

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 19 @10:00 a.m.

Graduate Sunday
"Love Boldly"
Rev. Julie Kline
Mark 12:28-34, Lev. 19:9-18

April 26 **TIME CHANGE**

6:00 p.m. Potluck Service
"Serve Joyfully"
Rev. Julie Kline

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 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

Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's Call To Action

In response to racism and bias: as part of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's vow to resist oppression in all its forms, we commit ourselves to the decisive action that is needed to resist and dismantle racism at every level. This action must go beyond our historically empty rhetoric about repentance and broken promises to be a church that is a credible and active witness for peace, equity, and justice in the face of harm visited upon communities of color. We beckon our clergy and lay leadership to unapologetically shine the light of truth on our church community so that we recognize our complicity in systemic racism, recognize and condemn white supremacy as sin, and seek a deep knowing of what God calls us to do. We make these vows so that every person—especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)—may live in safety, health, and freedom.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon, Stephanie Giguere, Julia Librizzi

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak

Musicians: First Celli members: Phoenix Bouse, Catherine Henze, Carolyn Librizzi, Josiah Miller, Katie Ray, and Anne Sherfield

Acolyte: Grace Harthorn

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cookies still available: Oops! We missed a whole freezer of cookies for the Youth ASP Trip! We have 33 boxes left to sell after worship today. You can purchase cookies right after worship for the suggested donation of \$25 for a box of 6. Thanks!

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.

Hot Potatoes Class: Today in the Adult Academy Class after worship we will be finishing up "Hot Potatoes 2.0." The topic will be "Christology," which is the study of the person, nature and works of Jesus Christ. All are invited.

Faith Milestones: Our group for 3rd - 5th grade children meets **today** from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. We will be learning about communion, baptism and confirmation. We will also share dinner and a treat. For more information, contact Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

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.

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

Mom's Retreat is next weekend, April 17-19, please contact jlbrizzi@umc-kzo.org to sign up! There are still spots available!

The Kalamazoo Community Chorale will offer its spring concert "Gather 'Round the Table" on April 19th at 3:00 here at FUMC. The concert is free.

Attn: All Four Score & More Folks

FUMC is sponsoring a "Coffee & Conversation" at the Heritage Community (in the Artisan's Bistro) 2300 Portage St., Wednesday, April 22 from 1:30 - 2:30pm. Please join us for fellowship. Communion will be offered by Rev. Doug Vernon, and David Kingsley will lead us in song. Please RSVP to Chris Stakely at the church office by April 16.

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.

The annual Crop Walk is now only four weeks away. Have you considered how you can participate? There are three different ways. First, you can join us for the walk on May 3rd. Second, you can join the FUMC team, walk and ask friends to support you. Or third, you can support those who have already signed up to walk. After the service today, stop by the Crop Walk table by the Food Pantry for additional information.

Seeking Potluck Crew - No culinary skills 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 12, 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 *Periti Autem (The Just Shine Brightly)* (Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Heidi Schultz) First Celli

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stephanie Giguere

One: Easter People, Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is resurrection real?

ALL: Within our questioning, Christ appears.

One: We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

ALL: Within our certainty, Christ appears.

One: Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

ALL: We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #304** *Easter People Raise Your Voices* (UMH - red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

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

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

SOLO *Come, Peace of God* (Eugene Butler) Cari Beth Croak

CALL TO CONFESSION

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day,
and offer the truth of our lives:
The fear that stifles us,
The prejudice that impedes us,
The ignorance that hinders us,
The doubt that plagues us.
Help us, we pray, that we will
Find courage in unlikely places,
Move to those places where love is needed,
And have faith that you are with us.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE AND FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!
ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

*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.

***HYMN #2043** *Alleluia* (FWS-black hymnal)

***GOSPEL READING** John 20:19-31, Acts 2:24 Stephanie Giguere

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)
Blessing the Children
ALL: May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!

MESSAGE "Faithful Memory Keepers" Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2196 *We Walk by Faith* (FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition the pastor will say "Keep us in faith" and congregation is invited to respond, saying, "that we may have life." A time of silence follows each petition.

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 *Rondeau* (Jean Joseph Mouret) First Celli

***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** Grace Harthorn

**Generous God you are our portion and our cup
In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies find rest
bless our offerings and pledges
that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world.
Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIFE

***CLOSING HYMN #322** *Up From the Grave He Arose* (UMH - red hymnal)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "The Strife is O'er"* (Michael Helman)
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, April 12
10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center
6:00 pm Faith Milestones

Monday, April 13
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall
6:00 pm SPRC Meeting - Parlor/Zoom

Tuesday, April 14
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - 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 15
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 - Food pantry open

Thursday, April 16
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall
1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Parlor
3:30 pm Outreach Meeting
5:45 pm Handbell Choir - Choir Room
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room