

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.

*“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, as you come to know him...”
~ Ephesians 1: 17 (NRSV)*

PRAISE

PRELUDE *“Wide Open Window” (dedicated to Mary Lou Williams)* D. Witkowski

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

Let us praise God.

We praise God for the divine majesty we discover in the humility of Jesus Christ.

Let us give thanks to God.

We give thanks to God for the unspeakable gift of love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Let us serve God.

We worship God now with a resolve to live out the divine will as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

***HYMN OF PRAISE 62** *(red hymnal) “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vs. 1-4 & 7)*

***LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE**

***GREETING**

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

Vulnerable God, whose strength is made perfect in our weakness, we thank you that you receive us as we are. We thank you that you desire our love and gratitude more than our perfection and that the sacrifice you accept is a humble spirit. Help us to always trust in your grace which reaches out to us in Jesus Christ as we gather to worship this day. Amen.

PSALM 141 *(please see insert) “Let My Prayer Rise”* D. Witkowski

The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain.

PROCLAMATION

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.).

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1: 15-23 (NT, p. 192)

This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE **“Do We Need a King?”**

RESPONSE

SILENT, PASTORAL and LORD’S PRAYER

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.**

BAPTISM and RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS, Baptismal Covenant 1, p. 33

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 *“From This Place”*

D. Witkowski

***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)*

You are faithful, O God, in coming to us. Now in this time of worship we return to you to give you our offerings. Receive them, O God, as a sign of our lives dedicated to you. Bless these gifts and increase our generosity. For Jesus’ sake, Amen.

***OUR SHARED LIFE**

***CLOSING HYMN** *(see insert) “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

***BLESSING**

GOING FORTH *“Let My Prayer Rise” (reprise)*

D. Witkowski

UPCOMING WORSHIP

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

Sunday, December 4

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Julie Kline

“The Peaceful Community”

John 1: 1-14; Romans 12: 14-21

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 20

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

11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Greet New Members - Parlor

2:00 p.m. United Nations - Parlor

3:00 p.m. MFSM Hymn Festival - Sanctuary

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 21

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

6:30 p.m. SPRC Pre-Conference - Parlor

7:00 p.m. Church Charge Conference - Sanctuary

TUESDAY, November 22

7:30 a.m. New Year’s Eve Fest Planning - Parlor

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

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

7:00 p.m. Church Logo Development - Parlor

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

WEDNESDAY, November 23

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

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

Fellowship Room

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

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, November 24

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE
Church Closed

FRIDAY, November 25

Church Closed

SATURDAY, November 26

9:00 a.m. Advent Decorating - Church

10:00 a.m. Food Prep for Martha’s Table - Kitchen

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. John Boley, Rev. Sandy Elfring, Michael Seals

Deanna Witkowski Trio

Deanna Witkowski (piano, voice), Michael O'Brien (bass), Vince Cherico (drums)

Ushers

Jeff Swenarton, Anthony Ertz,
Michael Seals, Jay Gross,
Jim Treece, Lois Miles, Noah Gross

Acolytes

Hannah Geerlugs, Natalie Gross

Van Drivers

Richard Long/Bruce Grubb

Greeters

Don & Harriet Chalker
Children

Welcome Center

Fay Woolrich

Audio & Lighting

Greg Anderson

The flowers on the pulpit table are given to the glory of God and in honor of our grandchildren, Maddie, Jack and Connor; given by Paul & Pat Stevenson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Sunday. We welcome a group of new members today! Please take a few minutes to greet them personally after the 11:00 service in the parlor.

Blessing Bags. Thank you for bringing in your "blessing bag" full of food today for our Loaves & Fishes food pantry. Your generosity will help our children learn what it means to be generous in all things, as well as help those who need to be fed physically as well as spiritually. Your bag can be brought any time if you forgot it today!

What Do We Believe? Please take a few minutes to read today's insert to familiarize yourself with two topics publicized in the United Methodist *Social Principles*, "The Natural World" and "Global Climate Stewardship." The Justice Team is pleased to offer this opportunity for your prayerful reading and contemplation.

Poinsettia Plant Sale. UMW is selling poinsettias for the upcoming holiday season today and Nov. 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.

Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. First Church is the host of today's 3 p.m. Hymn Festival directed by noted composer/clinician/organist Richard Webster: Includes a brass ensemble and members of area children's choirs. Our own Chancel Choir and First Beats children's choir will be participating. The public is invited to join in singing or to just listen. A free will offering will benefit local charities.

Church Charge Conference. The annual business meeting of the church will take place in the Sanctuary tomorrow evening, 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 beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the Perks area. The meeting will include a short time of worship and Thanksgiving.

First United Methodist Church

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

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).

Help Decorate the Church for the Advent Season. Saturday, Nov. 26, 9 a.m.—noon. Carol Hamet is leading this group that will decorate trees, hang wreaths and garland and set up the Nativity set. She will need lots of helpful hands. Just show up!

Advent Concert Series. Join us on Wednesdays at noon during Advent for a 50-minute concert of classical and music of the season. Our November 30th concert will feature advanced piano and violin students of local studios. Refreshments will be available after the concert. Good 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. We will also be setting up a large box here 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. An orientation walk-thru for volunteers is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m.

Pledge Cards. We had a wonderful Stewardship Sunday/Hymn Festival last Sunday! If you have not returned your Estimate of Giving card indicating your 2012 pledge, please do so soon.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

November 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.