

May 24, 2026

10:00 a.m

212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan



First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo

269.381.6340  
umc-kzo.org



## ***Pentecost Sunday***

Come, Holy Spirit. On this Pentecost Sunday, we welcome the fire, wind, and breath of God to awaken the Church and send us out in love. We are invited to step into the story of Pentecost and participate in the pouring out of God's Spirit upon the people.

The prophet Isaiah proclaims, the Spirit of God hovers upon God's anointed, bringing gifts of the Spirit. Come, as the Spirit fills our hearts, steadies our minds, guides our choices, and gives us strong faith as we root ourselves in a renewed reverence for God's creating ways.

Come, Spirit, Come.

## 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.

◆ UMH - United Methodist Hymnal ◆ FWS-The Faith We Sing

**PRELUDE** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” by Roger C. Wilson

*Chimes*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Deb Search Willoughby Church Council Co-Chair*

One: The wind at our backs,

**All: we entered Jerusalem.**

One: Only to watch him die on the cross.

**All: It spiraled so quickly.**

One: Trial. Torture. Crucifixion. Death.

**All: But on the third day**

One: the breath of God blew new life into our futures.

**All: Forty days with the risen Jesus.**

One: Before he ascended,

**All: Jesus reminded us that the Spirit will come.**

One: It was on Pentecost.

**All: It was on Pentecost**

One: when the wind breathed

**All: into each and every one of us.**

Let us pray:

Sacred breath,

move through this room.

Unlock a song within your people.

Breathe into us

your hopes and dreams

for a world filled with justice, love, and peace. Amen.

~ written by Tim Graves

**\*OPENING HYMN & LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLES #2117** *Spirit of God*  
(FWS-black hymnal)

**WELCOME**

*Rev. Julie Kline*

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Rev. Matt Weiler*

One: Huddled in fear of what others will think,

**All: Of what others will do,  
Of what God will do.**

One: Sometimes we are like passive bystanders:

**All: Making fun of what we do not understand,  
Tearing down what is sacred to another  
Waiting until we are sure it's okay.**

One: Always God is with us:

**All: Nudging us like a gentle breeze,  
Stirring us with flames of hope  
Speaking to us with words engraved in our hearts.**

One: In silent prayer, let us offer God our confession and our hope.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Siblings in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News.

**All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

In this moment, we pause to recognize the gift of community God has placed around us. We invite you to turn to your neighbors with a warm greeting, offering words or gestures of peace. May this simple exchange remind us that we do not walk this journey alone, but side by side, held together by the Spirit as we continue in worship.

**HYMN #2233** *This is Where Children Belong* (FWS-black hymnal)

Children are invited to come forward to the altar for a special message. Those who feel shy or prefer a little support are welcome to come with a parent, older sibling, or trusted grown-up. All are embraced in this moment of learning and joy, whether you come forward or stay right where you are.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Acts 2:1–21**

**Matt:** Today we won't only *hear* Pentecost—we'll *step into it*. Children and congregation, you are invited to participate in this storytelling. Church, take a breath. Imagine you are in that room, long ago, shoulder to shoulder, waiting, praying, not quite sure what God will do next.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

**Christine:** When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning, there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

**Julia:** “*Without warning there was a sound...*” Children and all, can you make the sound of a strong wind? Wait, listen, then the Holy Spirit spread. What do you do when you hear something you can't explain?

**All: We listen.**

**Julie:** “*It filled the whole building.*” Place your hands around your ears. Can you hear it? Not a breeze—something stronger. Not destructive—alive.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

**Matt:** Now imagine the moment it goes from sound...to speech. From waiting...to witness.

**Deb:** There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?”

**Julie:** They hear *their own mother tongue*. Church, when God speaks in a way you can understand, what does that tell you?

**All: God is speaking to me.**

**Matt:** This next part is a roll call of the world. If you're on the **right side** of the room, read the first line aloud with me. If you're on the **left side**, read the second line with Pastor Julie.

**Right:** Parthians, Medes, and Elamites;

**Left:** Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia,

**Right:** Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

**Left:** Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;

**Right:** Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes;

**Left:** Even Cretans and Arabs!

**Julie:** "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

**All: We are included.**

**Christine:** Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

**Matt:** The Bible is honest: some people are amazed, some are confused, and some make jokes. Church, when you don't understand what God is doing, what can you still do?

**All: Keep asking. Keep praying.**

**Deb:** Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

**Julie:** Even in holy moments, there will be voices that try to explain it away. But God is not mocked—God is moving.

**Christine:** Let us rise in spirit and body as we listen to Peter speak. As he speaks, when you hear the word "**Spirit**", softly say, "**Pour it out.**"

**All: Speak, Lord.**

**Deb:** That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

“In the Last Days,” God says,  
“I will pour out my Spirit

**All: “Pour it out.”**

on every kind of people:  
Your sons will prophesy,  
also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions,  
your old men dream dreams.  
When the time comes,  
I’ll pour out my Spirit

**All: “Pour it out.”**

**Christine:** On those who serve me, men and women both,  
and they’ll prophesy.  
I’ll set wonders in the sky above  
and signs on the earth below,  
Blood and fire and billowing smoke,  
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,  
Before the Day of the Lord arrives,  
the Day tremendous and marvelous;  
And whoever calls out for help  
to me, God, will be saved.”

**Matt:** This promise is not for a select few, not for a single nation, not for one generation. It is for *every kind of people*.

**All: Whoever calls out for help to the Lord will be saved.**

**Julie:** God, do again what You did then—fill this room, fill Your people, and make the good news clear in every language of the heart. Together we sing our praises, thanking God for the gifts of the Spirit!

**\*HYMN #2026** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

(FWS-black hymnal)

**BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 11:1-9** *Christine Charles Church Council Co-Chair*

**MESSAGE** “Take Our Hearts and Set Them on Fire”

*Rev. Julie Kline*

**HYMN #2118** *Holy Spirit, Come to Us* (just refrain 3-4x)

(FWS-black hymnal)

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

May we spread the Good News with courage ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we trust in God with piety ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we approach you with reverence and awe ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we listen to your counsel and do the right thing ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we seek understanding of what you teach ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we grow in wisdom and put you before all else ... **Come Holy Spirit**

May we have the knowledge to see as you see ... **Come Holy Spirit**

Spirit of God ... **hear our prayer**

Fire of our souls ... **hear our prayer**

Promise of our Savior ... **hear our prayer**

Source of inspiration ... **hear our prayer**

Softener of hearts ... **hear our prayer**

Mover of minds... **hear our prayer**

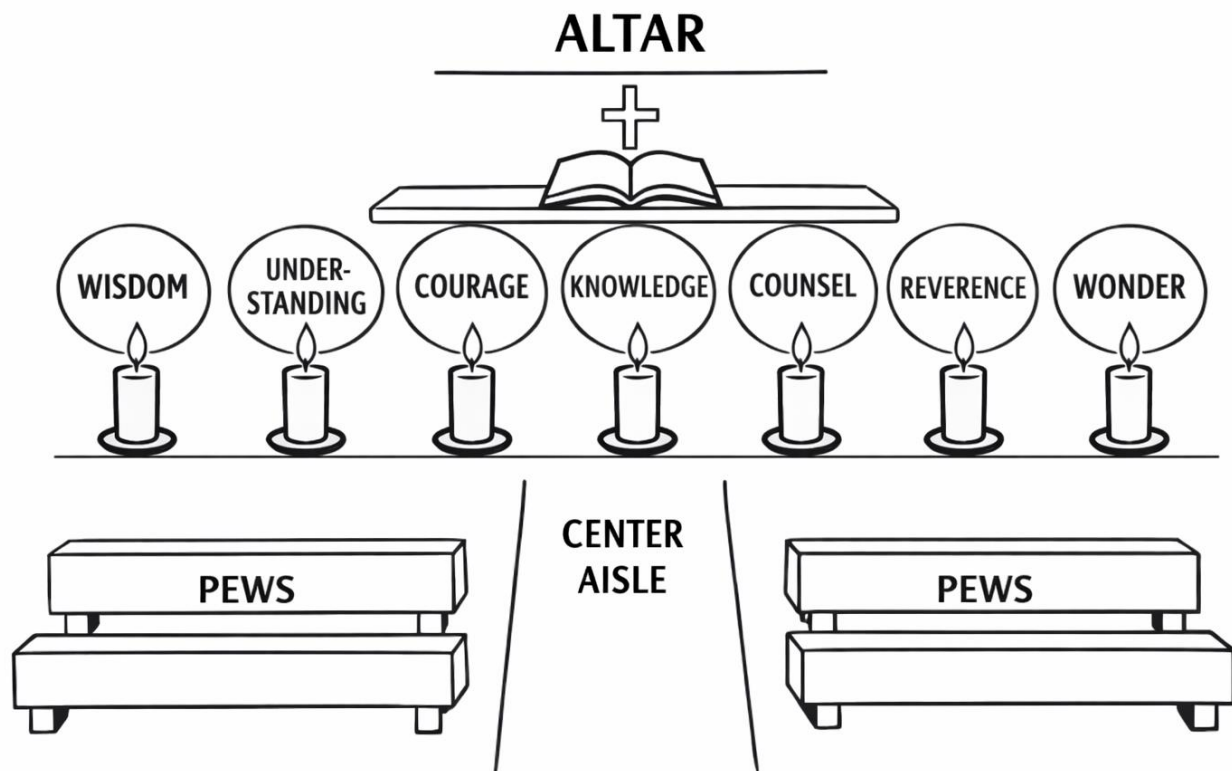
Light to our path... **hear our prayer**

Merciful Spirit... **hear our prayer**

## **\*ANOINTING**

You are invited to come forward for anointing at the candle that represents the gift of the Spirit you seek to be strengthened in. Pastors and Stephen Ministers will be waiting at each candle to offer a gentle prayer of blessing. Come as you feel led, trusting the Spirit to meet you in this moment of grace. You may also choose to remain seated, resting in the assurance that the Spirit meets you right where you are.

PLEASE SEE CANDLE DIAGRAM ON NEXT PAGE



## LORD'S PRAYER

***All: 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** "Celtic Heart" by Herman Beeftink

*Kait Garrison - Flute*

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

**All: 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**

*One: Please join me in dedicating our gifts.*

**All: Empowering God, you are the one who pours out your Spirit, not withholding your gifts but sharing them freely. As your Spirit-filled people, we now offer our gifts in response to your boundless generosity. Use these offerings to fuel the prophetic witness of your church, to bless those still yearning for hope, and to build a community where all are seen, heard, and loved. May our giving, like your Spirit, be poured out without limit. Amen.**

### **OUR SHARED LIFE**

**\*HYMN #2237** *As a Fire is Meant for Burning* (FWS-black hymnal)

### **BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE** “Song of the Faithful” by Robert J. Hughes

### **◆ Pentecost Invitation**

If you are new or curious — **Pentecost** is the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming among God’s people, filling hearts with courage, wisdom, and love. It marks the beginning of the Church’s mission in the world and reminds us that faith is lived not only in sacred spaces but also in everyday moments — in kindness shared, hope renewed, and grace extended. We invite you to join us again as we continue this journey of faith together, discovering how the Spirit moves through ordinary days and transforms them into holy ones.



First United  
Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo

Sunday May 24, 2026

# Church Announcements

## ASP Fundraiser LAST WEEK

This is the final week to join in the fun with our Bulletin Board ASP Fundraiser! Each envelope is a surprise—filled with student-created artwork and a meaningful youth quote to brighten your day. Simply pick any envelope remaining—the number on it is the amount you'll pledge to give. Then return your gift in whatever way is easiest: drop it by the office, place it in next week's offertory, or give online (just be sure to note it for the ASP fundraiser). Choose your envelope, enjoy the creativity, and help send our youth out to serve. It's giving with heart—and a little extra sparkle!

## Food Pantry Needs

**Most needed: toilet paper, condiments, coffee (ground/instant), and small personal care items (lotion, shampoo, deodorant).**

**Drop-off: Large bin in front of the food pantry. Thank you!**

## Manna - Young Adult Ministry

Manna is a ministry for young adults that meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the church's lower level Youth Lounge

## First Beats Musical Performance

**First Beats is back with their annual musical, Storms—a fun, heartfelt look at Jesus calming the storm and the “storms” kids face today.**

**Join us Friday, June 5 at 7:00 PM (desserts included... because even stormy nights deserve a sweet forecast) or Sunday, June 7 in worship.**

**We'll also receive a special offering for June's Mission of the Month: flood and tornado relief. Come cheer on our kids and let them brighten your week.**

## Ministry with Community – Urgent Needs

Requested: shoes (all types/sizes), underwear, and socks.

Drop off at 500 N. Edwards St., 9am–2pm (back door).

Volunteers needed: Mondays, 8–10am or 12–2pm (kitchen help). Contact [zgarton@ministrywithcommunity.org](mailto:zgarton@ministrywithcommunity.org).

## Bay Shore Summer Camp

Bayshore Summer Camp is back August 10–13, Monday–Thursday, 8:30 AM–4 PM, and it's totally free for children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Kids will enjoy a full week of adventure, games, faith, friends, and summer joy.



Sign up today: <https://www.bayshorecamp.org>

## Congratulations to Jim Cupper!

We celebrate Jim on receiving the Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo 2026 Gulnar Husain Volunteer Award. Thank you, Jim, for your dedication, compassion, and faithful service to our community. Your work makes a lasting difference!



Congratulations to Donna Dunyai, Pat Elzerman, Christina Stamper, and the late Sally Stevens on receiving the YWCA Women of Achievement Award.

Thank you for your extraordinary service to our church and the Kalamazoo community.

### Mosaics of Vision Booklet Announcement

A new booklet featuring theological reflections, personal insights, and poetry inspired by recent FUMC Academy classes and workshops is now available. Themes include faith controversies, the lives of saints, our stained-glass story, and hope-filled creativity—connected to our “Our Story is Never Over” vision. Printed copies available on the table near the sanctuary entrance.

### Mission of the Month: Growing Community Garden



Support the garden at 2800 Gull Rd. with needed items: toilet/paper towel cores, egg cartons, gloves, snacks, lemonade mix, paper grocery bags, 5-gallon buckets, and basic tools.

Donations: Place in Mission of the Month box by the Food Pantry. Financial gifts (memo: GCG) also appreciated.



## FUMC FREE STORE

Mark your calendars! Our next FUMC Free Store returns on Wednesday, June 17, complete with a community-favorite hot dog lunch.



### Donation Drop-Offs:

- Sunday, June 14 before & after worship
- Monday–Tuesday, June 15–16, 9 AM–4 PM



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. Your generosity—and your hands—make this joyful community event possible.

## 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 this & 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.

### Today's Worship Leaders:

*Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Deb Search Willoughby & Christine Charles*

### Associate Director of Music:

*Cari Beth Croak*

### Musicians:

*Rev. Buff Coe - Organ  
Kait Garrison - Flute*

### Dove Flier:

*Jai Tiarks*

### Additional Anoiniters:

*Christiane Stakely  
Judy Kingsley*

### Audio-Visual Team:

*Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes*

### 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.

## Cuppa Inspiration



Need a little boost to get through the week? Cuppa Inspiration goes live with Pastor Julie on Facebook every Wednesday at noon—and you can watch anytime afterward. It's a midweek moment of connection and conversation to help you refocus on loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

Grab your favorite mug and tune in for a spiritual pick-me-up that lasts longer than the coffee.

### Special Service Sunday May 31: "Making a Pivot in the Midst of Life's Whirlwind"

Our May 31st service will feature a dramatic staged reading by Buddy Hannah, Laurie Nelson, Len Schoenherr, Jonathan Richardson, Jai Tiark, Daniel Whitcomb, and Cheryl Almeda. Written and directed by Buddy Hannah.

### Memorial Service for Mary Lee Dimond

Join us in celebrating the life and faith of Mary Lee Dimond on  
**Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 2:00 PM**

All are welcome as we gather in love, remembrance, and gratitude for Mary Lee's life and the light she shared with our community.

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



*First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God.*

*We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity.*

*We welcome all with open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

### Church Staff

Call: 269-381-6340

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

### This Week's Events

#### Sunday, May 24

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary

#### Monday, May 25

Holiday – Building Closed

11:40 am Similarities (N/A) – Wesley Hall

#### Tuesday, May 26

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom

9:30 am Yoga with Anna – Parlor

10:00 am Book Club – Chapel

11:40 am Similarities (N/A) – Wesley Hall

2:00 pm Mary Lee Dimond Memorial - Sanctuary

4:15 pm First Beats – Choir Room

4:30 – 6:30 pm Food Pantry Open

6:30 pm Manna – Youth Center

#### Wednesday, May 27

8:00 am Yoga with Julie – Zoom

9:00 am Dawn Patrol – Parlor

11:40 am Similarities (N/A) – Wesley Hall

12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration – Facebook Live

12:30 – 2:30 pm Food Pantry Open

#### Thursday, May 28

9:30 am First Stitchers

9:30 am Yoga with Anna – Parlor

11:40 am Similarities (N/A) – Wesley Hall

3:30 pm – Outreach Team Meeting - Parlor

Cover Photo Credit: Deb Search Willoughby