

UPCOMING WORSHIP

December 7 @ 10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Matt Weiler
“When We’re Running out of
Hope, God Is at Work”
Matthew 11:1-11
Isaiah 43:19-21

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.



Worship Leaders:

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Laurie Nelson

Director of Music/Organist:

Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music:

Cari Miller

Musicians:

Chancel Singers

Audio-Visual Team:

Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

▶▶ **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: bheany@umc-kzo.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Walk the Labyrinth - The labyrinth will be set up in Wesley Hall each Sunday of Advent: November 30, December 7, December 14, and December 21. Join Pastor Julie for a shared time of devotion and walking the labyrinth following worship. The labyrinth will be available Sunday evenings throughout Advent, except for December 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm for self-guided prayer walks. Although several people can walk simultaneously, please take care to allow space for each other as we journey together.

Sunday School Class will not meet this week due to Thanksgiving break. We will resume Dec. 7 with part two of “Looking Deeply: A Meditative Journey with Our Stained Glass Windows” taught by Mark Stucky.

Youth Group will not meet this week due to Thanksgiving break. Sunday, Dec. 7 they will join Children & Family Ministries for Gingerbread House Making in Wesley Hall from 2:00-4:00pm.

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

Advent Concerts: The first of four advent concerts will take place in the Sanctuary on Thurs, Dec. 4 at 12 noon. Guitarist, singer, and ringer David Brown will present “Through the Eyes of a Child.”

Grief Group: Sundays after worship: Dec. 7 and 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.

Splendid Suppers for Seven Sign-ups: We have three 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.

Kalamazoo Community Chorale Concert: Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3pm at FUMC. Join us for “There Is Still Our Joy” as we sing holiday favorites, some new tunes and have an audience sing. Plan to attend and kick off your holiday season with us!

“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.

Candlelight Service: Join us for a special Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 10th, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. All are warmly invited to this sacred gathering for a time of worship and reflection as we celebrate the season of Advent. Experience the beauty of the sanctuary, adorned with twinkling lights and candles that create an atmosphere of peace. Together, we will enjoy quiet singing, prayer, communion, and Scripture, forming a sanctuary amid the darkness and allowing the warmth of the Redeemer’s coming to fill our hearts. If you are attending the Mosaic Workshop earlier in the evening, this service is a wonderful way to wrap up your day. Come and find the quiet center. All are welcome.

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!

A Happy Update on Abounding Hope Campaign!
We are now just 21 pledges away from our goal! Every pledge is like a puzzle piece that helps us see the beautiful complete picture of our ministry for the coming year. It’s a true team effort. If you haven’t pledged yet, now is a perfect time! Drop it in the offering plate, in the mail to the church, or go online to umc-kzo.org and fill out the online form. Thank you all for your continued partnership in ministry.

Benefit Concert a Huge Success! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes Benefit Concert a triumph! We are grateful for our co-sponsors, GLAMA and the Kalamazoo Folk Life Association, and for the bands who donated their time and considerable talent. The wonderful turnout and fantastic music created a joyful and impactful evening. We are proud to support Loaves & Fishes and look forward to growing this event as an ongoing tradition.

November 30, 2025

10:00 a.m.

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan



First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

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	Verset, Cantalina and Trio on the hymn tune <i>Hyfyrdol</i> (by David Lasky)	
PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION		Laurie Nelson
LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE		
*HYMN OF ADVENT #196	<i>Come Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	(UMH - red hymnal)
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES		
WELCOME		Rev. Julie Kline

INTERLUDE OF HOPE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Ever-present God,
we long to feel you close.
We long to feel your presence in our lives.
We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.
However, if we’re honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.
Forgive our rushing and distractions.
Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.
Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,
even when we doubt God’s presence,
even when we fail to notice God’s fingerprints in this world,
God is always moving closer to us.
Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:
Nothing can keep God’s love away.
We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?
We see hope when we look to the next generation.
We feel hopeful when we gather together.
We know hope, deep in our bones, when
we dream of a better world.
You are right. Even in a fearful world,
hope is all around us.
Today we light the candle of hope as a
reminder of this good news. May this
flicker of light help us remember that we
have reason to hope.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN #2090 *Light the Advent Candle (Advent Song)*

Rev. Matt Weiler

Aimee Jozwiak and Steve-O

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING Lamentations 3:55-57

Laurie Nelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

***GOSPEL READING** Luke 1: 5-13

Laurie Nelson

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

MESSAGE “Hope, in These Times “

Rev. Julie Kline

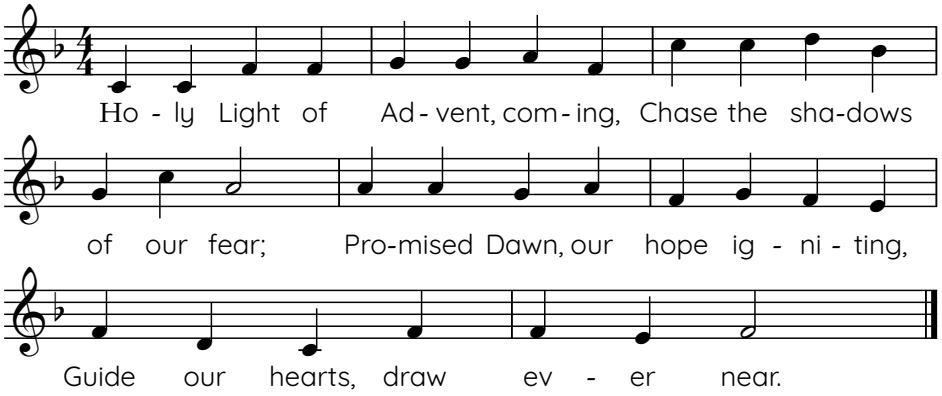
***HYMN #206** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

(UMH - red hymnal)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Advent Hope* (Joseph Martin)

***DOXOLOGY** *Holy Light of Advent* (Tune: Stuttgart, 1715)



Ho - ly Light of Ad - vent, com - ing, Chase the sha - dows
of our fear; Pro - mised Dawn, our hope ig - ni - ting,
Guide our hearts, draw ev - er near.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer
these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your
coming reign. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and
work—for your future to break into our present. In the spirit of hope we pray. Amen.**

FAREWELL TO CAROL HODGES AND DREW EATON

For a time, Carol and Drew have lived with us.
We have shared with each other good times and bad, we have shared each other’s
joys and sorrows, we have lightened each other’s heavy loads.
Together we have laughed and cried, together we have worshiped and praised
God, together we have lived.

We feel sorrow in your leaving,
yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life.
We will miss your love and support,
yet we know you will add much to the lives
of those who will be your new church family,
as you have added much to our lives.
We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN OF SENDING #203** *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*

(UMH - red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata on *Hyfrydol* (by David Lasky)

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 30
8:30am - 12:30pm Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
Sunday School - no class today
5:30pm - 7:30pm Labyrinth - Wesley Hall

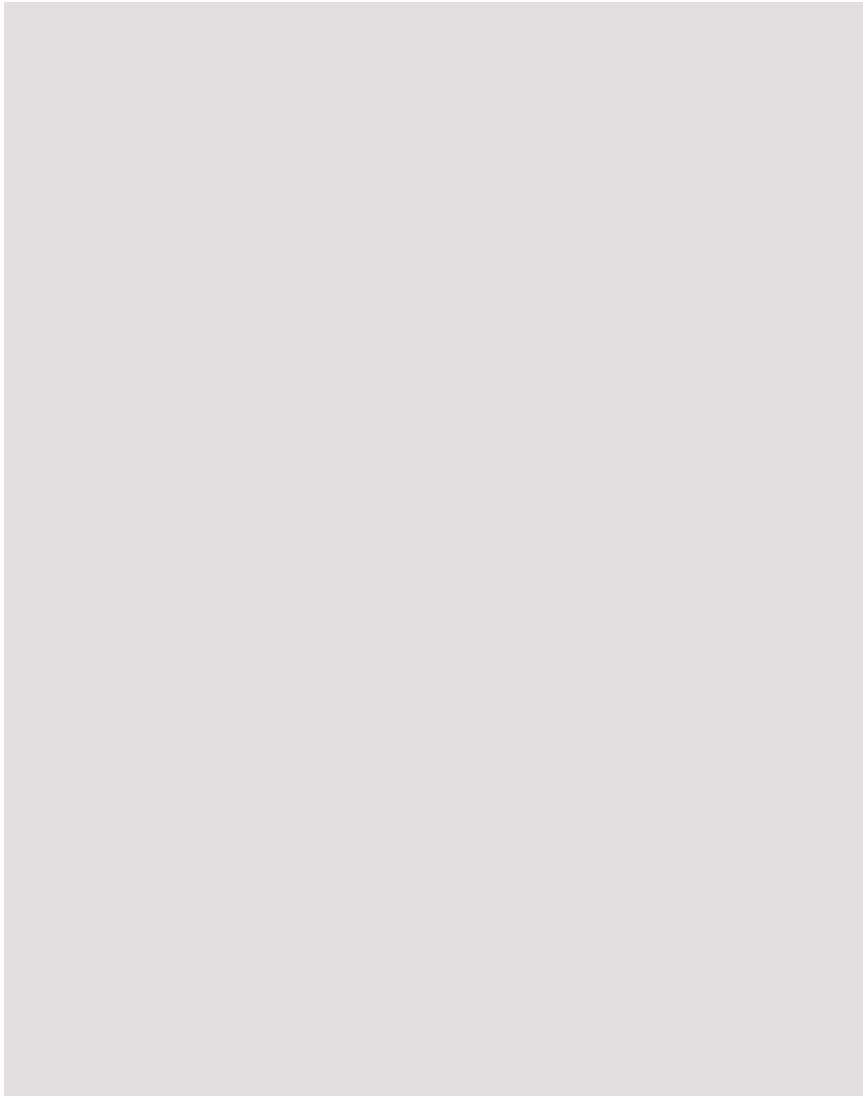
Monday, December 1
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
1:00 pm Building & Grounds meeting
6:00 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

Tuesday, December 2
9:30 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, December 3
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
10:00 am OLLI Curriculum Committee -
Fellowship room
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 pm - Food Pantry Open

Thursday, December 4
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
12pm Advent concert - Sanctuary
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Draw *Draw what comes to mind when you think of God.*



Prayer

Dear God, you are as close as our breath. Even when the world is scary, even when we long for signs of hope, remind us that you're here with us always. Amen.



Luke 1:5-13
The angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah in the temple.
Main Idea:
God is always with us.



Color in the story of Zechariah. | Illustration by Rev. Anna Strickland

Story

Zechariah lived in a time when the king cared more about power and money than protecting his people. Many people were afraid of the king. They were waiting for God's promised day, when the world would be the way God wants it to be.

Color

Color the word "HOPE" below. Around the word, draw pictures of how you imagine God's promised day.



HOPE

Wonder

What would you do if an angel showed up in church?

Find *Color the words from scripture when you hear them spoken in worship.*

ZECHARIAH
ACCORDING God
BOTH YOUR THE
TEMPLE AFRAID
BEFORE WILL
INCENSE
ELIZABETH
NAME PRIEST
TERRIFIED AND
Before *OF*
ANGEL *THERE*