

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 5 @10:00 a.m.
Freedom
"Free for Love"
Rev. Julie Kline
Galatians 5:1, 13-14;
1 Peter 2:16-17

July 12 @10:00 a.m.
Love Moves Toward
ASP Team Commissioning
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
Jim Tiffany..... Custodian
Ruth Butters Young Adult Resident

Today's Guest Speaker: Rebecca Wilson

Rebecca Wilson (she/her) is a queer poet and storyteller. A proud Michigander, rooted in



Flint and grounded in Detroit, she is driven by an upbringing in the Vehicle and Motor cities. Her words are a weaving of experience, faith, spirituality, identity, and culture. Humble and witty, honest and

prophetic, she is uniquely gifted at bringing people together, tending gently to harsh realities, and stirring transformation.

Like five generations before her, she was born and raised in the teachings of Jesus and John Wesley. Before the United Methodist Church became a source of deep harm it was a place of belonging. She lives and writes in the tension of these two truths.

Her second book, *Not My Grandmother's Hymnal: Composing a Curious Faith* was published in March 2026. A memoir, a memorial, a tribute, and a testimony, these poems explore the religious practices and theological beliefs we inherit, inviting readers to creatively consider what it means to be human and divine. Learn more about her work at 10CAMELS.com.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rebecca Wilson, Deb Search Willoughby, Julia Librizzi, Diane Owen-Rogers, Lori Owen-Rogers, Christine Charles, and Jai Tiarks

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes, Elena Tancredi, Diego Menchinger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us after worship for POET TALK with Rebecca Wilson. In this interactive conversation, she'll share more about her new book, her grandmother, her faith, and what it means to re-imagine inherited hymns. She'll bring a few items for show and tell and invites you to bring your questions and curiosities. Signed copies of *Not My Grandmother's Hymnal: Composing a Curious Faith* will be available for purchase.

Restorative Yoga meets at FUMC on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in the Parlor.

Led by Ana Lucia Castañeda, this form of yoga focuses on gentle stretching and breathing. All are welcome, even if you've never done yoga before. There is no fee, but Ana welcomes donations.

KLUMP Softball League: Thursday evenings at Pathfinder Church, 8740 S. Westnedge Avenue, Portage. Come play or just cheer us on then join us for ice cream after the game. Contact Jay Gross for more information: jaynlaura5@gmail.com.

This week's games, Thursday July 2:

- Westwood UMC vs. FUMC - 6:15pm
- Cherry Creek vs. Portage Pathfinder - 7:45pm

Our July Mission of the Month: school supplies for Spring Valley Elementary School. Following is a list of supplies that can be purchased and placed in the Mission of the Month bin near the food pantry:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Pencil boxes | Water bottles |
| Pencils | Sticky notes |
| Clorox wipes | Lined paper |
| Tissues | Band-Aids |
| Paper towels | Pens |
| White board markers | Erasers |
| Backpacks | Whiteout |
| Erasers | Binders |

Thank you for helping students in our community!

NEW WORSHIP SERIES begins next Sunday:

"Americans Make Great Neighbors: Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary" - a 4-week sermon series on service, freedom, innovation, and diversity

This series explores what it looks like for followers of Jesus to live as good neighbors in our communities. When neighbor love takes root on the street level, it strengthens the whole nation one household at a time. Each week explores a neighborly virtue that can strengthen our shared life: serving others, stewarding freedom, using creativity for good, and honoring the diverse people God has made. Grounded in our Wesleyan roots, we remember that all our outward movements of love are a response to God's grace and love that comes first to us. Our aim isn't to coerce or force our ways upon others but to live out Christlike love in the everyday places where we live, work, and worship, to build a vibrant community that is concerned for the well-being of all.

Attn. Parents: There will be no Godly Play during worship next Sunday, July 5 – there will still be nursery for infants through 4-year-olds. Children are invited to stay in worship that day.

The flowers in the chancel today are in celebration of the life of Wanda Boekhout.

June 28, 2026

10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

PRIDE SUNDAY

Exodus 15:19-27 & Luke 10:38-42



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 *Petite March in G Major* (Malcolm Arnold)

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

***OPENING HYMN** *Welcome*

Lori Owen Rogers, soloist

Refrain

Sing-ing wel - come, wel-come to this place. You're in - vit - ed to
 come and know God's grace. All are wel-come the love of God to share 'cause
 all of us are wel - come here;
 all are wel- come in this place.

Words by Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller Music by Mark A. Miller copyright 2007 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company All rights reserved Used with permission One License #A-717536

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 15:19-27

Deb Search Willoughby

HYMN *God of the Women*

1. God of the wom en who an-swered your call, trust - ing your prom ise
 2. God of the wom en who walked Je - sus' way, giv - ing their re-sour -ces,
 3. God of the wom en long put to the test, left out of sto-ries, for-
 4. God of the wo men who ran from the tomb, prayed with the o-thers in
 5. O God of Phoe be and min - is - ters all, may we be joy-ful in
 giv - ing their all, wo - men like Sar - ah and Han - nah and
 learn - ing to pray, Ma - ry, Jo - an - na, Sus - an - na, and
 got - ten, op - pressed, qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my
 that up - per room, then felt your Spi - rit on Pen - te - cost
 answer-ing your call. Give us the strength of your Spi - rit so
 Ruth give us their cour - age to live in your truth.
 more may we give free - ly as they did be - fore.
 birth?" in Je - sus' dy - ing you show us our worth.
 Day may we so glad - ly pro - claim you to - day.
 near that we may share in your min - is - try here.

***GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 10:38-42

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!

MESSAGE "Bitter Water, Sweet Refrain: Remembering and Re-imagining Inherited Songs"

Rebecca Wilson

POEM "Rules for Singing" (Rebecca Wilson)

Read by Diane Owen-Rogers, Lori Owen-Rogers, Christine Charles, and Jai Tiarks

This poem takes its spark from John Wesley's "Rules for Singing," instructions meant to help a congregation sing with attention, courage, and heart. But here, the rules loosen into invitation: to sing honestly, question faithfully, and let inherited songs be comfort, challenge, memory, and possibility. As we listen, may we hear both the wisdom we have received and the freedom to re-compose faith in voices that are fully our own.

HYMN SING

You are invited to choose a hymn and raise your hand to contribute to this time of collective singing. Hymns have a way of carrying us: sometimes comforting us with words we know by heart, sometimes challenging us with truths we are still learning to live, and sometimes helping us re-configure our faith as we grow, question, heal, and hope. As we sing together, may we listen for the hymns that have shaped us, the songs that stretch us, and the Spirit who keeps teaching us new harmonies of love.

CALL TO OFFERING

HYMN SING

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE *Mad Rush* (Philip Glass)

In memory of Bernie Foulk on his birthday, June 29th

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.

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.**

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, June 28
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Poet Talk with Rebecca Wilson

Monday, June 29
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, June 30
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, July 1
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, July 2
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities (N.A.) - Wesley Hall