



Rejoice and *Reconnect!*

September 11 at 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

- Rev. Steve Charnley will be preaching about the searching love of God which calls us home. The lectionary scripture will come from Luke 15:1-10 and feature two short parables with a similar message. The lost sheep and the lost coin will communicate the unflagging persistence of God who searches for us until we are found. Even when we have given up on God, God never gives up on us!
- The Chancel Choir and the First Singers Choir will join together for a combined choir and be consecrated for their season of singing.
- At the 11:00 service, First Bells, our youngest children's bell choir, will ring us into the morning and Rev. Dan Duncan will lead the children in exploring their faith during the service and then upstairs for Bible storytelling called "Godly Play."

9:30 a.m. Emerging Worship

- Rev. Julie Kline will be preaching from the profound story of Jeremiah the prophet and his visit to the potter's house. It was there he had a vision of how God wishes to treat God's people. God is the potter and we are the clay. When we go astray and mess up our lives, God doesn't scrap the project but has the power to remold us in God's image.
- The Emerging Worship Band will lead us in engaging music and vocals.
- You will be encouraged to interact with voice and mind and heart!

**Sunday School
for all ages begins
September 18**

*Come to more than one service
and experience God in a variety
of ways.*

*Invite friends, family, neighbors,
and co-workers.*

*Loving nursery care is provided
throughout the morning on our
secure second floor.*



WELCOME to *The First Word*, a bi-monthly publication, except during the months of June, July, August and December when *The First Word* is published monthly. Articles for the next issue are due no later than Wednesday, **September 7, 2016**. The next newsletter will be mailed **September 14, 2016**. Articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent electronically by email to Jennifer Stupica at jstupica@umc-kzo.org.

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

The staff is here to empower and equip the congregation for ministry and mission. Email *staff by entering the first letter of their first name and the entire last name, and then: @umc-kzo.org. (i.e., scharnley@umc-kzo.org).

*Rev. Steve Charnley	Senior Pastor
*Rev. Julie Kline	Associate Pastor
*Rev. Dan Duncan	Pastor of Children & Families Ministries
*Rev. Keith Treman	Pastor of Congregational Care
*Jacqueline Stilger	Minister of Music
*Ruth LaMachia	Church Business Administrator
*Christi Landreville	Administrative Partner in Ministry
*Jennifer Stupica	Communications Coordinator
*Bernie Foulk	Organist
Rich Peavler	First Singers Director
*Curt Flowers	Bookkeeper
*Denise Wilcox	Contributions Assistant
*Sara Miller	Office Assistant
*Robin Entenman	Office Assistant/Security
Pamala Roman	Custodian
Todd Bloomfield	Evening Custodian
Ernesto Escobedo	Custodian/Security
Michael DeYoung	Evening Security
Julie Meyers	First Care Director
Bishop David A. Bard	Bishop of the Michigan Area
Rev. Dwayne Bagley	Kalamazoo District Superintendent

GLOBAL STAFF

Jeff and Ellen Hoover Democratic Republic of the Congo

PRAYER CHAIN. Did you know that it is as easy as picking up the phone or e-mailing the office to have your prayers multiplied by many caring members of your church family? Please contact the church office, 381-6340, if you would like to be included in our weekly email prayer chain. If you would like to be added to our phone prayer chain, please contact Mary Beth Garman at (269) 321-9332.



STEPHEN MINISTRY is a confidential care giving ministry of our church. If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk with you during a difficult time in your life, you are welcome to contact Wendy Arnold at 323-3244.

Our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of

James (Jim) McDonald, husband of Ellen McDonald, who died August 9.

Allen Briggs, husband of Marguerite Briggs, who died August 21.

Please keep these friends in your prayers

Helen Bray, Marguerite Briggs, Skip Decker, Hyesuk DeRoo, Marcia Duncan, Kenny & Barb Fuller, Brenda Haan, Paula Hall, Carl Hausermann, Nell Holland, Barbara Hughey, Nancy Jacobs, Jan Kline Hunt, Rueith Lewis, Jim Martin, Dave Martin, Ellen McDonald Marsha McKenzie, Ellie Miller, Terry Mishler, Ron Moore, Mandy Morrill, Jan Murrish, Mariel Neu, Paul Patterson, Jack Roderick, Forrest Seals, Maxine Tache, Mary Helen Thomas, Arlene Triestram, Barbara Vindedehl, Virginia Weller

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Congratulations to **Rev. Gene and Marilyn Lewis** on their upcoming 50th wedding anniversary on September 10th! They invite the congregation in celebrating with them on Sunday, Sept. 18 with cake and coffee in the Perks area after the 11 a.m. worship service.

Also congratulations to **Allen & Rueith Lewis**, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 3rd!

Summer Food Pantry Needs

Our Bronson Park Food Pantry is still in need of low-sugar cereals. This is one staple that Loaves & Fishes does not supply, so the pantry always welcomes your donations. The pantry also could use laundry soap.

Please let the office know if you change your address, email or phone number. Thank you!

New Congregational Care Pastor

by Fred Douglas, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

The SPRC has announced that the Rev. Keith Treman has joined our staff as Pastor of Congregational Care. He formally returned on August 1, 2016.

Keith is familiar to many in the congregation from his nearly eight years as Associate Pastor of Membership and Evangelism in the 1990s. After leaving First UMC in 1998, Keith was appointed to Sturgis UMC and then to Portland UMC. Last year, just at the conclusion of his pastorate there, Portland was struck by a devastating tornado, which temporarily delayed his plans for retirement.



Rev. Keith Treman
Pastor of Congregational Care

When Keith served at our church in the 1990s, his wife Colleen served as our Director of Christian Education for much of that time. When he retired last summer, Colleen resigned her work as a Deacon at Mt. Hope UMC in Lansing. Keith and Colleen have two grown sons and now reside in Allegan.



Rev. Keith Treman and his wife Colleen

As Pastor of Congregational Care, Keith will work one-quarter time with our other clergy to keep track of members who are unable to be present regularly for worship and other activities at the church. He will also provide pastoral attention to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

In the weeks to come, you're invited to introduce (or re-introduce) yourself to Keith and Colleen and welcome them "home."

September Mission of the Month

by Donna Dunayk, Outreach Team

Wesley Campus Ministries has recently moved into their brand new building. For the September Mission of the Month, the Outreach Team would like to offer First Church the opportunity to bless them with some housewarming gifts to make their new home a little cozier. If you would like to provide one of these gifts or go in with others to purchase a gift, please bring it in to the church during the month of September and place it in the baskets provided below the mailboxes in the office area. The wish list of items are:

- Blender
- Waffle iron
- Reams of copy paper
- Paper napkins
- Ice cube trays
- Rubbermaid or Tupperware storage containers
- Hot pads and oven mitts
- Crockpot
- Electric griddle
- Dry erase board, 3x5
- Post-It easel pads of paper



Bishop Welcome Celebration, Oct. 16

First United Methodist Church is one of the host locations for a Welcome Celebration for the new bishop, Rev. David A. Bard. There will be a wonderful service beginning at **3 p.m. on Sunday, October 16.** Refreshments and a time to meet the bishop will follow. We will be needing people to help with greeting, ushering, set-up, serving food, and clean-up. More info coming soon!



Bishop David A. Bard



The Soul of a Pilgrim: Eight Practices for the Journey Within

by Christine Valters Painter

All are invited to join this Tuesday morning book study at 10 a.m. that begins September 27 for eight weeks. Books will be sold beginning September 11 at the Welcome Center.

SAVE THE DATE

Borgess Health Flu Vaccine Clinic

Sunday, October 9

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Fellowship Room

Christian Education is for Life

Learn and grow in faith together

No matter your age or stage, there's a place for everyone to grow in faith. Opportunities for adult Christian education abound at First Church, on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Most Academy classes are six weeks and discussion-based with lots of lively, open-minded, good-humored conversation. Our exceptional leaders and facilitators come from the congregation and from the Kalamazoo community.

Sept. 18 through Oct. 16 Classes

Jesus Is My Candidate: (Parlor)
A Christian's Guide to the 2016 Elections

In November, voters will elect the next President of the United States. How can (and probably should) our Christian values guide our voting decisions? WMU political scientist and FUMC member John Clark will lead a consideration of some of the important issues facing the country at this critical time. Where do the candidates stand? Where does our denomination stand? Where do YOU stand? And, importantly, how can we as Christians model the behavior we would like to see from our political candidates and fellow citizens?

Bible Basics (Chapel)

Class will be led by Revs. Steve Charnley and Keith Treman. The opening class led by Pastor Charnley on September 18 is entitled, "Route 66: A Journey Through the Bible." A class for beginners as well as a refresher for mature Christians.

Family Foundations: Saving Jesus (Room 304)

Family Foundations is an ongoing Sunday school class designed for parents with young children – but all are welcome! They are continuing their study of "Saving Jesus," getting back to the Jesus of the Bible. This video series is a good mix of stories, study, theology, and personal testimony trying to answer the eternal question Jesus asked his disciples over 2,000 years ago: "Who do you say I am?" Led by Ron Grant, Jessica Grant, and Brian Grant.

For our members and their spouses/partners ages 80+

In Your Honor
First United Methodist Church invites you

Four Score and More Luncheon

**Thursday, September 22, 2016
Noon—2 p.m.**

**First United Methodist Church
Wesley Hall**

We are especially blessed by you and want to share our appreciation for our most revered members with a luncheon and musical entertainment.

Please RSVP to the office by Sept. 19
(269) 381-6340 or
kalamazoofumc@umc-kzo.org.
Transportation is available if requested.

Spiritual Formation Class

begins September 27

*To journey without being changed is to be a nomad.
To change without journeying is to be a chameleon.
To journey and be transformed by the journey is to be a pilgrim.*

Mark Nepo, *The Exquisite Risk*

When you come to know something new, you come closer to yourself and to the world. In these times of challenge and difficult choices, Christine Valtner Painter presents eight guideposts to spiritual transformation in her book *The Soul of a Pilgrim*. This book study group will meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. beginning September 27 for eight weeks. There will be opportunities for sharing through discussion, for writing and reflection on familiar stories from Scripture, and even some artistic expression. Please join Jan Baker, Miriam Downey, and Nancy Hyde in this study. Books will be available starting September 11.



Children & Families Ministries

by Rev. Dan Duncan
dduncan@umc-kzo.org

What was your adventure this summer? Although there are no Sunday School classes on September 11, we can share our stories as we “Reconnect and Rejoice”! Come and see your new Sunday School rooms, tour the Godly Play worship centers, and see all the other life-enhancing ministries our church offers during the 9:30 hour September 11.

Thank you Shelby! We appreciate the love and care Shelby Russcher gave to our nursery children on Sunday mornings in this past year. Shelby is off to Michigan State University this fall. We currently have an opening for a replacement for Shelby. Please see page 8 for more info.

First Bells will play September 11 during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Godly Play stories on September 11 (11:15 to noon, for 4 year olds through 3rd graders)

Sept. 11: (ages 4-5's) How the Church Tells Time with storyteller Pastor Dan
 (ages 6-8's) How the Church Tells Time (storyteller TBD)

Godly Play “Guides” needed for this program year! If you would like to have a “ringside seat” to the amazing spiritual encounter our children have, we could use your help as a “guide.” Due to the increasing number of children we have in this program, we will be starting a second section of Godly Play, and will need two Guides every week. Guides serve on a rotating basis, from right after the Children’s Message of the 11 a.m. worship service, until that worship service ends (around noon). Contact Pastor Dan if you’d like to find out more or to volunteer!

Family Fun Night coming September 16! Our next Family Fun night will be a cookout and picnic at Oshtemo Township Park (off M-43, about a mile west of Meijer’s). Bring a dish to pass; we’ll provide hot dogs, drinks, and paperware. Friday, September 16 from 6-8 p.m.

Third Graders Receive Bibles on September 18! We begin the program year as usual with the presentation of Bibles to our third graders. This will occur at the 11 a.m. worship service. If you have a third grader, please let Pastor Dan know if he or she will be present that day!

Sunday School begins Sunday, September 18. Our curriculum is from Cokesbury, and is called “Deep Blue.” Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. in the “Arches” gathering area on the second floor, with singing, (twice a month) bell ringing, snacks, and prayer before going to our respective rooms.

- ▶ Toddlers and Twos (nursery) have an age-appropriate curriculum
- ▶ Pre-K and Kindergarten: meet in Room 203
- ▶ 1st and 2nd Graders meet in Room 210
- ▶ 3rd and 4th Graders meet in Room 209
- ▶ 5th and 6th graders “submerge” themselves in issues of Christian faith and life with the “Submerge” curriculum from Cokesbury. Meet in Room 305

Family Foundations. This is the name for our adult fellowship group comprised of parents who have children of preschool age. They meet during the Sunday School hour at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays in Room 304. They will meet beginning Sept. 18.

Baskets Needed! Wondering what to do with any spare baskets or basket-like trays that you no longer need? Our children could use them to hold Godly Play stories! All sizes can be used; drop off at the church for Pastor Dan. Thanks much!

Our next date for baptisms is October 16. Please contact Pastor Dan if you are interested in a baptism for your child!



Music is in the air at First UMC!

by Jacqueline Stilger, Minister of Music

First United Methodist Church offers a broad array of musical ensembles in which all may participate. The choral ensembles are open to all, and music reading abilities are not required. What is required is a love of singing and the willingness to share that love with others in the choir and the congregation. Choral singing is among the most ancient and sacred of the arts, and is truly impossible to do alone! Our choirs need you! Participation in the choir will feed your need to sing, but it will also lift you up after a long day. It will challenge you to explore new music, and it will give you a solid grounding in several musical genres. Most importantly, it will allow full expression of praise to God for the many wonderful gifts and blessings in our lives. We are pleased to welcome as the new First Singers Director, Rich Peavler. Rich has long been a dedicated member of the church and once held this position several years ago. We are grateful for his expertise and gentle spirit and look forward to his musical leadership at the 8:30 service.

If you are interested in singing or ringing in any of these ensembles, please contact music director Jacqueline Stilger at (269) 381-6340 x245, or email jstilger@umc-kzo.org. Music ministry happens in the church with the full participation of its congregants in the pew and in the choir pews. Your gifts are needed, wanted, and will be most appreciated!

ONE Combined Choir Rehearsal

In order to prepare for Sept. 11 worship when the two adult choirs combine their voices for both services, there will be a combined choir rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:15 p.m.



Chancel Choir

Rehearses Thursdays 7:15 - 9:00 p.m.
Sings every Sunday at 11:00 service
Choir Director: Jacqueline Stilger
Rehearsals begin Thurs., Sept. 8

First Beats Children's Ensemble for children in grades 3-8

Rehearses Tuesdays 4:15 - 5:30 p.m.
Sings monthly at 11:00 service
Choir Director: Jacqueline Stilger
Rehearsals begin Tues., Sept. 13



First Singers

Rehearses Sundays 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Sings every other Sunday at the
8:30 a.m. service
Choir Director: Rich Peavler
Rehearsals begin Sun., Sept. 11

Adult Handbell Ensemble

Rehearses Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Rings once a month at both services
Choir Director: Jacqueline Stilger
Rehearsals begin Thurs., Sept. 8
(We are only in need of substitute ringers at this time)



2016 Special Sunday Offerings

2016 DATE	OFFERING DESCRIPTION	GIVEN IN 2015	GIVEN IN 2016
<i>January 17</i>	<i>Human Relations Sunday</i>	446.00	571.00
February 21	Wesley Sunday	---	2,861.35
<i>March 6</i>	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	1,889.40	1,446.80
March 27	Easter Offering	7,609.00	7,233.00
March 27	Easter Outreach Offering		1,328.00
<i>April 10</i>	<i>Native American Sunday</i>	633.51	557.00
<i>May 22</i>	<i>Peace with Justice Sunday</i>	255.00	710.00
June 19	Camp Sunday	1,481.00	525.47
July 21	Michigan United/Justice Team	2,750.00	2,080.36
September 11	Christian Education Sunday	469.00	
October 2	ASP Sunday	1,301.41	
<i>October 2</i>	<i>World Communion Sunday</i>	400.00	
October 30	UMW Sunday	1,455.00	
<i>November 27</i>	<i>United Methodist Student Sunday</i>	83.00	
December 25	Christmas Offering	13,441.47	325.90
SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS TOTAL		<u>\$41,741.26</u>	<u>\$17,638.88</u>

Thank you for your Christmas in July Donations

by Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Team Chair

The Outreach Team would like to thank First UMC for their generous support of the Eleanor Street Shelter. The items that were donated during "Christmas in July" were delivered to the shelter in early August. They were somewhat overwhelmed with your donations and very thankful for them! As it turned out, a new family had just moved into the shelter and they were in immediate need of many of the items that were donated. Your donations included:

- 6 Pillows
- 11 Sets of twin bed sheets
- 11 Bath towels
- 42 Wash Cloths
- 44 Plastic cereal bowls
- 1 Frying pan
- 1 Sauce pan
- 23 Kitchen dish cloths
- 24 Kitchen towels
- 54 Forks



First Stitchers will return from their summer break on Thursday, September 8th. They welcome anyone who enjoys sewing or knitting to join them on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Room. Bring a sack lunch if you would like to stay for lunch and fellowship. Our blankets are distributed by a national organization (Binky Patrol, <http://binkypatrol.org/>) to many local groups including the Gospel Mission; Child Protective Services; Healthy Start - Healthy Babies; Family & Children Services; and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). In addition, knitters have found some very worthwhile projects to work on. If you have questions please don't hesitate to call either Linda Lueth (269-324-3522) or Ellen Portis (269-720-1130).

July 2016 General Fund Financial Picture

Note: Building Fund numbers are not included

	July 2016	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	2016 Budget	% of Budget
Total Income	\$ 57,712	\$ 596,639	\$ 576,227	\$ 913,661	65.3%
Total Expense	\$ 69,574	\$ 527,785	\$ 520,710	\$ 913,661	57.8%
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (11,861)	\$ 68,853	\$ 55,517		

* Income includes 2016 pre-paid pledges of \$126,137.51 and \$152,002 received in 2015.

Three open positions at First Church

Office Assistant

We are seeking a part-time office assistant toward the end of fall. This is an entry-level, 10-12-hour per week position. The Assisting Partner in Ministry facilitates the work of the Emerging Worship Team by designing bulletins and projection for the monthly Emerging service, the Hospitality Team, Life Line Prayer Group and Caring Committee by maintaining Sunday visitor lists and prayer lists and providing CD recordings of services for those worshipping from home. Candidates must have excellent written and oral communication skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office, specifically PowerPoint, Publisher, Word, Outlook and Excel. Familiarity with Church Windows, MailChimp, Google Docs and InDesign is also helpful. As part of the frontline office staff, successful applicants will exemplify superior hospitality. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Church Business Administrator Ruth LaMachia, at First United Methodist Church by emailing rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Nursery Worker

We have a position in our church nursery on Sunday mornings from 9:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m. beginning immediately. Responsible for providing safe, secure, nurturing, clean, and efficient care for our children. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Ruth LaMachia, Church Business Administrator, at First United Methodist Church by emailing rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Security Guard

First United Methodist Church is currently has a position open for a part time Security Guard on Sunday Evenings and for special events. The purpose of this position is to be responsible for the safety of all those who are in the building and to safeguard, patrol, and monitor the premises. Candidates should provide a résumé along with professional and personal references to Ruth LaMachia, Church Business Administrator, at First United Methodist Church by emailing rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Missionaries Jeff and Ellen Hoover to visit First Church Monday, Sept. 19



First United Methodist Church has supported Jeff and Ellen Hoover for the past several years. Both Jeff and Ellen are missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving in the area of education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since 1979. They will be in Southwest Michigan in September and will be at FUMC on **Monday, September 19 from 10 a.m. until noon**. Please plan on attending this meeting with them and learn more about their work in the DRC.

As you may recall, Jeff is currently a professor in the theological college of Katanga Methodist University and assists in the library. He is also director of the University of Lubumbashi libraries, a system of 11 facilities, and works with other institutions on their collections and their efficiencies. Ellen is a part-time professor at the United Methodist University in Mulungwishi where she teaches courses in Islam and church history in the College of Theology. She is also the director of The English-speaking School of Lubumbashi (TESOL), an elementary and middle school for children of missionaries, full-time church workers and other English-speaking families in a city where French is the common language of instruction.



Help support the 2017 Costa Rica Mission Trip

The Costa Rica Mission Trip team plan to hold fund raisers in the coming months to help cover their travel costs. Please stop by their table in the Marketplace on Sundays, September 18, October 30, November 13 and December 4 and show your support!

September 18
Fund raiser:
BAKE SALE

Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

	August 28 10 a.m.	Sept. 4 10 a.m.
10:00 Lay Reader	Jonah Bolton	Lukas Bolton
10:00 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	need someone
10:00 Greeters	Bob & Carol Hamet	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond
Van Drivers	Jay Gross	Jake Lisak
10:00 Sound/Lights	Jim Willoughby	Bob Lane
Perks Host	Trustees	Lifelong Learning

Please contact the following people to help with specific Sunday morning ministries. They welcome your participation!

Lay Readers: Jennifer Stupica, jstupica@umc-kzo.org

Van Drivers: Robin Entenman, rentenman@umc-kzo.org

Sound/Lights: Greg Anderson, ganderson-ss@charter.net

Acolytes: Molly Geerlings, mollygeerlings@att.net

8:30 ushers: Roger Williams, ngcphile@sbcglobal.net

11:00 ushers: Dan Bunker, djbunker@charter.net

Greeters and Welcome Center Host: Please sign-up on the board at the Welcome Center

	Sept. 11 8:30 and 11 a.m	Sept. 18 8:30 and 11 a.m.	Sept. 25 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 2 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 9 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 16 8:30 and 11 a.m
8:30 Lay Reader	Sue Paul	Carol Hodges	Molly Williams	ASP Team	Jan Schoenherr	Terry O'Connor
8:30 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
8:30 Greeters	need someone	need someone	need someone	ASP Team	need someone	need someone
8:30 Sound/Lights	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson
11:00 Lay Reader	Joyce Treece	Linda Winkelman	Mark Stucky	ASP Team	Laura Van Vlack-Ailes	Carol Holms
11:00 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
11:00 Greeters	Jan & Tom Kayser	Max & Ellen Brinkley	Wendy & Dave Arnold	ASP Team	need someone	need someone
11:00 Acolytes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11:00 Sound/Lights	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane



United
Methodist
Women

Wed., September 7, 2016

General Business Meeting and Luncheon

9:30 a.m. Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Devotions, Memorial Service

Program: "The Charter for Racial Justice,"

by Simmie Proctor

12:00 noon Luncheon

ALL ladies of the church are invited to a new program year! If you will be joining us for lunch on Sept. 7, Ruth Evelyn Graham needs your lunch reservation by noon on Friday, September 2. Please call her at 327-8799.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 AUGUST 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone	29 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 10:30 AM Stephen Ministry Leaders 5:30 PM Golf League 5:45 PM Justice Team 7:00 PM Basketball	30 9:00 AM Staff Retreat 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Stewardship Team	31 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group	1 SEPTEMBER 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Kalamazoo SoundBuilders	2 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	3 4:00 PM Wedding
4 Blood Pressure Clinic Holy Communion 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone	5 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 7:00 PM Basketball	6 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 7:00 PM NA	7 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM OLLI Curriculum Committee 9:30 AM UMW General Meeting & Luncheon 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group	8 9:30 AM First Stitchers 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 10:30 AM Building & Grounds 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM CFM Team 7:00 PM Kalamazoo SoundBuilders 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	9	10
11 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Emerging Worship 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	12 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 7:00 PM Basketball	13 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:00 PM JFON Intake Clinic 4:15 PM First Beats 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM SPRC	14 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM MOM's Demand Action 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 11:30 AM Friendship Village Communion 1:00 PM Stephen Ministry 5:30 PM First Care Board Meeting 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	15 9:30 AM First Stitchers 9:30 AM Trustees 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Clergy Cluster 1:30 PM Prayer Group 5:30 PM Outreach Team 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Kinship Care Support Group 6:30 PM NA 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	16 6:00 PM Family Fellowship Fun Night 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	17 5:00 PM Wedding
18 Blood Pressure Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM JFON Anniversary Celebration 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	19 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 10:00 AM Missionary Presentation 7:00 PM Basketball	20 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:00 PM Center for Transformation 6:00 PM Ruth Circle 7:00 PM NA	21 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM Anna Circle 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Lydia Circle 1:00 PM Miriam Circle 6:00 PM Wild Ones Board Meeting	22 9:30 AM First Stitchers 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 12:00 PM Four Score and More Luncheon 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Emerging Worship Planning 6:30 PM NA 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	23	24
25 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe	26 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 7:00 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Justice Team	27 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA	28 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM UMW Executive Meeting 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM MOM's Demand Action 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support	29 9:30 AM First Stitchers 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 1:30 PM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM NA 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	30	1



The View from my window

**Rev. Steve Charnley
Senior Pastor**

Each summer, our church staff takes time to gather on retreat in a sylvan or lakeside setting, to refresh our spirits and gain inspiration for the coming year. Our clergy and directors went on retreat in July and I would like to share some of our insights with you. (The All Staff Retreat is scheduled for August 30th.) One of the first things we did, after a centering time, was to share where our passions are leading us in our ministry among you. What is it that we feel the Holy Spirit prompts us to say and do in our year ahead? What great need calls us, and how might efforts in meeting that need bring us fulfillment?

My father, who was a United Methodist pastor, counseled me as I considered my call to ministry with these words, “Find the place where your passion and the world’s need meet. Let that be your ministry.” Obviously, there are many needs, some more pressing than others. As we shared in our circle, our colleague Dan Duncan voiced a great need in our present day — the need to not be afraid. Fear fuels the nativism and racism that pervades the headlines. And so, we are called by the angels of scripture to “be not afraid!” That was an excellent starting place. Working from there, we found ourselves in passionate conversation about how we can defuse the fear by building bridges, listening to one another, hearing stories, understanding struggles, and most of all, finding our common kinship as children of God. Particularly, we came to the issue of racism and our need to work intentionally and diligently toward its eradication in our corner of the world.

To that end, we would like to invite you to join us in this important work this year. Here are some of our

initial thoughts on how this focus of our ministry can unfold:

1. As clergy and directors, we can take the lead and experience the ERACCE (Eliminating Racism and Claiming/Celebrating Equality) Workshop.
2. We can partner with Allen Chapel AME Church in shared worship, Bible study, fellowship, and music; as well as partnering in mission projects in our community.
3. I would like to invite leaders in our church to accompany me as I attend the Northside Ministerial Alliance’s meetings.
4. We can encourage groups to engage in learning about the legacy of racism by reading books such as *Dear White Christian*, by Jennifer Harvey or *The Souls of Black Folk*, by W.E.B. DuBois.
5. Enlist more reading tutors for our long-standing commitment to the Spring Valley Elementary School.
6. All of us can seek relationships of racial diversity not as a programmed plan but a natural outgrowth of our desire to embrace the fullness of God’s family.

I am excited about leading us on this journey! It is, as my father said, where my passion and the world’s need intersect. I look forward to hearing your ideas as we go forward together. Join us on the journey.

Blessings,



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 IN KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN



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.



2016 First Word Schedule

Article Deadline	Mailing Date
September 7	September 14
September 21	September 28
October 5	October 12
October 19	October 26
November 6	November 16
November 23	November 30
December 7	December 14

Articles are due on the deadline!
Late submissions will only be published if space permits. Please submit articles typed exactly as you want them to appear in the newsletter. Articles may be edited for space and content.



JFON birthday celebration

Sept. 18 @ 12:30 p.m.

One year ago, First United Methodist Church took on the challenge of creating Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), a place where immigrants could get advice and help with their immigration problems. Now JFON has been operational for one year, and we are celebrating. Please plan to stay after church for the birthday celebration in Wesley Hall on Sunday, September 18. Ice cream and snacks will be served at 12:30 p.m., followed by a brief program.

EMERGING WORSHIP

September 11 @ 9:30 a.m.
Wesley Hall

"We are the Clay" by Rev. Julie Kline

Jeremiah 18: 1-11

We are the clay, God is the Potter, and we are the work of God's hand. Are we pliable? Will we allow God to move us, shape us, form and re-form us? Or do we resist to the point of breaking? When broken, will we allow God to pick up the pieces and start all over? Is the song of our hearts surrender or resistance? Surrender is not weakness, surrender is a letting go—evacuating occupied space in heart, mind and spirit that is occupied with junk and clutter, so that a new spirit can move in and breathe life. Join us for another year of experiencing, celebrating and sharing God's love together in Emerging Worship!



FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS!

"Walmart is not the only saving place."

"Free coffee. Everlasting life. Yes, membership has its privileges."

"Prayer: wireless access to God with no roaming fee."