

## UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

**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

**May 31 @10:00 a.m.**

Dramatic Reading Performance  
"A Pivot in the Midst  
of Life's Whirlwind"  
Matthew 7:1-5, 24-29

## 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

**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. Dr. Douglas Vernon, Julia Librizzi

**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

**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. There will be no class next Sunday due to Memorial Day weekend.

**Children's Sunday School:** Today is the last meeting of this school year! But don't worry, Sunday School for 4-year old - 5th grade children will be back in September! We will meet today after worship in room 206.

**\*\*There will be no Youth Group tonight.\*\***  
Instead we will be participating in:

**All Youth Group Day of Service** at the Sunnyside UMC Community Garden - Happening today from 9:00am to 4:30pm. The ASP Teams of both Portage Chapel Hill and FUMC 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 as well. For more information, contact Rev. Matt Weiler ([mweiler@umc-kzo.org](mailto:mweiler@umc-kzo.org)).

**Faith Milestones:** Our last meeting of the school year is TONIGHT from 5-7pm. Please note the time change! This is a super fun time of running around downtown finding markers and statues. This event will happen rain or shine, so please dress for the weather and be ready to be outside. On our scavenger hunt the children will get dinner and a treat downtown as a celebration of our year together. They do not need to bring any money with them. Please meet in the parking lot by 5pm! If you have any questions, you can email Julia Librizzi at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto: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](mailto:ruthbutters@gmail.com).

**Crop Walk Preliminary Results:** The Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for their very generous support of this year's Crop Hunger Walk. For walkers who have not yet turned in their donation envelopes, thank you for your continued efforts. Once you have received all donations, we would appreciate it if you would drop off your envelopes by May 24th. 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.

**ASP Fundraiser News:** Many thanks to all who have supported the youth group Summer ASP Trip through our new envelope fundraiser! To date we have raised \$6,244. With a little more than half of our goal raised we are going to extend the fundraiser TWO MORE weeks through Sunday May 24. This is a fundraiser in which a little bit truly goes a long way. If the remaining envelopes are filled we'll raise another \$5,081.

This money will support young people in service and mission in Southeastern Kentucky, in Harlan County. It will support building materials for porches, ramps, roofs and more. It will support vehicles and gas, meals and snacks. It will support ASP staff who will direct our youth and the community center in Harlan County that will host and feed our youth. Your dollars will make a huge impact on our young people's lives and on Harlan County, Kentucky! Thank you for your support!

**Dramatic Reading Performance:** On May 31st, our worship service will include a presentation of "Making a Pivot in the Midst of Life's Whirlwind"—written and directed by Buddy Hannah, a local playwright and member of our sister church Allen Chapel A.M.E—and starring seven members of our church community. This dramatic reading is part of the ongoing "Our Story is Never Over" Project and is compiled of bits and pieces from each of the Pivots. Be sure to join us for this special event!

May 17, 2026

10:00 a.m.

 **First United Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo**

212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340  
[umc-kzo.org](http://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** *Sonata in C (Selected from "Pieces for a Musical Clock")* (G.F. Handel)

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Douglas Vernon

One: Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

**ALL: We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!**

One: We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

**ALL: We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!**

One: We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

**ALL: We come to praise God for the blessings of community!**

One: Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ's Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

**ALL: We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #312** *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

(UMH - red hymnal)

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

## WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

## OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, Creator of all things, you have raised Christ to rule at the heart of the human story, present in all beings, through the Spirit of love to bless us, keep us, and lead us in your ways. May your Word be made flesh again in Scripture, in our worship, and in all our lives and in our living. Open our hearts, God, and speak to us. Amen.**

## 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.*

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *O God of Light* (Prospect from Southern Harmony, arr. J. Nelson) Chancel Singers

O God of light, whose mercy flows,  
Across the lands where sorrow grows,  
Bring peace to hearts by fear confined,  
And heal the wounds of humankind.  
Where nations rage and weapons rise,  
Let wisdom open blinded eyes;  
Teach us to walk the humble way,  
And turn our swords from war today.  
O Christ, our peace, our hope, our song,  
To you the weary world belongs;  
Until all tears and wars shall cease,  
Sustain us in your perfect peace.

**POEM** "Enlighten the Eyes of My Heart" (Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

**\*GOSPEL READING** Luke 24: 44-53

Rev. Dr. Douglas Vernon

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*  
Blessing the Children

(FWS-black hymnal)

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

**SERMON** "A Weird and Wonderful Goodbye"

Rev. Julie Kline

**HYMN #2166** *Christ Beside Me*

(FWS-black hymnal)

## PASTORAL PRAYER & 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** *Hands Are Knocking* (Kyle Pederson)

Chancel Singers

Naftahhu athhanana, Alhamdulillah (We open our minds, thanks to God. Alleluia)  
Naftahhu qulubana, Alhamdulillah (We open our hearts, thanks to God. Alleluia)  
Namuddu aydeeyana, Alhamdulillah (We reach out our hands, thanks to God, Alleluia)  
Hands are Knockin' Brother, will you let them in? Sister, will you let them in?

**\*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

**God of Presence, even as Christ ascended, you did not leave us alone. While he was blessing them, you were preparing us to carry the story forward, to be your witnesses, to live in hope and power. May these gifts be a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe us with courage. Remind us that your Spirit goes with us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be your church in the world. Amen.**

## OUR SHARED LIVES

**\*HYMN #400** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

(UMH - red hymnal)

## BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** *Presto from Concerto 1 in C Major* (Vivaldi/Bach)

*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, May 17

10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary  
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages  
12:15 pm Confirmation Class - Room 305  
5:00 pm Faith Milestones

### Monday, May 18

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

### Tuesday, May 19

9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
12:30 pm Staff meeting - Parlor  
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 20

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 21

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall  
3:30 pm Outreach meeting - Parlor