

## UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

**March 15 @10:00 a.m.**

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
"We Are a Reconciling Congregation"  
Rev. Julie Kline  
Luke 23:32-43

**March 22 @10:00 a.m.**

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
The Day Is Coming: We Are One  
Rev. Julie Kline  
Matthew 21: 1-11 & Isaiah 35: 1-3

**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](http://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, Diane Owen-Rogers, Jonathan Richardson

**Director of Music/Organist:** Jacqueline Stilger

**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Beth Croak

**Musicians:** Chancel Singers, First Beats

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sundays with Pastor Julie: A Conversation with Ezra Klein & James Talarico** - Beginning this evening at 6:00 pm in the Parlor and continuing next Sunday, March 15. Ezra Klein, political commentator and journalist, had a conversation with Texas State Representative James Talarico that aired on YouTube on January 13, 2026. It is rich with meaningful conversation as James Talarico reclaims the core message of Christianity. All are invited to have a further conversation and reflection. We'll watch this interview in segments, followed by our own conversation about confronting Christian Nationalism with a vision of faith that resists exclusion, advances the common good, and embraces the call to love, justice, and inclusion. We seek to understand and respond to Christian Nationalism through a lens of authentic, justice-oriented Christianity.

**Hot Potatoes 2.0:** From March 1st to March 29th, the Adult Academy Class will look at another round of Hot Potatoes, this time based in the worship theme for Lent – "Roll Down Justice." John Boley will facilitate. We will look at Contextual Theology, Liberation and Gender-Based Theologies, Faith and Authoritarianism, and Christology. All are invited.

**The Bernie Foulk Memorial Lenten Organ Recital Series** will take place Thursdays at 12 noon in the Sanctuary during Lent. This week's performance will feature Marilyn Ossentjuk, Music Minister at St. Luke's Episcopal Church here in Kalamazoo. 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.

**Family Fun Night - Bowling!** This Friday, March 13, at 6:15 pm. Cost is \$12 per person, which includes shoes. We'll have the alleys from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Airway Lanes (5626 Portage Road), but plan to arrive by 6:15 p.m. to rent shoes and pick that perfect ball so we're ready to roll at 6:30! RSVP to Julia Librizzi at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org), TODAY. It's important to RSVP for this event so we make sure we have enough lanes reserved.

**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.** See bulletin insert for the order form. More order forms can be found at the welcome desk.

**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.

**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 receive email updates about Book Club events, please contact Jan Schoenherr at [schoenherrjan@gmail.com](mailto:schoenherrjan@gmail.com).

**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. This is a great opportunity to get together with people in our church community that you might not already know! Look for drop boxes and sign-up strips at the welcome desk. We hope you'll join in the fun!

**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!

**Faith Milestones.** Our next meeting (for 3rd - 5th grade children) will be Sunday, March 15.

**UMCOR Sunday - next week, March 15.** 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 in worship next Sunday or online.

March 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.

# First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340  
[umc-kzo.org](http://umc-kzo.org)

## ROLL DOWN JUSTICE Third Sunday of Lent

Matthew 25: 31-40

### 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** *Two Trios in G minor* (Josef Rheinberger)

### WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

Rev. Matt Weiler

### 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

One: Holy and Living God, extend us beyond our comfort zones.

Open us to see our inherent connection to others.

May your will be done here on earth.

**ALL: May peace flow. Let justice roll.**

Diane Owen-Rogers

## 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.

### \*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.

### LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Rev. Julie Kline

SOLO "I Dream of a Church" (Mark Miller)

### 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 25: 31-40 (CEB)

Diane Owen-Rogers

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (verse 1 solo)

PRAYER POEM<sup>1</sup> "Before It's Too Late" (Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling)

Diane Owen-Rogers  
Jonathan Richardson

HYMN #521 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (verses 2 & 3)

(UMH-red hymnal)

SERMON "With the Nations Gathered"

Rev. Matt Weiler

### WE RESPOND

### PETITIONS

### SILENCE

## 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Give Me Jesus* (African American Spiritual arr. Jester Hairston)

### \*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 this church and its work in the world,

**ALL: we give thanks.**

One: For the way in which these offerings can embody our welcome to friend  
and stranger alike,

**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 #436 *The Voice of God Is Calling*

(UMH-red hymnal)

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *'Allegro' from Suite Gothique* (Leon Boellmann)

*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, March 8

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center  
6:00 pm Conversation (Pastor Julie) - Parlor

### Monday, March 9

11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

### Tuesday, March 10

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 11

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  
2:00 pm CARES Committee

### Thursday, March 12

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall  
12 noon Lenten Concert - Sanctuary  
1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Fellowship Rm.  
6:00 pm Glee Concert - Sanctuary, Fellow. Rm.

### Friday, March 13

6:00 pm Family Bowling Night - Airway Lanes

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