

## Welcome to Worship!

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

\* Please stand as you are able

*“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:17 (NRSV)*

### PRAISE

PRELUDE *“Have Mercy, Lord”* J. Sweelinck

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

There is something more, or something missing,

**that sends us searching in the dark,**

looking for answers,

**risking a question.**

We are drawn here

**because God touched us,**

given us hope,

**and whispered our name.**

Here is this place,

**We journey toward grace**

and know the “something more”

**Is the love revealed in Jesus’ face.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE 88 *(red hymnal)* *“Maker in Whom We Live”*

\*LIGHTING THE PEACE AND LENTEN CANDLES

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

\*GREETING/PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

**Meditation**

**Prayer after extinguishing the candle** *(all praying together)*

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, may we be open to your presence. Give us the strength to make the changes that are needed in our lives and the courage to take on the work of transforming the world. Amen.**

*(The diminishing light symbolizes the wavering loyalty of the disciples and the waning of light from the world as Jesus departs from it. Each Sunday, another candle will be extinguished, until the final candle goes out on Good Friday.)*

HYMN 2275 *(black hymnal)* *“Kyrie”*

FIRST BELLS *“Amazing Grace”*

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Following Time With Our Children, Bible Buzz for ages 4 through early elementary is provided on the 2nd floor. Parents can pick up children at the 2nd floor check-in desk following worship.

### PROCLAMATION

PSALM 121 *Please join in singing the refrain when indicated*

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Ring out\_ joy to\_ God our ma - ker, sing a\_\_psalm to\_ God our might.

\*GOSPEL LESSON

John 3: 1-17 (NT, p. 93-94)

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE **“Understanding These Things”**

RESPONSE 2046 *(black hymnal)* *“Womb of Life”*

### RESPONSE

SILENT 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.**

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 *“Witness”*

Jack Hallorn

*Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees, his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a man can be born when he is old. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend, “Man, you must be born again. Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe and be baptized.” Then you'll be a witness for my Lord. We read about Samson, from his birth he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth. Way back yonder in ancient times he killed ten thousand of the Philistines. Then old Samson went a wand'rin about, Samson's strength was never found out. 'Til his wife sat upon his knee. She said, “Tell me where your strength lies, if you please!” Well, old Samson's wife, she talk so fair, Samson said, “cut off my hair! Shave my head just as clean as your hand, and my strength will come like a natural man” Samson was a witness for my Lord. There's another witness for my Lord! My soul is a witness for my Lord!*

\*DOXOLOGY 95 *(red hymnal)* *“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, all heavenly hosts;**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(praying together)*

**O God, as we follow Christ on the path of obedience, we are always reminded of your desire for us to be ever-faithful. Take these gifts and tithes and offerings and make them become for us an act of faith in your gracious love. Bless them, we pray. Amen**

\*OUR SHARED LIFE

\*CLOSING HYMN 383 *(red hymnal)* *“This is the Day of New Beginnings” vs. 1-4*

\*BLESSING & GOING FORTH

*“Tokkata in d”*

M. Reger

### UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Sunday, March 27**  
**8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Rev. Julie Kline

“Quenching our Thirst”

John 4: 5-42

**Sunday, April 3**  
**8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Rev. John Boley

“The Nit-Picker in Each of Us”

John 9: 1-41

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**SUNDAY, March 20**

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. 20/30's Lenten Book Study - Lower Lounge

12:15 p.m. Hospitality - Parlor

4:00 p.m. Interfaith Service - Sanctuary

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

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

**MONDAY, March 21**

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

11:00 a.m. Building & Grounds - Fellowship Room

**TUESDAY, March 22**

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - 305

12:00 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting - Parlor

12:00 p.m. Communities in Schools - Fellowship Room

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

5:00 p.m. Justice Team - Allen Library

5:30 p.m. Liturgical Dance Rehearsal - Sanctuary

5:30 p.m. March of Dimes - Wesley Hall

7:00 p.m. Church Council - Parlor

7:00 p.m. Early Music Michigan - Choir Room

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

**WEDNESDAY, March 23**

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

9:30 a.m. UMW Executive Board Meeting - Parlor

9:45 a.m. Coffee & Conversation - 210

12:00 p.m. Lenten Organ Recital - Sanctuary

2:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry - 307, 304

5:30 p.m. Acappazoo - Choir Room

7:00 p.m. Disciple I - 304

7:00 p.m. Companions in Christ - Chapel

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

**THURSDAY, March 24**

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

10:30 a.m. Lenten Book Study - 304

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

2:30 p.m. Wesley Foundation - Parlor

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

6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

7:00 p.m. Lenten Book Study - 304

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

**FRIDAY, March 25**

9:00 a.m. Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers

**SATURDAY, March 26**

9:00 a.m. Kalamazoo Area Music Teachers

12:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat

## 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 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

Joe Konrad, [jkonrad@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jkonrad@umc-kzo.org)

### **Worship Leaders**

Rev. Shelly Wisdom-Long, Rev. John Boley, Sarah Headapohl

### **Minister of Music**

Jacqueline Stilger

### **Organist**

Bernie Foulk

### **Ushers**

Dan Bunker, Greg Gill, Andrew Gill, Ken Hall, Nic Aranda, Michael Deaton

### **Greeters**

Chuck & Jeddy Wilson, Donna Dunyak & Penny Steuerwald

### **Office**

Marilyn Tonander

### **Acolytes**

Malana Sherfield & Hannah Geerlings

### **Audio & Lighting**

Bob Lane

### **Van Driver**

Andrew Lehman

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

Bruce & Maggie Binns

**The flowers on the altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jim Robinson, given by Cleo Hayden.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Guests!** We are glad you are worshipping with us today! Please stop at 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.

**Youth Silent Auction.** Take a look at today's bulletin insert and bid, bid, bid!!! Look for the table in the Market Place to get your bidding number. Check the status of your bid each Sunday in March to see if you are still the highest! The ASP Team thanks you for your wonderful support of this fund raiser for their trip this summer.

**Russia Initiative Potluck.** All are invited to attend on Tuesday, March 29 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Irina Mitina will present a program on the church in Russia. Please contact Deanna Hogarth, 375-1476 or Donna Dunyak, 344-056 for further information.

**Crystal Springs Camp Clean Up Day.** Help clean up and open camp for the summer. We'll be moving picnic tables, moving leaves, picking up sticks, and turning on water. Won't you consider joining with others for a rewarding day of work and fellowship? April 9, 2011 9 a.m. - ??? Crystal Springs Camp, 33774 Crystal Springs St., Dowagiac, MI. Lunch will be provided. Bring gloves, rakes, chain saws, tarps, gas powered leaf blowers, and other light construction tools. Pick-up trucks and utility trailers would also be helpful. Please RSVP to Jeff Parsons, 269-683-8918 or [crystal@locallink.net](mailto:crystal@locallink.net).

## 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)

**All-Church Lenten Book Study:** *Justice for the Poor; It's Not Political, It's Biblical.*

We hope you will participate in one of the four sessions planned:

- 1) Academy Class @ 9:30 a.m.  
Facilitator: Rev. John Boley
- 2) Thursday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.  
Facilitator: Rev. John Boley
- 3) Thursday evenings @ 7 p.m.  
Facilitator: Rev. Julie Kline
- 4) 20/30's Sundays @ 12:15 p.m.  
Facilitator: Rev. Julie Kline

**Lenten Organ Recitals.** Enjoy relaxing lunch-hour organ concerts during Lent. The first concert is at noon on Wednesday, March 23, by Stephen G. White, Organist and Choir Master of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Battle Creek. Open to the public. Free will offering.

**Interfaith Service for Peace.** Today @ 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice will have their 9th annual observance of the war in Iraq. Keynote speaker Mark Braverman will present "The Path to Peace in Israel/Palestine" with discussion following the service. Contact Mollie Clements with questions or for more information.

**God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action.** Sat., April 9, 9am-3:30pm at Central United Methodist Church in Lansing. An inspirational conference full of info on how we can change our way of living in the world and respond to God's call to join in renewing creation. **Registration flyers are available at the Welcome Center.** \$25 family, \$15 individual, free for students.



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

March 20, 2011

11:00 a.m.

*Experience, Celebrate and Share God's love*



### **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.*