

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.

*“God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. ~ 1 Corinthians 1: 9*

PRAISE

PRELUDE *“Sleepers, Awake”*

J.S. Bach

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

We enter into this sacred space and look around for a trace of the Holy, hopeful of a divine meeting, yet cautious, too, for God’s call can be surprising.

We bring world weariness and hidden hungers, yet music soothes our fractured spirits and the community prays with us to a deeper truth.

Into the sacred moment we enter.

The Holy One is here. The Holy One is coming.

God is waiting for us. We are waiting for the Holy One to come.

***HYMN OF PRAISE 196** *(red hymnal) “Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

***LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE**

***GREETING and the PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE *(please see insert)*

PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 (NT, p. 166)

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 13: 24-27, 32-37 (NT, p. 50)

This is what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** *(see insert) “View the Present through the Promise”*

MESSAGE *“A Hopeful Community”*

RESPONSE

INVITATION TO PRAYER 204 *(red hymnal) “Emmanuel”*

PASTORAL and THE 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.**

RESPONSE TO PRAYER 204 *(red hymnal) “Emmanuel”*

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 *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

arr. Donald McCulloch

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of every longing heart. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.

***DOXOLOGY 221 v. 4** *(red hymnal) “In the Bleak Midwinter”*

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

yet what I can, I give him; give my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(praying together)*

**Gracious God, you call us to share the hope we have with the world. Bless these gifts
and our witness to the world so that others may also have hope in your Son, Jesus
Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***OUR SHARED LIFE**

***HYMN OF SENDING FORTH 2241** *(black hymnal) “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”*

***BENEDICTION** *(all reading the bold)*

We gathered as people, aware of the shadows that sin casts upon the world.

**We part as people who have celebrated the hope that is in God...in God’s power to
dispel the darkness of our hearts... and minds... and souls.**

And so, may the God of tenderness and compassion who entered this world so weak
and so vulnerable, send us forth with hope today and every day, unto eternity. Amen.

GOING FORTH *“Dialogue”*

L. Marchand

UPCOMING WORSHIP

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

Sunday, December 11

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Rev. John Boley

“The Joyful Community”

Isaiah 62: 1-4, 8-11;

Thessalonians 5: 16-224

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 27

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

4:00 p.m. Martha’s Table - Wesley Hall

4:00 p.m. Youth Tribe (Martha’s Table)

4:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary

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

MONDAY, November 28

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

7:00 p.m. Justice Team - Clements’ Home

7:30 p.m. Rachel Circle - Restaurant

TUESDAY, November 29

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

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

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

WEDNESDAY, November 30

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

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

10:30 a.m. Community for Healing Counseling - 304

12:00 p.m. Advent Concert Series - Sanctuary

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

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

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

7:00 p.m. Disciple II - 304

THURSDAY, December 1

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

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

5:00 p.m. Prime Timers “White Christmas” - Civic Theatre

5:00 p.m. Stewardship Team - Parlor

5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support - Youth Center

6:00 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal -

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

FRIDAY, December 2

SATURDAY, December 3

10:00 a.m. Saturday Sabbath for Parents

2:00 p.m. Cookie Baking with KNOW & Justice - 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. Sandy Elfring, Rev. Julie Kline, Mary Bullock

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Terry O'Connor, Pam O'Connor, Steven Vorbrich

Greeters

Marian Starbuck, Calvin & Cameron Williams

Office

Van Driver

Audio &

Lighting

Jeanne Plott

Drew

Bolton

Gordon Bundy

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Daniel Finch, given by Miriam Finch.

The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Rhilynn AriJoy Guthaus, daughter of Erica (Winfield) & Jason Guthaus, granddaughter of Clyde & Vickie Winfield.

The new Advent wreath is a gift to the church in loving memory of Mary Cooper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Methodist Student Day. Your gift to this special offering of the UM Church will support UM scholarships to students who attend or will attend a UM-related college or university. Please give generously if you are able.

Academy Class: "Advent Hope" TODAY. John Boley will lead a class discussion about the meaning of Advent—past, present and future at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. It will be fun, informative and challenging with an emphasis on how we obtain hope in our lives.

Blessing Bags. Thank you for bringing in your "Blessing Bag(s)" full of food last Sunday 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 last Sunday.

Poinsettia Plant Sale. Today is the last day to order your poinsettia plant(s) for the upcoming holiday season. Pick-up of plants is Dec. 4. The cost is \$10 for a 6.5" foil-covered pot. Proceeds from the sale will help United Methodist Women missions.

2012 Officiary. If you did not attend the church's annual business meeting on Nov. 21, you can still pick up a copy of the 2012 Officiary/2011 Annual Reports at the Welcome Center. This is an informative document on the ministries of the church and those that make it all happen. We hope you will take the time to read it and thank those that share of their time and talents as they share God's love.

Sip 'n Serve. On Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, join together with your family of faith during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) for a time of hymn singing and fellowship while you sip your coffee or hot chocolate. There will not

First United Methodist Church

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LOCATION CHANGE! First Church is hosting Martha's Table TODAY @ 4 p.m. with worship and a Thanksgiving meal in our Wesley Hall.

Saturday Sabbath for Parents. Dec. 3 & 10, from 10am-2pm, the youth of the church will provide quality childcare for children ages 1 thru 6th grade. The children will be divided up for age-appropriate fun. Sign up (at the Welcome Center) is necessary so they know how many children to plan for.

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. A free 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. There are large boxes in the hall are set up 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. You can also sign up to volunteer in the hall. An orientation walk-thru for volunteers is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 10, 2-4 p.m.

Pledge Cards. A big thank you to all those who have responded to our "Live A God-Pleasing Life" stewardship campaign. As of November 22, we have heard from 219 pledging units for \$643,062. If you have not done so yet, please return your 2012 pledge card to the office as soon as possible so that we may finalize the process of setting the budget for next year.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

November 27, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Experience, Celebrate and Share God's love

“But in every time and season,
out of love's abundance store,
God sustains the whole creation,
fount of life forevermore.
We who share earth and air,
count on God's unfailing care.”

From the hymn "All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded"

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.*