

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 "cry" 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>.

Summer Perks! Coffee is available in the welcoming area near the parking lot doors during the summer. Grab a cup and join us in the parlor after worship for Sermon Talk Back!

Tune into WKZO 590 AM every Sunday at 11:10 a.m. for our church radio ministry. Please note that the broadcast is the prior week's worship service.

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact the church office. (\$150/Sunday)

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Rev. Julie Dix

Music Leader

Cari Miller

Organist

Bernie Foulk

ASSISTING TODAY

Ushers

Dan Bunker (head usher), Derek Geerlings, Ed Torrance, Greg Gill, Andrew Gill, Ken Hall, Bill Landreville

Greeters

Monica Luce, Dan & Jan Macek

Office

Jeanne Plott

Van Driver

Andrew Lehman

Welcome Center

Andrea McCubbin

Audio & Lighting

Riley Lundquist

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory Joseph Gill, given by his wife Maxine on the 5th year anniversary of Joe's passing.

Prayer concerns may be written on a pink or green prayer cards and passed to the outside aisle where they will be collected by an usher, and shared in the pastoral prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionary Helen Shepherd to visit First Church. Helen, our missionary in Mongolia, will be our pulpit guest speaker on next Sunday, August 30.

Purchase your Return & Rejoice luncheon tickets today! You may also purchase them during the week from the church office. Lunch will consist of a large chef salad, drink, and dessert; cost \$6. Avoid the long ticket line and help us get an accurate count of the number of lunches to order and buy your tickets today!

Teacher's Training. Teachers have their choice of attending two training sessions: **Sunday, August 30 after the 10 a.m. worship service** or **Wednesday, September 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Check your calendar and let Rev. Julie Dix know which date best fits your schedule.

Children's Chapel. Adult leadership is still needed for Children's Chapel: Aug. 30, Sept. 6 and Sept. 13. This is a no-prep, user-friendly way to serve God and the children! Please contact Rev. Julie Dix right away for more info or to sign up. If we're unable to find leaders, children ages preschool to grade 2 will simply join us for the full hour of worship on those dates.

Growing Celebration Postponed. The Foods Resource Bank Growing Celebration that was scheduled for Sunday, August 30, has been postponed. There will be a celebration later in October.

Kalamazoo District Missions Day. Celebrate missions with a program at Crystal Springs Campground (south of Dowagiac) on Saturday, September 26, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Schedule will include Rev. Neil Davis, Jeff Parsons, and Ann Simmons from International Child Care in Haiti. Soup and salad lunch will be provided as well as a tour of the campground.

"Forgiveness" DVD. On Tuesday, September 8, at 7 p.m. Stephen Ministries will be showing the Fetzer Institute's DVD "Forgiveness" in the chapel. All members of the congregation and community are encouraged to attend.

Trunk Show - "Sew what now God?" presents Laura Bailey on August 25th at 6 p.m. at Vicksburg United Methodist Church. Come and enjoy this captivating speaker and see her beautiful quilts. If you quilt or appreciate quilts, this is the place to be.

First United Methodist Church

212 S. Park St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone 269-381-6340; Fax 269-381-1678

www.umc-kzo.org

First Church Staff

The staff is here to empower and equip the congregation for ministry and mission. Email FUMC clergy and office staff by entering their first initial, entire last name and then @umc-kzo.org (dvernon@umc-kzo.org).

Dr. Douglas Vernon	Senior Pastor
Rev. Julie Dix	Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Rev. Sandy Elfring	Pastor of Visitation
Rev. Julie Kline	Pastor of Youth Ministries
Jacqueline Stilger	Minister of Music
Bernie Foulk	Organist
Joe Konrad	Church Business Administrator
Jennifer Stupica	Communications Coordinator
Christi Landreville	Administrative Assistant
Linda Lueth	Financial Assistant
Kelly Green	Office Assistant
Darryl Poplar	Custodian
Bruce Sackett	Custodian
Walter Walker	Evening Security
Julie Meyers	FIRST CARE Director
Dr. Jonathan Keaton	Bishop of Michigan Area - The United Methodist Church
Rev. Neil Davis	Kalamazoo District Superintendent

Return & Rejoice, September 13

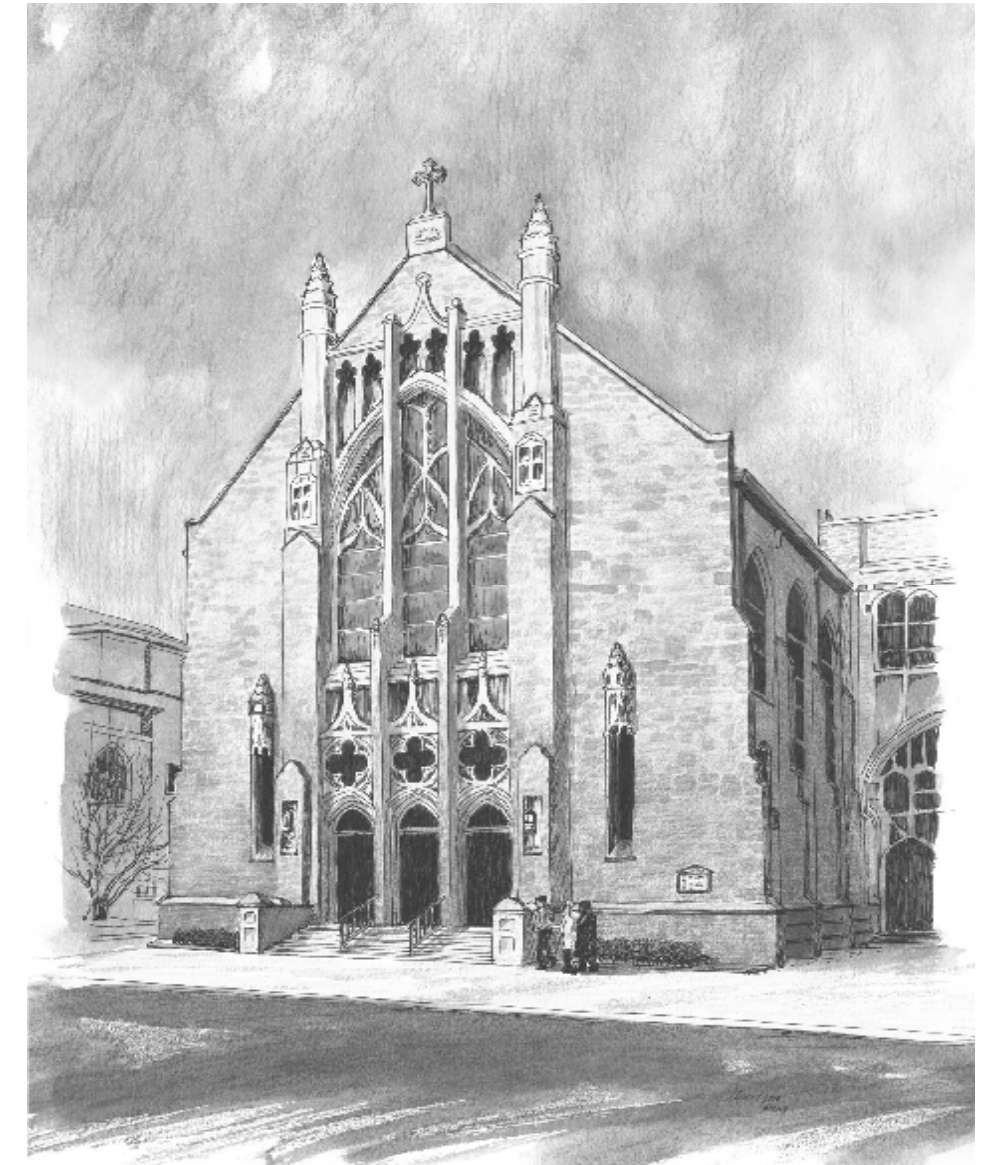
Plan now on joining your family in faith for a great day of celebration on Sunday, September 13. We will continue our summer schedule of one worship service at 10 a.m. as we **Return and Rejoice** in the successful completion of our year-long renovation/expansion project. Our festival worship will include a Liturgy of Reconsecration of our facilities, special music by our choirs under the direction of our new Minister of Music Jackie Stilger, and a challenging sermon by Kalamazoo District Superintendent Rev. Neil Davis.

Plan to join us for lunch that day! The menu includes a large chef salad with all the fixings, choice of dressing, brownies, lemon bars, coffee and lemonade—all for the price of \$6. **Please purchase your meal tickets in the hall on Sundays or from the church office on week days.** This will help YOU avoid a very long ticket line on September 13, and will help US anticipate how many meals to order. We will be ordering a limited number of extra meals.

Lunch will be followed by a **Building Reconsecration Program**, 1-1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and an **Open House** that will be open to the public, from 1:30-3 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone on September 13th!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO



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.*

August 23, 2009
10:00 a.m.



Welcome to Worship!

** 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 Time With Our Children. Please also register your attendance in the gray registration book.

GATHERING MUSIC “Blessed Jesus, We are Here” (Bach)

CALL TO WORSHIP *(all reading the bold)*

Holy ground! We are standing on holy ground.
For where God is, the ground is holy.
Holy hands! God works through our hands,
So they are holy.
Holy words! God speaks through our words,
So they become holy.
Holy thoughts! God moves others through our ideas and dreams,
So they are holy.
Holy songs! God prays in our songs.
So they are holy. Therefore let us joyfully sing!

***HYMN 374** *(red hymnal)* “Standing On the Promises”

***GREETING** *(all reading the bold)*

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. Often accompanied by a handshake or hug, the usual words are, “The peace of Christ be with you,” with a response, “And also with you.”

RESPONSE 2128 *(black hymnal)* “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

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

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

Lord Jesus, clothe us in your righteousness. Put on us the stamp of your possession of us. Dress us in fresh, new garments that show the world the change for the better that you have established in our hearts. Warm us with the blanket of your tender care. Protect us with the armor of your truth. Dress us up for the great celebration that is your coming kingdom. Amen.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

At First Church, children are always welcome in worship. After “Time With Our Children,” programming for children ages 4 through early elementary is available in room 203. Child care for infants through age 3 is also available during worship in room 206.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6.10-20 (NT p. 195)

SERMON

Weaving Belief and Behavior: “Helpful or Harmful?”

HYMN 2202 *(black hymnal)*

“Come Away with Me”

(First verse solo, congregation joins in vs. 2-5)

COMMUNITY AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

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

Coins received will be designated for the support of United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their work around the world.

A WITNESS TO BELIEF & BEHAVIOR

Anthony Ertz

***DOXOLOGY 94** *(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)*

Dear God, it is a mystery that you have decided to work through persons like us. But we believe that you do and that you have empowered us to be helpers. May every act of generosity in this offering be blessed by your strong guiding Spirit. Amen.

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

***OUR SHARED LIFE**

***BLESSING**

GOING FORTH “Rondeau” (Mouret)

As a welcoming congregation, we invite you to be seated for this final musical response to our worship experience; then, go into the world offering gracious hospitality to all!

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 30
10 a.m.
Helen Sheperd
Missionary to Mongolia

Sunday, September 6
10 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon
Holy Communion

THE WEEK AHEAD

Bronson Park Food Pantry

1-3 p.m.

SUNDAY, August 23

9:30 a.m. Child care ages 6 weeks - 3 yrs - 206
9:30 a.m. Open Prayer - Chapel
10:00 a.m. Festival Worship - Sanctuary
10:20 a.m. Children's Chapel - 203
4:00 p.m. Martha's Table - First Congregational Church

MONDAY, August 24

6:30 p.m. Security Policy Training - Fellowship Room

TUESDAY, August 25

5:45 p.m. Outreach Team - Fellowship Room
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry - 304, 305
7:00 p.m. Church Council - Parlor

WEDNESDAY, August 26

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - Conference Room
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
6:30 p.m. Security Policy Training - Fellowship Room
7:00 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

THURSDAY, August 27

10:00 a.m. Cooperative United Methodists - Parlor
11:00 a.m. Caring Committee - Rev. Elfring's home
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
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, August 28

2:00 p.m. Middleton Memorial Service- Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Middleton Reception - Wesley Hall
6:00 p.m. Miller/Hatfield Rehearsal - Sanctuary

SATURDAY, August 29

3:00 p.m. Miller/Hatfield Wedding - Sanctuary