

Peace means the beginning of a new world. It means the nations are friends; it means joy to the world.

Men: It is possible to live in peace.

People ask, “what is the sense of our small effort?” They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time.

Women: It is possible to live in peace.

Whatever form we are—able or disabled, rich or poor—it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others.

All: It is possible to live in peace.

Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear, only love can do that.

Men: It is possible to live in peace.

Peace is like spring after winter; it brings sunshine to the world; it is like sweet music after harsh sounds.

Women: It is possible to live in peace.

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.

All: It is possible to live in peace.

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.

All: It is possible to live in peace.

We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means. We shall hew out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.

All: May the peace of Advent be found in our worship, our prayers and our unfolding lives.

***SONG 2171** (black hymnal) “*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*”

ADVENT LITANY & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

(Let us Pray) **Loving God, as we continue to live this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives, experiences and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of peace with justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may always walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN “*Onward Came the Lord*”

Came he not in fire, on-ward came the Lord. Not in wind or rain,
on-ward came the Lord. Hail nor sleet or snow, on-ward came the
Lord. In a still small voice came He, on-ward came the Lord!

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REFLECTIONS & SCRIPTURE ON PEACE

“*Peace on Earth*” by Ann Weems

* **John 1: 1-14** (NT, p. 91)

“*Lord of All Goodness*”

Lord of all good-ness, Lord of all mer - cy,
may your peace sur - round us.

Romans 12: 14-21 (NT, p. 162)

Meditation: “A Peaceful Community”

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***SONG 431** (red hymnal) “*Let There Be Peace on Earth*”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

You, who are part of God’s creation are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning by intinction—coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread, dipping it in the cup of juice and eating. You are invited to kneel at the communion rail for prayer and/or return to your seat by the side aisle. Music during communion: “*Peace*” (Martin J. Wimmer)

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 “*Advent Hope — When Will Messiah Come*”

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Almighty God, we cry to You; when will Messiah come? When will You wipe our tears away? Spirit of truth, we call unto You; when will our sorrow turn to joy? O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel. Lord of the promise, hear our plea; when will we greet Emmanuel? When will Messiah come?

***DOXOLOGY 221 v. 4** (red hymnal) “*In the Bleak Midwinter*”

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can, I give him; give my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (praying together)

Tender God, use us—all that we have and all that we are, to touch the world with the Christmas message: God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us. So, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. Amen.

***OUR SHARED LIFE**

***CLOSING HYMN 209** (red hymnal) “*Blessed Be the God of Israel*”

***BLESSING**

GOING FORTH

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 11
8:30 and 11 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. John Boley

“The Joyful Community”

Isaiah 62: 1-4, 8-11;

Thessalonians 5: 16-224

Sunday, December 18
8:30 and 11 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. John Boley

“The Loving Community”

Luke 2: 1-7

During 11:00 worship: “Joy at the Stable”
Children’s Christmas Program

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, December 4

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Park Street Perks - Perks Gathering Area

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for children & youth

9:30 a.m. Sip ‘n Sing - Parlor

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Simple Gifts Workshop - Wesley Hall

4:00 p.m. Martha’s Table - Wesley Hall

4:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary

6:00 p.m. First Singers Rehearsal - Choir Room

6:00 p.m. Youth Tribe: Movie Madness - Youth Center

MONDAY, December 5

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

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lifetouch photos taken at

Friendship Village

TUESDAY, December 6

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - 305

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

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

5:00 p.m. Advocacy Services for Youth - 303, 304, 305

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

7:30 p.m. Early Music Michigan - Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, December 7

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

9:30 a.m. UMW Gen. Mtg. & Program - Parlor

9:30 a.m. WMU LLA Curriculum - Fellowship Room

10:30 a.m. Community for Healing Counseling - 304

12:00 p.m. Advent Concert Series - Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. UMW Luncheon - Wesley Hall

1:00 p.m. Building & Grounds - Fellowship Room

5:45 p.m. Fermata Kalamazoo - Choir Room

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

7:00 p.m. Disciple II - 304

7:00 p.m. The Jesus of Church History - Parlor

THURSDAY, December 8

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

1:00 p.m. Any Soldier Packing - Perks Area

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support - Youth Center

6:00 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal -

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

SATURDAY, December 10

10:00 a.m. Saturday Sabbath for Parents

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 also 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 John Ross, jross@umc-kzo.org

Worship Leaders

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. John Boley, Molly Williams

First Singers Director John Leeger
First Singers Accompanist Miriam Downey

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Terry O'Connor, Pam O'Connor, Susan Turner

Greeter

Jonathan Richardson

Welcome Center

N/A

Van Driver

Jay Gross

Audio & Lighting

Nic Aranda

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of our parents, Glenn & Anita Averill and Earl & Fay Hyde, given by Nancy & Earl Hyde.

The new Advent wreath is a gift to the church in loving memory of Mary Cooper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sip 'n Serve. On Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, join together with your family of faith during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) for a time of hymn singing and fellowship while you sip your coffee or hot chocolate. There will not be any Academy Classes scheduled in December.

Poinsettia Plant Sale. If you ordered a poinsettia plant, you may pick it up in the Marketplace today.

Gifts for Christmas. The Russia Initiative is selling the church cookbook (that includes Gil McWethy's famous sloppy joe recipe) and pewter ornaments of the church in the Marketplace today. Proceeds will help fund our Russia Initiative ministry.

Simple Gifts Workshop TODAY! Join us for a time of craft-making for our family and friends, and sock-stuffing for our friends at the Gospel Mission, Ministry with Community and Martha's Table today after the 11 a.m. worship in Wesley Hall. We'll enjoy hot chocolate and holiday music as we work! A donation of \$15/family is suggested to cover the cost of the lasagna dinner and craft materials. Everyone is invited to come.

Saturday Sabbath for Parents. If you missed our first childcare event, you still have time to sign up for one more on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10am-2pm. The youth of the church will provide quality childcare for children ages 1 thru 6th grade. The children will be divided up for age-appropriate fun. Sign-up (at the Welcome Center) is necessary so they know how many children to plan for.

Cookie Packing. Homemade cookies for homebound friends are needed. Packing of cookies will be at the church on Friday, Dec. 9 in the Fellowship Room from 9:30-11 a.m. If you can not join us in packing, please label your cookies and leave them in the Parlor kitchenette.

First United Methodist Church

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Phone 269-381-6340; Fax 269-381-1678
www.umc-kzo.org

New Year's Eve Fest Volunteers. Sign-up at the table in the hall for the time of your choice to volunteer to help direct guests during the New Year's Eve Fest and get free admission for the evening!

Advent Concert Series. Join us Wed., December 7 at noon for a 50-minute concert of classical guitar music by Jeff Dwarshuis. Refreshments will be available after the concert. A free will offering will be accepted for future music and arts programming.

A Kalamazoo Christmas: Give the Gift of Warmth. Sunday, December 18 at Stockbridge UMC. They will be serving guests in need a full Christmas dinner as well as provide warm clothing. They will need many volunteers to provide a meal, sort toys, sort clothing, and bake cookies. There are large boxes in the hall are set up for your donations of coats, scarves, hats and gloves. Donations are requested by Dec. 12. Find out how you can donate your time and gifts by volunteering at www.AKalamazooChristmas.org. You can also sign up to volunteer in the hall. An orientation walk-thru for volunteers is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m.

Any Soldier Packing. Our last packing date for this ministry will be Thursday, Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. in the Perks area. Christmas items for the soldiers are welcome. Please contact Lois Miles, 373-9871, if you are willing to lead this ministry next year. Thanks to all who have faithfully helped with supplies and the packing of care packages!

Pledge Cards. As of December 31, we have heard from 229 pledging units for \$664,678. If you have not done so yet, please return your 2012 pledge card to the office as soon as possible so that we may finalize the process of setting the budget for next year.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

December 4, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Experience, Celebrate and Share God's love

Welcome to Worship!

** Please stand as you are able.*

Please silence cell phones and other alarms.

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

GATHERING MUSIC “

*GREETING

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

SONG 2157 (black hymnal) “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

A CALL TO PEACE

(From the words of Gandhi, Hillel, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dorothy Day, Margaret Mead, the prophet Amos, and the children of the Lincoln School)

We are caught in an escapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Injustice everywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Men: It is possible to live in peace.

If I am not for myself, who will be? If I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, when?

Women: It is possible to live in peace.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

All: It is possible to live in peace.

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.