

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.

“A man there was, though some did count him mad, the more he cast away, the more he had.”
~ John Bunyan

PRAISE

GATHERING MUSIC *“Now thank We All Our God”* J.S. Bach
“O God Our Help in Ages Past” H. Fleischer

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

All good gifts are sent from God above, so let us be thankful:

For joy in living

And patience in trouble;

For rainbows after clouds

And moonlight on the darkest night;

For wisdom to walk the right path

And peace to calm anxious worry;

For faith, in discipleship, and generosity.

All good gifts come from God above,

So let our songs arise and give thanks for all God’s love.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 117 *(red hymnal)* *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

*GREETING and PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

CENTERING HYMN 2195 *(black hymnal)* *“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”*

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts! Our souls long for the refreshment of your house, where you withhold no good thing from those who put their trust in you. Refresh our world-weary minds. Renew our sagging spirits with encouragement in Christ. Lift up our hearts that we may sing with you in your presence and carry the music of the living God to all the earth. Help us to have generous spirits. In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *“A Canon of Praise”* Natalie Sleeth
Praise God, come ye people, praise the Lord forever and sing praises to his holy name. To the God of glory loudest praise now bring, source of our salvation, our eternal king.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Following Time With Our Children, “Live B.I.G.” for ages 4 through early elementary is provided on the secure 2nd floor. Children may be picked up on the 2nd floor (4 yrs.—kindergarten, room 203; 1st & 2nd grades, room 202; 3rd grade, room 209.).

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Corinthians 9: 6-12 (NT, p. 183)

MEDITATION *“Sowing and Reaping”*

*HYMN *(see insert)* *“For Your Generous Providing”*

READING *“Spiritual Practice: Giving”* from *Alive Now*

*HYMN 156 *(red hymnal)* *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Micah 6: 6-8 (OT, p. 866)

HYMN 2174 *(black hymnal)* *“What Does the Lord Require of You”*

The congregation is invited to sing Part 1 together two times. The pulpit side is then asked to keep singing Part 1, and the lectionary side will then move to sing Part 2.

MEDITATION *“Generosity is the Hallmark”*

RESPONSE

ANTHEM and CONSECRATION *“I Am so Thankful”* Lorraine Nelson Wolf

Please complete your Estimate of Giving card and time and talent checklist that was mailed to you, and bring it forward as the Spirit leads you. There are blank pledge cards also available in the pew pockets.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 *“All that Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord!”* Rene Clausen

All that hath life and breath praise ye the Lord, shout to the Lord, Alleluia. Praise the Lord with joyful song, sing to the Lord with thanksgiving. Unto Thee, O Lord, have I made supplication, and cried unto the rock of my salvation; but Thou has heard my voice, and renewed my weary spirit. Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation. O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation.

*DOXOLOGY 2036 *(black hymnal)* *“Give Thanks”*

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son. (repeat)

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”

Let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” (repeat)

Give thanks!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(praying together)*

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way, and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring you today, we pray. Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN 89 *(red hymnal)* *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

BLESSING *“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”* John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

GOING FORTH *“Allegro”* G.P. Telemann

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 20
8:30 and 11 a.m.
New Member Sunday

Rev. John Boley
“Do We Need a King?”
Ephesians 1: 15-23

Sunday, November 27
8:30 and 11 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Sandy Elfring
“The Hopeful Community”
Isaiah 64: 1-5, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 13

Ministry Showcase 9:30am—12:30pm

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Park Street Perks - Perks Gathering Area
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
9:30 a.m. Inquirer’s Class - Chapel
11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. Young People Fellowship - Youth Lounge
4:00 p.m. Martha’s Table - First Congregational Church
4:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. First Singers Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 p.m. Youth Tribe - Youth Center

MONDAY, November 14

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Patrol - Fellowship Room
10:00 a.m. Wesley Building Committee - Parlor

TUESDAY, November 15

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - 305
12:00 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting - 305
4:15 p.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
5:00 p.m. Advocacy Services - 3rd floor
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room
7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle - Parlor
7:30 p.m. Early Music Michigan - Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, November 16

7:30 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Fellowship Room
9:30 a.m. Anna Circle - Hostess home
10:30 a.m. Community for Healing Counseling - 304
11:30 a.m. A Classroom - Chapel
1:00 p.m. Julia-Phoebe Circle - Parlor
1:00 p.m. Miriam Circle - Fellowship Room
1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle - Friendship Village
5:15 p.m. Finance Committee - Parlor
5:30 p.m. Outreach Team - Allen Library
5:45 p.m. Fermata Kalamazoo - Choir Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple II - 304
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room
7:00 p.m. CFM Team - 203

THURSDAY, November 17

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall
7:00 p.m. Companions in Christ - Chapel
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

FRIDAY, November 18

SATURDAY, November 19
9:00 a.m. MFSM Hymn Festival - Sanctuary

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

Revs. John Boley, Julie Kline, Sandy Elfring; Judy Aardema

Soloists

Connie Lysyck, Cari Miller, Sara Miller

Trumpet

Rich Neckerman

Ushers

Dan Bunker (head usher), Greg Gill, Andrew Gill, Ken Hall, Nic Aranda, Christopher Aranda, Michael Deaton

Greeters

Tom & Jerry Schaberg

Acolytes

Lukas Bolton

Welcome Center

Marilyn Tonander

Chuck & Jeddy Wilson

Drew Strand

Van Drivers

Andrew Lehman, Scott Willoughby

Audio & Lighting

Rich Peavler

The flowers on the pulpit table are given to the glory of God and in honor of the November 18th birthdays of Riley and Georgia Lundquist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Sunday & Hymn Festival of Thanksgiving and Praise. Today we celebrate Stewardship Sunday through word and song and dedicate our time, talent and offerings to God and to one another. Our stewardship theme this year is "Living a God-Pleasing Life."

Ministry Showcase. Please take a few minutes to stop at the ministries showcasing today in the Marketplace to see what they are all about! These ministries are always looking for new participants to join them. Showcasing today are: Pew Patrol, Companions in Christ, Martha's Table, SPRC, Worship Committee, Prayer Group, "A Classroom in the Life."

Young People Ministry Group. This group for ages 18-35 meets TODAY after the 11:00 worship in the lower level lounge. Amber Walker will lead reflection and conversation about environment, abortion, capital punishment and other "hot" topics of the day. "Young People" meets the 2nd Sunday of every month (except May 2012) for fellowship and/or community building.

Apple Pie Sales. The youth are selling homemade apple pies in the Marketplace today. They will continue to be sold on Sundays until they are all sold. Proceeds from the sale will go to the youth mission fund. Suggested donation is \$12. Pies are frozen and can be kept until you need them for the upcoming holidays!

Christmas Card Sale: Martha's Table Fund Raiser. The Outreach Team is selling holiday cards by local artist Randy Walker. The sale of these cards will help serve Martha's Table throughout the year. Cards are beautiful and sell \$15/box for 12 cards.

Poinsettia Plant Sale. UMW is selling poinsettias for the upcoming holiday season today, Nov. 20 & 27. Pick-up of plants is Dec. 4. The cost is \$10 for a 6.5" foil-covered pot and are offered in red, white, pink and burgundy. You can also purchase a plant for a shut-in.

First United Methodist Church

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

Blessing Bags are now available to take home and fill! Please take home a "blessing bag" and look over the items that are listed on the sheet stapled to the bag. These are items most needed by our food pantry. Return the bag filled with food next Sunday, Nov. 20, and we will bless them before we take them to our food pantry.

Family Fun Night. On Friday, Nov. 18 everyone is invited to join in some Thanksgiving fun from 6-8 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Meal donation \$15/family.

Church Charge Conference. The annual business meeting of the church will take place in the Sanctuary on Monday, Nov. 21 @ 7 p.m. with Rev. Neil Davis presiding. All members are invited to attend. "Thank you" cake and coffee will be available before the meeting in the Perks area.

First Church Hosting Martha's Table Sunday, Nov. 27 @ 4 p.m. with a Thanksgiving meal. We need lots of help to cook, set-up, serve, clean-up and be in fellowship for this event that will take place at First Congregational Church. Please sign up for any of these duties at the Welcome Center or contact Donna Dunyak (meal) or Sue Eden (fellowship friend/hosting).

Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. First Church will be hosting three events highlighting the talents of noted composer/clinician/organist Richard Webster: two choral workshops on Saturday, Nov. 19 @ 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (children's choirs) as well as a Hymn Festival on Sunday, Nov. 20 @ 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The public is invited to join in singing or to just listen.

New Member Sunday. On Sunday, Nov. 20 we hope you will join us in welcoming a new group of members to our church.

Help Decorate the Church for the Advent Season. Saturday, Nov. 26, 9am—noon.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

November 13, 2011

11:00 a.m.

Experience, Celebrate and Share God's love

Living a God-Pleasing Life



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.*