

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 22 @10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Lent
"In Our Caring, We Worship"
Rev. Julie Kline
Isaiah 58:6-12

March 29 @10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday
Rev. Matt Weiler
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

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.**



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. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Sue Ellen Isacksen
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: First Beats, David Brown, Lisa Stucky
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is UMCOR Sunday. On this special day, we join United Methodists everywhere in supporting the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which equips our church to respond swiftly and effectively when disasters strike. Gifts may be given during worship or online at the FUMC website.

Lent Labyrinth Prayer Walk Today, following worship in the Wesley Hall – Please join Pastor Julie for a time of devotion, followed by walking the labyrinth together. Our worship theme today centered on choosing love, hope, and reconciliation. We will continue to contemplate the intention of choosing the path of reconciliation rather than dissension. The center of the Chartres-style eleven-circuit labyrinth has six petals. We will learn about these petals and use them in our meditation.

Hot Potatoes 2.0 - Meeting after worship, today's class will look at gender-based theologies, including Feminist Theology, Womanist Theology, and Queer Theology. All are invited.

Sunday evening with Pastor Julie: A Conversation with Ezra Klein and James Talarico - Join us this evening, March 15, at 5 pm for a potluck in the Perks area, followed by a continued conversation regarding the Ezra Klein interview with Texas State Representative James Talarico. Last week, we watched the first 40 minutes with discussions interspersed. If you'd like to catch up, watch the first portion at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sa6fiO2EgJ4>. Come and join us, even if you are unable to watch; there is plenty to discuss in

the second portion. James Talarico guides listeners to reclaim the core message of Christianity as he envisions a politics rooted in "radical love" for one's neighbors, especially those who are different.

Faith Milestones. Our group for 3rd - 5th graders meets tonight from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We will learn about Lent, play games and share a meal. For more information, contact Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

The Bernie Foulk Memorial Lenten Organ Recital Series will take place Thursdays at 12 noon in the Sanctuary during Lent. This week's musicians will be Gail Jennings, retired Organist from Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor, and Andrew Jennings, Professor Emeritus in Violin at the University of Michigan. A reception with refreshments and a chance to meet the musicians will follow.

Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans: El Porvenir ("the future") will be one of our Easter offering recipients. El Porvenir provides tangible solutions to rural Nicaraguan communities that are committed to improving their access to clean water and sanitation facilities but lack the resources to do so. Jenna Saldana, the regional director for El Porvenir, will visit our church on **Sunday, March 22**. She will briefly thank the congregation for their support during worship, then lead an informational program during the Academy hour afterwards.

Easter tulip orders are open from now until March 22. Order forms are at the welcome desk. You can also order tulips online at our website.

Easter Memorial Fund - Members and friends of First United Methodist Church are invited to remember or honor loved ones—both living and passed—by making a gift to the Easter Memorial Fund. These gifts will be entrusted to the Memorial Committee and used for special projects that support the ongoing ministry and mission of our church. Gifts may be arranged by coming by the church office or by making an online payment. Please submit all gifts by March 22nd.

March Mission of the Month: Diaper Drive
St. Luke's Episcopal Church runs a diaper bank to provide free diapers and wipes to those in need. All sizes are welcome, but especially sizes 4, 5, and 6. Donations can be placed in the Mission of the Month box located by the food pantry. Thank you!

Palm Sunday Path, March 29 - See Pastor Matt after worship today to learn more and sign up.

Save the Date for the Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk: Sunday May 3. Did you know that last year's Crop Walk raised \$21,497? Kalamazoo FUMC raised \$4,633 — 22% of the total raised! Thank you for your generous support/donations to feed the hungry, both in Kalamazoo and around the world.

March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m.

 **First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo**

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

"WE ARE A RECONCILING CONGREGATION"

ROLL DOWN JUSTICE
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Luke 23:32-43

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.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love Is This* (Jeanne Cotter)

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THE CALL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Ellen Isacksen

One: Holy and Living God, to choose You is to choose love.
Nudge us toward the reconciliation that ushers in right relationship.

ALL: May peace flow. Let justice roll.

One: Forgive us our trespasses,

ALL: as we forgive those who trespass against us.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

*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.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Rev. Matt Weiler

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2164 *Sanctuary*

(FWS - black hymnal)

WE PROCLAIM

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

Blessing the Children:

One: No matter what, you are a child of God.

ALL: God knows you by name and loves you very much.

A WORD FOR HUMANITY

***SCRIPTURE** Matthew 6:7-15

Sue Ellen Isacksen

One: This is what the spirit is saying to the church.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *I Choose Love* (Mark Miller and Lindy Thompson)

First Beats

Soloist: Grace Harthorn

PRAYER POEM¹ "Rock of Ages" (Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling)

Sue Ellen Isacksen

SERMON "We Are a Reconciling Congregation"

Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN *God, Whose Love Is Always Stronger* (Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)



God, whose love is al-ways strong-er than our weak-ness, pride and
Love is pa-tient, kind and car-ing, nev-er ar-ro-gent or
May our faith in you be nour-ish-ed; May your churches hear your



fear, in your world, we pray and won-der how to be more faith-ful
rude. Nev-er boast-ful, all things bear-ing; Love re-joice in the
call. May our lives be filled with cour-age as we speak your love for



here. Hate too of-ten grows in-side us; Fear rules
truth. When we're caught up in be-liev-ing war will
all. Now em-bold-ened by your Spir-it who has



what the na-tions do. So we pray, when wars di-
make the ter-ror cease, show us Je-sus' way of
giv-en us new birth, Give us love, that we may



vide us: Give us love, Lord! Make us new!
liv-ing; May our strength be in your peace.
share it till your love re-news the earth.

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used with permission.

WE RESPOND

PETITIONS

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, Father, Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

On this special day, we join United Methodists everywhere in supporting UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which equips our church to respond swiftly and effectively when disasters strike.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Come Down, Jesus* (Ken Medema)

David Brown, soloist

***DOXOLOGY**



Praise God, whose ho-ly jus-tice shines! Whose mer-cy through all



a-ges binds; Through Christ our love and hope in-



crease; All glo-ry be to God, our peace.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: For the gift and possibility of reconciliation and forgiveness,

ALL: we give thanks.

One: For the way in which these offerings can help us choose love,

ALL: we give thanks.

One: For the gift of this community bound and working together,

ALL: we give thanks. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN #2238** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

(FWS-black hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *It Is Well With My Soul* (arr. Martha Mier)

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

¹Prayer/Poem © Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling. Used with permission for "Roll Down Justice" Lent series by the Worship Design Studio.

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, March 15

- 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
- 11:15 am Lent Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
- 12:15 pm Confirmation Class - Rm. 305
- 6:00 pm Faith Milestones
- 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center
- 6:00 pm Conversation (Pastor Julie) - Parlor

Monday, March 16

- 11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
- 5:00 pm Finance/Trustees Meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, March 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, March 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

Thursday, March 19

- 9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
- 11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
- 12:00 noon Lenten Concert - Sanctuary
- 1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Fellowship Rm.
- 5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Wesley Hall
- 7:15 pm Chancel Singers