

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 29 @10:00 a.m.

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

April 5 @10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday
“Deep in Wonder and Full of Joy”
Rev. Julie Kline
Matthew 28:1-10

**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, Larry Stuart, Julia Librizzi

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak

Musicians: Chancel Singers, Handbell Ensemble

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

Special Guest: Jenna Saldana

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. As we walk toward the center of the labyrinth, we strengthen what is inside ourselves. As we leave the center, renewed by stillness and the blessing of water, we turn our hearts to mending the world.

Today is the LAST DAY FOR TULIP ORDERS. Order forms are at the welcome desk. You can also order tulips online at our website.

Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans - El Porvenir (“the future”) is our special offering today. 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 lead an informational program during the Academy hour after worship in the Fellowship Room.

Hot Potatoes 2.0 - Meeting after worship today, the Adult Academy Class topic for this Sunday is “Faith and Authoritarianism.”

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 **today**, March 22nd.

First UMC Book Club will discuss *Braving the Wilderness* by Brené Brown at our next meeting: Tuesday, March 24 at 10-11:30 a.m. in the chapel. All are welcome! If you would like to receive email updates about Book Club events, please contact Jan Schoenherr at schoenherrjan@gmail.com.

The Bernie Foulk Memorial Lenten Organ Recital Series - The final concert of this series will be Thursday, March 26, at 12 noon in the Sanctuary, featuring organist Robert S. Ragoonanan. He is the Minister of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, MI. A reception with refreshments and a chance to meet the musician will follow.

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!

Splendid Suppers for Seven: Signup for another round of Splendid Suppers (and Lunches) for Seven is underway! We have several hosts who have offered to open their homes for us, beginning in late March and continuing throughout April. Look for drop boxes and sign-up strips at the welcome desk. We hope you’ll join in the fun!

Palm Sunday Path - Pastor Matt invites you to join in the Palm Sunday Path, Sunday March 29th, in Lansing at 3pm. We’ll leave from the church parking lot at 1:30 and meet Christians from around the state at Pilgrim UCC, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave, and march together to the State Capitol. The Palm Sunday Path is based on the principles of Matthew 25: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. Just as Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly and peacefully on Palm Sunday, we will enter our capitol in Lansing proclaiming God’s values in contrast to the dominant politics of hate, greed, and injustice.

Save the Date for the Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk: Sunday May 3. Did you know that 25% of the funds received by the Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk remain here in Kalamazoo with Loaves and Fishes? In October of 1979, FUMC established a Community Food Pantry in the Youthside building behind the church. Three years later, in 1982, it became both the first food pantry staffed full time by Loaves and Fishes as well as its administrative office.

March 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo**

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



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 *Nimrod from “Enigma Variations”* (Edward Elgar)

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

THE CALL & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Larry Stuart

One: Holy and Living God, the list for unfinished work is long.

ALL: May peace flow. Let justice roll.

One: Let us not feel overwhelmed, but convicted in our call.

Remind us as we sit at your table, we are called to invite the least and the unlikely.

ALL: May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Roll Down Justice

Roll down! Roll down, jus-tice! Roll like an
e-ver flow-ing stream, flow-ing stream, roll down!

Words and music by Mark Miller based on "Roll Down Justice" © Choristers Guild 2015. Used with permission.

***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 *God Has Work for Us to Do* (Mark Miller, text by Carl Daw)

Chancel Singers

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** Isaiah 58: 6-12

Larry Stuart

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER POEM¹ "Righteousness" (Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling)

SERMON "Mending the Quilt"

Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #2185 *For One Great Peace*

(FWS - black hymnal)

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

Our special offering today is for El Porvenir ("the future"). Their mission is to provide access to clean water and safe sanitation for rural Nicaraguan communities.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Old Rugged Cross*

Handbell Ensemble

(arr. Joel Raney; handbell setting by Arnold B. Sherman)

***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 of passion for God's work,

ALL: we give thanks.

One: For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied,

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 #433** *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

(UMH - red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Voluntary* (John Stanley)

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

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 22

- 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am Jenna Saldana - Fellowship Room
- 11:15 am Lent Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
- 6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, March 23

- 11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall
- 7:00 pm Resistance Singing - Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 24

- 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 25

- 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, March 26

- 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