

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 4 @10:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

Rev. Julie Kline

“A Home of Mutual Love”

Luke 17:5-10; 2 Timothy 1:1-14

October 11 @10:00 a.m.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Luke 17:11-19

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 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.



Worship Leaders:

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Barbara Toshalis, Julia Librizzi

Director of Music:

Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music:

Cari Beth Croak

Musicians:

Chancel Singers

Audio-Visual Team:

Bryan Heany, Diego Menchinger, Kennedy Hayes, Lucas McGinnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perks: You are welcome to join us after worship for coffee, tea, and fellowship in the Perks Area.

Children’s Sunday School: Preschool - 5th graders meet in room 206 (2nd floor) following worship until 12:30pm. Sunday School for infants - 4-year-olds meets from 9:45am - 12:30pm in room 208.

Fall Academy Class: Today is the third 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.

Family Foundations Sunday School for Parents: Begins today! 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 will be available. Bring a snack to share if desired. The 3rd Sunday of each month will be a review week.

Youth Group - Meets tonight downstairs in the Youth Lounge from 6:00-7:30pm.

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!

Fall Bible Study Classes:

- **Old Testament:** Pastor Matt, Deacon Cara, and Christine Charles are offering a Disciple Bible Study Old Testament course on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning September 30. This class is open to adults and high school age youth. Special break-out conversations will take place within the study for youth.
- **New Testament:** Pastor Matt is offering a 12-week New Testament class on Thursday mornings beginning October 1 at 10:30am. Books are available 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.

New Membership Opportunity: As we worship together, we frequently refer to the vow of faithfully participating in the congregation through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. This is one of the vows that is made as persons are received into our community of faith. A membership class will begin on October 11 and run until November 8, with the reception of new members in worship on November 15. If you would like to explore further the commitment and joy of membership in The United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Julie at jkline@umc-kzo.org.

Parents Night Out - CrawlSpace Comedy Theatre: Join us Friday, October 16, from 6:45 - 9:30pm for a night of laughter and lighthearted fun at CrawlSpace Comedy Theatre! The theatre offers pizza and drinks for purchase. Showtime is 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Childcare will be provided at the church. Feel free to park at the church and we can enjoy the short two-block walk to the venue together. It’s the perfect chance to relax, connect, and enjoy a playful evening out. We’d love to see you there, so mark your calendar now! To RSVP, email Julia Librizzi at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org by October 4. The ticket cost will be \$15/person at most, but we are trying to get a group rate for lower!

Help Provide Food & Fellowship for Students: The Wesley Foundation at WMU is hosting a Monday night dinner for students. You can sign up to provide a meal so students can enjoy fellowship each week. You can join together with several families or provide dinner on your own. Meals should serve 15 people and be delivered to Wesley (2350 Ring Road N, Kalamazoo) at 5:45pm. Contact Wesley director Andrew Stange (andrew@wesleykzoo.org) or Laura Warren-Gross (jaynlaura5@gmail.com).

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! Previous attendees will tell you conversation and laughter flow easily! We hope you’ll join in the fun.

Save the Date: October 18th - After-church potluck and One Big House meeting following worship. More information coming in next week’s bulletin.

September 27, 2026

10:00 a.m.

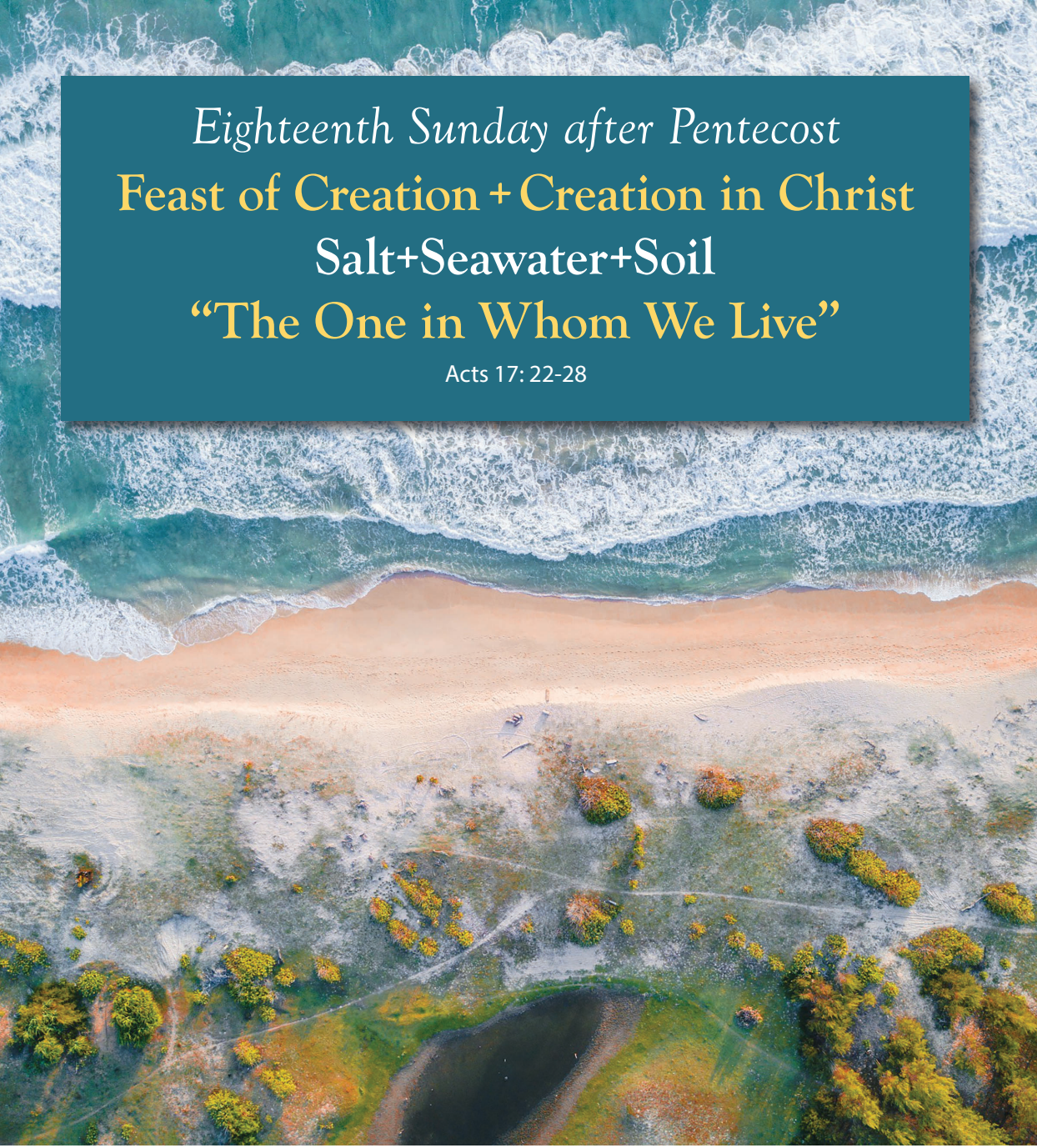
First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street

Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340

umc-kzo.org



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Feast of Creation + Creation in Christ

Salt+Seawater+Soil

“The One in Whom We Live”

Acts 17: 22-28

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.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE Variations on Terra Beata (Michael Burkhardt)

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING THE SALT LANTERNS

Barbara Toshalis

One: Let us gather to bless the Creator,
ALL: who in Christ through Spirit has made all things, visible and invisible.
One: For God has kept us among the living,
ALL: and has not let our feet slip.
One: Truly God has listened,
ALL: and has given heed to our prayer.
One: Blessed be God,
ALL: in whom all Creation lives and moves and has being.
One: In this season, the lantern shines beauty from inside the stone.
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 This is God’s Wondrous World (The language in this hymn has been revised to be inclusive.)



This is God’s won drous world, and to my list-ening ears, all
This is God’s won drous world, the birds their car ols raise, the
This is God’s won drous world. O let me ne’er for - get that
na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres. This
morn - ing light, the li - ly white, de - clare their mak - er’s praise. This
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet. This
is God’s won drous world, I rest me in the thought of
is God’s won - drous world: God shines in all that’s fair; in the
is God’s won - drous world: why should my heart be sad? Let
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God’s hand the won ders wrought.
rust - ling grass or moun - tain pass, God’s voice speaks ev ery where.
voi - ces sing let the hea - ven’s ring! God reigns, let earth be glad.

Music: Terra Beata Trad. English melody Words: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901 Adapted by Voices United hymnal.

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.

ANTHEM Shalom (Dan Forrest)

Chancel Singers

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 17: 22-28

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

(FWS-black hymnal)

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.

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.**

MESSAGE “The One Who Gives Breath”

Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

*HYMN #105 God of Many Names

(UMH - red hymnal)

A soloist will sing verse 1 and the congregation is invited to join in singing verses 2 and 3.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM For the Autumn Sky (Ruth Elaine Schram)

Chancel Singers

*DOXOLOGY (Words © 2026 Paula Meador Testerman)

(Tune of Old Hundredth)

**All creatures, lift your praises high!
Praise God in earth and sea and sky;
In one great chorus, all your days,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit praise!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To the one in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we give thanks. Bless
these gifts we offer to you now that we might use them to bring the wholeness of
life to all creation through Jesus Christ, Amen.**

OUR SHARED LIVES

*HYMN #89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(UMH - red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Impromptu (David Lasky)

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal FWS-The Faith We Sing

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 27

10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Youth Group - Youth Center

Monday, September 28

11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, September 29

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 30

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
6:30 pm Bible Study - Parlor

Thursday, October 1

9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
10:30 am Bible Study - Room 305
11:40 am Similarities -Wesley Hall

Friday, Oct.2 - Saturday, Oct. 3

5:00 - 9:30 pm MI Festival of Sacred Music