



Rejoice Sunday

The second Sunday of September has for years been our "Rejoice" Sunday. We have named it in several different manners but it has continued to be a tradition of rejoicing as we come into a new program year. **This year we will celebrate God's love with a "Rejoice" Sunday on September 13th.**

Since March and the beginning of the world wide health crisis of Coronavirus, we have found ourselves forming and shaping our lives together in vastly different ways than what we were accustomed to doing. We are not able to safely gather in large numbers for worship or any other ways of ministry. This has been difficult and has been a cause for grieving and loss that is added to the accumulated loss of so many rituals, routines and activities of our lives.

In the midst of this struggle we have found ways to be the church that has moved beyond the church building itself to reside and have life within our own homes and across our various screens and devices. We are still the church. We are a vital faith community that continues to live out our mission statement of experiencing, celebrating and sharing God's love. It is different and yet, God is still with us and we are still a people learning how to be shaped and molded by a Holy Spirit that will recreate us and be the wind beneath us.

As we "Rejoice" on **Sunday, September 13th** we will enter into a fall schedule that the staff hopes will honor all three times of worship that we have held in the past and find us worshipping together at the common hour of our summer schedule. Long ago, we moved to having worship at 10am throughout the summer because it was a time that blended our 8:30, 9:30 and 11am worshippers. It is in this spirit that we will continue to worship throughout the fall of 2020 and perhaps a little longer as we pray to come out on the other side of this deadly virus. **Our "Rejoice" Sunday on September 13th will begin our Sunday schedule:**

9am – 10am – Zoom Family Foundations (a small group ministry for parents, please contact Julia Librizzi jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org for further information)

9:15am – 9:45am - Zoom Fellowship for All*

10am-11am – Worship*

11am – noon – Sunday Morning Class*

6pm-8pm – Youth Tribe (please contact Pastor Matt for further information mweiler@umc-kzo.org)

This schedule is reflective of our Sunday schedule and does not include the many other groups and ministries that are continuing to meet at various times throughout the week.

**For a more complete list of activities and events and for links to Zoom Fellowship, Zoom Sunday morning class, and Lives-streaming Worship, please check out our website <https://www.umc-kzo.org/>.*

We "Rejoice" that we are learning new and innovative ways to be the people of God who are on a journey of faith, called by Christ to be an inclusive church that exemplifies the kingdom of God.

Shalom,
Pastor Julie Kline

Wednesday Evening Outdoor Prayer Services

Wednesday eventings at 7pm

Beginning on Wednesday, August 26 at 7pm we will be offering a simple prayer service on the church front lawn. This simple prayer service will be held every Wednesday evening until the fall becomes too chilly and dark. **We ask that you bring your own lawn chair or blanket and abide by these requirements:**

- Wear a mask and maintain social distance of 6 feet
- Make use of hand sanitizer provided at the events
- Utilizing the sign in sheet
- Sit with family group but do not share space with non-family members

We also request that each participant does a self-health care screening before they arrive. **If you have experienced any of the following symptoms, please do not come to the prayer service:**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*This will be a short prayer service of 30-45 minutes. We will not be using the church building, only the front lawn. **This will mean that bathrooms will not be available.***

This time of sheltering continues to be a difficult time and has changed much of our individual and communal life. This prayer service is an opportunity for a small, in person gathering to lift our spirits as we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide and shape our lives.

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY AND FRINEDS OF:

- Joan Rohs**, who died on August 11.
- Ann Imerzel**, who died on August 18.
- Mary Beth Garman**, who died on August 24.



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PLEASE KEEP THESE FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Fred Allen
- Dana Anderson
- Nina Baker
- Dee Barkley
- Jane Barnes
- Max & Ellen Brinkley
- Dan & Jill Christian
- Miram Cook
- Fred Douglas
- Emerson Eidson
- Andreea Frew
- Garman Family
- Ruth Evelyn Graham
- Brenda Haan
- Red Hikade
- Nell Holland
- John and Carol Holms
- Deanna House
- Lenora Holliday
- David Houseman
- Ben Korendyke
- Samantha Knight
- Doris Lee
- David Locke
- Ellen McDonald
- Christine Peavler
- Claire Peek
- Jeanne Plott
- Hank Rohs
- Gerry Schaberg
- Jan Search
- Bev Seimers
- Kim Taylor
- Larry Taylor
- Arlene Triestram
- Kathy Winchell
- Linda Winkelman
- Janet Wydendorf

“O’ Lord, here our prayer.”

Fall Worship Series

The Blessedness of Unity: Welcome Kindred

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" ~Psalm 133:1

We really are in this together. There is a tiny microscopic organism called coronavirus that is teaching us that we need to be united for a common cause, we need to take care of one another, and we need to be concerned with the well-being of those across the oceans and in our own community. We are in this together because coronavirus is teaching us that what impacts one really can impact the whole. We are living in a divided time that often focuses on our differences. We fragment ourselves by politics, race, social class, even our spirituality. Unity seems like a faraway concept and its neighbors, love and grace seem to be frequent outcasts as well. How can we reshape this narrative as Jesus followers? What would it mean for our common lives if we found blessing in unity and looked upon one another as kindred who must live in this world together? The teachings are ancient; the call of God has not changed:

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" ~Psalm 133:1

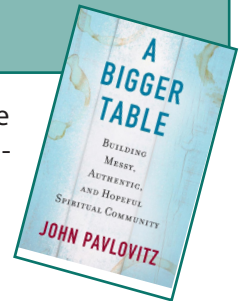
As we live within this global health crisis let us lean further into an understanding of unity. Let us lean into a sense of interdependence as if our very lives depended upon it. In this fall worship series we will listen deeply to the wisdom of the Psalms and Proverbs, the practices of the early Christian communities and the ways of living in, through and for Christ. Let us rediscover the blessedness of unity and find that we are kindred seeking kindred.

- **September 13 - All Are Welcome:** *Psalm 133, Romans 14: 1-12*
- **September 20 - You're Family:** *Psalm 46, Philippians 1: 21-30*
- **September 27 - Kindness & Justice-KSP Sunday/ Youth Tribe:** *Proverbs 21:21*
- **October 4 - A Place at The Table:** *Psalm 23, Luke 14: 15-24*
- **October 11 - Always Room for One More:** *Psalm 22: 25-31, Acts 8: 36-38*
- **October 18 - Residing in Love:** *Psalm 136: 1-9, John 15: 9-11*
- **October 25 - Always Blessing, Always Blessed:** *Psalm 119: 1-8, Ephesians 1: 15-19*
- **November 1 - What's Mine is Yours:** *Psalm 34: 1-10, 22, Matthew 28: 16-20*

Now more than ever it is important to stay connected. Check out our website <https://www.umc-kzo.org/>, *Around the Corner*, *First Word*, *Facebook*, *Twitter*, or *Instagram* to see what is happening within the church. Join us Sunday mornings for online worship. Hop onto our Zoom Fellowship time after the online service or join the conversation during a Virtual Academy Class. **Whatever way you choose, we hope that you will continue to be in connection with our church, with one another, and with God.**

8-week Inter-generational Book Study

Through this book study we will explore what it means to be intentional in building a church that is big enough for everyone.



Written in 2017, ***A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, Hopeful Spiritual Community*** by John Pavlovitz, considers what it means to truly expand the table so that everyone has a place -- especially in a time of deep divisiveness. Pavlovitz states: "This book isn't about battling dogmas, it isn't about competing faith traditions, and it isn't about opposing politics. This book is about humanity, about the one flawed family that we belong to and the singular, odd, staggeringly beautiful story we all share." The book study will begin on September 13, with the following three opportunities to discuss the book further.

Academy Class: Sundays, September 13 - November 1, 11-12 am, lead by Kathryn Sappington and Tammy Eaton (ZOOM discussion based on 2 chapters each week)

Book Group: Wednesday, October 14, 7-9 pm, lead by Lisa Batten (one-time in-person / masked discussion based on whole book)

Family Foundations: Sundays, September 13 - November 1, 9-10 am, lead by Julia Librizzi, Magen Lindstrom and Katy McGinnis (ZOOM discussion based on 2 chapters each week)

Consider purchasing your books locally at:

- this is a bookstore & Bookbug, at 3019 Oakland Drive
- Michigan News Agency, at 308 W. Michigan Avenue

MISSION OF THE MONTH "THANK YOU!"

by Donna Oudersluys, Outreach Team

Thanks to your generous response, FUMC family, we met our goal of \$1,000 for school supplies for Spring Valley. The unknowns of the 20-21 school year are many but Spring Valley moves forward confident of the ongoing support of our congregation. School personnel at Spring Valley are aware of the money we raised and they thank you! As the school year evolves, personnel will make us aware of needed supplies and we will order in bulk and have supplies delivered to the school. Look for updates in future newsletters!



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FINANCE UPDATE

by Sandy Gower, Finance Committee Chair

We continue to be in a stable financial position. Our July income was \$56,222.80 and expenses were \$75,089.31. We ended July with a balance of \$128,425.38. The Payroll Protection Loan we received accounts for a large portion of this balance. Going forward this balance is going to be needed to cover expenses. The staff continues to do an outstanding job during these challenging times. We will continue to monitor expenses while still insuring we are able to carry out our many ministries. Your continued generous support is truly a blessing to us all.

Special Offerings as of August 15, 2020

Human Relations Sunday	\$382.00
UMCOR Sunday	\$1,755.00
Easter Offering	\$7,120.00
Native American Sunday	\$635.00
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$285.00
Justice Team/Michigan United/ISAAC	\$1,480.00

Dawn Patrol Golf Outing September 19

Join Dawn Patrol Saturday, September 19, 2020 at Ridgeview Golf Course for this fun, socially distanced golf outing to help raise funds to help those in our community. Entry is \$50 per golfer with \$25 of each entry going toward the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. All participants will receive a complimentary 18-hole round of golf to Ridgeview, to be used by June 30, 2021. Assigned tee-times starting at 8:30 am with 10-minute intervals will allow for social distancing. Dawn Patrol hopes to have at least 10 teams of 4 participate, which would generate \$1000 toward the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Deadline for registration is **Thursday, September 17.**

For more information, contact Dick Shilts at dcshilts@hotmail.com or text 269 567-8023.

ONLINE WORSHIP:

Sunday mornings - 10am

Please worship with us via livestreaming on our YouTube channel accessible from our website: umc-kzo.org

PRAYER REQUESTS:

If you would like to share a prayer request with our clergy and prayer ministry team, **please email Thom Victor at tvictor@umc-kzo.org**. If you do not have access to email, you can call the church at (269) 381-6340 and leave a message. **Prayer requests need to be received by WEDNESDAY at noon.**

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP:

Join us for a time of virtual fellowship.

Sunday, Sept. 6, Zoom Fellowship is immediately following the 10am online worship.

Every Sunday, starting September 13, Zoom Fellowship will be held 9:15am - 9:45am.

A link to this fellowship time and meeting info is included in the weekly Around the Corner email.