

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 27 @10:00 a.m.
Salt+Seawater+Soil:
The One in Whom We Live...
"The One Who Gives Life"
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

October 4 @10:00 a.m.
World Communion Sunday
Rev. Julie Kline
Luke 17:5-10; 2 Timothy 1:1-14

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
- Em Norwood..... Young Adult Resident

We are a Reconciling Congregation, Welcoming ALL.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Guitar - Matt Weiler and Rob MacInnis
Acolyte: Vera Warzybok
Audio-Visual Team: Kennedy Hayes, Jim Frey, Diego Menchinger, Lucas McGinnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perks: Join us after worship for coffee & tea!

Sunday School for Children will begin and end in room 206. We will head to the sanctuary with Ms. Julia for an acolyte lesson and training. Acolytes are an important part of our worship service! The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshiping community. We are led by Christ, the light of the world.

Fall Academy Class: Today is the second class of a 5-week series, "A Primer on Israel/Palestine." We are learning about the geography, people, terminology, ancient and contemporary history, and politics of Israel/Palestine. The class will run through October 11. Rev. John Boley will facilitate.

Youth Group - The group meets tonight from 6:00-7:30pm in the Youth Lounge.

Faith Milestones Tonight! - Faith Milestones is a youth-group-style meeting for our 3rd - 5th grade children which meets once a month during the school year. Our first fall meeting is tonight from 6:00 - 7:30pm on the second floor of the church in the Arches area, where we will eat pizza and play games together to get to know each other. Contact Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org if you have any questions.

Confirmation Class - begins today 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.

First United Methodist Church Conference: Today at 2pm at Portage Chapel Hill. We will gather as Branch 7 of the Greater Southwest District. Members will vote on the 2027 elected lay leadership roster, the membership report, and celebrate our past year of ministry accomplishments. We encourage our congregation members to attend; we need your presence and input as we make important decisions for the governance of our church community.



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

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

Sunday School for Parents: Family Foundations Sunday School Class for parents with children at home begins September 27. Rev. Matt and Deacon Cara Weiler will be teaching Foster's approach to building spiritual disciplines in our lives with guided conversations about "How do we building spiritual disciplines into our parenting lives?" We will meet in room 209. Coffee and tea available. Bring a snack to share if desired. The 3rd Sunday of each month will be a review week.

3 New Bible Study Classes:

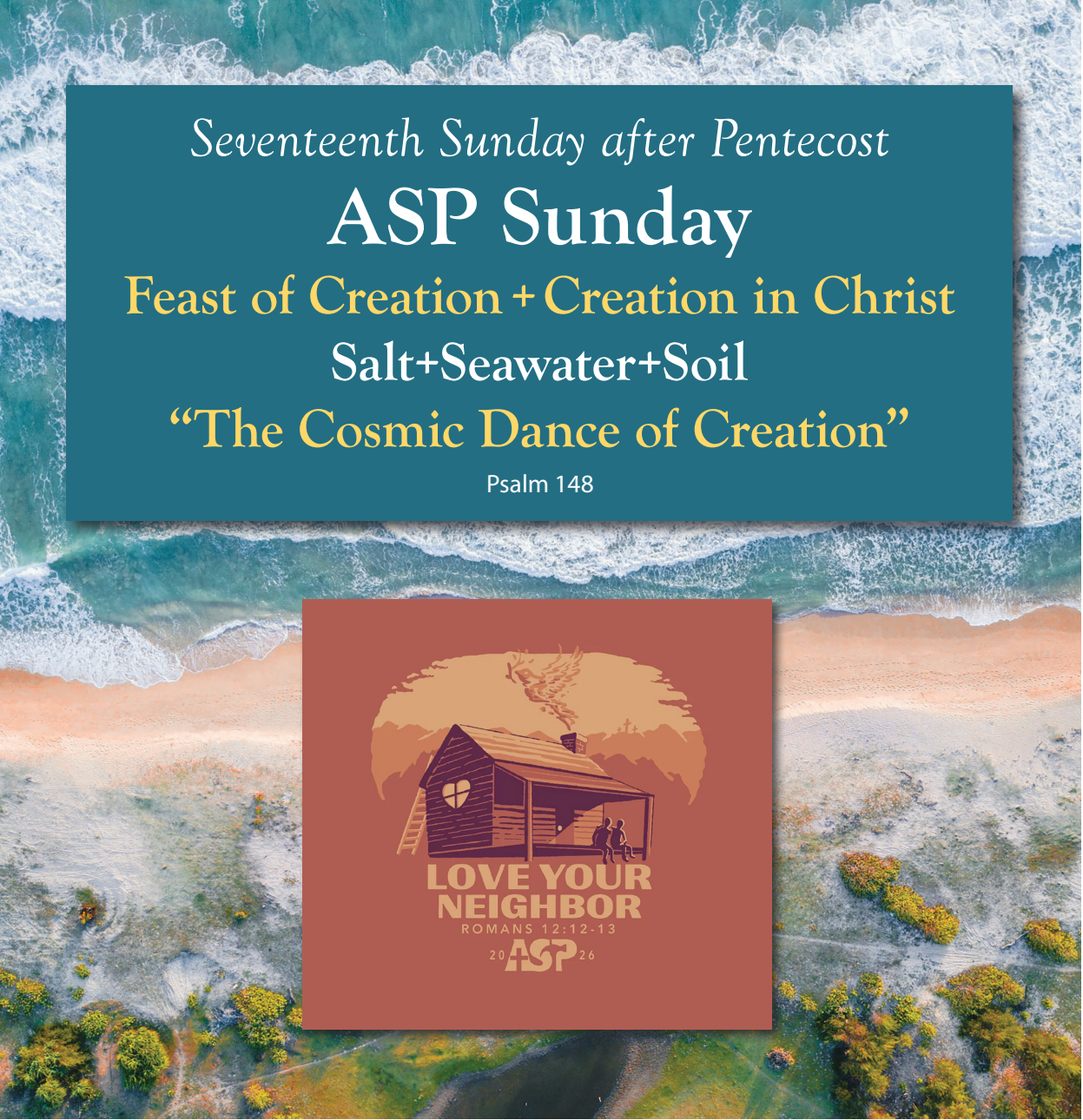
- For Teens & Young Adults:** Deacon Cara Weiler and Christine Charles are offering an Old Testament Disciple Bible Study Fast Track for High School Youth and Young Adults Wednesday evenings beginning September 23.
- For Adults - Old Testament:** Pastor Matt Weiler is offering an Old Testament Disciple Bible Study Fast Track for Adults on Wednesday evenings beginning September 30.
- For Adults - New Testament:** Pastor Matt is offering a 12-week NEW TESTAMENT class on Thursday mornings beginning October 1. Books are available today at the church. Participants do not need to have taken the Old Testament course to participate.

Contact Pastor Matt at mweiler@umc-kzo.org to sign up for a class or to learn more.

Splendid Suppers: Another round of Splendid Suppers (and Brunches and Lunches) for Seven will begin soon; keep an eye out at the welcome desk for the sign-up sheets and drop boxes to appear! This round will be October and continue through November. It is a great opportunity to get together with people in our church community that you might not already know—and if you have attended in the past, you're welcome to join again.

To sign up, choose a date and general location that works for you, and deposit a completed sign-up strip that includes your name, phone number and email address, and any food sensitivities, into the slot! Then watch for a postcard in the mail which will include your hosts' name and address and your side dish assignment! We hope you'll join in the fun.

Save the Date! Our annual Fourscore and More Luncheon is scheduled for November 5 at noon.



WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

Good morning, welcome as you join us here in the sanctuary and online. As we worship today, please make your presence known in the attendance pads that are found at the end of the pews or by saying "hello" in the YouTube chat. Please pass the attendance pads to your neighbor as you greet them this morning.

GATHERING MUSIC *Blackbird* (Paul McCartney)

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE SALT LANTERNS

Grace Harthorn

One: Praise God from the sun and moon!
ALL: Praise God, all who are God’s messengers!
One: Praise God, in the highest heavens and to the depths of the sea!
ALL: Praise God and be strengthened as God’s faithful ones!
One: In this season, the lantern shines beauty from inside the stone that God created.
ALL: In this season, salt connects oceans teeming with life with tears shed in grief.
One: May God’s beautiful Creation inspire our worship.
ALL: May God’s love inspire our song.

*HYMN #145 Morning Has Broken

(UMH - red hymnal)

*WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Coulter Weiler

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Julie Kline

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 Psalm 148

Neela Parthasarathy

SUNG REFRAIN

Traditional Cameroon Praise Song



Praise, praise, praise the Lord, Praise God’s ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!
Praise God, all his angels; praise God, all his host!
Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heaven and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for the Lord commanded and they were created.
God established them forever and ever; God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God’s name alone is exalted;
God’s glory is above earth and heaven.
The Lord has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all God’s faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to the Lord.
Praise the Lord.

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 & Audrey Quimby

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!

HYMN #2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom, verse 1 - left & right* (FWS-black hymnal)
Please sing as indicated by the leader on the pulpit side or the lectern side.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Ecological/Celtic version, John Philip Newell)
Holy One beyond all names, eternal Wellspring,
may love rise again in us today with food for every table,
shelter for every family, and reverence for every life.
Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all falseness
that the light of our souls may shine and the strength of our spirits endure
for Earth and all its people this day, tonight, and forever. Amen.

TELLING THE STORY OF APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT



Audrey Quimby
Megan Gillish
Bixler Weiler

MESSAGE “Part of Something Larger”

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

HYMN #2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom, verse 2 - left & right* (FWS-black hymnal)
Please sing as indicated by the leader on the pulpit side or the lectern side.

CALL TO OFFERING
Today in worship we will gather a special offering to support future Youth Mission opportunities such as ASP. Your gifts will go towards the total cost of approximately \$500 per youth. Gift can be made in worship and online. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY *Crowded Table* (Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby and Lori McKenna)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
God, we thank you for the opportunity to show love to our neighbors. We ask your blessing on these gifts that they might increase our witness to your love and bind us all together, making us one with all creation.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***CLOSING SONG** *Hold Us Together* (Matt Maher and Steve Wilson)
Guitar: Matt Weiler and Rob MacInnis
Singers: Audrey Quimby, Megan MacKenzie, Bixler Weiler, Evelyn Moon

BENEDICTION
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, September 20
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, September 21
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, September 22
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
10:00 am Book Club - Chapel
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
4:15 pm First Beats - Choir room
4:30 to 6:30 pm - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, September 23
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
6:00 pm Bible Study w/Pastor Matt - Parlor
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, September 24
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
11:40 am Similarities -Wesley Hall