

5:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas!

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat
of peace on earth, good-will to all! ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

You are invited to ring your bells each time you hear the Christmas bell ring!

PRELUDE *(please see back cover)* Traditional Carols

Please refrain from talking or applauding as our children lead us in this time of worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER *(all praying together)*

Dear God, we have been waiting so long for this time to arrive. Tonight we are very happy. Jesus has come again in our lives, to give light and love to the world. Thank you, God, for the best Christmas gift of all...the gift of yourself. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(all reading the bold)*

Now is the time to tell all the people that their God has come!

Sing, heavens! Shout for joy, earth!

Tell all the people that a child has been born!

(The Christ Candle is lit)

And his name is Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God!

Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

***CAROL 234 vs. 1 & 3** *(red hymnal)* "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels; O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

SCRIPTURE READING: A Message to Joseph

Matthew 1: 18-24 (NT, p.

SOLO "Rock-a-bye, My Dear Little Boy"

Czeck Carol

SCRIPTURE READING: The Announcement to Mary

Luke 1: 26b-38 (NT, p. 56)

ANTHEM "The Angel Gabriel"

Basque Carol

SCRIPTURE READING: Mary's Song

Luke 1: 46-55 (NT, p. 57)

ANTHEM "My Soul Rejoices"

Owen Alstott

SCRIPTURE READING: Jesus is Born!

Luke 2: 1-7 (NT, p. 58)

BELL HYMN "Away in a Manger"

SCRIPTURE: Angels and Shepherds

Luke 2: 8-20 (NT, p. 58)

***HYMN 238 vs. 1 - 3** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,

and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;

come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

A STORY "The Night the Bells Rang"

HYMN 239 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,

shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,

wondrous star, lend thy light;

with the angels let us sing,

Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***BENEDICTION: The Light of the World**

John 1: 1-4 (NT, 91)

***CAROL 246** *(red hymnal)* "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,

and Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,

far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,

and wonders, wonders, of His love.

Christmas Offering

This year our Christmas Offering will go to help our congregation pay its Ministry Shares. Ministry Shares go to the greater United Methodist Church to help cover its many national and international missions and outreach ministries. **Offering plates are located on a small table in the hall right outside the Sanctuary doors.**

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Worship Leaders

Laurel Wolfe	Drew Strand	Avery Strand
Kohler Briggs	William Hawthorne	Lukas Bolton
Willa Kuttner	Hannah Geerlings	
Rev. Shelly Wisdom-Long		

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Prelude

<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> (piano)	Celia Baublis
<i>Away in a Manger</i> (flute)	Laurel Wolfe
<i>I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In</i> (piano)	Avery Strand
<i>Jesu Bambino</i> (violin)	Willa Kuttner

Vocal Soloist

Christopher Aranda

First Beats

Christopher Aranda	Celia Baublis	Jonah Bolton
Lukas Bolton	Carly Braginton	Kohler Briggs
Hannah Geerlings	Natalie Gross	Will Hawthorne
Ella Hawthorne	Willa Kuttner	Carsten Strand
Drew Strand	Avery Strand	Elise Warnicke
Laurel Wolfe	Marjorie Wolfe	

First Bells Director

Mrs. Liza Wolfe

Ushers

Tom, Diana & Riley Lundquist, Peter Aranda

Greeters

Richard Long, Michael Long, Marcia Wisdom

Audio & Lighting

Nic Aranda

Pastor Shelly's message "The Night the Bells Rang" is adapted from the short story, "The Year There Was No Christmas" by B. J. Chute

Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

www.umc-kzo.org

If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time or are visiting us for the holidays, we bid you welcome! If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshiping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. Our upcoming worship schedule is:

Sunday, December 25	4:00 p.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. John Boley "Customs of Christmas"
Sunday, January 1	10:00 a.m. Worship (no Sunday School) Rev. Julie Kline "An Invitation to New Life" A Service of Covenant & Renewal Holy Communion Romans 12: 1-3
Sunday, January 8	8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Sunday School resumes @ 9:30 a.m. Baptism of the Lord Sunday Rev. John Boley "The Healing Waters of Baptism" Genesis 1: 1-5; Mark 1: 4-11

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.

Please visit our website often

www.umc-kzo.org

Have a Blessed Christmas!

December 24, 2011

5:00 p.m.

the Savior is born!

First United Methodist
Church
of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269.381.6340
www.umc-kzo.org

