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

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.

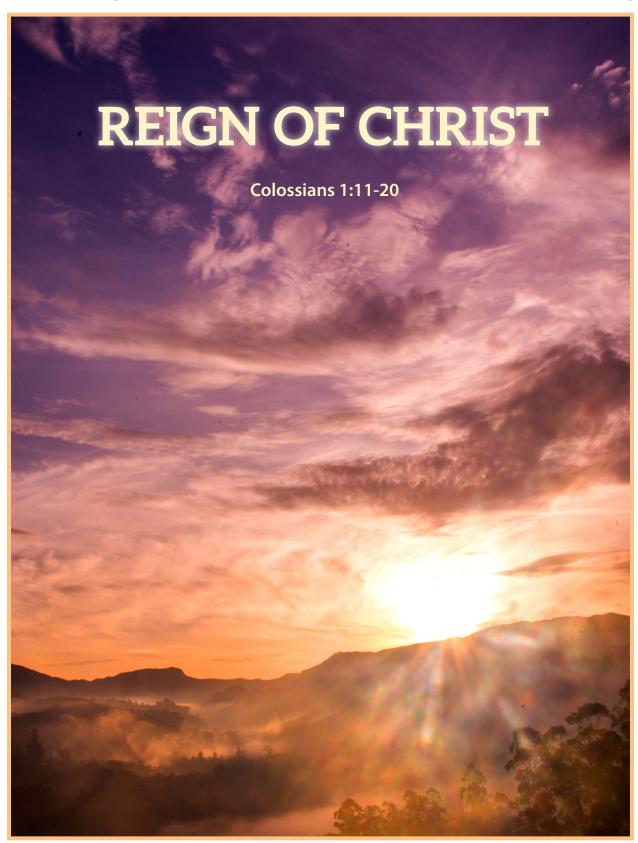
November 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo



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



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 Hymn to Joy (arr. by Jeanne Cotter, based on "Ode to Joy" by Ludwig Van Beethoven)

INTROIT Cantate Domino (Giuseppe Pitoni)

Translation: Come ye with joyfulness and sing ye a new song to Your Maker.

O praise him with the saintly congregation.

Israel, be joyful and glad in him. Rejoice and be glad in your King.

*CALL TO WORSHIP Sue Ellen Christian

ONE: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

ALL: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,

let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

for the Lord is a Great God,

who reigns above all rulers, dominions, and authorities.

ONE: SIn God's hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are God's also.

The sea is God's, for God made it,

and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

ALL: O come let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord our maker!

For God is our God,

and we are the people of God's pastures

and the sheep of God's hand.

***HYMN #154** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

(UMH - red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Julie Kline

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess we have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same. We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion.

Forgive us, O God.

Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to be more Christlike in our words, in our love, and our working for justice.

Amen

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

As we have experienced God's forgiveness and reconciliation let us now rise and share signs of peace and reconciliation with one another.

COVENANT OF BAPTISM FOR LUCAS NOLAN (see insert)

HYMN#2249 God Claims You

(FWS-black hymnal)

SCRIPTURE Colossians 1:11-20

Sue Ellen Christian

*GOSPEL READING Luke 23:42-43

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "What We Mean When We Say . . . "

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #488 Jesus, Remember Me

(UMH - red hymnal)

(UMH-red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Canticle of Praise* (Victor Johnson)

*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

Loving God, as we celebrate your reign on this day, we know you lead us gently as a loving Shepherd.

May these gifts we offer be used to spread your justice and love to all the world, and may we be found faithful stewards of all you have given to us. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #327** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

(UMH - red hymnal)

SUNG BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Te Deum* (Mark-Antoine Charpentier)

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 23

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary 11:00 am Grief Group - Parlor 11:15 am Youth Group - Youth Center 11:15 am Sunday School: Stained Glass Windows Class - Chapel

Monday, November 24

11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

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 27

Building closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 28

Building closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Sunday, November 30

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

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.