UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 22 @10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Lent
"Walking Each Other Home"
Rev. Julie Kline
Romans 8:31-39

March 1 @10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Lent
"Resisting"
Rev. Julie Kline
Psalm 13

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
Alison Ericson ..... Building Host
Samantha Lee..... Building Host
Jacob Ericson ..... Building Host
Eamon Bronson..... 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, Neela Parthasarathy
Director of Music/Organist: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Chancel Singers, Bells and First Beats
Acolytes: Michael and Zachary Bovid
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating 70 Years of Marriage - Join us after worship today as we celebrate Ashton and Mary Ellen Fredenburg's 70th wedding anniversary!

Adult Sunday School - Today: Last class 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.

Confirmation Class - 11:15 am today in Rm. 305.

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. This evening we will be eating dinner together, then we will get into our Fruit of the Spirit small groups to talk about *peace* and *patience*.

Faith Milestones: A youth-group-style meeting for 3rd - 5th grade children. We will be meeting this evening (6:00 - 7:30pm) to learn about prayer and play some games! We also share dinner, juice and a treat. For more information, contact Julia Librizzi.

Parents' Night Out: All parents with children at home are invited to join us for a euchre tournament Friday, February 20th in the church from 6-9pm. Please email Julia Librizzi, jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org, if you would like to attend.

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

Disciple Bible Study - Pastor Matt is planning a daytime **Fast-Track Disciple Bible Study** on Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:15pm, 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. In-person only. A New Testament class will be offered in the fall on a week night.

Special Event! Beloved Community of FUMC, You are warmly invited to join us for a special **Congregational Celebration of Our Shared Life** on **Sunday, February 22**, following worship. This gathering is an opportunity for us to come together as a church family to reflect on, celebrate, and look forward to all that God is doing in and through our ministries.

During this celebration, we will share highlights and reports from our 2025 Church Conference, as well as stories of how our mission, vision, and values have come to life in the past year. We will also look ahead to the ways we hope to continue living out our calling in 2026.

A booklet entitled "Our Shared Life: 2025-26 Ministry Reports & Celebrations" will be available, featuring reports and reflections from our various ministries. Your presence and participation are important as we celebrate our shared journey and discern the road ahead together. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in this meaningful time as a congregation!

We are pleased to announce the **Bernie Foulk Memorial Lenten Organ Recital Series**, which will take place Thursdays at 12 noon in the Sanctuary beginning February 26. The first performance will Feature Omar Padilla, Director of Music at St. Philip Catholic Church, Battle Creek. A reception with refreshments and a chance to meet the musician will follow. For information on the entire series, see the posters around the church!

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 & underwear

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

❄ **Weather Closing Policy -** We are always open on Sundays (except for extreme circumstances). 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.

February 15, 2026 **10:00 a.m.**

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

GLORY REVEALED

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Matthew 17:1-90

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 *Berceuse* (Louis Vierne)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Neela Parthasarathy

One: On this Transfiguration Sunday, we gather on the mountaintop with Jesus, wondering what we will encounter.
ALL: We come to encounter God's glory revealed.
One: We witness the revelation of Christ's divinity made plain before us.
ALL: We come to witness God's glory revealed.
One: We remember that God's glory is not about spectacle but truth, not about show but about Love made real among us.
ALL: We come to remember God's glory revealed.
One: We follow Jesus down from the mountaintop into the valleys, as God's glory goes before us and behind us.
ALL: We come to be sent out to share God's glory revealed.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN #2103** *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* (FWS-black hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Rev. Julie Kline

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart.

You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security.

Forgive us.

Call us back to You, that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid.
May we hear the words so clearly
as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration;
may we rise up and not be afraid.
In the name of Jesus, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

***SHARING 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.

HANDBELL ANTHEM *The Dance of the Five* (Derek Hakes)

***GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 17:1-9 — Neela Parthasarathy

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

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL — Julia Librizzi

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong* (FWS-black hymnal)
HYMN #2026 *Halleluia*
Blessing the Children
ALL: **May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!**

MESSAGE "The Downside of the Mountain" — Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2272 *Holy Ground* (FWS-black hymnal)

COVENANT OF BAPTISM FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP
We present: Zach and Jenny Ribble as professing members, Kerri Harvey, Karen van Houwelingen, and Jane Vernon as professing members by transfer of membership.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Beloved, on behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
If yes, please respond with, "I do."
I do.
Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?
I do.
Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?
I do.
According to the grace given you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? If yes, please respond with, "I will."
I will.

Beloved Church, do you, as Christ body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?
We do.
Will you nurture one another in Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?
With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER & REMEMBERING BAPTISM

All praise to you, Eternal God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Reception into the United Methodist Church:
As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?
I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?
I will.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM & COMMISSIONING

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church and welcome you to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

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 *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak* (Paul Bouman) — Chancel Singers

***DOXOLOGY #94**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Michael and Zachary Bovid

God of mountaintops and valleys, be our vision of you clouded or brilliantly clear, we faithfully add our gifts to those being given all around us. Bless these offerings that they may be transfigured into your presence in the world. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #2102** *Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory* (FWS-black hymnal)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Carillon in B flat Major* (Louis Vierne)
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.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

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 15
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am Confirmation Class - Rm. 305
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, February 16
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, February 17
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, February 18
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
6:00 pm - Lent Labyrinth
7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 19
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
10:30 Disciple Bible Study - Wesley Hall
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
4:00 pm Outreach Team meeting - Parlor/Zoom
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir room