

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 17 @10:00 a.m.

Ascension of the Lord
"A Weird and Wonderful Goodbye"
Rev. Julie Kline
Luke 24: 44-53

May 24 @10:00 a.m.

Pentecost
"Take Our Hearts and
Set Them on Fire"
Rev. Julie Kline
Acts 2:1-21; Isaiah 11:1-9

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

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.***

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. David Newhouse, Julia Librizzi
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Handbell Ensemble
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Lucas McGinnis, Kennedy Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perks - Please stop in the Perks Cafe area after worship for coffee, tea, and fellowship.

Adult Academy Class: "The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself"- Led by John Clark after worship in the Parlor. Much of what passes as information about Islam is disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. In "The Jesus Fatwah," a dvd-based series from "Living the Questions," Islamic and Christian scholars offer reliable information about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we all can build relationships across the lines of faith. The class will help us better understand the second-largest faith tradition in the world.

Children's Sunday School is in its last month for this school year! But don't worry, we will be back in September! Sunday School for 4-year old - 5th grade children will meet today after worship in room 206. We will also meet next Sunday, May 17th.

Today is the last Sunday of our Youth Summer ASP Fundraiser! Check out our Youth Mission Fundraiser on the bulletin board to see how you can help raise \$11,000 for our ASP summer mission trip!

Parents' Night Euchre Tournament - Friday, May 15th from 6:30 - 9:30pm in Wesley Hall. Join us for a fun and relaxed Parents' Night as we gather for a friendly Euchre tournament. No partner needed—players will rotate throughout the evening, making

it a great chance to meet new people and enjoy some lighthearted competition. While the adults play, the kids will be treated to pizza, games, and a movie in the youth lounge, supervised by some of our wonderful church teens. Feel free to bring a snack to share and any non-alcoholic beverages you'd like for the night. It's the perfect way to unwind, connect, and enjoy an evening together. We'd love to see you there!

****There will be no Youth Group tonight or next Sunday** due to Mother's Day and the following event:

All Youth Group Day of Service at the Sunnyside UMC Community Garden - Sunday May 17 from 9am - 4:30pm. The ASP Teams of both Portage Chapel Hill and FUMC will gather to work, worship, play, and grow together through service in preparation for our summer experience. And while this is a required day for all ASP Volunteers, we welcome and encourage all youth and families to attend. For more information contact Rev. Matt Weiler at mweiler@umc-kzo.org.

Faith Milestones is our youth group for 3rd - 5th grade children. Our last meeting of the year is a fun one! Sunday, May 17th will be our 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.

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

The Kalamazoo Ringers will perform their concert, "Seasons," here on Saturday, May 16. There will be two shows, one at 3:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free. A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted. Come and hear one of Michigan's premier handbell ensembles in our very own sanctuary!

Crop Walk Preliminary Results: The Outreach would like to thank the congregation for their very generous support of this year's Crop Hunger Walk. While the final totals for the walk will not be known for another three to four weeks, the preliminary totals indicate that a little more than \$18,000 has been raised to date. Of that amount, FUMC donated \$5,440, or an increase of almost \$1,000 over last year. For walkers who have not yet turned in their donation envelopes, thank you for your continued efforts. Once you have received all donations, please drop off your envelopes within the next two weeks. They may be brought to the church office (open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) or given to a church staff member on Sunday so they can be secured properly.

May 10, 2026

10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

Disciples Transform the World

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 28:16-20



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.

The Vision of the United Methodist Church:

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.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Cavatina* (Stanley Myers, arr. by Larry Sue)

Handbell Ensemble

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. David Newhouse

One: Family of God, who are you?

ALL: We are disciples, formed by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

One: Family of God, why do you gather?

ALL: To worship God who loves us and teaches us to love our neighbors, ourselves, and all creation.

One: Family of God, how do you worship God?

ALL: By loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

One: Family of God, receive this good news; In our loving, our serving, and our leading, we are not alone – God is with us!

ALL: We come to worship God by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously in our community and through our worldwide connections, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

***HYMN #57** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

(UMH - red hymnal)

WELCOME

Rev. Matt Weiler

OPENING PRAYER & LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Rev. Julie Kline

*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 #473 *Lead Me, Lord*

(UMH-red hymnal)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may live as disciples who transform the world. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Receive the good news; Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

EPISTLE READING Romans 12:1-8

Rev. David Newhouse

HYMN #2227 *We Are the Body of Christ*

(FWS-black hymnal)

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 28:16-20

Rev. David Newhouse

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!

SERMON "Conform No More"

Rev. Matt Weiler

HYMN #399 *Take My Life, and Let It Be*

(UMH-red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 *Beach Spring Stomp* (B.F. White, arr. Jeffrey Honore) Handbell Ensemble

***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

Generous God, you call us together as the body of Christ and equip us to live as your disciples in our local communities and through our connections around the world. Bless this offering we bring today that it will empower us to faithfully proclaim this vision with our whole lives. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #92** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

(UMH - red hymnal)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (Traditional American melody, arr. Joel Raney)

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 10

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, May 11

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

Tuesday, May 12

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, May 13

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
2:00 pm CARES Committee meeting

Thursday, May 14

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall
1:00 pm Disciple Bible Study - Parlor
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

Friday, May 15

6:30 pm Parents' Night: Euchre - Wesley Hall

Saturday, May 16

3:00 pm & 7:00 pm - Kalamazoo Ringers