

**UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

**September 13 @10:00 a.m.**  
Salt+Seawater+Soil:  
Rejoice Sunday with Communion  
Rev. Julie Kline  
Genesis 1:1-2:4/Genesis 2:4-25

**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.

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**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 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  
Em Norwood..... 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. Dr. Matt Weiler, Rev. Doug Vernon, Julia Librizzi  
**Director of Music:** Jacqueline Stilger  
**Associate Director of Music:** Cari Beth Croak  
**Musicians:** First Strings & Friends  
**Organist:** Buff Coe  
**Audio-Visual Team:** Bryan Heany, Kennedy Hayes, Diego Menchinger, Lucas McGinnis

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our new elevator is now operational!** Thank you for your patience during the replacement process this summer. Feel free to give it a try!

**Restorative Yoga Class** - We will resume classes with Ana Lucia Castañeda this week on Tuesday, September 1 at 9:30 in the Parlor. and continue with our Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

**Manna**, our young adult ministry, gathers every Tuesday in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-8:00pm. For more information, contact our new Young Adult Resident, Em Norwood, at enorwood@umc-kzo.org.

**BEGINNING 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.*

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Celebration of Baptism

Exodus 3:1-15





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 God Will Take Care of You (Cindy Berry)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Doug Vernon

One: Come now, all who thirst  
ALL: and drink from the water of life.  
One: Come now all who seek  
ALL: and be warmed by the fire of love  
One: Come now, all who feel invisible  
ALL: and be woven into a community of love  
One: come now all who are in need of grace  
ALL: and let the waters of baptism wash over you  
One: Come all who need a shelter  
ALL: and be welcomed by the grace of Jesus Christ as we worship together this day.

\*HYMN #116 The God of Abraham Praise (UMH - red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

PSALM Psalm 105:1-6, 7-11



Music by Don E. Saliers

THE COVENANT OF BAPTISM (see insert)

CHILDREN’S BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING Julia Librizzi

ALL: Children and students, may God protect, guide, and strengthen you this school year—may you grow and learn. Be kind and may kindness follow you everywhere you go. Bless their teachers and all who guide them. God Bless you and be with you. God Loves you and SO DO WE!

Children leave for Godly Play: Children are invited to leave sanctuary worship for a time together called Godly Play, a multi-sensory, imaginative worship experience. Children will return to their families before the end of worship, usually during the offertory.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 3:1-15

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

SERMON To Know and Be Known Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

\*HYMN #2130 The Summons (FWS-black hymnal)

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 Lord of the Dance (by Ronan Hardiman Arr. Larry Moore) First Strings & Friends

\*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

Holy God of holy ground,  
like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven’s purposes on earth.  
Overcome our doubts with the assurance of your presence;  
bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will;  
in the name of the triune One. Amen.

-From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2 by Kimberly Bracken Long

OUR SHARED LIVES

HYMN #605 Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters (UMH - red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Passacaglia (G.F. Handel) First Strings & Friends

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.

Note: This Sunday falls within the long “Season after Pentecost”. In the liturgical calendar this season is often called “Ordinary Time”. Don’t t let that confuse you—it is called this not because it is uninteresting, but because the weeks are numbered (ordinary comes from the word “ordinal”) The color green symbolizes spiritual growth and discipleship. That is why we use green—it is the color of living things, a beautiful reminder that our faith is meant to be alive and growing.

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 30  
10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, August 31  
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, September 1  
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom  
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor  
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall  
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open  
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, September 2  
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, September 3  
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor  
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
11:40 am Similarities -Wesley Hall

# The Covenant of Baptism

Siblings in Christ:

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy Church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

## PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Today we present *Zoe, Alexis, and Reese Ribble, and Meara (Mimi), and Augustus (Gus) English* for baptism.

## RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,  
put your whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as your Lord,  
in union with the Church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Zach and Jenn, will you nurture Zoe, Alexis, and Reese,  
Cassie and Andy, will you nurture Gus and Mimi  
in Christ's holy Church, that by your teaching  
and example they may be guided to accept God's grace  
for themselves, to profess their faith openly,  
and to lead a Christian life?

**I will.**

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your  
rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life  
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons  
with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that they may grow in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,  
that they may be true disciples  
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

## THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos,  
you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.  
In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water.  
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea.  
Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.  
He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.  
He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection  
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it,  
to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives,  
that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

## BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

Zoe, Alexis, Reese, Mimi, Gus...we baptize you in the name  
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit,  
you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our newest sibling in Christ.

**Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation  
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as members of the family of Christ.**

## COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God, we commend these persons to your love and care.  
Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of  
The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate  
in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service  
and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

**HYMN #2259** *God Claims You* – naming each of the children,  
*Zoe, Alexis, and Reese, Mimi, and Gus* in the verses.

(FWS - black hymnal)