

## 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 "cry" 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.

**Tune into WKZO 590 AM every Sunday at 11:10 a.m. for our LIVE church radio ministry.**

**If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact the church office. (\$150/Sunday)**

## LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

### Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Rev. Julie Dix, Jeff Swenarton

### Choral Conductor

Heidi Pelkey

### Organist

Bernie Foulk

## ASSISTING TODAY

### Acolytes

Hannah & Sarah Headapohl

### Ushers

Dan Macek (head usher), Scott Centilli, Anthony Ertz, Lois Miles, Michael Seals, Jim Treece, Jon Waldron

### Greeters

Charles & Dorothy Osborne, Ron & Marilyn Tonander

### Office

Joyce Treece

### Welcome Center

Donna Dunyak

### Van Driver

Jeff McCubbin

### Audio & Lighting

Nathan Karnemaat

**The flowers on the altar** are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of Jerry and Lou Bradley's 65th wedding anniversary.

**Prayer concerns** may be written on a pink or green prayer cards and passed to the outside aisle where they will be collected by an usher, and shared in the pastoral prayer.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Magnetic Name Tags.** All members and friends are urged to purchase a NEW magnetic name tag. Please use the green envelope at the Welcome Center to place your order and check. Tags cost \$5/each, \$15/family max. The first order has been placed, and we expect delivery soon. The Hospitality Team thanks you for your support!

**From the Justice Team:** Come Tuesday, October 13, 7 p.m., to learn about Christian Sabil, the Christian approach to the situation in the Mid-East. John Petro, of First Presbyterian Church, will be showing a newly released video, "Steadfast Hope." We will gather in the Fellowship Room, with refreshments. *Please note that the Justice Team meeting has been moved from Wed. to Tuesday in order to not conflict with Reconciling Ministries.*

**FRB Harvest Celebration.** Next Sunday, October 18, 1-3 p.m. Wesley Hall and Fellowship Room. Potluck begins at 1 p.m. with our partners from Otsego and Plainwell UMCs. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting. An outstanding program follows at 2 p.m. To provide adequate child care for pre-school children, plenty of materials for activities for school age children and proper setup, we need reservations by TOMORROW. Reservations can be made by calling Fay Woolrich, 269.382.4303 or [miwoolps@aol.com](mailto:miwoolps@aol.com).

**Trunk or Treat Halloween Fun.** Sunday, October 25, 5-7 p.m. in our parking lot. We'll start the evening with hot dogs and drinks and the fun will begin after that. Adults are asked to decorate the trunk of their car, dress up, and pass out candy! If you have questions, please contact Joyce Moore, 553-9802.

**Sunday, November 1 is All Saints' Day.** We will light candles and honor all those that have died in the past year. If we have not listed a deceased loved one in *The First Word* that you would like us to honor that day, please call the church office.

**Save the Date! Consecration Sunday and Brunch, November 8.** "Scarcity or abundance? Which will it be? It's up to you!" Our stewardship campaign in support of First Church mission and ministries in 2010 begins next Sunday.

## First United Methodist Church

212 S. Park St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone 269-381-6340; Fax 269-381-1678

[www.umc-kzo.org](http://www.umc-kzo.org)

### First Church Staff

**The staff is here to empower and equip the congregation for ministry and mission.** Email FUMC clergy and office staff by entering their first initial, entire last name and then [@umc-kzo.org](mailto:@umc-kzo.org) ([dvernon@umc-kzo.org](mailto:dvernon@umc-kzo.org)).

Dr. Douglas Vernon	Senior Pastor
Rev. Julie Dix	Pastor of Spiritual Formation
Rev. Sandy Elfring	Pastor of Visitation
Rev. Julie Kline	Pastor of Youth Ministries
Jacqueline Stilger	Minister of Music
Bernie Foulk	Organist
Joe Konrad	Church Business Administrator
Jennifer Stupica	Communications Coordinator
Christi Landreville	Administrative Assistant
Linda Lueth	Financial Assistant
Kelly Green	Office Assistant
Darryl Poplar	Custodian
Bruce Sackett	Custodian
Walter Walker	Evening Security
Julie Meyers	FIRST CARE Director
Dr. Jonathan Keaton	Bishop of Michigan Area – The United Methodist Church
Rev. Neil Davis	Kalamazoo District Superintendent

### Children's Choir Rehearsals

Beginning October 18 - **Children ages 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** - rehearsal will be in room 203 on Sundays following the 11 a.m. worship (1/2 hour rehearsal is planned). Beginning October 20 - **Children grade 3 and up** - rehearsal will be on Tuesdays, 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. in the choir room.

**2010 Offering Envelopes.** Offering envelopes will NOT be mailed next year, but will be available on a table in December for all those that request them. Please contact Linda Lueth if you previously did not receive envelopes, and you wish to have them in 2010; or you have received envelopes in the past and will not need them in 2010.

**New Children's Books Needed!** Donate \$20 to the Allen Library in honor of your child or grandchild and the librarian will purchase a book in honor of them. A bookplate will be placed in the book to commemorate the birthday, too! See Miriam Downey, our librarian, for more info.

**"The Last Hymn Sing"** is a diverse group of people who get together to sing their favorites. Everyone is invited to Miriam Downey's home (2740 Bronson Blvd., Kalamazoo) for desert and song on Sunday, November 8, at 7 p.m. Please let Miriam or David Kingsley know if you will be attending.

**Apple Pies.** The youth will once again be making homemade apple pies and selling them on Sundays in November. These are delicious pies and help raise funds for youth missions.



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

A Vital Faith ~  
Well and Whole



### 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.*

October 11, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

# Welcome to Worship!

*"The only evidence that matters at all is changed lives" ~Stephen Farris*

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.

**GATHERING MUSIC** "Canzona" Frescobaldi

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

Holy God, forever brooding over your creation

**Come and watch over us.**

God of changing events and surprising turns

**Come and journey with us.**

God of inner depths and majestic heights

**Speak to us again.**

Still Small Voice and eternal Mystery,

**We are here to meet and worship You.**

\***HYMN 139** *(red hymnal)* "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

## \***GREETING** *(all reading the bold)*

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." IN THIS FLU SEASON, HAND SHAKES AND HUGS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(praying together)*

**Lord Jesus, we come to church in order to be with you and learn from you. Therefore, during our time of worship, help us to focus; enable us to hear what you have to say to us. Teach us. Even when your teaching is hard to take, give us the grace to receive your word, to grow in our faith, and to deepen our discipleship. Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE AND LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE "In Love You Summon"

*We light this candle during every Sunday worship service to remember that Christ is in the world offering peace, and to pledge our part in receiving and sharing it.*

words and music: John L. Bell

In love you sum - mon, in love we fol - low, liv - ing to -  
day for your to - mor - row. Christ to re - lease us, Christ to en -  
fold us, Christ to re - strain us, Christ to up - hold us.

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**TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN** "Grow Where You Are Planted" First Puppets  
Children are always welcome in worship; *Bible Buzz* for ages 4 through early elementary is also provided on the secure 2<sup>nd</sup> floor following Children's Time. Following worship, parents can pick up children at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor check-in desk (take the west stairwell or elevator).

**EPISTLE READING** Philippians 2.12-13 (NT p. 197)

\***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 11.28-30 (NT p. 12)  
The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON** A Vital Faith ~ Well and Whole: "Grow" Dr. Douglas W. Vernon

\***HYMN 2167** *(black hymnal)* "More Like You"

## COMMUNITY AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

## OFFERING INVITATION

## OFFERING RECEIVED

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "Teach Me O Lord" Nolan Williams

\***DOXOLOGY 94** *(red hymnal)* "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

**Receive, O God, not only our gifts of money but our heartfelt commitment to following Jesus toward a more just and generous world. In our giving and receiving, grant us your blessing and courage for the living of Jesus' way. Amen**

\***HYMN # 664** *(red hymnal)* "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

## \***OUR SHARED LIFE**

## \***BLESSING**

**GOING FORTH** "Praeludium in a" Bach

*As a welcoming congregation, we invite you to be seated for this final musical response to our worship experience; then, go into the world offering gracious hospitality to all!*

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

## UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

**Sunday, October 18**  
**8:30 and 11 a.m.**  
Laity Sunday  
Dick Shilts  
Vital Faith ~ Well and Whole Sermon Series  
"Shine"  
Matthew 5.14-16; Romans 12.9-18

**Sunday, October 25**  
**8:30 and 11 a.m.**  
First Anniversary Celebration of First Church  
becoming a Reconciling Congregation  
Bishop Sharon Rader

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Bronson Park Food Pantry

1-3 p.m.

### SUNDAY, October 11

8:30 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Child care ages 6 weeks thru 3 years - 206  
9:30 a.m. Java & Jive - Youth Center  
9:30 a.m. Saying Yes to No - Room 307  
9:30 a.m. 3Cs - Room 310  
9:30 a.m. Bible 101 - Room 304  
9:30 a.m. Servant Leadership - Allen Library  
9:30 a.m. Living the Questions 2.0 - Parlor  
11:00 a.m. Festival Worship - Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. Special Church Council Meeting - Parlor  
4:00 p.m. Martha's Table - First Congregational Church  
6:00 p.m. Youth Tribe - Youth Center  
6:00 p.m. First Singers - Choir Room

### MONDAY, October 12

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Patrol - Fellowship Room  
7:00 p.m. The Way of Prayer - Chapel

### TUESDAY, October 13

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor  
1:30 p.m. Worship Planning - Conference Room  
6:00 p.m. AED Training - Parlor  
7:00 p.m. Justice Team - Fellowship Room  
7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry - 310

### WEDNESDAY, October 14

7:30 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Fellowship Room  
12:30 p.m. Bronson Park Clergy Luncheon - Parlor  
5:30 p.m. Simple Supper - Wesley Hall  
6:15 p.m. Bible 101 - 304  
7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room  
7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Meeting - 305  
7:00 p.m. Lou Gehrig's Support Group - Parlor  
7:00 p.m. Reconciling Ministries - 307

### THURSDAY, October 15

9:30 a.m. First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. CFM Team - 307  
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 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, October 16

11:00 a.m. Prime Timers - St. Julian Winery tour  
6:00 p.m. Sampsell/Mason Rehearsal - Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, October 17

3:00 p.m. Sampsell/Mason Wedding - Sanctuary