

## UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

## January 18 @ 10:00 a.m.

Give You as a Light

Rev. Matt Weiler

"A Curious Light"

Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42

## January 25 @10:00 a.m.

Carrying the Light

Rev. Julie Kline

## 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](http://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 Beth Croak.....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, Mary Whittaker Duncan, Julia Librizzi  
**Director of Music/Organist:** Jacqueline Stilger  
**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Beth Croak  
**Acolyte:** Grace Harthorn  
**Audio-Visual Team:** Bryan Heany, 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](mailto:bheany@umc-kzo.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Perks** - Please stop in the Perks Cafe area after worship for coffee, tea, and fellowship.

## Adult Sunday School - Starting today, January 11:

A six-week series, "The History of the Bible." Rev. Thom Davenport, a retired minister who loves sharing stories and insights, will lead this relaxed and friendly series. We'll explore the formation, transmission, and translation of the Scriptures over the centuries. Open to everyone—bring your questions and curiosity!

**Children's Sunday School** for preschool through 5th graders meets today in room 206 (second floor) following worship until 12:30pm. Sunday School for infants through 4 year olds meets from 9:45am to 12:30pm in room 208.

**Youth Group** is open to all 6th-12th grade students and meets every Sunday evening during the school year from 6pm-7:30pm in the Youth Lounge. We would love to have new youth join us in the New Year! **Today, January 11**, we'll share a meal together and the next two weeks we'll begin a small group series exploring the Fruit of the Spirit. If you wish to join or know more about our youth ministry, please contact Pastor Matt Weiler at [mweiler@umc-kzo.org](mailto:mweiler@umc-kzo.org).

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

**A New Membership Class** led by Pastor Matt Weiler will begin **January 25** after worship and run for three weeks. Membership is a commitment to our baptismal covenant to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ through the local church. This will be a time of spiritual reflection and formation, and discernment about our spiritual journeys at FUMC. Membership Reception will take place in worship on February 15th. Please contact Pastor Matt Weiler at [mweiler@umc-kzo.org](mailto:mweiler@umc-kzo.org) if you wish to participate.

**Disciple Bible Study** - Pastor Matt is planning a daytime **Fast-Track Disciple Bible Study** on Thursdays, 11:30-12:45am, beginning **February 19th**. This class will take participants through a comprehensive study of the Old Testament over a 12-week period. If you would like to participate, please email Pastor Matt at [mweiler@umc-kzo.org](mailto:mweiler@umc-kzo.org). Cost for materials will be \$17.00. If 12 or more persons are interested, we will proceed with the class. In-person only.

A New Testament class will be offered in the fall on a week night. More information forthcoming.

**The "Our Story is Never Over" Project** will continue in January with one more Pivot 3 event that will include glass, words and pizza! Join us **Sunday, January 25th** for "Mosaics of Words and Glass": a multi-media workshop. We will meet in Wesley Hall after worship (about 11:30) and stay until around 1:30pm. We will work with our previously created glass pieces and poetry to reimagine how we see and understand them, with a focus on "creating possibility." Together we will create a new whole, yet to be imagined! *Sign-up at the welcome desk is required.* Questions? Contact Mary Whittaker Duncan or Vickee Seals.

**Book Club Returns!** We will be meeting again on **Tuesday, January 27** from 10-11:30 in the Chapel to discuss Jennifer Clark's new book *Seeding Hope: Two Decades of Promise Stories*. It is available at both Kazoo Books and This Is a Bookstore. This is a book about the Kalamazoo Promise and some of the students whose lives were impacted by it. It will make you proud to call the Kalamazoo community home! Jennifer will be leading our discussion.

## January Mission of the Month

For those who are homeless, this is a very difficult time of the year. We are hoping to provide warmth and also meet other needs by collecting the following items for Ministry with Community:

## Personal care and health:

- Deodorant (travel and full size)
- Shampoo (travel and full size)
- Conditioner (travel and full size)
- Lotion (travel and full size)
- Lip balm (travel and full size)
- Washcloths
- Hand warmers

## Clothing:

- T-shirts (new, adult size M-4XL)
- Underwear (new, adult size)

There will be a collection box outside of the food pantry by the back entrance. Thank you for helping our unhoused neighbors!

January 11, 2026

## First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

 269.381.6340  
[umc-kzo.org](http://umc-kzo.org)


## Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

We would like to connect with you. Please fill out the attendance pad located at the end of the pews 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.

**PRELUDER** *Fanfare* (R. Mark Otterstad)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

One: Creator God, when Jesus was baptized, he descended into the water:  
the waters of Creation, the Red Sea of liberation, the healing flow of your grace.

**ALL: We immerse ourselves in your creative Spirit, in your Word, in your Presence.**

One: Risen Christ, at the Jordan River, God proclaimed you God's Beloved.

**ALL: We sink into your love. We soak up your grace. We are held in your hands.**

One: Holy Spirit, at Jesus' baptism, you descended as a dove.

**ALL: Fill us: be our life and strength, our purpose and confidence.**

One: Baptize us in your light, O God, and make us new in the womb of your grace.

**ALL: Alleluia! Come, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace.  
Alleluia!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #400** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

(UMH, red hymnal)

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

### WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE

*You are invited to turn to your neighbor and greet them with gestures and words of peace, such as "Peace be with you." This practice symbolizes reconciliation, unity, and the sharing of Christ's love amongst our community.*

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE** *Isaiah 42:1-9*

**MUSICAL SUNG RESPONSE #2204** *Light of the World*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**\*SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3:13-17

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*

Julia Librizzi

(FWS-black hymnal)

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

**MESSAGE** "Immersed in God's Grace"

Rev. Julie Kline

## PRAYERS & PRAISE #89 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

(UMH-red hymnal)

*During this time of prayer, we will remember our baptism by the sprinkling of water from pine boughs across the congregation. Remember your baptism with joy, surprise, and the wonder of living in God's grace. We will intersperse the hymn within the prayers.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (variation)

*In this season of Epiphany, we are attentive to the revealing of God's light and glory, and we use an alternative version of the Lord's Prayer. The intention is to reconnect to the Lord's Prayer by praying it anew, with words intended to awaken our hearts and shine a light on our path.*

## O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!

**Release a space to plant your Presence here.**

**Imagine your possibilities now.**

**Embody your desire in every light and form.**

**Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.**

**Untie the knots of failure binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.**

**Help us not forget our Source, yet free us from not being in the Present.**

**From you arises every Vision, Power, and Song from gathering to gathering.**

**Amen - May our future actions grow from here!**

## CALL TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Down to the River to Pray* American Gospel tune arr. Robert E. Lee

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

(UMH-red hymnal)

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

Grace Harthorn

**Faithful and Calling God, continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others—to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to fulfill your righteousness among us. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news.**  
**In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

## OUR SHARED LIVES

## \*HYMN #267 *O Love, How Deep*

(UMH, red hymnal)

## \*BLESSING

## POSTLUDE *Allegro from Organ Concerto #13* (George F. Handel)

## 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, January 11**

- 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
- 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center
- 6:00 pm Faith Milestones - Sanctuary

**Monday, January 12**

- 11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

**Tuesday, January 13**

- 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, January 14**

- 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 - Food pantry open
- 2:00 pm CARES Committee

**Thursday, January 15**

- 9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship room
- 11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
- 4:00 pm Outreach Team meeting - Parlor
- 5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
- 7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir room