

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP**January 25 @10:00 a.m.***Carrying the Light*

Rev. Julie Kline

"An Acolyte to the World"

Matthew 4:12-25

February 1 @10:00 a.m.

Communion Sunday: What Is Good

"The Good Life"

Rev. Matt Weiler

Micah 6:1-8 / Matthew 5:1-12

We are a Reconciling Congregation, Welcoming ALL.**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Chris Stamper, Julia Librizzi**Director of Music/Organist:** Jacqueline Stilger**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Beth Croak**Acolytes:** Michael and Zachary Bovid**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.**ANNOUNCEMENTS****Perks** - Please stop in the Perks Cafe area after worship for coffee, tea, cookies, and fellowship.**Adult Sunday School - Today, January 18:** Part two of the six-week series, "The History of the Bible." Rev. Thom Davenport, a retired minister, will lead this relaxed and friendly series. Open to everyone—bring your questions and curiosity!**Children's Sunday School** for preschool - 5th graders meets today in room 206 (second floor) following worship until 12:30pm.

Sunday School for infants - 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.**Today, January 18**, 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.**Manna**, our young adult ministry, gathers every Tuesday in the youth lounge from 6:30-8:00pm. Contact Ruth Butters at 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 if you wish to participate.**The "Our Story is Never Over" Project** continues: Join us **Sunday, January 25th** for "Mosaics of Words and Glass": a multi-media workshop (there will be pizza!). We will meet in Wesley Hall afterworship to work with our previously created glass pieces and poetry. 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.**New Book Club Selection:** 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*. Jennifer will be leading our discussion, and we are pleased to announce that Von Washington Jr., CEO of the Kalamazoo Promise, will be joining us!**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:

- deodorant (travel & full size)
- shampoo (travel & full size)
- conditioner (travel & full size)
- lotion (travel & full size)
- lip balm (travel & full size)
- washcloths
- hand warmers
- 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!

Disciple Bible Study - Pastor Matt is planning a daytime **Fast-Track Disciple Bible Study** on Thursdays, 11:30-12:45am, beginning **February 19th**, which 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. 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.**Note on Giving:** If you plan to make a gift, or have already made a gift, to the church by transferring securities to the church's brokerage account at Raymond James, please be sure to notify our bookkeeper, Cody Collmenter, so your donation can be properly identified and credited. Cody can be reached at ccollmenter@umc-kzo.org or by phone at 269-381-6340 ext. 222. Thank you for helping us ensure accurate recording of your contribution.**Indivisible Greater Kalamazoo** - Meeting **Jan. 21 at 6:30 pm**, People's Church, 1758 N. 10th Street. IGK is building an activist community to foster the supportive relationships necessary for the ongoing work of fighting for democracy. This is an opportunity to be involved with a grassroots national effort to support democracy of, by, and for the people. For more information, go to <https://indivisiblekzoo.org/>.**January 18, 2026****First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo**269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY****GLORY REVEALED
GIVE YOU AS A LIGHT***I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
- Isaiah 49:6b***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 Offering** (Philip Moore)***CALL TO WORSHIP****One:** Children of God, who has God called you to be?**ALL:** A light to all the nations!**One:** When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?**ALL:** A light to all the nations!**One:** When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?**ALL:** A light to all the nations!**One:** When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?**ALL:** A light to all the nations!**One:** Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!**ALL:** We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world.**Amen.**

Chris Stamper

***OPENING HYMN #173** *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky*

Our acolytes light the Christ Candle to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

WELCOME**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created. Today we remember Jesus' invitation to his first disciples to "Come and See." Like those ones, we are curious. We want to be with you, to the world as you see it. And so draw us closer to you as we make our confession first in silent prayer.

SILENT CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.
We know we do not always live as we ought:
We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves.
We know we dim your light within us,
With our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control
We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us,
and that again and again you call us back to you,
back to love,
back to grace,
back to your light.
Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #2127 *Come and See (Kyrie)*

(UMH, red hymnal)

Rev. Matt Weiler

Rev. Julie Kline

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 49:1-7*

Chris Stamper

***GOSPEL READING** *John 1:29-42*

This is what the spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!**A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL**

Julia Librizzi

(FWS-black hymnal)

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** "A Curious Light"

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2130 *The Summons*

(FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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**

Human Relations Day is a special Sunday across our denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach. On the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we take up a special offering to help bring his vision of a "beloved community" to life.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *To God Be the Glory* (Scottish Tune: *Leaving of Lismore* arr. George Bayley)***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*We give you thanks O loving and generous God for all you have given us.****We give you thanks for the faith to return what you have given back to you.****May the gifts we bring today be multiplied as a light to the nations until the peace of the One who has called us here reigns fully on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.****OUR SHARED LIVES*****HYMN #519** *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

(UMH, red hymnal)

Many people are surprised to learn this hymn was first written as a poem. Created by James Weldon Johnson, it was performed for the first time by 500 school children in celebration of President Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 1900, in Jacksonville, Florida. The poem was set to music by Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song. Today "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is one of the most cherished songs of the African American Civil Rights Movement and is often referred to as the Black National Anthem. (PBS.org)

BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE** *Rigaudon* (Andre Campra)

At the close of worship, the acolytes take the Light of Christ down the center aisle to symbolize that as Christ's followers, we bear the Light of Christ to the world.

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 18

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

11:00 am Sunday School for all ages

12:15 am Confirmation Class - Rm. 305

6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

5:00 pm Finance/Trustees meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, January 20

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 21

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 22

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