

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.

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

~ Matthew 22: 39b (NRSV)

PRAISE

PRELUDE *“Prelude—Recit—Plein Jeu”*

Nivers/Couperin

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

God calls us all:

the wise, the foolish, the strong, the weak.

What does God require of us?

**To walk blameless and do what is right, to speak kindly of others,
to honor those who love God.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 139 *(red hymnal)* *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

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.

*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.”

UNISON PRAYER *(praying together)*

Visit us now, Holy Spirit of God. Show us your life in the mystery of your presence. Teach us, tell us, remind us, and encourage us now, that we may more fully be your people. Come, Holy Spirit, come. Amen.

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. Parents can pick up children at the 2nd floor check-in desk following worship (take the west stairwell or elevator).

EPISTLE LESSON

James 2: 14-18 (NT, p. 230)

*GOSPEL LESSON

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Matthew 22:34-40 (NT, p. 25)

MESSAGE *“Neighbor? What Neighbor?”*

RESPONSE

HYMN 2178 *(black hymnal)* *“Here Am I”*

The cantor will sing verse 1, the congregation is invited to join in singing verses 2 and 3.

SILENT, COMMUNITY 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.**

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 *“Nearer, My God, to Thee”*

John Gardner

Nearer, my God to thee! E’en though it be a cross that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, “Nearer, my God to thee”! Though, like the wanderer, the sun gone down. Darkness be over me, my rest a stone: Yet in my dreams I’d be Nearer to thee. There let the way appear, steps unto heaven; All that thou sends me in mercy given; Angels to beckon me nearer to thee. Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise; Out of my stony griefs, Bethel I’ll raise; So by my woes to be nearer to thee. Or if, on joyful wing, cleaving the sky; Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly; Still all my song shall be, “Nearer my God, to thee.”

*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)*

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except the knowing of your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN 2175 *(black hymnal)* *“Together We Serve”*

*BLESSING

GOING FORTH *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

G. Walther

UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Sunday, October 30
8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Ministry Showcase
Rev. Shelly Wisdom-Long
“What it Really Is”
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13

**Sunday, November 6
8:30 and 11 a.m.**

All Saints Sunday/ Holy Communion
Ministry Showcase
Rev. Julie Kline
“Real People, Real Saints: Real Faith”
Matthew 5: 1-12

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, October 23

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

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

6:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary

4:00 p.m.. “Why Talk About Climate Change?” - Parlor

5:00 p.m. Youth Tribe Pie Making - Kitchen, Wesley Hall

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

MONDAY, October 24

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

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

7:00 p.m. Rachel Circle - Parlor

TUESDAY, October 25

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 Council - Parlor

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

WEDNESDAY, October 26

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

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

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

11:30 a.m. A Classroom in the Life - Parlor

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

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

7:00 p.m. Disciple II - 304

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, October 27

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

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

5:00 p.m. Nominating Committee - 305

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, October 28

SATURDAY, October 29

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

John Clark, Vickie Winfield

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Ushers

Anthony Ertz (head usher), Michael Seals, Jeff Swenarton, Jay Gross, Jim Treece, Lois Miles, Noah Gross

Greeters

John & Carol Holms

Maggie & Bruce Binns

Acolytes

Hannah Geerlings

Elise Warnicke

Office

Robin Entenman

Welcome Center

Ginnie Hessler

Audio & Lighting

Rich Peavler

Van Driver

Jay Gross

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Starbuck, whose birthday was on October 24, given by Miriam Starbuck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ministry Showcase. Please take a few minutes to stop at the tables in the Marketplace to visit with the participants of these First Church ministries today: Children & Families Ministry Team (CFM), Caring for Kids with Special Needs, Stewardship Team, Endowment Committee, Food Pantry, Youth Ministries/ASP.

UMW Sloppy Joe Sale. You can pick up your sloppy joe order today in the Marketplace. Proceeds will benefit UMW's mission programs for women and children. There is a limited amount of extra sloppy joe available if you did not put in an order.

"Why Talk About Climate Change?" presented by Dr. Julie Doll from the MSU Kellogg Biological Station, Sunday, October 23, 4:00-5:30 p.m. in the Parlor. She will present scientific information about climate change and lead us in a discussion about our faith and climate change. Come for new knowledge and dialogue. How can we as a congregation work toward a solution?

The Kalamazoo Interfaith Coalition for Peace and Justice Event, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:00-8:30 p.m. The Justice Team invites all to listen, learn and participate in this event, "Taxes, Social Security and Climate Change: Critical Issues for Our Congressperson." Speakers will be Harold Beu, Ellie Crocker and Paul Clements. Located in the Kalamazoo Public Library's Van Deusen Room.

All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6. On this day we honor the lives of family members that have died in the past 12 months. If there is someone you think we may not know about that you would like us to add to the list of saints that will be read that morning, drop a note off for Christi in the office or email her at clandreville@umc-kzo.org.

First United Methodist Church

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Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

www.umc-kzo.org

Trunk or Treat. Sunday, October 30, 5-6:30 p.m. Be a part of this Halloween event in our church parking lot! Decorate the trunk of your car, dress up in a Halloween costume, hand out candy, enjoy hot dogs and games. All ages have lots of fun, so join us.

Hymn Festival of Thanksgiving and Praise. Join us on Sunday, Nov. 13 as we celebrate Consecration Sunday through word and song and dedicate our time, talent and offerings to God and to one another that day.

Martha's Table Fundraiser. 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 will be sold for \$15/box for 12 cards at the Welcome Center.

October Mission of the Month. Our mission of the month is a collection for new and gently used Halloween costumes. We will give the costumes to the children from the Gospel Mission and Family Shelter at our Trunk or Treat event on October 30th. Please put your costume donations in the large basket in the office.

Share the Warmth. You can help the needy stay warm this winter by donating gently used coats, hats and boots. A Salvation Army barrel is located near the Welcome Center for your donations until Nov. 6.

Sunday Volunteers. There is an updated volunteer sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up to help with a variety of Sunday morning ministries on the Sunday(s) of your choice.

Holiday Schedule. The church office will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Fri., Nov. 25. We will celebrate Christmas Day worship with a vesper service at 4 p.m. The church will be closed on Mondays, December 26 and January 2.

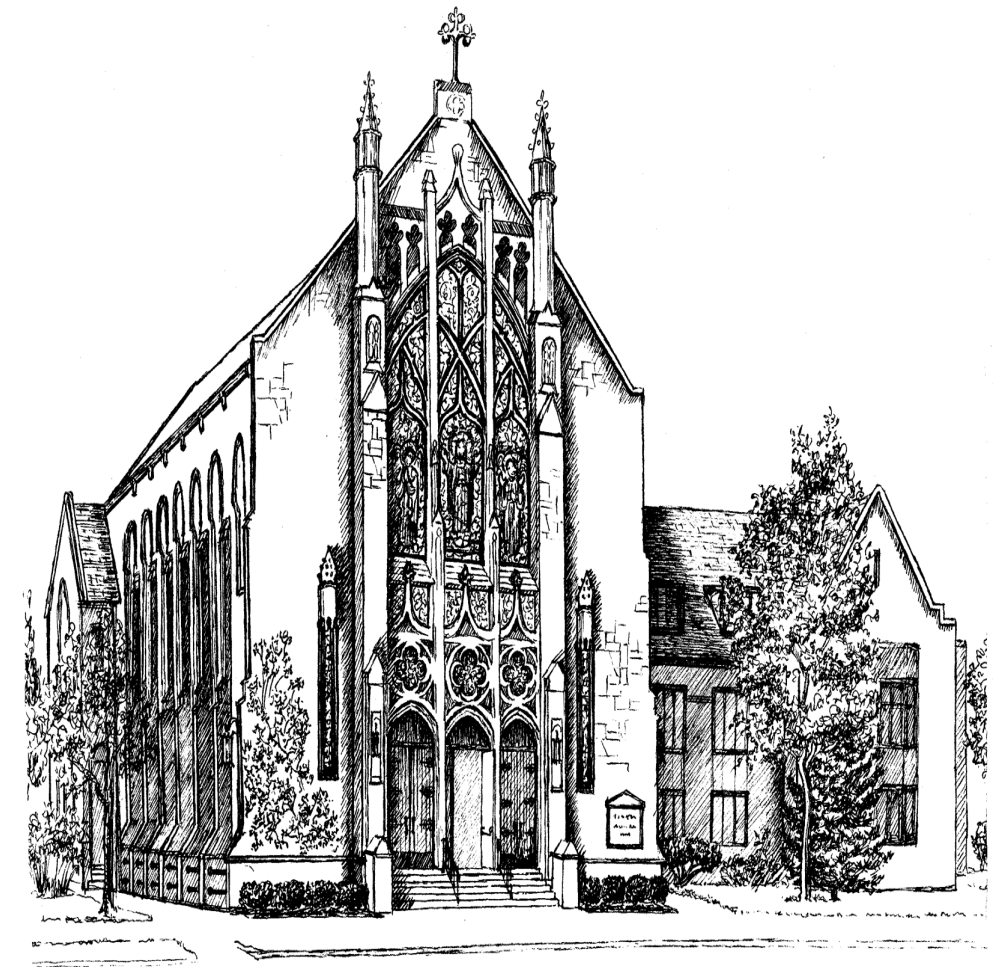


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

October 23, 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.