

**UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP****January 11 @ 10:00 a.m.***Baptism of the Lord*

Rev. Julie Kline

*"Immersed in God's Grace"*

Matthew 3: 13-17

**January 18 @ 10:00 a.m.***Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Rev. Matt Weiler

*"Come and See"*

John 1:29-42

**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.** 

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. Cara Weiler, Deacon, Mark Stucky, Julia Librizzi**Director of Music/Organist:** Jacqueline Stilger**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Beth Croak**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****Sunday, January 4.** Christian education classes for all ages, Godly Play, and Youth Group resume today.**Kick Off the New Year with Adult Sunday School!**

- January 4 - "What Does It Mean to Be a United Methodist?" – A Focus on Structure, Governance, & Mission.**

Join us in the Parlor today after worship for a new class led by John Clark. We'll begin the year by exploring our denominational identity. This one-week session will go beyond beliefs to examine how The United Methodist Church operates: its connectional structure, how local churches fit into a global system, the role of conferences and leadership, and how our shared governance fuels our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." A perfect way to reconnect and ground our year in our shared identity.

- Starting January 11 - A six-week series on 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 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! On the 11th 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).

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 on **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.

**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. The items needed are:

**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 4, 2026** **First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo**269.381.6340  
[umc-kzo.org](http://umc-kzo.org)

212 S. Park Street

Kalamazoo, Michigan



# Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-6 / Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

**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.

**PRELUDE** *Ballad of the Kings* (John H. Hopkins)**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mark Stucky

**One:** In the dark of morning**ALL:** **the stars still shine.****One:** In the depth of winter,**ALL:** **the birds still climb.****One:** At the start of the year tender and new**ALL:** **God is here.****God is near.****One:** Do not rest in your fear.**ALL:** **God is here.****One:** So, like the stars and the birds,**ALL:** **Let us worship holy God.****\*OPENING HYMN #250** *Once in Royal David's City*

(UMH, red hymnal)

**WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**

Rev. Matt Weiler

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever-loving God,**  
**We long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas we find ourselves face to face with fear once again.**

**So today, we pray –**  
**Forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.**  
**Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.**  
**Forgive us when fear is louder than love.**

**Show us how to turn our fear into action.**  
**Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world.**  
**With hope we pray, Amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,  
whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,  
God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless.**  
**We are seen. We are surrounded with grace.**  
**We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Let us pass joy and peace to one another.*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:** Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

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

## TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

*The children are invited to come forward to the front to hear a message. After the Time for the Child Within, children 4 years old to 5th grade are invited to their own kind of worship on the 2nd floor called "Godly Play." Nursery care is also available for infants through four years on the second floor.*

**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!**

**MESSAGE:** "When Christ is the Center"

**\*HYMN #249 There's a Song in the Air**

Mark Stucky

Julia Librizzi

(FWS-black hymnal)

Rev. Matt Weiler

(UMH, red hymnal)

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God's creation, are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning. Come forward by the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup of juice and eat it. Servers will offer the bread by saying, "the bread of life" and "the cup of love." You may respond with "Amen." Gluten-free bread is available at the station closest to the communion table.*

## GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**HYMN #2257-b Sanctus**

(FWS - black hymnal)

**Holy Holy Holy, Lord  
God of Power and Might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the Highest! Hosanna in the Highest! Hosanna in the Highest!  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

**HYMN #2257-c Memorial Acclamation**

(FWS - black hymnal)

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### WE RECEIVE COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### CALL TO OFFERING

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM Away in a Manger Medley** (Mark Hayes)

**\*DOXOLOGY #240 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing - vs. 1**

(UMH, red hymnal)

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**You have given us the gift of your son Jesus Christ, that we might share his boundless riches with the world. Receive now, we ask, what we have given. Use this offering and use us for your glory. We pray in Christ's name,  
Amen**

## OUR SHARED LIVES

**\*HYMN #254 We Three Kings**

(UMH, red hymnal)

### \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE A Christmas Medley** (arr. by Kathleen Massoud)

## 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 4**  
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

**Monday, January 5**  
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall  
6:00 pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

**Tuesday, January 6**  
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, January 7**  
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

**Thursday, January 8**  
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