

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.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leaders

Bishop Sharon Rader, Rev. Troy Plummer, Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon, Deb Search Willoughby

Minister of Music/organist

Jacqueline Stilger

ASSISTING TODAY

Ushers

Terry O'Connor (head usher), Tom, Diana & Riley Lundquist

Greeters

Bruce & Do Brown, Fay Woolrich

Office

Lauretta Eisenbach

Welcome Center

Robin Entenman

Van Driver

Andrew Lehman

Audio & Lighting

Jacob Texel

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Starbuck's whose birthday was on October 24th, given by his wife Marian.

The flowers on the pulpit table are in memory of Shirley Weber who died October 15, 2009, given by the Hospitality Team.

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

Worship Notes: Our Call To Worship this morning was adapted from the brochure, "HRC Living Openly," by Rev. Sandra K. Johnson. The words to Hymn 2238, "In the Midst of New Dimensions," are by Rev. Julian Rush, one of the first United Methodist clergy to come out openly as a gay man.

Children's Choir Rehearsal for ages 4 thru 2nd grade. Rehearsal for this age group will be in room 203 on Sundays following the 11 a.m. worship (1/2 hour rehearsal is planned). Beginning this Tuesday, October 20, **Children grade 3 and up** will rehearse 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. in the choir room.

Inquirer's class begins today. For those interested in exploring the possibility of membership, we welcome you to meet in the chapel at 9:30. (This is a change in location from last Sunday's bulletin insert)

Trunk or Treat Halloween Fun. TODAY, 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.

Magnetic Name Tags have arrived! Please look for yours on the storage board by the new restrooms (near the food pantry). Those persons who regularly use the Academy Street entrance may elect to store their nametag on the smaller board in the north hall. If you have not yet ordered a magnetic nametag, please use one of the green envelopes and leave it at the Welcome center.

All Saints Day. Join us next Sunday, November 1, as we remember our friends in God who have died within the past twelve months. Stephen Ministers will be on hand that morning for grief support if needed.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour next Saturday night, October 31.

Apple pies. The youth will be selling homemade apple pies beginning Sunday, Nov. 1 in support of their mission outreach.

First United Methodist Church

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

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 (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

Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. The kick-off performance for the festival is Sunday, November 1 @ 7 p.m., Kevin P. Myles, Detroit-area gospel singer; Lamont McCoy and Kalamazoo gospel singers/groups present a concert at Galilee Baptist church. Donation of food/personal care items will be accepted.

Servant Leadership. If you have been unable to attend the Academy Class "Answering your Call to Servant leadership," there will be another opportunity to participate. The Cooperative United Methodists will be offering it for all Kalamazoo and Portage UMC's on two Saturday mornings, October 31 and November 14. Meeting times are 9 a.m. to 12 noon and location is Millwood UMC, 3919 Portage Road. Instructors will be Bob Hamet, Chris Peavler, Jim Ridders, and Doug Vernon. If interested, please contact RHamet@kresanet.org or peavler5@comcast.net.

Annual Reports Due Friday, November 6. Teams, committees, and special groups in the church are asked to have their 2009 annual report to Jennifer by Friday, November 6.

Vital Signs Mini-Retreat, Saturday, November 7, 9 a.m.—noon, Wesley Hall. Spend good time together in planning the next steps in our continuing development of vibrant ministries. All are welcome to participate in this energizing morning.

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 seeks support from every member and friend.



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

First Anniversary Celebration

of our becoming a Reconciling Congregation



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 25, 2009
8:30 a.m.

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)



Welcome to Worship!

** Please stand as you are able.*

Please silence cell phones.

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 *"Symphony 1"* William Boyce

CALL TO WORSHIP *(all reading the bold)*

As a reconciling congregation, we affirm that we are ready and willing to be surprised.

We are willing to say that we don't know whom God may bring to us.

We are willing to anticipate the gifts that others bring to our faith community.

We confess that we have things to learn.

We are willing to grow from the spiritual journeys of those who are different from us.

We are willing to learn from those who seem similar to us. May God continue to open our minds and hearts, that our surprise, our confession, our anticipation and our tenderness may transform our church and our world. Amen.

***HYMN 2238** *(black hymnal)* *"In the Midst of New Dimensions"*

***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.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

SUNG RESPONSE #2224 *"Make Us One"*

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

Lord Jesus, lover of every soul, you have drawn us to yourself and named us your church. But you have never intended we should become ingrown and inward-looking in our fellowship. Give us the grace to look honestly at ourselves, and as we worship this day help us be willing to hear your challenge to a broadened inclusivity. May our hearts be expanded and may the boundaries we put around ourselves crumble. May our loving increasingly reflect your own, and be a faithful witness to you in the world. Amen.

***GOSPEL READING**

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Mark 10:17-31 (NT p. 46)

SERMON

"Unspeakable Tenderness"

Bishop Sharon Rader

SILENT REFLECTION

You may wish to reflect on the Reconciling Statement printed on the front cover of the bulletin.

COMMUNITY AND PASTORAL PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER *(praying together)*

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

OFFERTORY HYMN 2218 *(black hymnal)* *"You Are Mine"*

Jonathan Richardson will sing verses 1 and 2 solo; all are invited to join during the refrain and verses 3 and 4.

***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)*

Spirit of openness and affirmation, we dedicate these gifts to the ministry of love and acceptance in the world. May we ever seek to use all of our resources to create a world and a church where all are welcomed and honored, loved and fully known. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who welcomed everyone to his table. Amen.

***HYMN** *(please see insert)* *"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"*

OUR SHARED LIFE

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Terry O'Connor

***BLESSING**

GOING FORTH

"Presto" from Concerto 1 in G major

Vivaldi/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!

UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, November 1
8:30 and 11 a.m.

All Saints Day/Holy Communion

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon

A Vital Faith ~Well and Whole Sermon Series "New"

John 11.32-40, Revelations 21.1-6

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

Consecration Sunday: Scarcity or Abundance?

Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Vernon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Bronson Park Food Pantry

Monday through Friday, 1-3 p.m.

SUNDAY, October 25

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. 3Cs - Room 310

9:30 a.m. Bible 101 - Room 304

9:30 a.m. Inquirer's - Chapel

9:30 a.m. Living the Questions 2.0 - Parlor

11:00 a.m. Festival Worship - Sanctuary

11:20 a.m. Bible Buzz - 2nd floor

12:30 p.m. Children's Choir - 203

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

5:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat - Parking lot

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

MONDAY, October 26

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

7:00 p.m. The Way of Prayer - Chapel

TUESDAY, October 27

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - 305

1:30 p.m. Worship Planning - 305

4:15 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

5:45 p.m. Outreach Team - Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. AED Training - 305

7:00 p.m. Church Council - Parlor

7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry - 307, 310

WEDNESDAY, October 28

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

9:30 a.m. Book Club - Allen Library

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

4:30 p.m. Trustees - Fellowship Room

5:30 p.m. Simple Supper - Youth Center

6:15 p.m. Bible 101 - 304

7:00 p.m. Lay Leadership/Nominations - 305

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

THURSDAY, October 29

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

11:00 a.m. KCIS Lunch - Wesley Hall

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

7:00 p.m. SPRC - Parlor

7:00 p.m. GLBT Youth - Youth Center

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

FRIDAY, October 30

SATURDAY, October 31

10 a.m. Youth Pie Making - Kitchen

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK BEFORE YOU RETIRE