

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 13 @10:00 a.m.

Salt+Seawater+Soil: God’s Breath
Rejoice Sunday with Communion
“Deepen Our Reverence”
Rev. Julie Kline
Genesis 1:1-2:4

September 20 @10:00 a.m.

Salt+Seawater+Soil:
The Cosmic Dance of Creation
ASP Sunday
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

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. Julie Kline, Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Deb Search Willoughby, Julia Librizzi

Director of Music:

Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music:

Cari Beth Croak

Musicians:

Jonathan Richardson

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 this summer during the replacement process. Feel free to try it out!

Restorative Yoga Class - Yoga classes with Ana Lucia Castañeda have resumed! We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am in the Parlor.

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.

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

September Children and Family Fun Event: Families are invited to meet up in Kindleberger Park in Parchment on Saturday, September 12 from 10:00am to noon to experience some of the Scottish/Celtic Festival in Kalamazoo and see our very own children’s Sunday School teacher, Jane Barnes, play the drums in the Kalamazoo Pipe Band. Please email Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org for more information.

Sunday School for all ages resumes next Sunday, September 13, following morning 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 13 through October 11. Rev. John Boley will facilitate.

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

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

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 10:00am through October 6. To join this book study, let Jan Schoenherr know at schoenherrjan@gmail.com to be added to the email list. This Is a Bookstore has books available for purchase.

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.

First United Methodist Church Conference: This annual business meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20 at 2pm at Portage Chapel Hill, presided over by District Superintendent Rev. Dean Prentiss. We will gather as Branch 5 of the Greater Southwest District, which includes Milwood, Sunnyside, Westwood, Otsego, Parchment, Plainwell, Portage Chapel Hill, and FUMC. Members will vote on the 2026 elected lay leadership roster, clergy and staff salaries, any membership deductions, and celebrate our past year of ministry accomplishments. Please plan to attend and be part of this significant event. We need your presence and input as we make important decisions for the governance of our church community.

Join the CARES Team!

C - calling and cards
A - acts of kindness
R - reaching out
E - engaged with one another
S - Spirit-led
This ministry team connects and cares for members and friends of Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church, especially our elders and those with ongoing health concerns or significant life events. Contact Judy Kingsley at judykings@charter.net to learn more and join our efforts to share God’s love or receive CARE from a team member.

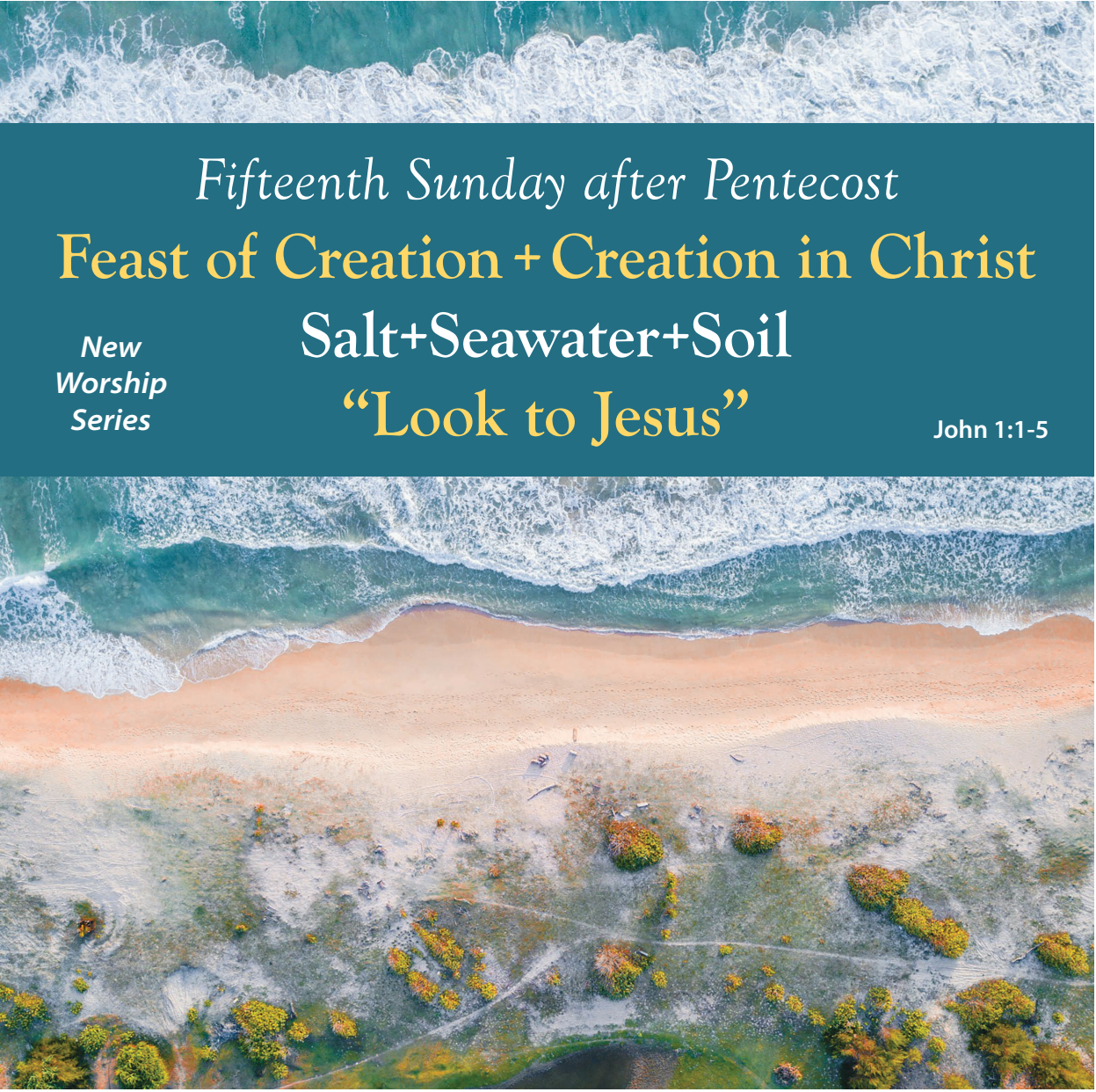
September 6, 2026

10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (David H. Hegarty)

Photo by Hermansyah on Unsplash

Deb Search Willoughby

ALL: Let us praise God—Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit—for the gift of life abundant.

***OPENING HYMN #88** *Maker, in Whom We Live* (UMH - red hymnal)

***WELCOME** Rev. Julie Kline

***LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & SALT LANTERN** Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

(inspired by Psalm 104: 24)

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.

SUNG RESPONSE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Jonathan Richardson, soloist
(Traditional arr. by Raymond H. Hahn)

***GOSPEL READING** John 1: 1-5

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!

HYMN *This Little Light of Mine*
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #2166 *Christ Beside Me, verse 1* (FWS-black hymnal)

For this Season of Creation, we will pray the Lord's Prayer written by John Philip Newell, former Warden of the Iona Abbey. This contemporary, nature-infused paraphrase of the traditional prayer blends Christian spirituality with Celtic and ecological themes, inspiring reverence and forgiveness.

**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.**

HYMN #2166 *Christ Beside Me, verse 2* (FWS-black hymnal)

MESSAGE "The Light Is Not Overcome" Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom* (FWS-black hymnal)

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* Jonathan Richardson, soloist
(Traditional arr. by by Stephan Casurella)

***DOXOLOGY** (Words © 2026 Paula Meador Testerman) (UMH-red hymnal)

**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**

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts for the well-being of this faith community, we ask for your blessing on the soil that sustains us, knowing this is a gift from you. Restore its fertility and health, so it may continue to provide for all living beings. Teach us sustainable practices to keep it vibrant. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #77** *How Great Thou Art* (UMH - red hymnal)

BLESSING

Hear the good news! We belong with Christ in God's Creation!
Beauty and provision abound!
**May we go from this feast, grateful and generous, as kin who love and care,
respect and repair, to shine light in the depth of sorrow, as the life of God prevails.**
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, Three in One, One in Three. Amen and amen.

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on Dix* (Lani Smith)

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.

We are called to:

- Experience God's love
- Celebrate God's love
- Share God's love

**We are a Christ-centered community
where our stories are woven with
God's story.**

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 6
10:00 am Worship Service

Monday, September 7
No events - Building closed for Labor Day

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
 12:00 pm Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
 12:30 to 2:30 - Food pantry open
 2:00 pm - Cares Committee meeting
 6:00 pm - Bible Study w/Pastor Matt - Parlor

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