

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 7 @10:00 a.m.
First Beats Musical
Rev. Matt Weiler

June 14 @10:00 a.m.
Juneteenth Celebration
Communion Sunday
Rev. Matt Weiler

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 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

Worship Leaders: Rev. Marilyn Barney, Rev. Mark Stucky, Rev. Dan Duncan

Music: Jacqueline Stilger, Cari Beth Croak, Chancel Singers

Readers Theater: Buddy Hannah, Rev. Len Schoenherr, Laurie Nelson, Danette Johnson, Jonathan Richardson, Cheryl Almeda, Daniel Whitcomb, Jai Tiarks

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes

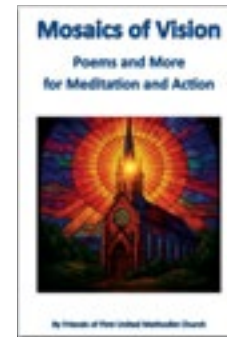
About the Readers Theater

“Making a Pivot in the Midst of Life’s Whirlwind” was written by Buddy Hannah, a local playwright, actor, director, poet, and former host of the social commentary radio program *Talk It Up Live*. He has served in various leadership positions on several boards in Kalamazoo. This is our second collaboration with Buddy—the first being “Who Stole Them Church Hats?” presented in April of 2025. We thank him and all the participants bringing these creative visions to life.

About Mosaics of Vision: Poems and More for Meditation and Action

This book collected a mosaic of theological and personal reflections and poetic responses to diverse Academy classes and workshops last fall and winter:

- “A Potluck of Hot Potatoes” (on theological continuing controversies, from atonement theories to Christian nationalism to prosperity theology).
- “Unlocking Possibilities: Five Secrets to a Fulfilling Life” (on lessons from lives of saints, including imagining yourself as a patron saint of...something unique to your history, interests, and talents).
- “Looking Deeply: A Meditative Journey with Our Stained-Glass Windows” (included a tour of the art in our church’s stained-glass windows and woodwork, reflections on beauty and meaning, and pondering how we as members of the church are all broken pieces fit together into a whole).
- “Seeing the Possibility in Hope” and “Mosaics of Words and Glass” workshops (where participants created the mobiles on display this morning).



Printed copies of the book are available here at the church, and the digital version is available to view and download [HERE](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASP Fundraiser: The ASP Envelope Fundraiser is CLOSED! Thank you FUMC for your generous gifts this year to support our young people in mission through Appalachia Service Project!

Special Offering: Peace with Justice Sunday
Today’s offering will support efforts to reduce violence, advocate for human rights, and create sustainable solutions for peace, locally and worldwide.

Special Treats in Perks Today: Homemade cookies and pies from the family of Mary Lee Dimond will be available in Perks after worship today, as we remember and give thanks for the sweetness she shared with our congregation and community.

Youth Group - We will meet in the Youth Lounge tonight at 6:00 pm and carpool to Asylum Lake for a contemplative prayer experience.

Manna Lock-In: This Friday, June 5, our young adult group is having a lock-in here at FUMC! Contact Ruth Butters at ruthbutters@gmail.com for more information.

First Beats Musical: Join the kids for their annual musical, *Storms*, a fun, heartfelt look at Jesus calming the storm and the “storms” kids face in their own lives. There will be 2 shows: Friday June 5 at 7pm (desserts included) and Sunday, June 7 in worship.

Youth and Family Beach Night: Sunday, June 7 at South Haven Beach, 6-8pm. Youth and families are invited to meet for our annual end-of-the-year Beach Night. We’ll meet in the parking lot at North Beach at 6pm and stay until 8pm. Bring a picnic and some beach toys and dress for the weather. Parking is \$10 and anyone interested is welcome to meet for Sherman’s ice cream after. Please RSVP to Pastor Matt so we know who to expect and to let him know if you need a ride.

Free Store: Wednesday, June 17 in Wesley Hall with a hot dog lunch. We’re seeking volunteers, gently used donations, and help spreading the word so our neighbors know they’re welcome to shop for free clothing, household items, toys, books, and more. See the sign-up sheets at the large welcome desk to volunteer and for a list of desired donation items.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

“Making a Pivot in the
Midst of Life’s Whirlwind”



Shining Shards of Sacred Splendor

Silent sunlit quilt composed of daylight, a multicolored mosaic of immaculate radiance.

Its razor-sharp fragments of juxtaposed hues joined and channeled into a designed whole, fashioned by many hands in a hazardous occupation, making the complex window greater than its sum of shards.

But deep within me too, lie broken pieces of soul, assembled loosely together over a precarious lifetime of striving toward wholeness, guided by a divine hand.

And now all can be beautiful fragments, bringing into darkness divine glimmers, together, as an assembled whole, greater than the sum of the people. We can tell complex, multi-colored stories of a diverse church as one body of Christ.

- Mark D. Stucky

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 *Prelude on "Middlebury"* (Russel Schulz-Widmar)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AWARENESS (*Pivot from Lens to Mirror*)

PIVOT 1: As much as we wish it weren't so, injustice is a never-ending story. Corruption, violence, hypocrisy, and lies reign. People turn their backs on justice, kindness, and humility, breeding division and estrangement within family, community, and country.

ALL: The hardest direction to look is inward. When you see yourself clearly, what do you see?

PIVOT 1: How can we pivot from an external focus (that limits our perception) to one of honest self-reflection? How can we remember that God beholds all of us with compassion and love? How can we recognize a HOLY SHIFT that allows us to live with generosity, confidence, courage, and discernment?

CONNECTION (*Pivot from Transactional To Transformative Relationships*)

PIVOT 2: We live in a time of divisiveness, dehumanization, and disconnection. It can be hard to see those who disagree with us—or who turn against us—as fully human and deserving of God's love. Yet we long to find another way to be.

ALL: How can we pivot from relationships that get us what we want to relationships that, instead, foster a genuine sense of belonging?

PIVOT 2: How can we cultivate a climate of grace and compassion? What can our community look like if we can make this happen? Who do I need to become to make this happen? How can I build transformational relationships?

VISION (*Pivot from "Problem Fixing" to "Possibility Creating"*)

PIVOT 3: It is often easier for us to name, identify, discuss, and articulate social problems than it is for us to imagine entirely new solutions. This can be thought of as "problem loving," and the myth of problem loving is that the knowledge of the problem is all we need to solve it. We think we're fixing the problem by understanding how bad the problem is.

ALL: How can we build new bright and brilliant bridges of belonging where finally we can enjoy the profound and wonderful space of beloved community?

PIVOT 3: For fundamental change, we need to shift our outlook—and the conversation—to our dreams and our imagination. We need to see a possible future beyond the problem. We have to want something better for ourselves and our communities—perhaps something that has never been tried!

PRESENCE (*Pivot from Hustle to Flow*)

Pivot 4: In social justice work, "burnout" is often carried around like a trophy. We've learned that healing requires stillness, and that self-reflection, deeper connections, and a search for possibility can lead to a sense of harmony and the inter-connectedness of strengthened community. Shifting from individual hustle to collective flow frees us from judgment, doubt, fear, and confusion. It allows us to slow down, listen deeply, and create healthy communities that foster interdependence rather than independent action.

ALL: And our story is never over!

Pivot 4: Where will we go from here? How will we use these pivots? How can we find our flow towards justice? How can we learn to be more human and lean into the courage to create a world based in love and justice?"

***HYMN #2238** *In the Midst of New Directions* (FWS-black hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Marilyn Barney

***LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & 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.

ANTHEM *Crowded Table* (Hemby, McKenna, Carlile. Arr. A. Ramsey) Chancel Singers

Soloists: Emily Barron, Kameran Long, Evelyn Moon, Megan Gillish, Audrey Quimby

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 7:1-5, 24-29 Rev. Mark Stucky

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* (FWS-black hymnal)

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

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

READERS THEATER *Making a Pivot in the Midst of Life's Whirlwind"* (Buddy Hannah)

***HYMN** *'Round the River's Bend* (See insert)

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Special Offering - On Peace with Justice Sunday, we come together to support programs that promote reconciliation and justice.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *May the Circle Be Unbroken* Chancel Singers

Traditional Appalachian Tune (Text by Winter, Rose and Taylor)

***DOXOLOGY #94** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* (UMH-red hymnal)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O Lord, you call us to pivot, to turn, to twirl, to swivel from destructive ways of living and relating...to a divine path of reflecting, loving, imagining, transforming, flowing, and resting. Give us wisdom and courage to follow your blessed path. In your name, we pray, Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN #150** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* (UMH-red hymnal)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Offertorio* (Domenico Zipoli)

UMH-United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

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, May 31

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, June 1

11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, June 2

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom

9:30 am Restorative Yoga with Ana - Parlor

11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall

12:30 pm Staff meeting - Parlor

4:15 pm First Beats - Choir Room

4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open

6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, June 3

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, June 4

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

9:30 am Yoga with Anna - Parlor

11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall

6:00 pm SPRC meeting - Parlor/Zoom

Friday, June 5

12:30 pm Manna Lock-in

7:00 pm First Beats Musical - Sanctuary

'Round the River's Bend

Lyrics by Jennifer Clark

Music by Jacqueline Stilger

Tune name: ACADEMY



- (solo) 1. Here I am, just wad - ing on the shores of grief, shed - ding
(solo) 2. Here you are, I see you 'round the ri - ver's bend, hear your
(pulpit side) 3. Here I am, just churn - ing on this isle of storm, shout - ing
(lectern side) 4. Here you are, we see you 'round the riv - er's bend, hear your



songs that no one seems to hear. What re - lief it'd be to lay my
song that runs so deep and clear. What a gift it is to learn your
songs that no one wants to hear. What re - lief it'd be to lay my
song that rum - bles loud and strong. What a gift it is to learn your



sto - ry down, take your hand, and know that I am found.
sto - ry friend, take my hand and let us flow a - long.
sto - ry down, take your hand, and know that I am found.
sto - ry, friend, take our hands and let us flow a - long.

- (pulpit side) 5. Here I am, though not quite sure just where I stand,
can't recall the songs that I once sang.
What relief it'd be to lay my story down,
take your hand, and know that I am found.
- (lectern side) 6. Here you are, we see you 'round the river's bend,
hear the stirring echoes of your song.
What a gift it is to learn your story, friend.
Take our hands and let us flow along.
- (All) 7. Here we are, a braided story growing now,
joined and shaped by voices of all kinds.
What a joy it is to sing along with you
as we stream into the great Divine.

About the Dandelion Mobiles in the Front of the Sanctuary

The glass, wood, and metal mobiles began as circles of mosaic glass, representing the sequential stages of a dandelion's life cycle and symbolizing resilience, transformation, and hope in possibility. Made one evening by 30 individuals, they are as unique as snowflakes and each one of us. In a subsequent session, a group composed of the original participants, along with some new, gathered to assemble the resulting pieces into a new whole, bringing life to possibilities that had yet to be imagined! Consider the magnificent yet lowly dandelion:

- Dandelions can thrive in challenging conditions, pushing through concrete and returning year after year. As Pastor Julie once preached, a dandelion will rejoice if you love it or if you have great disdain for it! You can mow them down, poison them, and root them out, yet they will return, proclaiming life and resurrection to the world, and shouting, "Hallelujah!" This resilience has made them a powerful symbol of strength, determination, and the ability to overcome adversity.
- Dandelions undergo a remarkable transformation from bright yellow flowers to delicate, wispy seed heads. Such metamorphosis inspires us to shed old habits, embrace new beginnings, and trust in our ability to evolve.
- Folklore suggests that when you blow on a dandelion puff, your dreams and wishes will be carried on the wind, eventually coming true. Dandelions are persistent messengers, diligent in their duty to bring glory and brightness to the earth, rain or shine. Indeed, dandelions have come to symbolize hope, resilience, transformation, and freedom!

See much more about dandelions (as well as about startling saints, stained glass, and twisted theology) in *Mosaics of Vision: Poems and More for Meditation and Action*.

About the Prayer Quilt on the Altar

On Sunday, May 11, 2025, our congregation was grieving the loss of Bernie Foulk, our beloved friend, organist, and spouse of Jackie Stilger, our Music Director. With aching hearts, we invited those present in Worship to join in creating a prayer quilt for Jackie. Through the piecing together of squares of fabric into a mosaic of our memories, gratitude, and prayers written upon them, we would create a lasting and sacred gift of love.

That morning, 130 individuals each created a square. On Monday, the squares were assembled by quilters in our congregation. Over the following days, Mary Galer, a friend of Bernie's and Jackie's through the Kalamazoo Ringers, quilted and completed our prayer quilt. It was a collective effort, connecting with those beyond our church community, including those present and those there in spirit.

Out of our grief came a new whole, sewn together by the thread of gratitude for Bernie's life, gifts, and presence in the life of this community. We trust that in the making and wrapping of this quilt around Jackie, we have become ever more connected to each other—in ways that can transform and bring healing to us all.

It is our hope that the love written on this quilt, and sewn into every stitch, reminds Jackie of how much we loved Bernie and how much she is loved.