

## UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

**April 26 \*\*TIME CHANGE\*\***

**6:00 p.m. Potluck Service**  
"Serve Joyfully"  
Rev. Julie Kline  
Psalm 100; 1 Peter 4:8-11

**May 3 @10:00 a.m.**

Confirmation Sunday  
"Lead Courageously"  
Rev. Matt Weiler  
Joshua 1:5-9; Ephesians 6:10-18

**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

## 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, Molly Gross, Andrew Hampton

**Director of Music:** Jacqueline Stilger

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

**Musicians:** Chancel Singers

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Special offering today: Native American Ministries

We acknowledge the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to society. The special offering received during today's service supports Native American outreach ministries with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. You may also give online at our website.

**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 there will be a bonus and final Hot Potatoes 2.0 class. The topic will be "Theodicy" - otherwise known as "When Bad Things Happen to Good People." How can we praise the goodness and power of God when there is so much evil and suffering in the world? All are invited!

**The Kalamazoo Community Chorale** - Today! Presenting their spring concert, "Gather 'Round the Table" at 3:00pm here at FUMC. The concert is free.

**Youth Group** is open to all 6th-12th grade students. We will meet this evening 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](mailto:ruthbutters@gmail.com).

**Faith Milestones:** Our group for 3rd - 5th grade children. Our last meeting of the year is a fun one! Please save the date! May 17th - downtown Scavenger Hunt, time tbd but it will be earlier in the afternoon than our usual 6pm meeting time. For more information, contact Julia Librizzi at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org).

### POTLUCK CHURCH! April 26 at 6:00pm

All are welcome to join us for our shared meal in Wesley Hall. Please label your dish, especially if it contains common allergens (nuts, dairy, gluten, etc.) Hot foods should arrive hot, and cold foods should be kept chilled until serving. Everyone is invited to eat, whether or not you can bring a dish. You may bring your own tableware or use the church's. Lemonade and water will be provided. *There will be no nursery, Sunday School, Godly Play or Youth Group that day.* Children and youth are encouraged to be a part of this meal.

Above all, come ready to enjoy fellowship and give thanks together. Thank you for helping make this potluck a joyful time of sharing and community!

A basket at the end of the serving tables is for your weekly offering, not a free-will offering, as all have provided the food.

### Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk: Sunday May 3.

The annual Crop Walk is now only three weeks away! You still have an opportunity to help alleviate hunger around the world and here in Kalamazoo. Last year Loaves & Fishes provided 48,997 food packs, which help to bridge the weekend food gap for youth who rely on school meal programs. This is an increase of 13,000 food packs from the previous year! Each one provides approximately 2-3 meals to school-age youth. After the service today, stop by the Crop Walk table by the Food Pantry to learn more about how Loaves and Fishes is addressing hunger needs in Kalamazoo and around the world, and how you can support the walk.

### 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!

**Youth Summer ASP Fundraiser:** Check out our new Youth Mission Fundraiser on the bulletin board this Sunday through Sunday May 10 to see how you can help raise \$11,000 for our ASP summer mission trip!

April 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.

212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan



First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo

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



# Love Boldly

Mark 12:28-34, Lev. 19:9-18, John 13:34-35

## Graduate Sunday

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** *Simple Gifts* (J. Wayne Kerr)

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Molly Gross

One: Family of God, who are you?

**ALL: We are disciples formed in the image of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

One: Family of God, how does Jesus form you?

**ALL: By loving us and showing us how to love.**

One: Family of God, how does the Holy Spirit empower you?

**ALL: By loving us and inspiring us to love others as Christ loves us.**

One: Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

**ALL: We come to worship God, who shows us how to love and calls us to boldly love God and neighbor, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #384** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

(UMH - red hymnal)

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

### WELCOME AND PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Julie Kline

*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.*

### New UMC Mission Statement:

*The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

## LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Matt Weiler

**Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus, you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. As we gather for worship and as we are sent from this place, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Help us to encounter each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## SILENT PRAYER

**There are times, O God, when our greatest sin is not what we do but what we fail to do. For those times when we have not spoken up, for those times when we have not acted; for those times when we have not responded: forgive us. Give us the courage to name what is wrong when we see it. Give us confidence to do what is hard. Give us grace to reach out when that is frightening or uncomfortable. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

**SUNG RESPONSE #2179** *Live in Charity (Ubi Caritas)*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Leviticus 19:9-18

Andrew Hampton

**\*GOSPEL READING** Mark 12:28-34, John 13:34-35

Molly Gross

One: This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

**HYMN #2233** *This is Where Children Belong*  
Blessing the Children

(FWS-black hymnal)

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

**MESSAGE** "Justice Making with Love, Service, and Courage"

Rev. Julie Kline

**HYMN #2227** *We Are the Body of Christ*

(FWS-black hymnal)

## CELEBRATING AND BLESSING OUR GRADUATES

One: God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth.  
Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

**ALL: We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.**

One: Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life.  
Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

**ALL: Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.**

One: For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.

**ALL: May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

### CALL TO OFFERING

*Special offering today: Native American Ministries. This special offering supports Native American outreach ministries with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. You may also give online at our website.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *A New Commandment* (Malcolm Archer)

*Please join in singing the refrain when indicated.*



**\*DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

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(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

**Gracious One of Love, you have taught us what love looks like, and you have commanded us to live it. Receive these offerings as seeds of a kingdom where welcome is wide, grace is abundant, and love never holds back. We give from the joy of being shaped by your love. In Christ's name, Amen.**

## OUR SHARED LIFE

**\*HYMN #383** *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*

(UMH - red hymnal)

## BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** *Noël Nouvelet (Now the Green Blade Rises)* (Mark Sedio)

### 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 19

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am Pew Patrol Luncheon, Fellowship Rm  
12:15 pm Confirmation Class - Rm 305  
3:00 pm Kal. Community Chorale Concert  
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center  
6:00 pm Faith Milestones

### Monday, April 20

11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall  
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees meeting - Zoom

### Tuesday, April 21

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 22

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  
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

### Thursday, April 23

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall  
1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Parlor