UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

December 6 @10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Julie Kline
Mark 1:1-8 | Isaiah 40:1-11

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, Kay Gross
Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger
Associate Director of Music: Cari Beth Croak
Musicians: Chancel Singers, Bell Choir

⏩ We are always looking for A/V volunteers. ⏪ Training is provided. All ages welcome. We'll work around your availability. Inquire with Bryan Heany for more information: bheany@umc-kzo.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group: After worship today, we'll get some lunch downstairs, and then load up vans to deliver the Thanksgiving baskets around the community! There will be no regular meeting tonight.

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 concludes today. Today is the last class of the 4-week series.

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.

There will be NO Wednesday evening Bible Study this week.

Charge Conference - A charge conference for First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo will be held on December 2 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor with a Zoom option. This charge conference is in addition to our church conference that was held earlier in the fall. The charge conference is composed of all members of the church council and will be presided over by Rev. John Boley with permission from our District Superintendent, Rev. Dean Prentiss. The agenda for the charge conference will include:

- Voting on clergy salaries
- Confirming the nomination of key leadership roles

This meeting is essential for maintaining the connection between the local church and the broader UMC structure, ensuring that congregational life aligns with church policies and goals.

Our Hearts, Our Home Campaign -Thank you to everyone who has pledged to Our Hearts, Our Home! Welcome to our 26 new pledgers! If you've already returned your card, thank you. If not, please turn it in soon; your commitment now lets us plan confidently for next year. Every gift, large or small, helps tend this home of mutual love, hospitality, and justice. Thank you for your generous spirit!

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. There will be a reception after the show with coffee, tea, and cookies. Donations are welcome.

- **Dec. 3:** Lukas Pederson, singer & acoustic guitarist
- **Dec. 10** - Kalamazoo Concert Band flute quartet
- **Dec. 1**7 - Terry Lower Trio, Jazz pianist

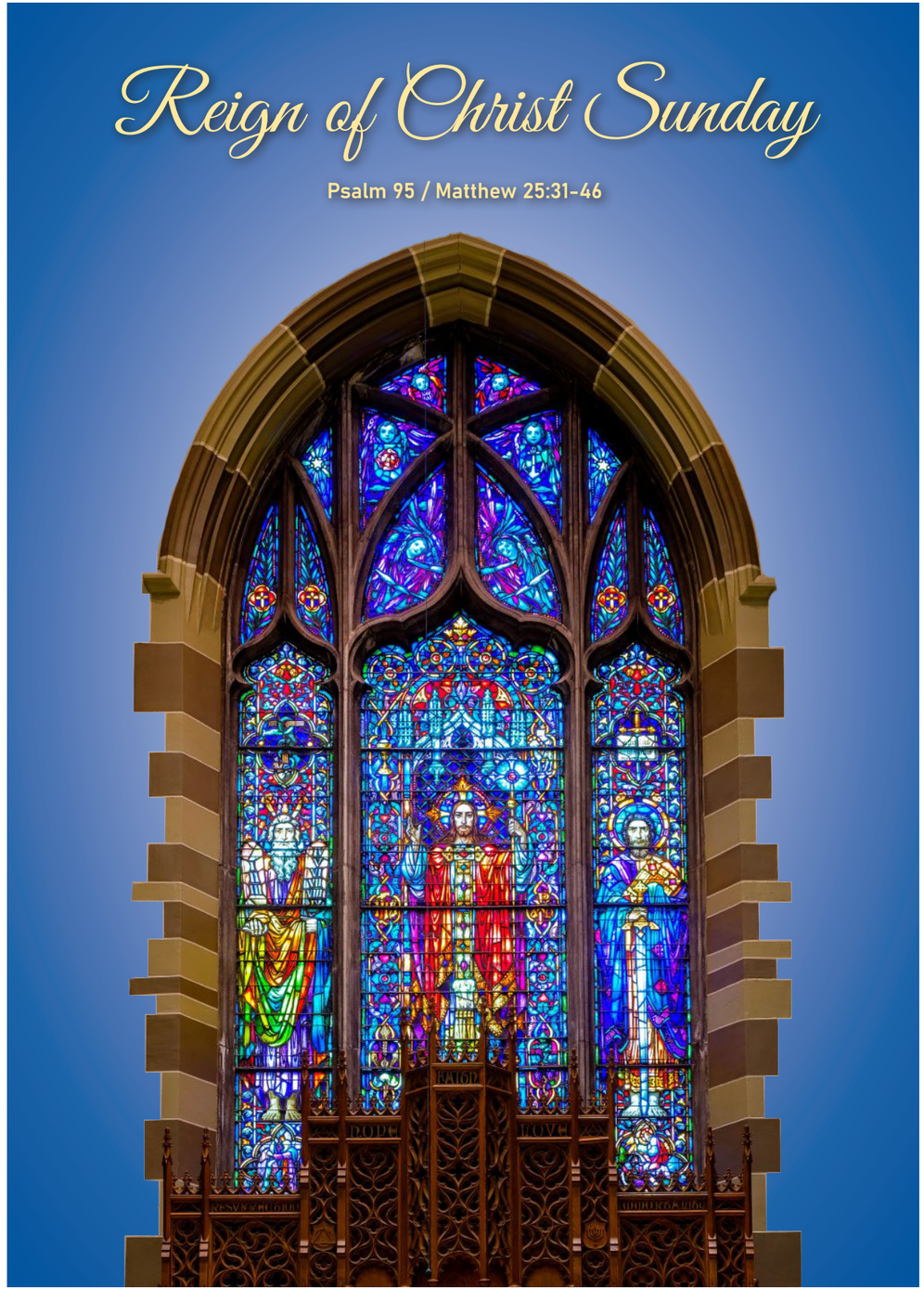
Inclusive Language Statement

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.

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

269.381.6340
umc-kzo.org



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 *Plein Jeu from the Suite on the Second Tone* (Louis-Nicolas Clerambault)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Kay Gross

One: We gather in worship on this Reign of Christ Sunday
united with Christians around the world
ALL: We come in the name of the one who is
Creator, King, Shepherd, and Savior
One: We come in need of grace
ALL: in need of healing
One: longing for God's guidance
ALL: Lord, open the eyes of our hearts by the power of your Spirit, that we may know the hope to which we have been called in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN #154** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (UMH-red hymnal)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE Rev. Julie Kline

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Break our rebellious will.
Instruct our hearts in the ways of peace.
Expose our insincere thoughts.
Give us integrity in our quest for truth.
Release us from the fear of death.
Grant us courage in the face of evil.
Free us for joyful service in Christ our Lord.
Empower us to live as citizens of your kingdom.
For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Through Christ our Lord, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen!

***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.

SONG *Grazioso* (Arnold Sherman) Bell Choir

PSALM 95: 1-7a (UMH-red hymnal)

This is a reading from Psalm 95, verses 1-7, found on page 814 in your red hymnal. We will sing the response, read verses 1-5, then sing the response, read verses 6-7, and then conclude by singing the response a third time.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:31-46

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!

SERMON: "Toward a More Perfect Love" Rev. Dr. Matt Weiler

HYMN #434 *When the Poor Ones* (UMH-red hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (Hugo Distler) Chancel Singers

***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**

Almighty God,
we give you thanks and praise for all you have given us.
Accept our offering in union with Christ's offering for us.
Confirm in us the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
that we may testify to the power of his love.
Through Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIVES

***HYMN #327** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (UMH-red hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Fanfare* (Jacques Lemmens)

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.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, November 22
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 Family Foundations Class
11:00 Youth Group - lunch and delivering Thanksgiving baskets - No evening meeting

Monday, November 23
11:40 am Similarities - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, November 24
9:30 am Restorative Yoga - Parlor
9:30 am Worship Planning - Zoom
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 25
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 Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Thursday, November 26
Building closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

