

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 12 @10:00 a.m.
Eastertide
Rev. Matt Weiler

April 19 @10:00 a.m.
Graduate Sunday
"Love Boldly"
Rev. Julie Kline

**We are a Reconciling
Congregation, Welcoming ALL.**



Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Jonathan Richardson, Julia Librizzi
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Chancel Singers, David Brown and Mike McMinn, trumpet, Tom Evans and Justin Hamman, trombone, Josiah Solis, timpani
Acolyte: Vera Warzybok
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Easter offering this morning will help support the following ministries. Offering envelopes for your gift are available in the pew pockets.

- The Methodist Children’s Home of Costa Rica
- Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans (*El Porvenir*)

There will be no Sunday school for children today. Godly play and nursery will be available during the worship service as normal.

Godly Play: We have a multi-sensory, imaginative worship experience for children during services called Godly Play. Children will leave sanctuary worship after “The Child Within Us All” for Godly Play. Children will return to their families before the end of worship, usually during the offertory.

Children’s Sunday School for preschool through 5th graders meets September - May in room 206 (second floor) following worship until 12:30pm. Sunday School for infants through 4 year olds meets from 9:45am to 12:30pm in room 208.

Youth group will not meet today. Meetings will resume next Sunday, April 12. Youth Group is open to all 6th-12th grade students and meets every Sunday evening during the school year from 6pm-7:30pm downstairs in the Youth Lounge.

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 next Sunday, April 12. For more information, contact Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

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

Seeking Potluck Crew - Do you have a gift for casseroles, crockpots, or controlled chaos? Do you believe some of the best conversations happen over paper plates? Then friend... you might be Potluck Crew material. No culinary skills are required; just a willing heart and an appetite for fun. Interested in

joining? Reach out to Pastor Julie at jkline@umc-kzo.org or Linda Hamill at lhamill@umc-kzo.org.

****April 26 - Worship Time Change to 6:00pm****
Because the Kalamazoo Marathon will be taking place downtown on Sunday, April 26, we will gather for a special evening worship celebration instead of our usual morning service. You are warmly invited to join us for Potluck Worship on Sunday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. We will share in a time of meaningful worship, fellowship, and a shared meal around the table. Bring a favorite dish to share—all are welcome, whether or not you’re able to bring food. Join us for an evening of community, gratitude, and the joy of being together.

April Mission of the Month - SEITA Scholars
SEITA Scholars are WMU students who have aged out of the foster care system. This year, the greatest needs for students are laundry detergent (liquid or pods) and gift cards to Meijer (\$10-25). There is a collection box by the food pantry for your donations. Gift cards may be put in the offering plate on Sundays or turned in at the church office during regular office hours. Thank you!

Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk: Sunday May 3.
Last year, the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk provided nearly \$5,500 for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. We hope to increase our contribution even further this year so that KLF can continue fighting food insecurity within our community. Sign up to walk or donate at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw>.

Join the CARES Team!
C - calling and cards
A - acts of kindness
R - reaching out
E - engaged with one another
S - Spirit-led
This ministry team connects and cares for members and friends of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church, especially our elders and those with ongoing health concerns or significant life events. Contact Judy Kingsley at judykings@charter.net to learn more and join our efforts to share God’s love or receive CARE from a team member.

Hot Potatoes Class: Next Sunday (April 12) our Adult Academy Class (which meets after worship) will continue with Hot Potatoes 2.0. We have previously looked at liberation and gender-based theologies and authoritarianism—all faith-based topics which are controversial in our culture today—hence “Hot Potatoes!” Next Sunday we will look at how the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ contains many Hot Potatoes. This is a study called “Christology” and will look at competing understandings of Jesus Christ in our religious and political world.

April 5, 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.*

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* (arr. Paul Davis) Brass Ensemble
My Lord, What a Morning (arr. Douglas Smith)
Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia (arr. Paul Davis)

THE CALL TO EASTER *Risen* (Jan Richardson, *The Circle of Grace*)

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #302** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* (UMH - red hymnal)

***WELCOME** Rev. Julie Kline

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
ALL: He is Risen Indeed!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Jonathan Richardson

One: We thought the story was finished.
We thought the hope had ended.
We thought that when the tomb was sealed, that was it.
But this is it:

ALL: The story has just begun; the hope is newly born; the tomb is empty, and one word says it all: Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

One: This is the news:
ALL: Jesus is risen!
One: This is the moment
ALL: Jesus is alive!
One: This is the gospel
ALL: Jesus is with us!

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 BoltonBldg. 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

*LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Matt Weiler

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.

*GOSPEL PROCLAMATION Matthew 28:1-9

Jonathan Richardson

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong*

(FWS-black hymnal)

MUSICAL REFRAIN #2026 *Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

(FWS-black hymnal)

Blessing the Children

ALL: May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!

MESSAGE "Deep in Wonder and Full of Joy"

Rev. Julie Kline

*HYMN #307 *Christ is Risen*

(UMH - red hymnal)

HOLY 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. Please come forward by the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it in the cup of juice, and eat. Gluten-free bread is served at the station to the right of the communion table. Servers will bring communion to the balcony. The station with four servers will serve gluten-free bread.

One: Christ is risen!

ALL: He is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS Musical Setting A, pg. 17

(UMH - red hymnal)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION pg. 18

(UMH - red hymnal)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

AMEN pg. 18

(UMH - red hymnal)

Amen, amen, amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Communion Anthem *Alleluia* (Thomas Keesecker)

Chancel Singers

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 Easter offering will help support these 2 ministries: **The Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica, and Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans (El Porvenir).** Offering envelopes are in the pew pockets.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Easter Rejoicing* (Jonathan Willcocks)

Chancel Singers

***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

Vera Warzybok

God of New Beginnings, you roll away more than stones. You roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure. On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ. Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently, eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve. Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #318** *Christ Is Alive*

(UMH - red hymnal)

After the second verse, the congregation is invited to proceed up to the front of the sanctuary to join the choir in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

*BLESSING

***HALLELUJAH CHORUS** from *Messiah* (George Frideric Handel)

CONGREGATIONAL EASTER PICTURE

Following this worship service, we invite everyone to participate in our annual tradition of taking a congregational Easter photo!

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, April 5

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

Monday, April 6

No events - building closed for holiday.

Tuesday, April 7

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, April 8

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, April 9

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

11:40 am Similarities (NA) - Wesley Hall

1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Parlor

Saturday, April 11

2:00 pm - Memorial for Sue Paul

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing