

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 26 @10:00 a.m.
Diversity
"Many People, One Neighbor Love"
Rev. Julie Kline
1 Corinthians 12:12–26;
Romans 12:9–18

August 2 @10:00 a.m.
Communion Sunday
"Naming and Leaving"
Rev. Matt Weiler
Psalm 17:1-7,15; Genesis 32:22-31

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE OUR GUEST TODAY! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center.

Children are welcome! Child care with trained staff is provided on the second floor for infants to 4-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

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, Dick Shilts, Lisa Coe
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Soloist: Laurie Nelson
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes, Diego Menchinger, Jim Frey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elevator Replacement Underway - Our church elevator is closed through at least the rest of the summer. We appreciate your patience as we replace our aging elevator with a new, modern one that is up to code and will function smoothly and safely for many years to come.

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

The History of "America the Beautiful"

"America the Beautiful" was written by Katharine Lee Bates, a Massachusetts-born poet, scholar and social justice advocate. She wrote the song first as a poem (that was quickly put to music) while visiting Colorado's Pike's Peak in 1893. The official melody was written by Samuel Augustus Ward, originally as a hymn. Awestruck by the "purple mountain majesties" to the west and the "amber waves of grain" far below on the eastern plains, Bates wanted to celebrate the nation's natural beauty. But "America the Beautiful" is as much a critique as a celebration and is remarkably relevant to our own times.

She studied at Wellesley College, graduating in 1880, and taught literature there for four decades, living for most of them with her beloved partner and fellow professor, Katharine Coman. While a student, she told a friend that "if I could write a poem people remembered after I died, I'd consider my life worth living."

Wellesley, one of the first women's colleges in the U.S., encouraged students and faculty alike to be "reformers," to challenge America's flaws. In addition to their teaching duties, Bates and her female colleagues opened Denison Settlement House in Boston in 1892, which supported immigrant women and helped them organize for labor rights. They also advocated for the full equality of women, African Americans, Native Americans, and other minorities, justice for workers, a welcoming attitude toward immigrants, and world peace.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, let us commit ourselves to the unfinished work "America the Beautiful" so eloquently asks of us. (John De Graff, *On Point* PBS)

Parlor. Led by Ana Lucia Castañeda, this form of yoga focuses on gentle stretching and breathing. Ana always checks on the physical wellbeing of everyone and adapts from working on a mat to alternative forms to those needing to do chair exercise. All are welcome, even if you've never done yoga before. There is no fee, but Ana welcomes donations.

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

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.

This week's games, Thursday July 23:

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

July Mission of the Month: school supplies for Spring Valley Elementary School. Following is a list of supplies that would be greatly appreciated:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

Please place donations in the Mission of the Month bin next to the host desk. Thank you for helping students in our community!

July 19, 2026 10:00 a.m.

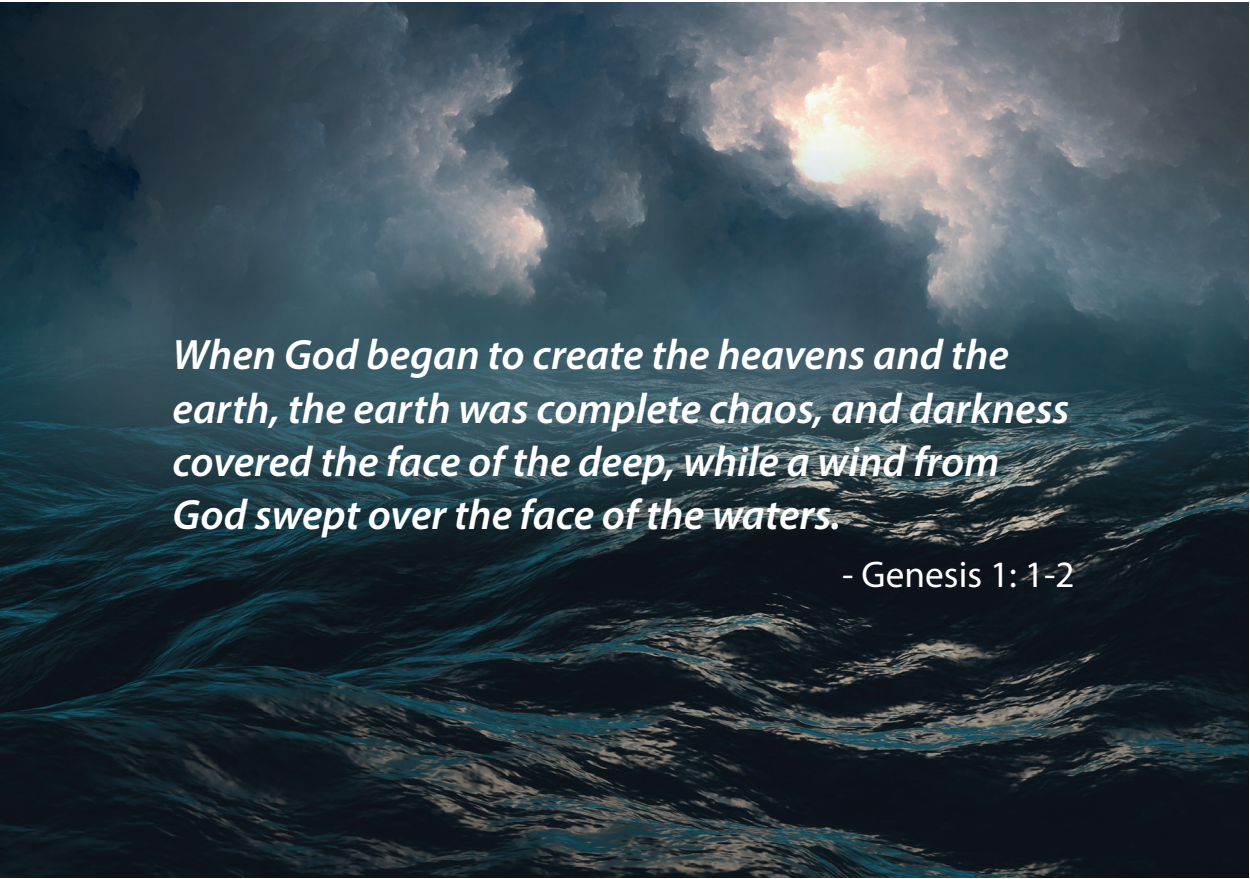
First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street Kalamazoo, Michigan 269.381.6340 umc-kzo.org



★ ★ ★ Week 3: Innovation ★ ★ ★

Matthew 25:14–30; Ephesians 2:10



When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

- Genesis 1: 1-2

Practices for the Week:

- Identify one local problem you can contribute to solving (loneliness, food insecurity, literacy, home repair) and take a first step.
- Ask: "What do I have in my hands?" (skills, tools, networks) and offer it to someone in need.
- Practice "holy curiosity": meet a neighbor or an organization and learn their story before proposing a solution.
- Daily Prayer: "Creator God, use my gifts today for the good of my neighbor and the flourishing of your world."

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 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now (J.G. Walther)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

WELCOME Rev. Julie Kline

CALL TO WORSHIP Dick Shilts

One: In the beginning, God created—bringing order from chaos and light from darkness.
ALL: We are God’s handiwork, made to create and serve for the good of all.
One: With open hands and willing hearts, we gather to worship and offer our gifts.
ALL: Creator God, make us builders of blessing, inspired by your creative Spirit.

*OPENING HYMN #122 God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale (UMH - red hymnal)

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PASSING THE PEACE

Creator God, you call us to join in the work of love and renewal. Awaken our holy curiosity and inspire us to use our gifts for the flourishing of your world. May our worship and our lives reflect your creative Spirit. Amen.
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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creative and generous God, we confess that we sometimes keep our gifts to ourselves or use them in ways that do not bless others. Forgive us for playing it safe or hiding what you’ve entrusted to us. Set us free to risk, create, and serve for your glory and our neighbor’s good.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In Christ, we are God’s handiwork, created for good works.
ALL: The Spirit empowers us to create boldly and serve generously. We are given freedom in forgiveness and called to celebrate love. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 25:14–30 Dick Shilts

One: This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL Lisa Coe
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 “Creating for the Common Good” Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #2243 We All Are One in Mission (FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Julie Kline

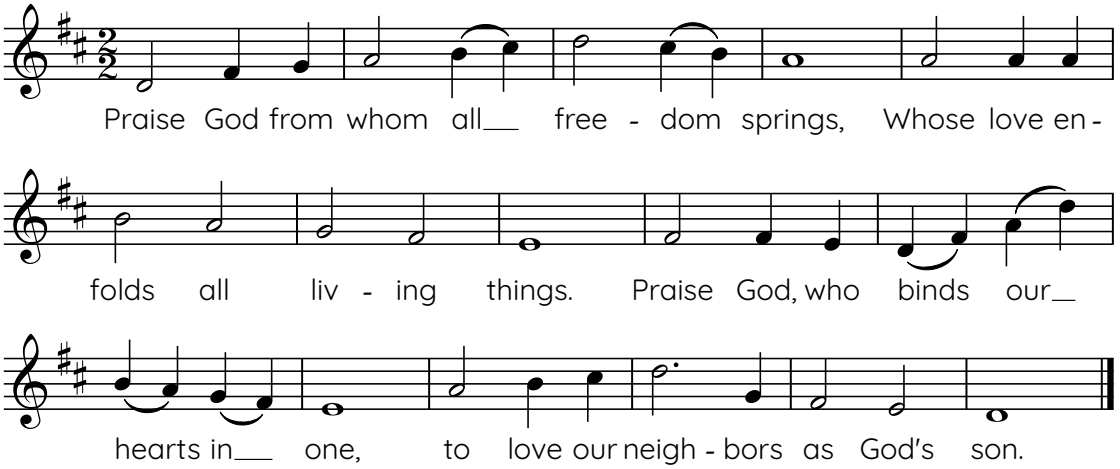
THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands (arr. Margaret Bonds) Laurie Nelson, soloist

*DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all___ free - dom springs, Whose love en -

folds all liv - ing things. Praise God, who binds our___

hearts in___ one, to love our neigh - bors as God’s son.

Tune: Duke Street Attributed to John Hatton, 1793

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We rejoice, O God, that you have entrusted us with gifts and resources. We give joyfully so that our church and community may flourish. May our offerings multiply blessings and spark new possibilities for neighbor love. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

HYMN #696 America the Beautiful (UMH - red hymnal)
See the back of the bulletin for the history of this hymn.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Toccata in C Major (J. Pachelbel)

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, July 19
10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, July 20
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees - Zoom

Tuesday, July 21
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
12:30 pm Staff meeting - Parlor
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, July 22
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
12:30 to 2:30 - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, July 23
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall