

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP**February 1 @10:00 a.m.**

Glory Revealed: What Is Good?
"The Good Life"
Rev. Matt Weiler
Micah 6:1-8 / Matthew 5:1-12

February 8 @10:00 a.m.

Glory Revealed: Call to Action
"The Saltiness of the Salt"
Rev. Julie Kline
Matthew 5:13-20

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 StilgerOrganist/Dir. of Music
Cari Beth Croak.....Associate Dir. of Music
Julia Librizzi.....Children & Families
Drew BoltonBldg. Superintendent
Linda HamillOffice Manager
Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant
Erika Jones.....Communications
Cody Collmenter.....Bookkeeper
Bryan Heany.....AV Team Leader
Eamon Bronson.....Building Host
Alison EricsonBuilding Host
Samantha Lee.....Building Host
Jim Tiffany.....Custodian
Ruth ButtersYoung Adult Resident

We are a Reconciling Congregation, Welcoming ALL.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Derek Wheaton, Julia Librizzi
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Handbell Ensemble, Kait Garrison, David Brown
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, and fellowship.

Adult Sunday School - Today: Part three of the six-week series, "The History of the Bible."

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.

A New Membership Class led by Pastor Matt Weiler will begin **today** after worship (upstairs in Rm. 305) 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 Majority Project: We the People Postcards

Postcards are still available at the welcome desk. If you took postcards with you last Sunday, please return them to the basket on the desk. The non-profit stamp will not apply unless they are mailed as a group. We will mail these collectively on Thursday, January 29th.

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

Book Club: We will be meeting 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!

Faith Milestones: A youth-group-style meeting for our 3rd - 5th grade children which meets once a month on Sunday evenings from 6 - 7:30. The next meeting will be February 8. Contact Julia Librizzi for more information at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

Celebrating 70 Years of Marriage - Join us on Sunday, February 8, as we gather to celebrate Ashton and Mary Ellen Fredenburg's 70th wedding anniversary. Mary Ellen has been a beloved member of our church family since 1952, when she moved to Kalamazoo to work as a nurse at Bronson. We give thanks for their remarkable milestone and the joy they continue to bring to our congregation.

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.

January 25, 2026

**First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo**

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

Third Sunday after Epiphany

GLORY REVEALED**CARRYING THE LIGHT**

Matthew 4:12-25

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 *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* (Dietrich Buxtehude)

Derek Wheaton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Beloved of God, when fears press in on every side, we can proclaim with confidence:

ALL: God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

One: When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side, we can declare with confidence:

ALL: God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

One: No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

ALL: God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

One: Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

ALL: We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #103** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

(UMH, red hymnal)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

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

WELCOME & 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.

Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE & ISAIAH 9:1-7**SUNG RESPONSE** *The Lord Is My Light*

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion, in
God I trust, in God, I trust. The

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***GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 4: 12-25

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*

Blessing the Children

ALL: May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!

MESSAGE "An Acolyte to the World"**HYMN #2101** *Two Fishermen*

The soloist will sing verses 1 and 2; the congregation is invited to sing verses 3 and 4.

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**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *This is the Day the Lord Has Made*

(Susan Morris, arr. by M. Patch)

LL & Rev. Matt Weiler

Rev. Matt Weiler, guitar; Kait Garrison, flute

Handbell Ensemble

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

(UMH-red hymnal)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Steadfast Light of our salvation, in a world that trembles with uncertainty and teaches us to fear, you shine with unwavering hope. You call us to seek your face and trust in your presence more than in our own strength. Receive these gifts, and use them to build a world where your light leads, your justice reigns, and your people—unafraid—become living testimonies of your goodness. In the name of Christ, our rock and redeemer, we pray. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES***HYMN** *O God of Light, May Our Light Shine*

O God of light,
God, where your
Christ, when your
O Spir - it,
in ways that
and where they
by those who
we of - ten
May we be
Make us your
Make us your
When our own
pro-claim - ing
- A wit - ness,
A search-ing
Shine on our
Christ
Lord,
world
path
in all
that you
to your
and light
we do.
that you
to your
and light
our way.

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Tune: O Waly Waly Traditional English Melody

BLESSING**POSTLUDE** *Fugue in C Minor* (Johann Pachelbel)

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 25

- 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 am Membership Class - Rm. 305
 11:30 am Mosaics Class - Wesley Hall
 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, January 26

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

Tuesday, January 27

- 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 28

- 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
 6:30 pm - Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, January 29

- 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