

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 1 @10:00 a.m.
All Saints Day
Rev. Julie Kline
"Shining with Light"
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 8 @10:00 a.m.
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Julie Kline
"A Long Night"
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
& Matthew 25:1-13

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

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.

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Roxanne Frey, Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Neela Parthasarathy, Julia Librizzi

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak

Musicians: Chancel Singers; David Brown and Liem Nguyen, trumpets

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Generosity Campaign - In the fall of 2026, First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites the congregation to consider how generosity helps us practice mutual love, extend hospitality, do good, and share what we have. Together, we tend a spiritual home rooted in love, community, inclusion, and justice and a ministry home that reaches beyond our walls with compassion and hope. Prayerfully consider how your giving helps tend this home of mutual love, hospitality, inclusion, and justice for the year ahead.

Generosity Jams - "Our Hearts, Our Home" has a playlist! Find the stuffie Jesus in the Wheatland T-shirt near the Parlor entrance - next to him are two QR codes you can scan to listen on Spotify or request a song to be added!

Celebration Cake Today! You are invited to join us after worship to celebrate generosity and abundance with cake in the Perks area.

Children's and Adult's Sunday School and Membership classes all resume today.

Academy Class on Artificial Intelligence - Today In the Parlor after worship, Mark Stucky will lead the one-session class, "Theologies of AI: the Good,

the Bad, and the Apocalyptic." As AI (Artificial Intelligence) increasingly consumes more of society's energy (literally and metaphorically), how should we think about AI and its disruptive, transformative impact on humanity? What are AI's promises and perils? Is AI another double-edged tool like many technologies before this...or is it something fundamentally different...and dangerous? The class will explore mind-bending questions about our present reality, future fears, and technological implications of consciousness and the soul.

Youth Group - Halloween party and bonfire from 6 - 8pm tonight at Em Norwood's house!

All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1: At this service we will remember and honor our family members who have died in the past twelve months. If there was a death in your family during that period please contact the church office at (269) 381-6340 or email kalamazoofunc@umc-kzo.org. Please include a photo of your loved one for the worship video. Last day to receive names and photos is this Wednesday, October 28.

First Stitchers Special Event: Thursday, October 29th at 10am, Fellowship Room - The Bronson Hospital NICU and Pediatric floor is in need of receiving blankets, hats, burp cloths and fun/colorful pillowcases - and we can help! Kandi Torres, the Volunteer Services Manager at Bronson Hospital, will be coming to talk to us this Thursday morning. She will be sharing the hospital's needs and possibly even bringing some samples and patterns. We hope you can join us to learn more about how we can share God's love with these little ones!

Nov. 1 - Lord's Prayer Academy Class - begins next Sunday. As we look at the very familiar Lord's Prayer, we will pay attention to language options and zoom out for a broader perspective. To approach it with curiosity and wonder and allow ourselves to be enriched by the experience of others is also a goal of this four-week class. The hope is that we will all deepen our connection to God and our commitment to further God's vision for creation. The class will meet the first four Sundays in November, led by Len Schoenherr.

October Mission of the Month - Salvation Army's 'Share the Warmth' Coat Drive: You are welcome to donate new and gently used coats as well as hats, scarves, gloves/mittens and boots. The collection boxes are located by the office welcome desk and outside the sanctuary.

It's time to VOTE! We have plenty of League of Women Voters 2026 voting guides available in the hallway across from the Parlor. You can also find the information online at www.VOTE411.org. Every vote matters, so make your voice heard!

October 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.



OUR HEARTS OUR HOME

A GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

First United Methodist Church
212 S. Park Street • Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

Good morning, welcome to worship from all the places you join us today on Consecration Sunday. If you are worshipping in the sanctuary or online, we are grateful to be gathered with you. Please make your presence known in the attendance pads found at the end of the pews and pass them along to your neighbor. If you are joining us online, please make your presence known by greeting one another in the YouTube chat. Please rise in body or spirit for the call to worship.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE Amazing Grace (John Newton arr. Eddie Lewis) Trumpets: David Brown & Liem Nguyen

*CALL TO WORSHIP Roxanne Frey - Generosity Team Member

- One: Let mutual love continue among us, O God.
- ALL: Make our hearts a home for your welcome.
- One: Do not let us neglect hospitality to strangers, neighbors, and friends.
Teach us to do good and to share what we have.
- ALL: Receive our gifts as sacrifices pleasing to you.
- One: Pour out your Spirit on all flesh. Gather the humble, the hopeful, and the hungry for grace.
- ALL: In worship, in giving, and in shared life, we offer our hearts and our home to you.
Let us worship God with gratitude, humility, and joy.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES

We light the Christ Candles to remember Jesus as the light of the world—conquering darkness and offering new life.

*OPENING HYMN #100 God Whose Love Is Reigning over Us (UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Julie Kline

*PASSING THE PEACE

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.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN WITNESS Neela Parthasarathy

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:23-32; Luke 18:9-14

HYMN #2030 The First Song of Isaiah (FWS-black hymnal)

GOSPEL READING Luke 18:9-14

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!

MESSAGE “Our Hearts, Our Home” Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN #87 What Gift Can We Bring (UMH-red hymnal)

CONSECRATING OUR GIFTS

Everyone is invited to come forward to touch the basket, give thanks, and bless the gifts that sustain our shared spiritual home. If you have not yet offered your commitment card, please bring it forward. You are also invited to bring your weekly offering forward and place it in the offering plates to the far left and right of the basket.

We are gathered here because God has made a home among us—
a place where mutual love continues,
where strangers become neighbors,
and where every gift helps us share your welcome.
Still, we trust the Spirit poured out on all.
And so we offer to you, O God, these things:
our hearts, our home, our hopes, our service, and our gifts.

God of restoration and welcome, shape these commitments as you will.
Receive our hearts, our home, our moments, and our gifts.
May they serve the ministry you are building among us.

Pour out your gracious and life-giving Spirit on all flesh.
Knit our imperfect hearts together in mutual love.
Turn our weaknesses and strengths into hospitality.
Join our stories and gifts into one shared spiritual home.
Unite your people and multiply our offerings, O Lord,
so this congregation may welcome neighbors, serve with compassion,
and do good and share what we have for your glory.
May our love, our labor, our worship, and our service echo your love.
O Spirit of God, now humble our hearts.
O Spirit of God, now guide our hands.
O Spirit of God, now make this house a home of grace.

OFFERTORY And the Father Will Dance (Mark Hayes) Chancel Singers

And the Father will dance over you in joy! He will take delight in whom He loves.
Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God? No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o’er
you in song! And He will joy over you in song; My soul will make its boast in God,
For He has answered all my cries, His faithfulness in me is as sure as the dawn of a new
day. Awake my soul! Awake, my soul, and sing! Let my spirit rejoice in God!
Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart! Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day. Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant
song! God rejoices over you in song!

*DOXOLOGY #94 Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH-red hymnal)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Hospitable God, receive these gifts as offerings from grateful hearts and as signs of
the home you are building among us. Keep mutual love alive in this congregation.
Teach us to welcome neighbors and strangers, to do good, and to share what we
have with humility and joy. May these commitments become mercy, justice, care,
advocacy, and welcome for all who seek belonging here. In the name of love, we
pray. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

*HYMN A Place at the Table (see insert) (UMH-red hymnal)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE On Christ, The Solid Rock I Stand (E. Mote/W. Bradbury arr. E. Lewis)

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, October 25
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 am Membership Class
11:00 am Family Foundations Class - Rm 209
6:00 pm Youth Group Halloween party

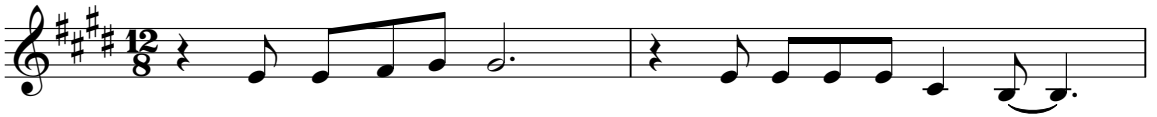
Monday, October 26
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, October 27
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 Manna Halloween party

Wednesday, October 28
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 - Room 305
6:30 pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, October 29
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

A Place at the Table



- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. For eve - ry-one born, | a place at the ta - ble, |
| 2. For wom-an and man, | a place at the ta - ble, |
| 3. For young and for old, | a place at the ta - ble, |
| 4. For just and un just, | a place at the ta - ble, |
| 5. For ev - 'ry one born, | a place at the ta - ble, |



for eve-ry-one born,	clean wa - ter and	bread;
re - vis-ing the roles,	de - ci-ding the	share,
a voice to be heard,	a part in the	song,
Ab - us - er, ab-used,	with need to for -	give,
To live without fear,	and simp-ly to	be.



a shel-ter, a space,	a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace,	di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child	in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an-ger, in hurt,	a mind-set of mer - cy,
To work, to speak out,	to wit - ness and wor - ship,



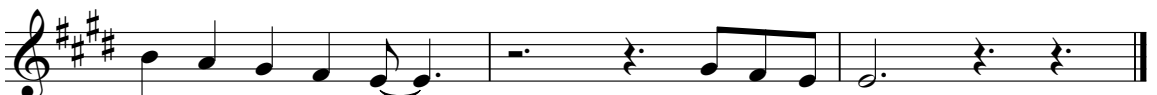
for eve - ry one born, a	star o - ver	head.	
for wom-an and man, a	sys tem that's	fair.	And
for young and for old, the	right to be -	long.	
for just and un - just, a	new way to	live.	
for ev - 'ry-one born, the	right to be	free.	



God will de light when we are crea tors of jus tice and joy, com -



pas - sion and peace: yes, God will de-light when we are cre



a -tors of jus- tice, jus -tice and joy.