

Joyous Easter!

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

In these opening moments, let us center our spirits on God. Prayers may be offered by filling out a pink or green card and passing it to the side aisle during the lighting of the peace candle. Please also register your attendance in the gray registration book.

GATHERING

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

We believe, before birds begin to sing, dawn shouts:

Alleluia!

We believe, when resurrection comes, God shouts:

Alleluia!

We believe, when the gardener speaks, Mary shouts:

Alleluia!

We believe, when angels fold away the grave-clothes, Peter shouts:

Alleluia!

We believe, when there are no other words to use, Heaven shouts:

Alleluia!

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION 302 *(red hymnal)* “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

*GREETING

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

This practice of the early church is an expression of unity, signifying that there is nothing between us but the love of Jesus Christ. The traditional greeting is “The peace of Christ be with you,” with a response, “And also with you.”

*HYMN 162 *(red hymnal)* “Alleluia, Alleluia”

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

We light this candle during every Sunday worship service to remember that Christ is in the world offering peace. Today we add our gratitude for all the ways in which that peace is already present.

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

Holy God, we are hardly awake, the dawn has hardly begun, the sky has hardly brightened, and already you have changed things. Alleluia! Mary has hardly arrived, the dust has hardly settled, dawn’s chorus has hardly begun, and everything is now somehow different. Alleluia! We hardly understand, we hardly dare, we hardly believe it, but you have transformed everything. Alleluia! Amen!

GOSPEL

John 20: 1-18, 21: 9-14 (NT, p. 114)

SERMON

“A Journey to Hope: Feast for the Famished!”

*HYMN 318 *(red hymnal)*

“Christ is Alive”

COMMUNITY AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(please see p. 15 of the 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. Communion will also be served in the balcony at the direction of the ushers.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(praying together)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING RECEIVED

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Jesus, He Arose from the Grave”

Raymond Wise

Jesus He rose from the grave, yes He rose. Early Easter, Easter morn. They thought that they had Jesus when they pierced Him in his side. The thought they had seen His end when he hung His head and died. But little did they know that Jesus was not like mortal man. For he rose up early Easter morn with all power in His hand. Oh! Jesus He rose from the grave, yes He rose. Early Easter, Easter morn.

*DOXOLOGY *(red hymnal)*

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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 *(praying together)*

Eternal God, the gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by your grace. May the gifts we share serve as a token of our love and gratefulness. May they be used to further your justice and love in the world; and may we live in new life, sharing that life with others. Amen.

*HYMN *(see insert)*

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

Anyone who wishes to sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* may come forward during the last verse of this hymn.

*BLESSING

*GOING FORTH

“Hallelujah Chorus”

G.F. Handel

UPCOMING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, April 11

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Sandy Elfring

“Easter Continued: Give Us Eyes to See”

John 20: 13-31

SUNDAY, April 18

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Ministry Sunday

Pulpit guest Dr. Phil Amerson

Garrett Evangelical Theological

Seminary President

“Mapping Hope, Travelers Sought”

John 21: 1-19

THE WEEK AHEAD

Bronson Park Food Pantry

Monday through Friday, 1-3 p.m.

SUNDAY, April 4 — Happy Easter!

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. 3Cs - 310

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Festival Worship - Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Martha’s Table - First Congregational Church

MONDAY, April 5

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

TUESDAY, April 6

12:00 p.m. All Staff Meeting - Parlor

1:30 p.m. Worship Planning - 305

4:15 p.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

WEDNESDAY, April 7

7:30 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Fellowship Room

9:30 a.m. UMW General Meeting - Parlor

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, April 8

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room

11:30 a.m. Body & Soul - Parlor

1:00 p.m. Any Soldier Packing - 304

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

7:00 p.m. GLBT Youth - Youth Center

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

FRIDAY, April 9

10:30 p.m. Church Women United - Fellowship Room

5:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat - Youth Center &

Congregation of Moses Church

6:00 p.m. Brinker/Vadella Rehearsal - Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. WMU Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

SATURDAY, April 10

4:00 p.m. Brinker/Vadella Wedding - Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. WMU Choir Concert - 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 visiting 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.

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>.

Park Street Perks! All are welcome to coffee and donuts available near the parking lot doors from 9:30-10:40 a.m. Please sign up to help bring donuts, etc. on the board in the welcoming area. Fair Exchange coffee is available for purchase at \$10 a bag.

Worship CDs

Today is our last WKZO AM 590 radio broadcast. If you would like to be on a mailing list for CD recordings, please contact

Joe Konrad, jkonrad@umc-kzo.org

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Rev. Sandy Elfring, Rev. Julie Dix, Rev. Julie Kline, Gordon Miller

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

First Singers Director

John Leeger

ASSISTING TODAY

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Mary Bullock, Terry O'Connor, Marian Starbuck

Greeters

Tom & Karen Simpson, Doug & Sue Paul

Office

Jeanne Plott

Welcome Center

Bruce Grubb

Van Driver

Tom Willson

Audio & Lighting

Jacob Texel

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

Ray & Sue Eden

The lily cross is dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory or honor of many family members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Series of Academy Classes begins next Sunday, April 11. Please see today's insert for more info.

No Sunday School classes or Youth Tribe today.

Body & Soul Class. Join this upcoming class on how to live a healthier lifestyle. Thursdays, April 8—May 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. A class for those who wish to find harmony with body and soul. [Register for the class in the hall on Sundays](#) or call the church office, 381-6340. They will be using *"Health Yourself: 10 weeks to a healthier lifestyle."*

Easter offering. Today's offering is in support of three missionaries: [Delbert and Sandy Groves](#), who work tirelessly toward relieving poverty and assisting with medical needs in Kitwe, Zambia; [Irina Margulis](#), Pastor of a new church, UMC in St. Petersburg, Russia; and the [Russia Initiative](#), a program that supports the development and growth of Methodism in the former Soviet Union. Easter offering envelopes can be found in the pew pockets.

MOP Congregational Meeting, Sunday, April 11 @ 12:15 p.m. Following the 11 a.m. worship service, everyone is invited to gather in Wesley Hall for a congregational lunch and "house" meeting about how our church is working for justice via the Michigan Organizing Project (MOP). Please see today's insert for more info.

Ministry Sunday, April 18. Please make your luncheon reservation at the Welcome Center TODAY for this very special day when we will recognize Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon's 42 years of ministry during worship, followed by a luncheon in Wesley Hall. Reservations are required. (Suggested lunch donation is \$7/adult, \$3/child over 10, or \$20/per immediate family.)

First United Methodist Church

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

Heart Spa: where women are refreshed in Jesus. Ladies are invited to this relaxing weekend at Crystal Spring United Methodist Camp, 33774 Crystal Springs St., Dowagiac. Date: Friday, April 16 @ 5 p.m. to Saturday, April 17 @ 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$55 for overnight and 3 meals or \$35 for meals and program (not staying overnight). Retreat leader is our former associate pastor, Cindy Parsons. Registration info can be found on a flyer on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. Deadline to register is April 10.

Labyrinth: "Journey to Sacred Spaces" Wednesday, April 21, in Wesley Hall. A guided labyrinth and meditation walk will be available 7-8 p.m., and an open labyrinth walk will be available from 8-9 p.m. Our chapel will also be open during the labyrinth walks for personal prayer time. This labyrinth "journey" will awaken the elements of creation (earth, water, fire and air) within us and around us. Walking the labyrinth is a very spiritually focused experience. For more info, contact Jane Vernon, labyrinth facilitator, at wwomanjdv@sbcglobal.net.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center needs your donations. The center has been especially challenged to fill health and school kits this year. Please see Lois Miles at the table in the Marketplace for a complete list of things that the center is requesting. Lois will be personally delivering your donations to the center in May, when she spends a month assisting the staff in assembling these kits.

CROP Walk, May 2. Please join FUMC and the Kalamazoo community in working to overcome poverty. The organizations benefiting this year are Housing Resources, Loaves & Fishes, Ministry with Community, Open Door/Next Door Shelters, YWCA Domestic Assault Program, Kalamazoo Gospel Missions, and the Ecumenical Senior Center. A table is available in the Marketplace today to sign up to be a walker or to sponsor a walker.

Any Soldier care boxes. Donations and packers needed this Thursday @ 1 p.m. to pack care packages for the soldiers in room 304.

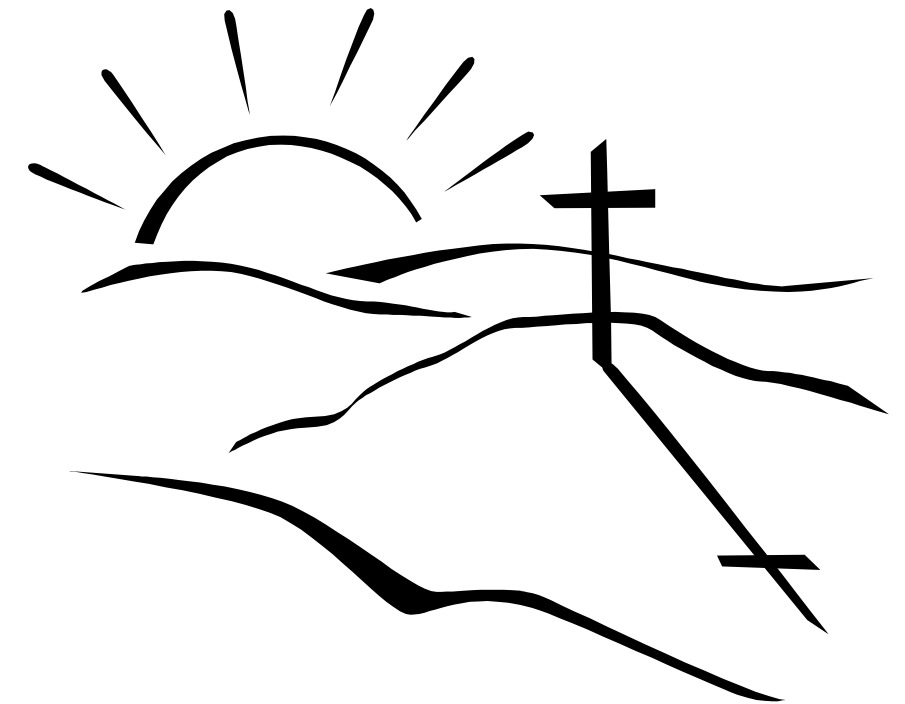


FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

April 4, 2010

8:30 a.m.

*A Journey
to Hope*



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.*