

## 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.

**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

Helen Sheperd, Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Joyce Moore

### Minister of Music

Jackie Stilger

### Organist

Bernie Foulk

## ASSISTING TODAY

### Ushers

Anthony Ertz (head usher), Michael Seals, Scott Centilli, Jeff McCubbin, Jon Waldron, Lois Miles, Jim Treece, Dan Macek

### Greeters

Pam & John McKenzie, John & Donna McNaughton

### Office

Fay Woolrich

### Welcome Center

Carol Shilts

### Van Driver

Vickie Winfield

### Audio & Lighting

Nathan Karnemaat

**The flowers on the altar** are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Jim and Ellen McDonald.

**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

**We welcome Missionary Helen Shepherd to First Church.** She is one five missionaries that First Church supports. Helen has served in Mongolia since 2002 as a nurse, directing the Grace Hospice home care program and building relationships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She also teaches bible study for children and young women. Helen is a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan and received her nursing degree from Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Kalamazoo. She also has a B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Social Gerontology.

**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: TODAY 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.** There will be no Children's Chapel today and September 6 after Time With Our Children.

**"Do All the Good You Can Day,"** September 26 is the day but various activities will take place during the entire week. There will be many wonderful outreach ministries for you to choose from. Sign-up to participate on Sundays in September at the table in the hall! We are partnering with four other Kalamazoo area United Methodist churches for this event this year!

**"Power of Forgiveness."** Stephen Ministry invites you to the Tuesday, September 8, @ 7 p.m. viewing of this powerful video in the chapel.

**Take a Stroll with Your Soul.** Walk the 11-circuit Chartres Labyrinth on Wednesday, September 16, in Wesley Hall. Self-guided prayer walk: 5-7 p.m.; ritual and guided meditation: 7-8 p.m.; group sharing (optional): 8-9 p.m. OPEN to the PUBLIC.

**ASP Team Report.** On Sunday, September 20, our ASP Team will present a slideshow of their summer mission work in Kentucky. You won't want to miss this inspiring presentation.

## First United Methodist Church

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

[www.umc-kzo.org](http://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](mailto:@umc-kzo.org) ([dvernon@umc-kzo.org](mailto: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 30, 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** "Capriccio" (Froberger)

**ANTHEM** "It is Well with My Soul" Last Bells

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(all reading the bold)*  
We come before God to be made new,  
**to be molded and shaped,  
to be reformed for our mission as disciples.**

We come before God to be made new.  
**Alleluia! Praise to God in whom all things are new.**

**\*HYMN 568** *(red hymnal)* "Christ for the World We Sing"

**\*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."

**INTRODUCTIONS** — Helen Sheperd, Missionary to Mongolia  
Jacqueline Stilger, Minister of Music

**RESPONSE 2156** *(black humnal)* "Give Peace"

In typical Taize tradition, this prayer song will be sung repeatedly by the whole congregation until the Spirit moves us to conclude.

## 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)*

**Creator God, you give our gifts and skills, and we would use them for worthy purposes in our life and our service as followers of Jesus. Gathered here in community, we recommit ourselves and our labors to you, asking that you help us to maintain a holy perspective on being and doing, that our lives may always give you glory. Amen.**

## TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 4.8 (OT p. 616)

## \*GOSPEL READING

The word of God, for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

Mark 4.3-8 (NT p. 38)

## SERMON

"Called to a Life of Love, Compassion and Service"

**HYMN 2175** *(black hymnal)* "Together We Serve"

## 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.

## ANTHEM

"Christians All, Come Sing His Praises" (Carter)

TEXT: Christians all, come sing His praises, He who saved and made you whole; Let the sound of glad rejoicing echo from your grateful soul. Praise the One who formed and freed you, Praise His most amazing grace; Praise the One who'll love and lead you 'till you meet Him face to face. All things good He gives His children, life and health and joy and peace; strength to meet the trials before us, from our bondage sweet release. Feel His presence! Feel his power! Rock and refuge he will be; in your dark and troubled hour, He will give you victory. If you love Him, come and serve Him, Lay your life before Him now. Can you count how much you owe Him? All that heaven will allow! Tell the world the wondrous story, how He loved us everyone; How he'll take us home to glory when our race on earth is run.

**\*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)*

**Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all you entrust to our stewardship, O God.  
Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 584** *(red hymnal)* "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

## \*OUR SHARED LIFE

## \*BLESSING

## GOING FORTH

"My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker" (Buxtehude)

*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, September 6  
10 a.m.**

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon  
Holy Communion  
"Bread and Work"  
Ecclesiastes 3.9-15; John 6.27-29

**Sunday, September 13  
Return & Rejoice Sunday  
10 a.m.**

Rev. Neil Davis, pulpit guest  
**11:30 a.m. Return & Rejoice Luncheon  
1 p.m. Building Program  
1:30 - 3 p.m. Open House**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Bronson Park Food Pantry**  
1-3 p.m.

### SUNDAY, August 30

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

### MONDAY, August 31

### TUESDAY, September 1

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - Conference Room  
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor  
7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

### WEDNESDAY, September 2

9:30 a.m. UMW General Meeting - Fellowship Room  
6:30 p.m. Teacher Training - Allen Library, 303  
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

### THURSDAY, September 3

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel  
5:00 p.m. CFM Team - Allen Library, 303  
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, September 4

11:00 a.m. Church Women United - Wesley Hall  
6:00 p.m. Simmons/Krupinski Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, September 5

**PLEASE NOTE: There is NO Children's Chapel today or September 6 after Time With Our Children. Childcare for children ages 6 weeks—3 years is available in room 206. We welcome children of all ages in worship. Worship activity bags can be found on a cart outside the sanctuary.**

**Sunday School for all ages begins Sunday,**