

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP**February 8 @10:00 a.m.**

Glory Revealed: Call to Action
"The Saltiness of the Salt"

Rev. Julie Kline
Matthew 5:13-20

February 15 @10:00 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday
"The Downside of the Mountain"

Rev. Matt Weiler
Matthew 17:1-9

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 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, Julia Librizzi, Terry O'Connor
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Chancel Singers
Acolyte: Grace Harthorn
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The rosebud on the altar today is in celebration of the birth of

 Lee Jaworski Vorbrich, born December 29. His proud grandparents are Sally & Andrew Vorbrich.

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

Adult Sunday School - Today: Part four 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.

Membership Class continues today after worship (11:15 - 12:15, Rm. 305). Membership reception will take place during Sunday worship on Feb. 15th.

Book Club: Our meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, February 3**, 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!

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

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 next 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.

February Mission of the Month

One of our Community Ministry Partners, the Kalamazoo YWCA, provides shelter and assistance to women and children in a crisis situation, victimized by domestic assault or trafficking. Please consider donating the following:

- Towels (bath, hand, washcloths)
- Toothpaste
- Kids waterproof gloves/mittens
- Soap/bath gel
- Sanitary products
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Women's socks and underwear

Donations can be placed in the box by the food pantry. Thank you!

Disciple Bible Study - Pastor Matt is planning a daytime **Fast-Track Disciple Bible Study** on Thursdays, 10:30-11:45am, 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.

Donor Statements Arriving Soon - These were mailed out this week and should be arriving in the coming days. Please keep an eye on your mailbox. If you do not receive your statement in the next week or have questions about it, feel free to reach out to the church office—we're happy to help!

 **Weather Closing Policy** - We are always open on Sundays (except for extreme circumstances). Please use discretion deciding when to venture out. Weekday meetings may be cancelled if travel is dangerous. Team and committee chairs are asked to contact the church and their team/committee if a meeting is cancelled. Please check Channel 3 news, WWMT News website, and our Facebook page for church closing notices. Please note that the church may be open even when area schools are closed.

Bulletin cover image: Ban, Shigeru, 1957-. "Cardboard Cathedral," transitional Christchurch Cathedral, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

February 1, 2026



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

GLORY REVEALED WHAT IS GOOD?

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

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 *Winter* (Antonio Vivaldi)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?
ALL: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.
One: In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?
ALL: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.
One: When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire of us?
ALL: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.
One: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!
ALL: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #2126 All Who Hunger**

Terry O'Connor

(FWS - black hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2174 *What Does the Lord Require of You (part 1)*

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we have not done what is blameless and right,
nor spoken truth from the heart with love.
We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip,
our words and deeds cause pain.

Forgive us by the power of your mercy,
that we might stand in the goodness of Christ
And walk in the light of his love.
Amen.

HYMN #2174 *What Does the Lord Require of You (parts 1, 2, & 3)*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 6:1-8

Terry O'Connor

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 5:1-12

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 "The Good Life"

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2155 *Blest Are They*

(FWS-black hymnal)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

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.

One: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us open our hearts. We open them up to our God.

ALL: Let us give thanks to the God of Light.

(FWS, black hymnal)

Rev. Julie Kline

SANCTUS - Setting A, p. 17

(UMH-red hymnal)

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION - Setting A, p. 18

(UMH-red 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!

WE SHARE COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Jesus Loves Me* (Bradley Philips)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Offertory* (John Ness Beck)

***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 thank you, God, that you have blessed us

with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world.

May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love

as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation.

Amen.

***HYMN #428** *For the Healing of the Nations*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Lord God, Now Be Glorified* (J. S. Bach)

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, February 1

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am New Membership Class - Rm. 305
11:30 am Mosaics Class - Wesley Hall
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, February 2

11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
6:00 pm SPRC meeting - Parlor/Zoom

Tuesday, February 3

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, February 4

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, February 5

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

Saturday, February 7

6:00 pm Ian Maksin Concert - Sanctuary



United Methodist Church Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota

January 26, 2026

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

In recent days, events in Minnesota and beyond have caused deep grief, concern, and alarm across our connection. The use of lethal force in public spaces, the detention of naturalized citizens, members of our indigenous communities, children, documented and undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of other vulnerable persons have weighed heavily on the hearts of many in our church. These actions have unsettled communities, strained trust, and intensified fear among those already living at the margins.

Scripture reminds us that “when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with them (I Corinthians 12:26). As a Connectional church, we are reminded that we are one body that cares for and needs each other. The whole body is suffering, right now, today! The violence being perpetrated on our streets, the loss of safety, and the inhumane treatment of God’s children, are hurting us all. We cannot stay silent in the face of the evils of our day.

The United Methodist Church deplores the use of violence, fear, separation, and intimidation as a means of creating social order. Such means do not build beloved community. We reaffirm our longstanding commitment to the sacred worth of every person and to the way of peace taught and embodied by Jesus. We stand against the separation of children from their families. We detest the inhumane, evil actions that are perpetuated by governmental authorities.

Our Social Principles are clear: “We reject governmental use of threats, extortion, unlawful detentions, extrajudicial killings, and other forms of coercion to silence political opponents and those objecting to unlawful or immoral government policies and practices.” They further affirm that the church has both the right and the responsibility to educate and equip its members to be advocates for justice in the wider world (¶163D).

This is a moment that calls for prayerful courage to speak against actions that are bringing harm to our neighbors. This is our time to have an effectual faith that stands with those who are suffering. This is our faithful response to our baptismal vow that summons us into what is required of us “to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). We must continue to work for justice to help heal the brokenness in our communities and in the world.

We ask you to pray for peace and for justice. And we ask that we work together with our communities so that we can create a world where the sword is turned into plowshares, and the lion lays down with the lamb. May we be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, who empowered by the Holy Spirit, do our part to bring comfort, just practices, and healing for all God’s suffering people.

In Christ’s peace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church