

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 the lighting of the peace candle. Please also register your attendance in the gray registration book. Welcome to worship!

GATHERING *“Ricercar Arioso”* A. Gabrieli

CALL TO WORSHIP *(all reading the bold)* Psalm 148

Praise God! Sun and moon, all shining stars and planets: Praise God! Waters above the heavens: Praise God!

Praise God! Sea monsters and all deep-swimming creatures: Praise God! Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind at God’s command: Praise God!

Praise God! Mountains and hills, fruit trees and evergreens. Animals wild and tame.

Creeping things and flying birds: Praise God! All people praise God. Young and old, men and women, rulers and kings and presidents.

Praise God! God’s name alone be praised. Praise for all God’s creations.

Praise God!

***HYMN 384** *(red hymnal) “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

***GREETING**

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. The traditional greeting is “The peace of Christ be with you,” with a response, “And also with you.”

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

Holy Christ, teach us today to do no harm, to do good, and assist us so that we may stay in a loving relationship with you and our neighbor. Help us today to be an answer to another’s prayer so that we may be one of your signs of hope in the world you love. Amen.

RESPONSE 2223 *(black hymnal) “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”*

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

We light this candle during every Sunday worship service to remember that Christ is in the world offering peace.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

John 13: 31-35 (NT, p. 108)

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Infectious Love”

Rev. Julie Kline

HYMN 2260

“Let Us Be Bread”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(please turn to p. 886 in the red hymnal)*

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving *(all reading the bold)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

This morning, Holy Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come by the center aisle to receive the elements. Please return to your pew by the side aisles.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(praying together)*

We thank you, loving God, that you have refreshed us and united us at the table of Jesus. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OURSELVES, TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Love You Lord”

B. Foulk

***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)*

Loving God, may our gifts speak a caring word to those who need to hear. May our lives be a communication of your love revealed through us, for the building up of Christ’s reign of peace, justice, and mercy upon the earth. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

***HYMN 636** *(red hymnal)*

“Christian People, Raise Your Song”

***BLESSING**

GOING FORTH

“Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God”

J.S.Bach

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, May 9

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon

“Bear Fruit”

John 15: 1-11

Sunday, May 16

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, May 2

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. 3Cs - 310

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class - Fellowship Room

9:30 a.m. United Methodism 101 - 304

9:30 a.m. Servant Leadership - Allen Library

9:30 a.m. Eternal Life - Parlor

9:30 a.m. Java & Jive - Youth Center

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

11:00 a.m. Festival Worship - Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Children’s Choir - 203

12:15 p.m. Confirmation Reception - Parlor

2:00 p.m. CROP Walk (Tribe) - Downtown Kalamazoo

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

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

MONDAY, May 3

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

TUESDAY, May 4

12:00 p.m. All Staff Meeting - Fellowship Room

1:30 p.m. Worship Planning - 305

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

6:15 p.m. United Methodism 101 - 304

7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

WEDNESDAY, May 5

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

9:30 a.m. UMW General Meeting & Program - Parlor

1:00 p.m. UMW Executive Board - Parlor

1:00 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting - 305

6:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning - Parlor

7:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministries Team - Allen Library

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, May 6

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

11:30 a.m. Body & Soul - Parlor

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble - 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, May 7

SATURDAY, May 8

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 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>.

Park Street Perks! All are welcome to coffee and donuts available near the parking lot doors from 9:30-10:40 a.m. Please sign up to help bring donuts, etc. on the board in the welcoming area. Fair Exchange coffee is available for purchase at \$10 a bag.

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

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders

Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Andrew Vorbrich

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

ASSISTING TODAY

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Durrell McKenzie, Susan Turner, Molly Williams

Greeters

Monica Luce, Bruce & Do Brown

Office

Kim Mansfield

Welcome Center

Van Driver

Vicki Winfield

Audio & Lighting

Riley Lundquist

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

Greg & Cheryl Anderson, Rich & Deb Karnemaat

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in honor of Jason McCubbin and the RAMS team's 10th Anniversary Walk on May 8th as they rally against MS. May those with Multiple Sclerosis or other chronic illnesses be blessed with the Spirit of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will have a reception for our 2010 Confirmation Class after the 11:00 worship this morning in the parlor. Join us for cake and ice cream and meet this group of inspirational youth!

The Confirmands are wearing stoles today that were handmade by Jeanne Konrad. Thank you, Jeanne, for your thoughtful and gracious gift of all of the stoles. The Confirmands decorated the stoles with symbols of their faith.

Sponsor a fleece blanket or pillow. Our annual event to raise money for the purchase of material to make fleece blankets and pillows for children in crises is underway. You can help support this ministry by writing a check to the church with "blanket/pillow ministry" in the memo (cost for 1 pillow, \$4; fleece for 1 blanket, \$20-25), and leaving it at the table near the parking lot entrance.

The Youth Tribe appreciates the support and generosity of the congregation for Youth Missions. We have one item from the Youth Auction that is still available on a first come basis. Please contact Pastor Julie Kline if you are interested in purchasing this item: H&R BLOCK PERSONAL TAX PREPARATION (expires 10/15/11).

A special presentation of the "Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light" is coming to First Church! This one-woman play with music performed by Linn Maxwell is Thursday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. (Freewill offering). Put it on your events calendar!

Church Family Picnic. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 15 at 2 p.m., for an afternoon of fellowship, play and BBQ! We will be having a picnic at the Oshtemo Township Park (located behind the Oshtemo Town Hall, 7275 W. Main Street). Sign up sheets can be found at the arches on the 2nd floor.

First United Methodist Church

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

Appalachia Service Project

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 9

12:15 p.m. in the Wesley Hall

Treat that special lady in your life to a wonderful brunch, help support the youth ASP mission trip to West Virginia and spend Mother's Day with your church family!

You will be pampered by the youth of our church as they serve another delicious meal to include egg strata, baked ham, fresh fruit salad, home-made pastries, and beverages. Plus, a special keepsake made by the ASP Team, will be available for that special lady.

Reservations are required for this fabulous event by May 1. Reservations can be made at the Welcome Center or by calling the church office, 381-6340. (We will also send out a reminder email for your reservation the week of April 26.)

Avoid the restaurant rush and make your plans now to enjoy a relaxing Mother's Day Brunch at church!

All donations will be directed to the Youth Missions Fund.

For this exceptional meal, suggested costs are: \$7 adults; \$3 children

Don't miss our last labyrinth event!

"Journey to Shalom"

Wednesday, May 19

Wesley Hall

5-7 p.m. self-guided labyrinth walk

7-8 p.m. guided meditation & labyrinth walk

8-9 p.m. labyrinth walk



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

May 2, 2010

8:30 a.m.



We can risk loving as passionately as God loves. For we know that the love God makes possible is no scarce resource that must be hoarded so that it can be distributed in dribs and drabs – a little here and a little there.

Love is not a rare commodity; rather, the more we love with the intense particularity of God's love, the more we discover that we have the capacity to love.

- Stanley Hauerwas

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.