

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 23 @10:00 a.m.

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler
Exodus 1:8-2:10/Psalm 124

August 30 @10:00 a.m.

13th Sunday after Pentecost
with Celebration of Baptism
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler
Exodus 3:1-15

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. Dr. 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 HamillOffice Manager
Christiane StakelyOffice Assistant
Erika Jones.....Communications
Cody Collmenter Bookkeeper
Bryan Heany..... AV Team Leader
Alison EricsonBuilding Host
Samantha Lee.....Building Host
Jacob EricsonBuilding Host
Jim Tiffany.....Custodian

We are a Reconciling Congregation, Welcoming ALL.



Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Flute - Dana Stewart
Handbells - Samantha Kelly
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Jim Frey, Diego Menchinger, Kennedy Hayes

▶▶ **We are always looking for A/V volunteers.** ◀◀
Training is provided. All ages welcome. We'll work around your availability. Inquire with Bryan Heany for more information: bheany@umc-kzo.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynda Lee Repins Memorial - There will be a memorial service for Lynda Lee Repins on Saturday, August 22 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All who knew her are invited to attend to celebrate her life.

Family Fun Event August 23: Children and Family Ministries will have an end of summer Family Fun Event next Sunday, August 23rd at 3pm at Oshtemo Township Park. We will make goop (all supplies necessary will be provided)! We will have a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass. Table settings and drinks will be provided.

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.

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.

Manna, our young adult ministry, gathers every Tuesday in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-8:00pm. For more information, contact Pastor Matt Weiler at mweiler@umc-kzo.org.

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.

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER:

Chancel Singers: Our first choir rehearsal of the fall will be September 10 at 7:15pm. All who love to sing are welcome!

Sunday School for All Ages will resume September 13 following Sunday worship.

Fall Academy Class: Building off of our exposure this past summer to Christians in Israel/Palestine, we will have a 5-week class called “A Primer on Israel/ Palestine.” We will look at the geography, people, terminology, ancient and contemporary history, and politics of Israel/Palestine, all in an effort to bring more understanding to this intense and violent region, still thought of as “The Holy Land.” The media brings us constant awareness of the actions of most of the actors in the area, and this primer will help us fill in the background and gain greater perspective. The class will run from September 13th through October 11th. John Boley will facilitate.

Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders will have their first meeting on September 13 at 6:00pm in the Youth Lounge.

First Beats: Our children's musical ensemble will begin rehearsals September 15 at 4:15pm. All 3rd - 8th graders are welcome to join to learn and play music together!

Faith Milestones - A youth-group-style meeting for our 3rd - 5th grade children meets once a month during the school year. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 20, 6:00 - 7:30pm. Contact Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org to learn more.

Confirmation Class - begins September 20 and will meet every third Sunday through May. Confirmation is a time when young people learn about who they are in Jesus Christ, how they belong to the church, and how their lives are part of God's story. This is a two-year process for students in the 7th grade and older. Contact Pastor Matt Weiler at mweiler@umc-kzo.org if you would like to learn more.

August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15



“Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers” by Peter von Cornelius, 1783-1867

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 *Arioso* (J.S. Bach)

Dana Stewart, flute

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Cara Weiler, Deacon

One: Family of God, we gather today to unite our voices and our lives in praise to God!
ALL: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: We gather to celebrate how God binds us together to live, work, play, and rest as the Body of Christ!
ALL: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: We gather to remember how God has worked through us to share Christ’s love with one another and our neighbors through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.
ALL: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!

One: Family of God, today we come as diverse and unique members of the Body of Christ to learn and grow not in uniformity but in unity to love God, self, neighbor, and all creation.
ALL: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #2236** *Gather Us In* (FWS-black hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

HYMN #2179 *Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity)* (FWS-black hymnal) Dana Stewart, flute

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we yearn to be a community of believers, united in your Spirit.
And yet we are fraught with divisions: denominational, political, theological.
We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart.
Forgive us, great God, for this great sin.
Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say.
Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind.
Only through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ, can we achieve this. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news – God meets us with kindness., forgiving our sins, preserving our lives, restoring our souls through the abundant Grace of Jesus Christ in whose name we are forgiven and healed.
Thanks be to God, Amen!

***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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 45:1-15

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* (FWS-black hymnal)
Blessing the Children
ALL: May God bless you and be with you. God loves you. So do we!

SERMON “Where Is God in All of This?” Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2169 *God, How Can We Forgive* (FWS-black hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The pastor will pray prayers of petition. After the words, “Lord, help us” the congregation may respond praying “We trust you.”

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 *St. Elizabeth* (Arr. Larry Sue) Handbell solo, Samantha Kelley

***DOXOLOGY #95** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* (UMH-red hymnal)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost.
Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy than we could imagine and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you, that your mercy may be multiplied and your blessings abound to embrace all those in need. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #555** *Forward through the Ages* (UMH - red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (Johann Gottfried Walther)
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 loved in Christ.



Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, August 16
10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, August 17
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees - Zoom

Tuesday, August 18
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, August 19
8:00 am Yoga - Zoom
9:00 am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
12:30 to 2:30 - Food pantry open

Thursday, August 20
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities -Wesley Hall
3:30 pm Outreach Meeting - Parlor

Saturday, August 22
2:00 pm Lynda Repins Memorial Service