



**Welcome Bishop David A. Bard
Sunday, October 16 @ 3 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo
Service of Worship and Celebration



David A. Bard
Bishop of the Michigan Area

David A. Bard began his work as the United Methodist Bishop of the Michigan Area on September 1st. His main priority in the first few months will be to get to know the state's pastors and congregations. On Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m. our church is privileged to host one of three official welcoming opportunities for Bishop Bard.

Bishop Bard and his wife, Julie, come to Michigan from Minnesota where he served as pastor and former District Superintendent, most recently for eleven years as Lead Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Duluth. He has also served in several United Methodist leadership roles across the denomination.

Immediately following his election as bishop last July, Bishop Bard said: "I pledge with God's grace and the help of God's spirit to make The United Methodist Church the best it can be, for us to be a church that indeed offers hope and healing in a broken and battered world."

Please plan to join United Methodists from across Michigan on October 16 and be part of the special Service of Worship and Celebration followed by the opportunity to greet Bishop and Mrs. Bard personally in the church parlor.

If you would like to help with our church's welcome for Bishop and Mrs. Bard as a greeter or with refreshments, please contact David Lundquist at (269) 352-0582, or email him at dlundquist@ameritech.net. You may also call the church office at 381-6340.

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 **October 5, 2016**. The next newsletter will be mailed **October 12, 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
Linda Winkelman	JFON Legal Assistant (kzoo_assist@jfonwestmichigan.org)
*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 (msjulie55@yahoo.com)
Bishop David A. Bard	Bishop of the Michigan Area
Rev. Dwayne Bagley	Kalamazoo District Superintendent
Rev. Cora Glass	Dir. of Discipleship and Resident Director of Wesley Intentional Living Community

GLOBAL STAFF

We are in the process of selecting a new group of global staff that the church will support. More info on these missionaries coming soon!

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

Fred Hoesley, grandfather of Jennifer (Ken) Briggs, who died September 12.

Marcia Duncan, mother of Pastor Dan (Mary) Duncan, who died September 22.

Merrill Brink, husband of Sandy Brink, who died September 22.

Please keep these friends in your prayers

Helen Bray, Marguerite Briggs, Sandy Brink, Skip Decker, Hyesuk DeRoo, Dan Duncan, Brenda Haan, Paula Hall, Carl Hausermann, Nell Holland, Barbara Hughey, Nancy Jacobs, Ann Kneas, Rueith Lewis, Jim Martin, Dave Martin, Ellen McDonald, Marsha McKenzie, Ellie Miller, Terry Mishler, Mandy Morrill, Mariel Neu, Paul Patterson, Jack Roderick, Mary Helen Thomas, Arlene Triestram

Food Pantry Needs

Our Bronson Park Food Pantry is in need of cake mixes and cans of frosting for their guests. Please also continue to donate your extra plastic grocery bags. Would you like to help volunteer? Contact Judy Ross at 343-1978 if you have a few hours you can spare to help in the food pantry.

SAVE THE DATE

Borgess Health Flu Vaccine Clinic Sunday, October 9 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Fellowship Room

Trivalent Standard Flu Vaccine: \$29

Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine: \$38

Pneumonia Vaccine: \$90

Cash, check, MasterCard, VISA and Discover accepted. Patients with Medicaid or Medicaid HMO coverage should call their primary care physicians and schedule to have their flu immunization.



HANDIWORK

CREATED TO SERVE

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

Ephesians 2:10

Celebrating ASP Sunday Sunday, October 2 at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

At the end of July, 31 people piled into vans early on a Saturday morning with a plan of arriving in Bland County, Virginia. They were excited, maybe a little nervous, but they were ready to work—and work hard—because they were going the last week of the summer ASP program. The last week is “get ‘er done” week.

They didn’t jump in the van because they were confident that they were the best carpenters, roofers, house siders, or even ditch diggers. They piled in the van to give a week of their lives to following Christ. To at times stumble along behind Christ. To say to Jesus, “I want to live, I want to serve, I want to love the way you love.”

They would become confident that they are God’s handiwork and were created to serve in the mountains of Appalachia and the valleys of Kalamazoo County. Come and join us for worship as we give thanks to our congregation, who sent us out into the world to serve. The 2016 ASP Team will share their stories of hope and ongoing growth and show you a few pictures of their trip. Hope to see you there!



Jesus provides Opportunities for You

2017 Stewardship Campaign
Consecration Sunday, October 23

Opportunities! There’s that word again. Jesus provides us with many gifts such as love, hope, dignity and much more. But you may not have considered the opportunities for joy that He provides. Joy can be found most anywhere, if we take the time to look for it.

A Bengali poet by the name of Rabindranath Tagore once said, “I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”

Our stewardship theme this year

is **Jesus provides Opportunities for You**. One of the things that Jesus provides us, through First United Methodist Church, is the opportunity to provide a wide array of services for our community. Many of you are involved in these service programs; YANA, Bronson Park Food Pantry, Helping Our Neighbors, Ramp Up, JFON, Blessing Bags, and others. These programs bring joy to those who receive these services, but they also bring joy to the hearts of those providing the service.

As we anticipate continued service to our community, let’s pause to consider our individual ability to help make the world a better place for our brothers and sisters. Your Estimate of Giving will help FUMC plan for continued and new services for our community. On Sunday, October 23 we will be asking you to share your estimate at Consecration Sunday, keeping in mind the joy that we all feel is yet another opportunity provided to us through Jesus.

~ Mike Cooper, Stewardship Team

String Ensemble Forming. We extend this invitation to anyone who plays a string instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass). We are starting a string ensemble and it is open to anyone who would like to play, whether you have had years of experience, or only a little bit of experience. The group will be facilitated by Anne Sherfield, a cellist in the Battle Creek Symphony and one of our own members. The first rehearsal will be Saturday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, contact Anne Sherfield, arscello@aol.com; or Jacqueline Stilger, jstilger@umc-kzo.org.

Dick Knapp Major Projects Fund: Round 1 Project Proposals and Approvals and Round 2 Request for Proposals

by Karen Hassevoort, Knapp Bequest Committee Chair

On behalf of the Knapp Bequest Committee, the following is an update regarding use of the funds left to the church through a generous and loving bequest from Dick Knapp. The assets of the Richard G. Knapp Major Projects Fund are invested with the United Methodist Foundation. As of September 2016, the balance of the Fund is about \$824,000, with some of the fund earmarked for projects approved in round 1 of the proposal consideration process.



In the first round, the Committee and Trustees received and reviewed eight requests for funds and approved funding for seven of the projects as follows: Choral Scholar Request for \$30,000 at \$6,000 per year for up to five years (provides section leaders for the choirs); Handbell Fifth Octave Request for \$8,435 to purchase fifth octave of handbells for Handbell Choir; Duke Street Playground Request for \$5,000 for construction of a new playground at Open Doors apartment property location; 21st Century Technology Request for \$100,000 (Technology Committee

and the Church Council to submit the specifics of this plan to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their approval); JFON Request for \$4,700 for air conditioning of JFON-utilized space on the third floor of the church, and \$5,300 for discretionary funds for JFON over a three year period to assist JFON clients with costs associated with their cases (not otherwise covered) by the JFON budget; Parlor Redesign Request approved in the amount of \$31,500 (other aspects of proposal to be funded by Trustees/other sources); and Methodist Children’s Home of Costa Rica Request for \$26,000 (\$20,000 for construction of a security wall around the Home to protect personal property, \$5,000 for support of the children who are served by the Home and \$1,000 for use as scholarships to support travel expenses for people who need financial assistance to accompany the FUMC group on a mission trip to the Home).

The Committee did not recommend, and Trustees concurred, approval of the Labyrinth Request for \$40,000 to build an outdoor labyrinth at FUMC. We believe that this request would be more appropriately considered upon a showing that there was a full/robust

program proposed for use of a labyrinth that could not be supported by using other nearby labyrinths, such as the labyrinth of our neighbors at the nearby Lutheran church or the portable labyrinth owned by the Wesley Foundation. We encourage the development of a robust labyrinth program.

The Committee is now accepting proposals for fall 2016 consideration. Application forms may be obtained at the Welcome Center or on the church website (under the "More Info" tab). **Deadlines for the fall submission are October 10, 2016 (Project Synopsis) and October 31, 2016 (Final Project Proposal). Proposals should be directed to: First UMC, 212 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, Attn: Ruth LaMachia.**

Questions regarding the Richard G. Knapp Major Projects Fund may be directed to Pastor Steve Charnley at 269.381.6340 or scharnley@umc-kzo.org or Karen Hassevoort, Committee Chair, at 269.569.5160.

Please continue to pray for our church and the work of the Dick Knapp Bequest Committee as we seek to be good stewards of the gift provided to us by our brother in Christ, Dick Knapp.

JustFaith class

Starting Thursday, October 6, from 7-9 p.m., you are invited to join Ray Sweany in JustFaith, a program of study that explores links between our Christian faith and involvement in social justice. The program uses books, videos, conversation about the most difficult topics of the day, and face to face encounters with the poor. If interested in the course, please contact Ray Sweany, rasweany@charter.net, or sign up at the Welcome Center. Register as soon as possible so that you can receive the books that will help you explore.

Covenant Bible Study

Wednesday evenings beginning September 28
24 sessions from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Led by Rev. Dan Duncan

Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God—and each other—better. Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. Three 8-episode segments each explore a different aspect of covenant life. Each will examine what covenant means, and the progression of a covenant relationship with God. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Pastor Dan Duncan (dduncan@umc-kzo.org) if you plan to join this class.

Inquirers' Class

October 23 - November 20

Want to know more about Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church? Want to join our family of faith? FUMC's Inquirers' class is the first step toward church membership. Our next Inquirers' class will be five sessions on Sunday mornings, October 23 through November 20 at 9:30 a.m. Senior Pastor Steve Chamley will lead this class in the Chapel. If you are interested in participating, see Pastor Steve or e-mail him (scharmley@umc-kzo.org), or contact the church office. Those wishing to gain strength from a dedication to sharing in the ministries of the church, will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, November 20 during our 11 a.m. service.

Perks Works!

by Bruce Binns, Hospitality Team chair

Kudos go to all the groups who led Perks this summer after the 10 a.m. service. Your dedication to continuing the hospitable act of serving coffee and refreshments kept the laughter, conversations, and welcoming throughout the summer. Hospitality is a year-round passion at First UMC!

Now we are back to the regular program year of Perks. Last year we streamlined and simplified, making it easier to be a host. We also were blessed by a large number of new Perks volunteers who were leaders, helpers, and suppliers of goodies. We added long-time members as well as new members to our volunteers.

How do you know that Perks works? The loudness, the smiles, and the outreach to the unknown face with: "Hello, I don't think we've met. My name is..." Our hospitality is frequently mentioned by a large number of Inquirer's class attendees.

Now we ask you to consider helping with Perks by bringing donut holes, home-made goodies, or other treats. Help is also needed in serving and welcoming in between the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship services. Check the sign-up board by the parlor kitchenette to see how you can be a part of this easy way to welcome everyone who comes into our church on Sunday morning.

Are you fall cleaning your closets? Do you have winter coats that you no longer wear?

October Ministry of the Month THE SALVATION ARMY "SHARE THE WARMTH"

First Church will once again partner with the Salvation Army to collect coats for children and adults. Please put your donations of gently used or new winter coats in the Salvation Army barrel near the Welcome Center during the month of October!



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	419.25
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>(Nov. 2015)</i>	<i>United Methodist Student Sunday</i>	83.00	
November 20	You Are Not Alone (YANA)		
December 25	Christmas Offering	13,441.47	325.90

Those Sundays in bold italics are the six Special Sundays of the United Methodist Church. Giving to Special Sundays empowers the poor and victimized to live fuller lives through self-improvement programs; challenges injustice; and pays administrative costs for disaster relief.

Thank you for your school donations!

The Outreach Team and the teachers and students at Spring Valley would like to thank First UMC for their generous support. Your donations assisted a positive beginning to the school year. During the month of August the following items were collected for our Mission of the Month and delivered to Spring Valley.

Crayons

- 136 boxes of 24, 3 boxes of 48, 1 box of 64

Colored Pencils

- 54 boxes of 12, 5 boxes of 24

Colored Markers

- 20 boxes of 10

Glue sticks – 226, Bottles of glue – 15, Scissors – 39

Pencils – 414, Pencil sharpener – 1, Mechanical pencils – 48

Erasers – 12 pkgs, Rulers – 3, Pocket folders – 107

Spiral notebooks – 155, Notebook – 1, Notebook filler paper – 15 pkgs

Kleenex – 17 boxes, Hand Sanitizer – 2 bottles

Finally, if you bought a treat for your dog, or a cuttlebone for your bird, or a bottle of Tums, which may have gotten mixed in with your donations of school supplies, those items may be picked up at the church office. Again, thank you for supporting Spring Valley Elementary School and the August Mission of the Month.

~Mark Oudersluys, Outreach Chair

JFON's 1st Birthday Celebration

by Ann Sweany, JFON Clinic Coordinator



Ray Sweany & Bill Dimond making nitrogen-cooled ice-cream

On Sunday, September 18, JFON celebrated its first birthday. As befits a birthday, various accomplices willingly helped Ray Sweany make some of his signature liquid nitrogen-cooled ice cream. Attorney Katrina Pradelski shared information about JFON, made real with stories about some of JFON's clients. We hope "Louise" will soon have a U-visa, which will help her live a more normal life after having suffered years of abuse. Katrina has worked on her case for months, and is now looking toward resolution. ***Breaking news dated

September 19: Louise's case has reached an important step toward a positive outcome!***

As part of the celebration, we honored the contributions of pastors Doug Vernon, John Boley and Steve Charnley, who have directly contributed to the successful start of our JFON clinic. As Mollie Clements says, it has been an "incredible journey!" (It's not too late to honor these clergy with a gift to JFON.)

Three open positions

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 Office Assistant 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, rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.

Security Guard

First United Methodist Church currently has a position open for a part-time Security Guard 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, rlamachia@umc-kzo.org.



Children & Families Ministries

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

Vacation Bible School News. We want to celebrate the generous stewardship of our VBS children this year, whose daily offering went to buy a sheep and a flock of chicks through Heifer Project, which will multiply and spread many blessings in the coming years to hungry families, helping them to become more self-sufficient.

Sunday School. Give your child the gift of a solid foundation for spiritual growth in the Christian tradition. Our curriculum for the three youngest children’s classes is from our United Methodist publishing house (Cokesbury), and is called “Deep Blue.” Using a water motif, Deep Blue reminds us at several levels of the Christian journey, beginning with the waters of baptism, the redemption of the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea during the Exodus, and the ancient depiction of the church as a sailboat traveling across the sea—a place of refuge. Our children are going to love the multiple learning styles that it uses, and we have a wonderful teaching team—as usual! Our classes are these:

- 1) Pre-K (4 yr. old) to Kindergarten: Teachers are Anne Sherfield, Lisa Whittaker, Allison Bland, and Adriane Siefert.
- 2) 1st and 2nd Grades: Teachers are Penny Russel, Vickie Seals, and Colleen Treman.
- 3) 3rd and 4th Grades: Room 209. Teachers are Dan and Kylee Adams, and Carol Grant.
- 4) 5th and 6th Grades: Room 305 Teachers are Andrea Murphy and Jocelyn and Matt Newman. This curriculum is called “Submerge” and is geared toward older elementary children transitioning into adolescence.

We welcome our new and expanded group of Godly Play “Guides” for this year! Since we added an additional section of Godly Play, effective September 25, we need twice as many Guides (those who serve with the Storyteller to help create a “community of children” for learning and worship together in the joyful spirit of Christ). Our team this year is: Donna Oudersluys, Mary Lee Dimond, Pat Elzerman, Nancy Hilliard, Sara Miller, Carol Oakley, JoAnne Ivey, Margie Bultema, RuthAnn Uggen, Shondo Miller, Brian Moon, Jennifer Moon, and Ashley McKenzie.

Godly Play stories coming up (11:15 a.m. to noon)

4 & 5 year olds—Room 203

Oct. 2: The Good Shepherd and the Lord’s Supper	Storyteller: Tim Faillo	Guide: Pat Elzerman
Oct. 9: The Gifts of Creation	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: Sara Miller
Oct. 16: Noah’s Ark	Storyteller: Shelly Wisdom-Long	Guide: RuthAnn Uggen

6-9 year olds—Room 200

Oct. 2: Noah’s Ark	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: JoAnne Ivey
Oct. 9: Abraham and Sarah	Storyteller: Tim Faillo	Guide: TBD
Oct. 16: Birth of Isaac	Storyteller: Pastor Dan	Guide: Mary Lee Dimond

Acolyte Training. Pastor Dan will lead an Acolyte Training Session in the sanctuary during the 9:30 Sunday School hour on October 9 for children in 3rd grade and up who’d like to be an acolyte on a rotating basis for the 11 a.m. worship.

First Bells. Our youngest ringers will rehearse during the children's gathering time at 9:30 a.m. in the Arches on Oct. 2.

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

Family Fun Night coming! Pizza and Pumpkin carving! Join us in Wesley Hall (downstairs under the sanctuary) on Friday, October 21 at 6 p.m. for a simple meal of pizza together, and to spur each other on to creative heights as we eviscerate pumpkins, and carve them, connecting with our ancient Celtic roots. Sign up in the Arches area, or RSVP to Pastor Dan by Wed., Oct. 19.



YOUTH TRIBE

SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING YOUTH EVENTS



by Rev. Julie Kline, jkline@umc-kzo.org

SUNDAY, October 2

ASP Worship @ 8:30am and 11am ~ "Our Hands, God's Handiwork"

This is our opportunity to tell our stories, share our pictures of our ASP trip and tell the congregation "thank you" for sending us out into the world. We will also be leading communion and offering a blessing of our hands for the work that each of us does with and for God. Please plan to help lead if you were a part of the 2016 ASP team and please come join us for worship if you were not with us this year.

Cocoa & Class @ 9:30am ~ "Belief"

An Oprah Winfrey documentary that will travel to the far reaches of the world and to places cameras have rarely been revealing stories that will have us all asking: "What do I believe?" These are the remaining episodes: The Seekers, A Change is Going to Come, The Practice, God Help Us. We will choose together which one to watch first and if we watch the whole thing and then discuss or break it up into parts. Come, learn and engage with one another.

Youth Tribe @ 6-8pm ~ "Movie Madness"

We are throwing back to your childhood days with the watching of "Lion King" and "Brother Bear." We are going to start with some sing-alongs to these movies and then get into watching them. "Lion King" will play on the big screen and "Brother Bear" will play on the smaller screen. We'll have popcorn and just enjoy some good old fashioned Disney magic.

SUNDAY, October 9

Emerging Worship @ 9:30am ~ Celtic Spirituality: Thin Places

Youth attend and can participate in Emerging Worship during the Sunday School hour. See description at right.

Youth Tribe @ 11am ~ Kal-Haven Bike Trip. Get ready to ride!

We will ride all the way to South Haven! That is 33 miles. Along the way we'll take a lot of breaks and we'll have lunch in Bloomingdale, the half way point. A care van will trail us in case someone needs a break for a few miles, or we need to refill our water bottles. When we finally arrive in South Haven, we will ride to Packard Park (North Shore Dr.) and have a beach grill-out and watch the sun begin to set. This is a day-long trip. We are usually done riding by 6-7pm and start heading home to Kalamazoo as the sun sets. We will need people to pick us up in South Haven! If others would like to join us, you are welcome. Please be prepared to help find a ride back to Kalamazoo. Parents, please let me know if you can pick up riders and bikes at Packard Park!!



EMERGING WORSHIP

October 9 @ 9:30 a.m.
Wesley Hall

**"Celtic Spirituality:
Thin Places"**
by Rev. Julie Kline

"Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise." Psalm 66: 1-12

"Get up and go on your way, your faith has made you well." Luke 17: 19

The little island on Iona in the Western Isles of Scotland is known as one of Britain's most historic holy places. It was there in the sixth century that Saint Columba established his mission from Ireland. Iona is remembered as the cradle of Christianity for much of Scotland and northern England. It is a very beautiful Hebridean island and has been described as a "thin place" in which the material realm is only finely separated from the spiritual.

Join us for Emerging Worship as we explore the daily prayers, songs and chants of the Iona Community and enter into "thin places" through communion, a wailing wall, and the sharing of our spirits.



Sunday Morning Partners in Ministry

	Oct. 2 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 9 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 16 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 23 8:30 and 11 a.m	Oct. 30 8:30 and 11 a.m	Nov. 6 8:30 and 11 a.m
8:30 Lay Reader	ASP Team	Jan Schoenherr	Terry O'Connor	Carol Hodges	UMW	Sue Paul
8:30 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
8:30 Greeters	ASP Team	Tim & Barb Swartz	Ron Moore	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	UMW	need someone
8:30 Sound/Lights	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby	Greg Anderson	Jim Willoughby
11:00 Lay Reader	ASP Team	Laura Van Vlack-Ailes	Carol Holms	Lynne Corbus	UMW	Judy Aardema
11:00 Office/ Welcome Center	need someone	Harriet Chalker	need someone	need someone	need someone	need someone
11:00 Greeters	ASP Team	need someone	Bill & Mary Lee Dimond	need someone	UMW	need someone
11:00 Acolytes	Layla Eaton Ella Adams	Sean Willoughby Alex Moon	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11:00 Sound/Lights	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane	Robyn Lane	Jonah Bolton	Bob Lane

PLEASE NOTE: We do not have anyone who schedules greeters. Please sign up to greet on the board near the Welcome Center if you would like to share your gift of hospitality. *Thank you!*



Join us the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. for Pub Theology. From October to April we will be convening at Olde Peninsula Brew Pub in downtown Kalamazoo. Meet us on Thursday, October 6 @ 7 p.m.

as we explore how our faith applies to current events and life's mysteries. Feel free to bring your questions, invite your friends, and be ready to pull up a chair for a great night of fun and fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Different views



Different brews

PUB THEOLOGY



All Saint's Day Sunday, November 6

On Sunday, November 6 we will remember and honor our family and friends who have died in the past twelve months. Our tradition each year is to name the saints, light a candle, ring a chime and ask participants to stand if they were close to the person named. These are sacred and tender moments for all who have been touched by the life and faith of a significant person. Please contact the office at (269) 381-6340 and ask for Christi if you think we may not have the name of a family member or friend who has died in the past year.

This year's All Saint's Day worship experience will include a slide show of the saints. If you would like to include a photo of your loved one in this presentation, please email a photo as an attachment to Communications Coordinator Jennifer Stupica, jstupica@umc-kzo.org, by Monday, October 31.

OCTOBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 ASP Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic Holy Communion 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</p>	<p>3 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:30 PM ALS Support Group 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM SPRC</p>	<p>5 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM OLLI Curriculum Committee 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study</p>	<p>6 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 7:00 PM CFM Team 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10:00 AM String Ensemble Rehearsal</p>
<p>9 Flu Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Emerging Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Youth Tribe 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers</p>	<p>10 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Northside Ministerial Alliance 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA</p>	<p>12 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM Caring Committee 9:30 AM MOM's Demand Action 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Stephen Ministry 5:30 PM First Care Board Meeting 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support</p>	<p>13 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 Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 Baptism Sunday Blood Pressure Clinic 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bishop Welcome 5:30 PM You Are Not Alone 6:00 PM First Singers 6:00 PM Youth Tribe</p>	<p>17 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 5:00 PM Center for Transformation 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM NA 7:00 PM Ruth Circle</p>	<p>19 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 9:30 AM Anna Circle 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 1:00 PM Lydia Circle 1:00 PM Miriam Circle 6:00 PM Wild Ones Board Meeting 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study</p>	<p>20 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 Emerging Worship Planning 6:30 PM Kinship Care Support Group 6:30 PM NA 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>21 6:00 PM Family Fellowship Fun Night 6:00 PM Wedding</p>	<p>22 4:00 PM Wedding</p>
<p>23 Consecration Sunday, Sing-Out Sunday 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</p>	<p>24 7:00 AM Sunrise Patrol 9:00 AM JFON 10:00 AM Helping Our Neighbors 6:30 PM Basketball 7:00 PM Justice Team</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM The Soul of a Pilgrim 12:00 PM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Emmaus Group 4:15 PM First Beats 6:45 PM Early Music Michigan 7:00 PM Church Council 7:00 PM NA</p>	<p>26 7:30 AM Dawn Patrol 8:30 AM First Word Collating 9:30 AM UMW Executive Committee 10:00 AM OLLI Class 10:30 AM Community Healing Centers Group 6:00 PM Wild Ones Membership Meeting 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Covenant Bible Study 7:00 PM MOM's Demand Action 7:00 PM Perinatal Mood Disorder Support</p>	<p>27 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 7:00 PM Just Faith 7:15 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>28 7:00 AM ACDA-MI Fall Conference</p>	<p>29 7:00 AM ACDA-MI Fall Conference</p>



The View from my window

**Rev. Steve Charnley
Senior Pastor**

Refugees from war torn Europe and Southeast Asia and the people of First United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo... people worlds and cultures apart and yet what do they have in common? They were part of a life-changing and soul-stirring program of refugee resettlement. Recently, our Ruth Circle had as their guest, a woman who was a child in a Latvian family who in the aftermath of World War II had fled the Soviet expansion into the Baltic States. She vividly recalled the smiles, the material help, and the heart warming welcome she, her family, and others like them received from our congregation. A few decades later, the same could be said for those fleeing Southeast Asia and how we rallied to respond with hospitality to the displaced Vietnamese.

Arriving in 1949, the woman from Latvia remembered that our educational wing was not yet constructed, although she recalled a big, big hole in the ground. I am sitting where that big hole was and the view from my window is increasingly diverse. We are a nation of immigrants, a nation of diverse traditions, faiths, and cultures. And we are called to heed the Master's words in the parable from Matthew 25, "When I was a stranger, you welcomed me."

We have just celebrated the first anniversary of JFON, Justice for Our Neighbors, our immigrant legal ministry led by our attorney, Katrina and paralegal, Linda. The stories they are sharing convince us of the purpose and promise of what we are doing. Much of their work relates to the men, women, and children incarcerated in the Federal Detention Center in Battle Creek. Sometimes we are the only persons

standing between them and their deportation to places of abuse and violence. Again, we hear the words of Jesus, "When I was in prison, you visited me."

I am enthused that this fall our Outreach Team is beginning a conversation with our downtown churches about how we can again assist with resettlement of refugees—this time from the civil war in Syria. How blessed we are to be a part of the great human family and how blessed we are to be in a church family with a history of responsiveness to those in need. Sometimes that need is around the corner and across the street in the park. At other times that need comes from a far flung corner of the globe. In either case, we are asked to open our heart and hands in loving welcome.

Blessings,

Steve



Syrian refugees





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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
 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 21	September 28
October 5	October 12
October 19	October 26
November 2	November 9
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.



FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS!

"Try not to criticize your wife's judgement. See whom she married."

"Get off of Facebook and into my book. --God "

"Every day above ground is a good one."

"Son screen prevents sin burn."

EVENTS COMING UP IN OCTOBER

- SUN, Oct. 2 ASP Sunday/World Communion Sunday
- SUN, Oct. 16 Baptism Sunday/Children's Sabbath
New Bishop Celebration @ 3 p.m.
- SUN, Oct. 23 Consecration Sunday/Sing Out Sunday
New series of Academy Classes begins
- SUN, Oct. 30 UMW Sunday/Reformation Sunday