

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 30 @10:00 a.m.
14th Sunday after Pentecost
with Celebration of Baptism
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler
Exodus 3:1-15

September 6 @10:00 a.m.
Salt+Seawater+Soil: Look to Jesus
“The Light Is Not Overcome”
Rev. Julie Kline
John 1:1-5

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, Julia Librizzi Deb Search Willoughby, Audrey Quimby
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Vocalists: Susan and David Brown
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes, Diego Menchinger, Lucas McGinnis

▶▶ 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

Family Fun Event This Afternoon! Children and Family Ministries will have an end-of-summer Family Fun Event TODAY 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. Come and join in the fun!

Manna, our young adult ministry, gathers every Tuesday in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-8:00pm. Pastor Matt Weiler at mweiler@umc-kzo.org if you would like to learn more.

Restorative Yoga Class - will not be meeting for the rest of August. We will resume on Tuesday, September 1 at 9:30 in the Parlor.

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:

Book Club - We will be studying For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional by Hanna Reichel. Led by Miriam Downey and Jan Schoenherr, the study will last for four weeks; beginning on Tuesday, September 15 and meeting every Tuesday at 10:00 am through October 6. Please let Jan Schoenherr know if you would like to attend by August 31 so that we can order you a book. Books are \$20. Email: schoenherrjan@gmail.com.

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.

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.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 / Psalm 138



“Mother of Moses” by Simeon Solomon, 1840-1905

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Audrey Quimby

One: In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?
ALL: God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.
One: In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?
ALL: God shows us through the midwives’ daring, Peter’s truth-telling, and Jesus’ humility.
One: In a world where power is held over people’s heads, how does God exercise power?
ALL: God exercises power with— with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.
One: Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?
ALL: We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN There Came a Time in Egypt (Carolyn Winfrey Gillette) (see insert)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE *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.

PSALM Psalm 138 p. 853-854 (UMH - red hymnal)

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 1:8-2:10 Deb Search Willoughby & Audrey Quimby
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!

SERMON “Reading Exodus: Let It Read You” Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2189 A Mother Lined a Basket (FWS-black hymnal)
A soloist will sing verses 1 and 2. The congregation is invited to sing verses 3 and 4.

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 The Builder (Michael and Stormie Omartian) duet, David and Susan Brown

There was a feeling of “do it yourself,” when I was under construction. But each time I tried to get something nailed down, it became just an obstruction. Then the Designer looked into my heart, and said, “I know better. I planned you from the start.”

You are The Builder, I’m made of stone. I find it hard to see what you could make of me. I am the sinner. You died for me. I find it hard to know, how you could love me so. I find it hard to know, how you could love me so.

So when the rain comes and knocks on my door, I know I’ll always be standing. ‘cause I met The Architect some time before, and He’s never failed in His planning. Still so unfinished, sometimes my hope grows dim. That’s when He reminds me that I am complete, I’m complete in Him.

*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
Almighty God, you took a baby from the Nile and used him to lead your people to the promised land. Take our offerings and use them for your people in this land and throughout your world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

*HYMN #731 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (UMH - red hymnal)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
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 23
10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, August 24
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, August 25
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 26
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
6:30 Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, August 27
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities -Wesley Hall

There Came a Time in Egypt



There came a time in E - gypt when Jo - seph was - n't
The rul - ers told the mid - wives, "Don't let their num - bers
O God, you sent us Je - sus who said, "Take up your
When im - mi - grants are strug - gling, when chil - dren live in



known; when peo - ple had for got - ten the seeds of help he'd
grow." But Shi - phrah said, with Pu - ah, a qui - et, faith - ful
cross!" He taught that faith - ful liv - ing will of - ten have a
fear, when for - ces of destruc - tion are threat - ening peo - ple



sown. With im - mi - grants in - creas - ing, the
"No!" When they were tasked with kill - ing, they
cost. He taught us to be dar - ing, cre -
here, God, make us like those wo - men, and



lead - ers lived in fear. That fear turned in - to
saved the ba - by boys. God, may we, too, be
a - tive, wise and strong; to make the world more
may we seek to be the ones who ush - er



mur - muring: "We do not want them here!"
will - ing to chal - lenge what de - stroys.
car - ing, to chal - lenge what is wrong.
life in, till all are whole and free.