

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 12 @10:00 a.m.

Service
"Love Moves Toward"
ASP Team Commissioning
Rev. Matt Weiler
Philippians 2:1-11; Luke 10:25-37

July 19 @10:00 a.m.

Innovation
"Creating for the Common Good"
Rev. Julie Kline
Matthew 25:14-30; Ephesians 2:10

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

Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's Call To Action

In response to racism and bias: as part of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church's vow to resist oppression in all its forms, we commit ourselves to the decisive action that is needed to resist and dismantle racism at every level. This action must go beyond our historically empty rhetoric about repentance and broken promises to be a church that is a credible and active witness for peace, equity, and justice in the face of harm visited upon communities of color. We beckon our clergy and lay leadership to unapologetically shine the light of truth on our church community so that we recognize our complicity in systemic racism, recognize and condemn white supremacy as sin, and seek a deep knowing of what God calls us to do. We make these vows so that every person—especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)—may live in safety, health, and freedom.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Laurie Nelson, Derek Wheaton

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak

Musicians: David Brown, trumpet; Karla Reichert, clarinet

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes, Diego Menchinger, Lucas McGinnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Worship Series begins today: "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.

Be an ASP Prayer Partner! Volunteers will receive a magnet with a picture of an ASP participant and pray for them during the week of their service trip. You will also write a supportive card for your participant for them to open during ASP (but this is a surprise!). The magnets will be available after worship today and next Sunday, July 12, before the team departs on July 19. There are 32 of us going to ASP from FUMC, joined by 17 from Portage Chapel Hill UMC, for a total of 49 participants!

Adult Sunday School has concluded for the summer. We'll resume our classes after Labor Day.

Elevator Replacement Begins 7/8 - Our church elevator will be closed beginning this Wednesday, July 8 and through at least the rest of the summer. We appreciate your patience as we replace our aging

elevator with a new, modern one that will function smoothly and safely for many years to come.

Restorative Yoga Class - with Ana Lucia Castañeda is being offered at FUMC on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 in the Parlor.

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 9:

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

Sunday, July 12 - Potluck after Church

All are welcome to join us for a shared meal in Wesley Hall. Please label your dish, especially if it contains common allergens (nuts, dairy, gluten, etc.) Crockpots can be plugged in before worship, and cold foods can be stored in the big refrigerators in the kitchen. Everyone is invited to eat, whether or not you can bring a dish. Church plates, glassware, and silverware will be available. Lemonade, water, and coffee will be provided. Children and youth are encouraged to be a part of this meal. Above all, come ready to enjoy fellowship and give thanks together.

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 near the welcome desk. Thank you for helping students in our community!

Join the CARES Team!

C - calling and cards
A - acts of kindness
R - reaching out
E - engaged with one another
S - Spirit-led

This ministry team connects and cares for members and friends of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church, especially our elders and those with ongoing health concerns or significant life events. Contact Judy Kingsley at judykings@charter.net to learn more and join our efforts to share God's love or receive CARE from a team member.

July 5, 2026

10:00 a.m.

 **First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo**

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



Galatians 5:1, 13-14; 1 Peter 2:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:17

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 *Deep River* (traditional spiritual arr. Lloyd Larson)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Laurie Nelson

One: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

ALL: Christ has set us free to love, serve, and honor one another.

One: We gather not to use freedom for ourselves, but to offer ourselves to God.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, make us free for love.

Practices for the Week:

- Choose one "lay-down" freedom: give up a preference to make room for someone else.
- Replace a complaint with a constructive contribution (volunteer, mentor, attend a local meeting, encourage a leader).
- Daily prayer: "Spirit of the Lord, make me free in Christ, free to love, to serve, and to honor others today."

HYMN *In This Time of Great Reflection* (see insert)

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PASSING THE PEACE

ALL: Spirit of the Lord, meet us in worship today. Set us free from selfishness, fear, and pride, and make us free in Christ: free to love, free to serve, and free to honor every person as your beloved. 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.

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 5:1, 13–14 and 1 Peter 2:16–17

One: This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

HYMN #2233 *This is Where Children Belong*

Blessing the Children

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

There will be no Godly Play today. Children are invited to return to their seats and remain with their families for the rest of the service. Nursery care for infants through 4-year-olds will be available as usual.

SERMON "Free for Love"

As you come forward to receive communion, you may place your prayer card on the communion table as a tangible reminder of your chosen "lay down freedom." These prayer cards will not be used in worship.

Derek Wheaton

(FWS-black hymnal)

Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #2260 *Let Us Be Bread*

(FWS-black hymnal)

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN SETTING A, p. 17 (UMH - red hymnal)

All are welcome to the meal Jesus hosts. There is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one too old or too young; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. You, who are part of God's creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning by coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup of blessing. Gluten-free bread is served at the stations nearest the communion table. Come, not because you are worthy, but because God is gracious.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS & MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION p. 17

(UMH - red hymnal)

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

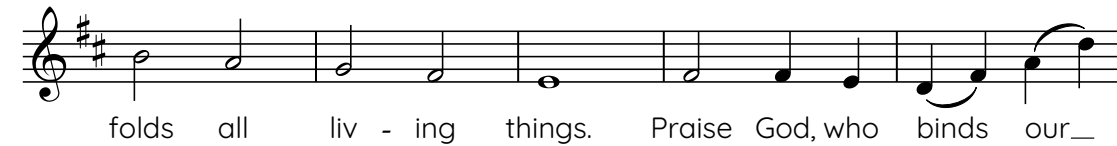
Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Send us out in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others, free in Christ and free for love. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Blessed Assurance with Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

(Phoebe P. Knapp and Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Ruth Elaine Schram)

*DOXOLOGY



Tune: Duke Street Attributed to John Hatton, 1793

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, receive these gifts and the lives we offer with them. Free us from holding too tightly to what is ours, and use all that we give to share your love, serve our neighbors, and build a community of grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

HYMN #437 *This is My Song*

(UMH - red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Come, We That Love the Lord* (Robert Lowry and Isaac Watts, arr. Lloyd Larson)

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, July 5

10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, July 6

11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

1:00 pm Building & Grounds - Parlor

Tuesday, July 7

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 8

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

2:00 pm Cares Committee

Thursday, July 9

9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor

11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall