

Welcome to Worship!

** Please stand as you are able.
Please silence cell phones.*

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.

*“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”*

PROCLAMATION

*GOSPEL LESSON

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

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

MESSAGE *“Understanding These Things”*

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

RESPONSE

SILENT PRAYER & 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

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 *“Amazing Grace”*

John Newton and Edwin Excell

The anthem text can be found in your red pew hymnal, #378.

*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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Shelly Wisdom-Long, Rev. John Boley, Barbara Miller

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Doug Paul, Steven Vorbrich, William Vorbrich

Greeters

Deanna Hogarth, Marian Starbuck

Office

Nancy Hyde

Audio & Lighting

Gordon Bundy

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.

First United Methodist Church

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

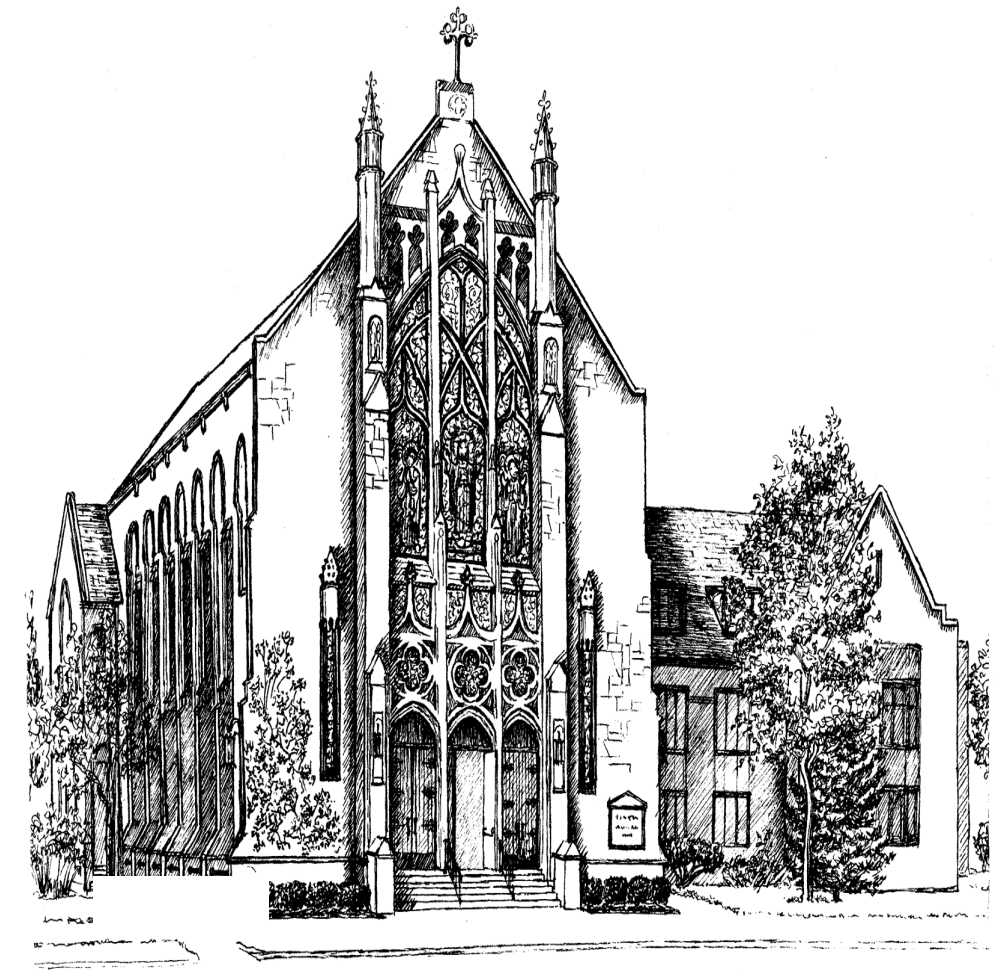


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

March 20, 2011

8:30 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.