

Welcome to Worship!

** Please stand as you are able.
Please silence cell phones.*

You are invited in these beginning moments of worship to offer prayers, using the prayer cards if desired, and passing them to the outside aisles during the Lighting of the Peace Candle. Also, please take a moment to sign in using the gray registration pad found in the pew pocket near the outside aisle. Please pass it to your neighbors in your pew.

*“Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind
so that God’s works might be revealed in him.”
~ John 9: 2-3 (NRSV)*

PRAISE

PRELUDE *“Lamb of God”* J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(all reading the bold)*

Sense the presence of God here in this place:

A sudden lifting of the heart, a child’s ready smile,

The song that comes quickly to our lips,

A feeling of acceptance and hints of joy.

God moves over the mysteries of our living and our dying,

And God is on the Lenten journey with us so that our lives may become songs of praise.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 178 *(red hymnal) “Hope of the World”*

*LIGHTING THE PEACE AND LENTEN CANDLES

We light the peace candle during worship every Sunday to remember that Christ is in the world offering peace; and to pledge our part in receiving and sharing it.

*GREETING/PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

MEDITATION

It’s Sunday morning. Last week, with all its demands, is over. The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here. I invite you to close your eyes and be in the moment. No matter where you are in your thoughts and feelings—relieved about what you have accomplished, anxious about what’s left undone, concerned about people or projects—no matter where you are in your journey this day—I encourage you to set all that aside and consider where you are right now. Whatever is true for you right now, in this moment, whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety, let it come forward. When it is fully present, then listen . . . for God is present in these moments, too. God meets you where you are and calls you forward, moment by moment, guiding you slowly but surely toward transformation.

(followed by silent time)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by the lack of basic needs—lack of food, of shelter, of education, of healthcare, of love.

(a candle is extinguished)

Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise — that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

HYMN 2275 *(black hymnal) “Kyrie”*

PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL LESSON

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

John 9: 1-41 (NT, p. 102)

MESSAGE *“The Nit-Picker in All of Us”*

RESPONSE

OFFERING INVITATION

SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Coins received will be designated for the support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for our work around the world. Please sign the attendance pads as they are passed down the aisle.

OFFERTORY *“Tranquillo, Op.18 no.2”* M. Dupre

*DOXOLOGY 95 *(red hymnal) “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, all heavenly hosts;

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(praying together)*

Here, O Lord, we give you a concrete expression of what we really believe. Bless it, O

Lord, that it may bless others. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION, Musical Setting C, p. 20 *(red hymnal)*

This morning, Holy Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come by the center aisle to receive the elements. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Musical selection during communion: ???

*OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN 263 *(red hymnal) “When, Jesus the Healer Passed Through Galilee”*

*BLESSING

GOING FORTH *“Plein Jeu”* N. de Grigny

UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Sunday, April 10
8:30 and 11 a.m.**

United Methodist Women Sunday
Pulpit guest Angela Cunigan
Red Bird Ministries

“One Person, One Mission, One Kingdom”

**Sunday, April 17
8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Palm Sunday/Children’s Palm Procession
Rev. John Boley

“Staying for the Whole Parade”
Matthew 21: 1-7

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, April 3

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. 20/30’s Lenten Book Study - Lower Lounge
12:15 p.m. Hospitality - Parlor
4:00 p.m. Martha’s Table - First Congregational Church
6:00 p.m. First Singers - Choir Room
6:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary

MONDAY, April 4

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Patrol - Fellowship Room

TUESDAY, April 5

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - 305
12:00 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting - Parlor
5:30 p.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room
7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

WEDNESDAY, April 6

7:30 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Fellowship Room
9:30 a.m. Community for Healing Counseling - 303 & 304
12:00 p.m. Lenten Concert: Bernie Foulk - Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Stewardship - Parlor
5:30 p.m. Acappazoo - Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple I - 304
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, April 7

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
10:30 a.m. Lenten Book Study - 304
12:00 p.m. A Classroom - Parlor
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - Fellowship Room
6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall
7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study - Movie Lounge
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

FRIDAY, April 8

SATURDAY, April 9

6:00 p.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal - Sanctuary

OUR MISSION

We are called to

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

OUR VISION

We are a Faith Community

- Alive in Christ
- Open to all
- Growing in faith
- Serving our neighbors
- Active in the world

We're glad you are our guest today!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center as you exit the side sanctuary doors so that we may personally welcome you and present a gift of love from First Church. Please register your attendance in the gray pad found in the pew pocket.

Child care is provided on the second floor. There is a family room in the right balcony.

Worship activities for children can be found on a cart outside the side sanctuary doors.

LARGE print Bibles and United Methodist Hymnals are available at the Park Street entrance.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center. If you need assistance, please speak with one of the ushers. Please return hearing devices to the Welcome Center following worship.

Today's service is being recorded. You can request a free copy from the office. A basket on the table near the parking lot entrance has previous Sunday recordings on CD. You can also access Sunday worship recordings from our website: <http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>.

Worship CDs

Recordings of past Sunday morning services are available in the Perks gathering area. If you would like to be on a mailing list for CD recordings, please contact

Joe Konrad, jkonrad@umc-kzo.org

Worship Leaders

Rev. John Boley, Rev. Julie Kline, Kristin Fouts

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Marian Starbuck, Larry & Kim Taylor

Greeters

Bruce & Do Brown, Jack & Laurabelle Roderick

Office

Joe Konrad

Audio & Lighting

Rich Peavler

Van Driver

Darryl Poplar

Martha's Table Fellowship (4 p.m. @ FCUCC)

Bob & Carol Hamet

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marquita Willoughby and Liz Kordella and in celebration of their birthdays and the gift of their lives. Given by Jim and Deb Willoughby.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guests! We are glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop at the Welcome Center as you exit the side sanctuary doors so that we may personally welcome you and present a gift of love from First Church.

Easter lily orders. Please have your Easter lily order and check in to the office by April 10. On Easter, your plant will be a part of our traditional Easter cross in the chancel. You will be able to take your plant home after the 11:00 service that morning. Plants cost \$8 each.

April "Mission of the Month." A basket is available in the office for your donations of personal hygiene items for Ministry with Community.

UMW Sunday, April 10. United Methodist Women invite you to join with them as they lead worship and welcome guest preacher Angela Cunigan, Associate Director of Conference Ministries at the Red Bird Missionary Conference in Beverly, Kentucky next Sunday. We hope you will come and listen to her story and support the ministries of the Red Bird Mission.

Forward in Faith II: Expanding God's Welcome coming in May. We will reflect on all we have accomplished as a church community—not only the recent renovations to our facilities, but in the expansion and effectiveness of our church ministries. Be a part of this exciting time where we will plan for our future.

Lenten Organ Recitals. Enjoy relaxing lunch-hour organ concerts during Lent. Our third concert will be April 6 at noon and will feature our own organist, Bernie Foulk. Open to the public. Free will offering.

First United Methodist Church

212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone 269-381-6340; Fax 269-381-1678
www.umc-kzo.org

Special Church Conference on Sunday, April 10. All members are invited to attend this special meeting that will be held immediately following the 11:00 worship. The purpose will be to examine and vote on the possible adjustment of 2011 salaries for our clergy and directors.

Wesley Meal and Sharing; Wednesday, April 13, 5:30—7 p.m. in Wesley Hall. All are invited to enjoy a chicken and rice dinner cooked by the students of the Wesley Foundation. The students will also have displays and talk about their recent mission trips and ongoing mission goals. Your free will offering will support their past and future mission trips.

Family Fellowship Fun Night. Friday, April 15 @ 6 p.m. Join the CFM Team and their families for an evening of food, games, movies and good fellowship. \$15 per family covers it all, including child care.

Easter brunch. Join us for brunch on Easter morning (April 24) between 9:30 and 11:30 in Wesley Hall. Menu coming soon. Proceeds will benefit the purchase of a new kitchen range. Good will offering.

Easter morning child care. Nursery care will be available for the 8:30 service as well as the brunch. During the 11:00 service, child care will be available for infants through 2nd grade.

Sunday morning van drivers needed. Are you available once a month to help pick up from 2-4 Sunday morning worshipers? We need your help! Please contact Kelly Green in the office, 381-6340, if you are available.

Welcome Center volunteers needed. Please sign up for the Sunday(s) of your choice at the Welcome Center.

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday greeters needed. Please contact the office if you would like to help at either of these 7 p.m. services.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

April 3, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Experience, Celebrate and Share God's love



We are a Reconciling Congregation.

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo invites all persons to join us on our journey of faith. Jesus Christ calls us to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God. We strive to move toward reconciling relationships with all, affirming those who are marginalized for any reason, including sexual orientation or gender identity. We welcome all with

open hearts, open minds, open doors.