

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.

“Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” ~ Matthew 20: 14-15 (NRSV)

PRAISE

PRELUDE *“O World, I Must Leave Thee”*

J. Brahms

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(all praying the bold print)*

We are here to touch the hem of grace,

To let go of the hidden worry, the crippling wound,

To feel a surge of forgiveness, a rush of joy,

To touch hope and linger in mystery,

To hear our name whispered and life affirmed,

To sing praises and dwell in peace.

*HYMN OF PRAISE 66 *(red hymnal)* *“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”*

*GREETING & PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

CENTERING HYMN 2157 *(black hymnal)* *“Come and Fill Our Hearts”*

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER *(praying together)*

God of surprises, you are all around us. Thank you for your grace for the free gift of your never-ending love that heals us and gives us new life. Help us to see your presence in the simple things of our world. Help us to receive your love, and to share that love with others. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Matthew 20: 1-16 (NT, p. 21)

MESSAGE *“Peculiar Grace”*

RESPONSE

OFFERING INVITATION / MISSION MOMENT

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 *“Amazing Grace”*

arr. R. Hebble

*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)*

For cheer in giving, we pray. For the power to relinquish, we pray. For knowing what is ours and what is yours and for confusing the two as often as possible, we pray. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

You, who are part of God’s creation, are welcome to receive Holy Communion this morning by intinction—coming forward by the center aisle, taking a piece of bread, dipping it in the cup of juice and eating. You are invited to kneel at the communion rail for prayer and/or return to your seat by the side aisle.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN 121 *(red hymnal)* *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

*BLESSING

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

J.M. Michel

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 25

8:30 and 11 a.m.

ASP Sunday & Luncheon @ noon

Rev. Julie Kline

“We’re On a Mission from God”

Romans 12: 2

Sunday, October 2

8:30 and 11 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

Rev. Julie Kline

“If I Was a Hoarder...”

Psalm 19, Matthew 21: 33-46

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, September 18

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

12:15 p.m. Hospitality Team - Parlor

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

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

6:00 p.m. Youth Tribe - Youth Center

6:00 p.m. Notified Rehearsal - Sanctuary

MONDAY, September 19

11:30 a.m. Building & Grounds - Fellowship Room

TUESDAY, September 20

10:00 a.m. Worship Planning - 305

12:00 p.m. Clergy/Director Meeting - Parlor

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

6:00 p.m. Ruth Circle - Parlor

6:00 p.m. Advocacy Services - 3rd floor

7:00 p.m. Disciple I - 304 (may get cancelled)

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

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

WEDNESDAY, September 21

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

10:30 a.m. Community for Healing Counseling - 3rd floor

10:30 a.m. Anna Circle - Hostess home

11:30 a.m. A Classroom - Chapel

12:00 p.m. Endowment Committee - 305

1:00 p.m. Julia-Phoebe Circle - Parlor

1:00 p.m. Miriam Circle - Parlor

1:00 p.m. Lydia Circle - Friendship Village

7:00 p.m. NA - Fellowship Room

5:15 p.m. Finance Committee - Parlor

5:30 p.m. Outreach Team - Allen Library

7:00 p.m. Disciple II - 304

7:00 p.m. Music & Arts Committee - 305

THURSDAY, September 22

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

1:30 p.m. Prayer Group - Chapel

5:00 p.m. Nominating Committee - 304

5:30 p.m. Depression/Bipolar Support Alliance - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal - Choir Room

6:30 p.m. NA - Wesley Hall

7:00 p.m. Companions in Christ - Chapel

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

FRIDAY, September 23

Do All the Good You Can Do Day Events

10:00 a.m. MI Blood Drive - Wesley Hall

SATURDAY, September 24

Do All the Good You Can Do Day Events

SUNDAY, September 18

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. Julie Kline, Mary Bullock

Minister of Music

Jacqueline Stilger

Organist

Bernie Foulk

Ushers

Roger Williams (head usher), Diana Lundquist, Tom Lundquist, Molly Williams

Greeters

Julie Turner, Jan & Gordon Bundy

Office/Welcome Center

Fay Woolrich

Audio & Lighting

Riley Lundquist

Van Driver

Andrew Lehman

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in honor of all those who provide love and care during times of loss and in loving memory of Liz Kordella and Marquita Willoughby, given by Deb & Jim Willoughby.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pictorial Directory Photo Sign-ups. Photos will be taken between October 11-15 and 18-22. You can sign up at the Welcome Center for your photo appointment. Online appointments are also available from a Lifetouch link on the home page of our website.

ASP Sunday & Luncheon. Next Sunday is ASP Sunday! Come hear and see our ASP Team's stories about their summer mission trip. After the 11 a.m. worship, the ASP team will have a luncheon that will benefit youth missions. A good will offering will be accepted for the meal.

Ministry Showcase. On Sundays, Oct. 2 through Nov. 20, several ministries of First Church will showcase what they are all about in the Perks gathering area. We have over 40 ministries to show you! If you are a chair of a ministry of First Church, please contact Jennifer Stupica, jstupica@umc-kzo.org, to let her know which Sunday your ministry would like to reserve a table.

Rachel Circle Relaunch. Young women of the church are invited to be a part of this UMW Circle that will meet the 4th Monday of the month. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 26 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Poverty Simulation here at First Church. On Wednesday, September 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m., First Church will host this workshop sponsored by the Poverty Reduction Initiative at WMU. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the realities of living in poverty through role-playing experiences. Flyers and registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. Registration for the workshop is \$10, deadline to register is September 21. Be a part of our church's growing concern for justice issues and sign up today.

First United Methodist Church

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

Prime Timers. All retirees are welcome to join this fellowship group. On Friday, Sept. 30 @ 5:30 p.m. they will have a meal in Wesley Hall followed by a program by Vickie Winfield, a long-time Kalamazoo educator. Please call the Grostics (349-4016) or Karnemaat's by Sunday, Sept. 25 with your dinner reservation.

Do All the Good You Can Do Days. Our annual community outreach event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23 & 24. You can sign-up for all the events that will be available at the table in the Marketplace. We hope everyone will participate in at least one event and fulfill our mission to Share God's Love. See today's insert for a list all the events.

MI Blood Drive. On Friday, Sept. 23 between 10am-2pm, as a part of our Do All the Good You Can Day events, First Church will host a blood drive in Wesley Hall. If you plan to donate blood it is helpful if you go to the MI Blood website (<https://donate.miblood.org/portal/Default.aspx>) and register a time to come in and donate. Please let your family and co-workers know of this opportunity to help people in our community, as the donated blood goes to Borgess and Bronson Hospitals.

Faith & Science Sermons. Whether you enjoyed every sermon or missed a few, you now have a chance to hear all 13 of this summer's Faith & Science sermon series. You can purchase a 5-CD set with accompanying paper copy of the sermon at the Welcome Center. Suggested donation \$10.

GLBT Film Series. A series of films and panel discussions with local religious leaders and scholars on the intersection of faith and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender experience will be held on Tuesday evenings 10/11-11/1 @ 7 p.m. at Kalamazoo College's Recital Hall. Free and open to the public.

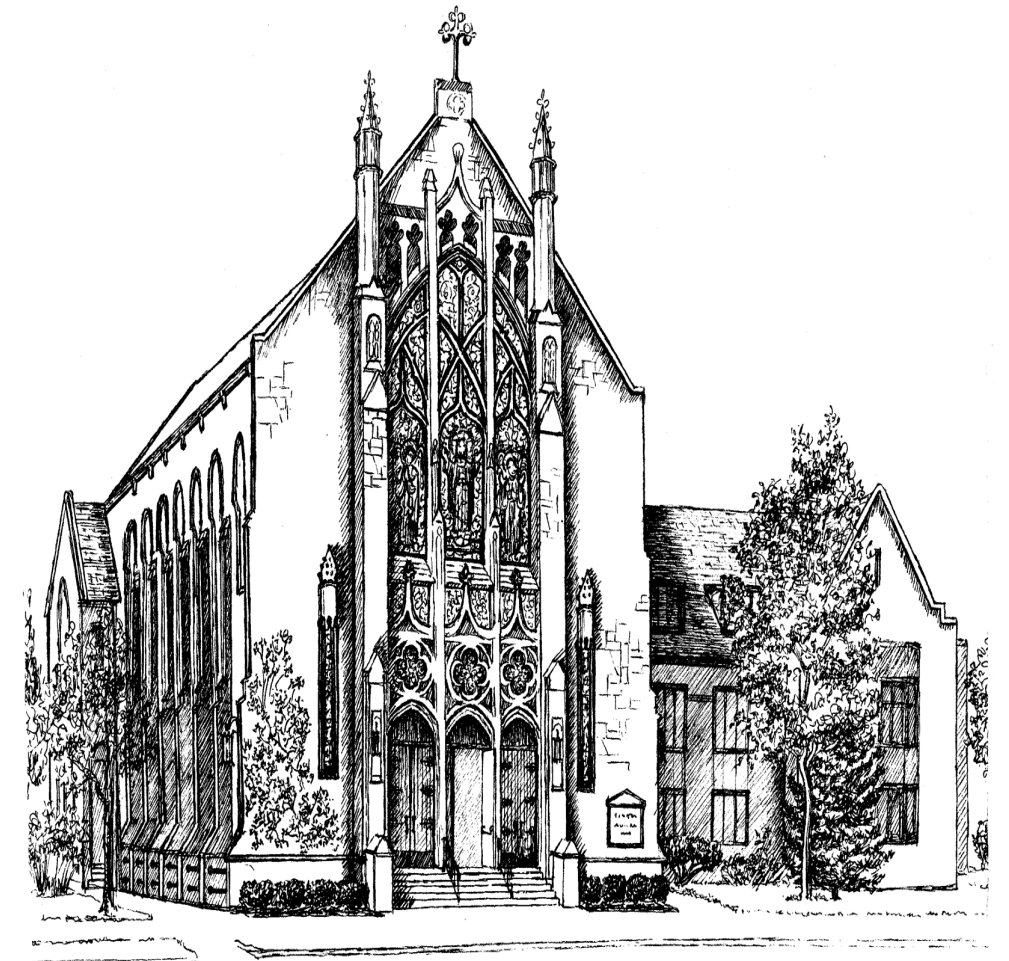


FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

September 18, 2011

8:30 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.