early twentieth-century stained-glass windows in the Kalamazoo area. These windows have stories to tell, from replacing the exterior protective panels to being a source of visionary inspiration and healing. This class will be a contemplative tour of the windows (and some other architectural features) as well as an exploration of a theology of beauty and stained glass. The class meets after the worship service on Nov. 23 in the Chapel, on Dec. 7 at the front of the sanctuary, and on Dec. 14 at the rear (Park Street) entrance.

**“Seeing the Possibility in Hope” Workshop**, led by Mary Whittaker Duncan and Vickee Seals. This hands-on community mosaic project will take place Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5:30-7 pm in Wesley Hall (downstairs). Individual glass art pieces created in December will be assembled in January into a new whole. Ages 10 and up are welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult (sign-up is required).

**The “Our Story is Never Over” Project:** 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!

**Abounding Hope Campaign – Pledge Cards Still Being Accepted!** We are still gratefully receiving pledge cards for the *Abounding Hope* campaign. If you haven’t had a chance to turn yours in yet, you can drop it in the collection plate during worship or bring it by the church office. You can also pledge online at our website: umc-kzo.org. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

November 16, 2025

10:00 a.m.



First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo



212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340  
umc-kzo.org



**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**    *Andante in B-Flat Major* (Felix Mendelssohn)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. John Boley

ONE: Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God’s works.  
**ALL: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.**  
ONE: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,  
**ALL: for great is the Holy One in our midst, blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.**

**\*HYMN #694**    *Come Ye Thankful People, Come* (UMH - red hymnal)

**WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE** Rev. Julie Kline

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**

**SUNG RESPONSE**    *Prayer for Peace* (traditional Zulu hymn) First Beats & Chancel Singers  
Translation: “Let there be peace, redemption, praise and comfort through Jesus Christ.”

**SCRIPTURE**    Isaiah 12:1-6 Rev. John Boley

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

**A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL**

**HYMN #2233** *This is Where Children Belong*  
Blessing the Children  
ALL: **May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!**

Julia Librizzi  
(FWS-black hymnal)

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**  
*New members:* Sam Lealofi, Christiane and Bob Stakely, Karen French, Amie Jozwiak, Grant and Trisha Bloembergen (with Liam), and Sydney Eger

**RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**  
Beloved, on behalf of the whole church, I ask you:  
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world,  
and repent of your sin? If yes, please respond with, “I do.”  
**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?  
**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?  
**I do.**

According to the grace given you,  
will you remain faithful members of Christ’s holy church  
and serve as Christ’s representatives in the world? If yes, please respond with, “I will.”  
**I will.**

Beloved Church, do you, as Christ body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and  
your commitment to Christ?  
**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and life and include these persons 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 trust of God, and be found faithful 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 & REMEMBERING BAPTISM**

**RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:**  
As members of Christ’s universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through the

United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?  
**I will.**

**RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION:**  
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.**

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

**We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy Church and welcome you to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. With God’s help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

**HYMN #2253** *Water, River, Spirit, Grace*

(FWS - black hymnal)

**MESSAGE** *“Drink from the Deep Wells”*

Rev. Julie Kline

**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**  
*You are invited to come forward to receive the waters of baptismal renewal.*  
*Clergy will place water on your forehead reminding you of God’s grace.*

Rev. John Boley

**HYMN #611** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”*

(UMH - red hymnal)

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** *Ye Followers of the Lamb* (traditional Shaker tune, arr. by Edwin Earl Ferguson)

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

(UMH-red hymnal)

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Lord of Love, let our lives sing of your praise. We thank you for Your unwavering presence and for filling our hearts with joy. May our offerings be used to further your kingdom, to bring hope to the hopeless, and to share the Good News with those in need. We trust in your promise that as we give, we will see your blessings poured out. Amen.**

**OUR SHARED LIFE**

**\*HYMN #102** *Now Thank We All Our God*

(UMH - red hymnal)

**SUNG BENEDICTION** *May the Road Rise to Meet You*

First Beats

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** *Now Thank We All Our God - Cantata #79* (J. S. Bach)

**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, and for love.

Community: Sacred relationship with God and one another

Inclusion: All identities belong and are love in Christ.

Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

**THIS WEEK’S EVENTS**

**Sunday, November 16**  
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages - Parlor  
11:00 am Grief Group - Fellowship Room  
12:15 pm Confirmation Class  
6:00 pm Faith Milestones - Arches area  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

**Monday, November 17**  
10:00 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall  
12:00 pm Nancy Douglas Memorial - Sanctuary

**Tuesday, November 18**  
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall  
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room  
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food Pantry Open  
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

**Wednesday, November 19**  
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom  
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor  
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall  
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live  
12:30 to 2:30 pm - Food Pantry Open  
2:00 pm Cares Committee - Chapel

**Thursday, November 20**  
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

**Saturday, November 22**  
5:30 pm - Loaves & Fishes Benefit Concert