UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 22 @10:00 a.m.
Reign of Christ Sunday
Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler
Psalm 95 / Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 @10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Julie Kline
Mark 13:24-37/Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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

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, Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler, Julia Librizzi, Danette Johnson
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: First Beats, First Bells
First Beats members: Neela Parasarathy, Isla Williams, Cora Welter, Hazel Welter, Campbell Weiler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving baskets: The Youth will collect food donations for the Thanksgiving baskets today. They will sort the items this evening during Youth Group time, and then deliver them to families after worship next Sunday, Nov. 22. Any money donated will be used to purchase frozen turkeys. Extra food items and money will be given our Loaves and Fishes Pantry. Thank you as always for your generosity!

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.

Lord's Prayer Academy Class continues today. In this class we are looking at the very familiar Lord's Prayer from a broader perspective, approaching it with curiosity and wonder. We hope to deepen our connection to God and our commitment to further God's vision for creation. The class meets the first four Sundays in November, led by Len Schoenherr.



Youth Group is open to all 6th-12th grade students and meets every Sunday evening during the school year from 6pm-7:30pm in the Youth Lounge.

Family Foundations Sunday School for Parents: Rev. Matt and Deacon Cara Weiler are teaching Foster's approach to building spiritual disciplines in our parenting lives. We will meet today after worship in room 209. Coffee and tea will be available. The third Sunday of each month will be a review week.

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.

Youth Orchestra - Each year our youth orchestra plays at the 4 pm Christmas Eve service. All students who play violin, viola, cello, bass, flute, or oboe and have played for a minimum of one year are welcome to participate. We typically rehearse on Sunday mornings at 11:30 beginning after Thanksgiving. Anyone interested in learning more or joining this group, please contact Anne Sherfield at 269-760-3803 or arscello@aol.com.

Advent Concerts begin Dec. 3 - Our annual Advent concerts are coming up soon: Thursdays at noon during the first three weeks of December. Each one will feature 45 minutes of secular and sacred selections with a variety of musicians, styles and genres. The first concert will be on Thursday, December 3 at noon in the Sanctuary with Lukas Pederson, singer and acoustic guitarist. There will be a reception after the show with coffee, tea, and cookies. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Inclusive Language Statement

In our worship, as a Reconciling Congregation, we strive to witness to the wholeness of God, embracing the diversity of images of God that are found within Scripture. We will seek to include male, female, and gender-neutral language and imagery for God, and utilize language that helps to avoid binary terms in pronouns and images of people. In our songs and liturgy, we invite you to use pronouns that best express your practice and affirm your faith.

November 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 90 / Matthew 25:14-30

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

Good morning, and welcome to worship at First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo. If you are worshiping in the sanctuary or online, we are grateful to be gathered with you. Please make your presence known in the attendance pads or 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 *Now Thank We All Our God with Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (arr. Cindy Berry)

INTROIT *We Gather Together (Kremser)* First Bells

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Danette Johnson

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;
ALL: you have been our home throughout all the ages.
One: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.
ALL: And so we gather, professing our faith:
From everlasting to everlasting you are God.
Come, let us worship!

HYMN #694 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE Rev. Julie Kline

***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.

PSALM 90:1-6, 12 (NRSV)

ANTHEM *Jubilate Deo* (Michael Bedford) First Beats & the treble voices of Chancel Singers

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:14-30 First Beats
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: "Trust and Faithfulness" Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

BAPTISM / NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Baptism: Paige Peterson. ***New Members:*** Cheryl Almeda, Ramie Almeda, Matt Reichert, Kara Reichert, Sue Laning, Skyy Carter, Kristyn MacInnis, Rob MacInnis, and Paige Peterson

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Beloved, 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?
If yes, please respond with, "I do."
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.

According to the grace given you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world? If yes, please respond with, "I will."
I will.

Beloved Church, do you, as Christ body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?
We do.

Will you nurture one another in 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 trust of God, and be found faithful 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, BAPTISM, & REMEMBERING BAPTISM

RECEPTION INTO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?
I will.

RECEPTION INTO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION:

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?
I will.

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 rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy Church and welcome you to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Oh Give Thanks* (Dr. Judith Christie-McAllister) First Beats



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God who is giver of all and all that is good.
Bless what we have offered back to you in our worship.
May these gifts spread light and peace in a hurting world
May they bring nourishment and joy-filled table fellowship to those who hunger.
May they bring us back rejoicing and trusting you. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #102** *Now Thank We All Our God* (UMH-red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* (J.S. Bach)

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.

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.

Sunday, November 15
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for All Ages, Family Foundations Class and Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, November 16
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall
5:00 pm Finance/Trustees meeting - Zoom

Tuesday, November 17
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
6:00 pm Kalamazoo Ringers rehearsal
6:30 pm Manna - Youth Center

Wednesday, November 18
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 pm - Food pantry open
6:30 pm Bible Study - Parlor

Thursday, November 19
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
3:30 pm Outreach meeting - Parlor
5:45 pm Handbell Ensemble rehearsal
7:15 pm Chancel Singers - Choir room

Saturday, November 21
9:00 am Kalamazoo Ringers rehearsal
2:00 - 3:30 pm KSO Holiday Program