

UPCOMING WORSHIP

November 30 @ 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Julie Kline
“In the Time of Herod, We Long
for God to Break In”
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

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, Sue Ellen Christian, Rev. Dan Duncan
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Miller
Acolytes: Zachary Bovid and Neela Parthasarathy
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

Sunday School Class for all ages meets today in the Chapel after the 10am worship service. The title of today’s class is: **“Looking Deeply: A Meditative Journey with Our Stained Glass Windows,”** 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 will meet again on Dec. 7 at the front of the sanctuary, and on Dec. 14 at the rear (Park Street) entrance.

Grief Group: Sundays after worship: today we will meet in the Parlor. Dec. 7 & 14 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.

Youth Group: Sunday evenings from 6:00–7:30 pm in the lower-level youth lounge (6th–12th grades). *Schedule may vary during holidays—check with Pastor Matt Weiler for updates.*

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

Volunteers needed! DOCC is publishing a brochure listing all of our downtown churches’ Advent and Christmas services or events. On Friday, Nov. 28th, volunteers are needed from 5-6 pm and from 6-6:45 pm to distribute the brochures on the street corners approaching the Bronson Park Tree Lighting. If you would like to bundle up and greet the public on the behalf of the downtown faith community, please contact donnaoudersluys@gmail.com to volunteer.

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.

“Seeing the Possibility in Hope” Workshop
A hands-on mosaic project led by Mary Whittaker Duncan and Vickee Seals: Wed., Dec. 10 from 5:30–7 pm in Wesley Hall. Ages 10+ (children with adult). Sign-up required. The glass pieces we create will be assembled in January into a new whole.

Following the workshop: Stay for a **Candlelight Service** at 7 pm in the Sanctuary—a beautiful time of worship and reflection as we celebrate the season.

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
We’re just 36 pledges away from the pledges we received last year—thank you for helping hope grow! Your pledge isn’t just a number; it helps us plan ministry and mission for the year ahead. Drop it in the plate, mail it, bring it to church, or give online at umc-kzo.org. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Name Tags: The church office is putting in an order for name tags. If you haven’t already done so, please contact the office by December 8th if you need one.

November 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

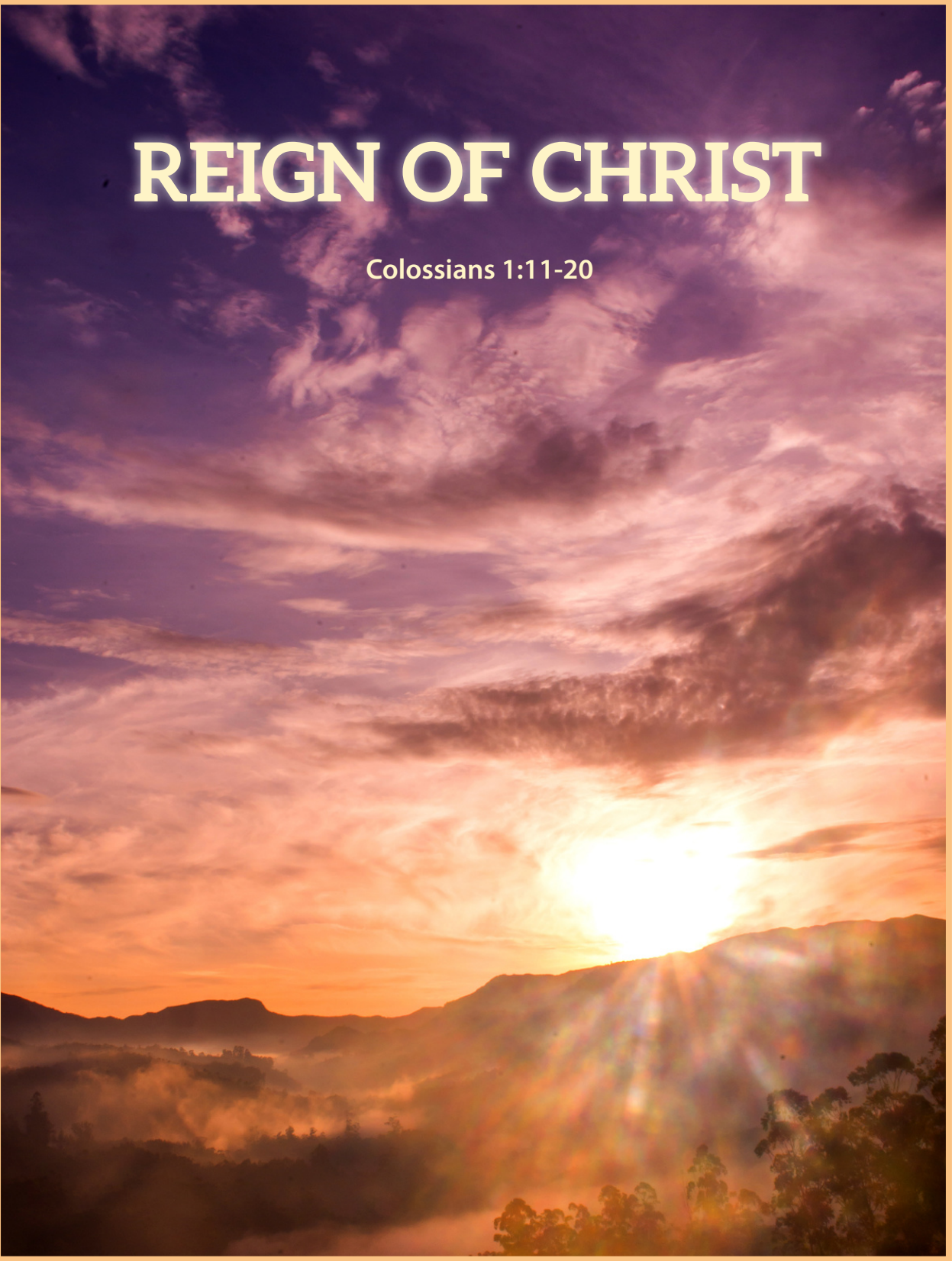


First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo



212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



Covenant of Baptism for a Child

Adapted from the *United Methodist Liturgy* by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We come to this water to baptize Lucas and to bathe Lucas 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 Lucas in your play and in your learning? Do you promise to
accept him and love him? Do you promise to help Lucas learn about following Jesus,
and to show him Jesus's love?

Yes we promise!

Pastor to Parents

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

**By teaching and example we will guide Lucas 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 Lucas in your care?

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

We will surround Lucas 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 Lucas 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.

Lucas, 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

Lucas, 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.

**Lucas, 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.**