

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a Carol Hodges

*OPENING HYMN My Soul Gives Glory to My God #198 (UMH-red hymnal)
During the singing of the opening hymn, the children are invited to join Ms. Julia at the back of the sanctuary to help bring in the light of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND ADVENT CANDLES Julia Librizzi
The candle of this fourth week of Advent is a candle of love. Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born, and his presence with us. Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love.”

Advent Song (refrain) #2090 (FWS-black hymnal)

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night,
Candle, candle, burning bring, fill our hearts with Christmas Light.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & PASSING THE PEACE Rev. Julie Kline

*SECOND READING Luke 1:46-55 Carol Hodges

This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
First Beats Children’s Ensemble is excited to once again be able to present a live re-telling of the story of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. The children have worked hard learning their various roles. They each had a voice in what part they would like to play and it has been such fun to watch them grow into each of the parts. May you share in our joy this morning as we present our work.

Narrator.....Penelope Librizzi
Salome, the innkeeperEvelyn Moon
James, Salome’s sonMichael Bovid
Mary.....Zoe Newman
Joseph.....Sidney Brown
Donkey.....Leah Dailey
Angel.....Neela Parthasarathy
Special thanks:
Carol Grant, sewing and costume work; Dan Duncan, carpentry; Jane Rettke, artistic painting; Buff Coe, organist; Bernie Foulk, sound

During the pageant we invite the congregation to sing hymns with the children.

Away in a Manger 217 (vs. 1 and 3)
Angels We Have Heard on High 238

SERMON Love is Born in Us and Through Us Rev. Matt Weiler

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

* Please rise in body or in spirit

PRAYER REFRAIN Make of My Heart a Stable

Musical notation for the Prayer Refrain. The first staff shows a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a half note (C5), then a quarter note (B4), an eighth note (A4), and a quarter note (G4). The second staff continues the melody with a half note (F#4), a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (D4), a quarter note (C4), and a quarter note (B3). The lyrics are: 1. Make of my heart a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a 2. Make of our church a sta-ble, a house for the Ho-ly, a

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Mother/Father/God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG We Shall Light a Thousand Candles David Rasbach

*DOXOLOGY In the Bleak Midwinter vs. 4

What can I give him poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what can I give him; give my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Carol Hodges
You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude.
Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

OUR SHARED LIFE

*CLOSING HYMN Go Tell It On the Mountain #251 (UMH-red hymnal)

*BLESSING
One: Christ our God, we give you our homage, we give you what we can—
we give our hearts, a warm and sturdy place for your light to live and grow.
All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.
One: We ask you to fill our hearts with Christmas light
as we go from this place, crying Alleluia.
All: Alleluia, Lord most high!

POSTLUDE Lord God, Now Be Glorified J.S. Bach

THIS WEEK’S EVENTS

Sunday, December 19
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
11:00 a.m. The First Christmas - Parlor
3:00 p.m. Heritage Community Worship - The Bistro
4:00 p.m. Bronson Place Worship - The Fountains Auditorium
5:00 p.m. Youth Group - Youth Center
6:30 p.m. Friendship Village Worship - KIVA

Monday, December 20
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall

Tuesday, December 21
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:30 a.m. Worship Planning - Zoom
12:30 p.m. Clergy/Directors Meeting
4:15 p.m. First Beats

Wednesday, December 22
8:00 a.m. Yoga - Zoom
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:00 a.m. Dawn Patrol - Parlor
10:30 a.m. HON Team - Zoom
12:00 p.m. Cuppa Inspiration - Facebook Live
1:00 p.m. Food Pantry - Curbside Only

Thursday, December 23
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Open Labyrinth - Wesley Hall
9:30 a.m. Office Team Meeting - Zoom
7:15 p.m. Chancel Singers

Friday, December 24
4:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
11:00 p.m. Silent Night on the Park Street stairs

Saturday, December 25
Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 26
At Home Worship Liturgy

Scan the QR code below to be directed to our Connect Card and let us know you were here, share requests for prayer, or messages for our church leaders and worship leaders.



UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 26, 2021

Worship at Home

First Sunday of Christmas:

Dwelling

Colossians 3:12-17

January 2, 2022

Second Sunday of Christmas

Communion Sunday

Rev. Matt Weiler

John 1:1-18

We're glad you are our guest today!

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please stop by the Welcome Center.

Child care is provided on the second floor for infants through 3-year-olds with fully vaccinated and masked staff.

Worship activities for children can be found on a cart outside the side sanctuary doors.

LARGE print Bibles and Hymnals are available at the Park Street entrance.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the Welcome Center.

Today's service is being livestreamed and recorded.

You can request a free copy of the DVD from the office. You can find previous worship services on our website:

<http://www.umc-kzo.org/mp3.asp>.

You may view worship services on our

YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/c/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkALAMAZOOfirstunitedmethodistchurch)

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Clergy & Directors

Rev. Julie Kline

Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler

Pastor of Community Formation

Jacqueline Stilger

Director of Music

Julia Librizzi

Director of Children and Families Ministries

Thom Victor

Director of Congregational Care

Ruth LaMachia

Director of Business Administration

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Julie Kline, Carol Hodges

Director of Music **Organist**

Jacqueline Stilger Bernie Foulk

Lantern Carrier: Andrew Peavler

Lead AV Tech: Casey Curran

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!

4:00 Children and Family Worship. This service will include a sweet and simple retelling of the night of Jesus' birth and the singing of Christmas Carols. During this child friendly and interactive service the children may choose a nativity character they wish to be by grabbing a head piece from one of the containers on the way into the sanctuary. Childcare will be available during this service.

7:00 Lessons and Carols. This traditional worship celebrates the birth of Christ through the reading of scriptures and the singing of carols. The organ, brass ensemble and the choir will lead us and we will send ourselves out into the world with "Silent Night" as we light our candles and proclaim, "Christ the Savior is born." Seating will be available in the balcony to allow space for physical distancing. We will also plan to have overflow in Wesley Hall and the parlor. Childcare will be available during this service.

9:00 Carols and Communion. This worship will be similar to the 7 p.m. with the addition of communion. Seating will be available in the balcony to allow space for physical distancing. We will also plan to have overflow in Wesley Hall and the parlor.

11:00 "Silent Night" on the steps. Last year our only in person event was "Silent Night" on the front steps. As the snowflakes drifted from the dark night sky; we knew we had come upon a beautiful tradition. We hope you will consider coming for this simple and inspiring gathering. It is a witness to our community as we sing to those in the park admiring the lights and paying homage to the nativity.

December 26: An at home liturgy. On the Sunday after Christmas, we invite all to continue our collective celebrations of Christ's birth by worshipping from home using a simple liturgy that will be mailed and available online. It is our hope that this liturgy moves you to experience the joy of Christmas, the love of Christ, and the good news of Emmanuel – God with us. The staff and worship leaders share this liturgy with you in gratitude for an opportunity to find our own spaces of rest and renewal after a busy Advent Season while continuing to navigate the unique challenges presented to us by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The First Christmas-Academy Class - Parlor.

In their book, The First Christmas, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan invite us to re-read the familiar nativity stories in the gospels of Matthew and Luke with fresh eyes in the context of both the first century and the twenty-first century. While some might find their conclusions challenging, they show that the Christmas story, read in its original context, is far richer and more inspiring than most people imagine. John Clark will lead this class in the Parlor and on Zoom.

Phone Ministry Project. The need for cell phones is overwhelming. This program hopes to provide another 100 phones. Donations of any amount would help. You can either mail a check to the church with 'HON Phone Ministry Project' in the memo line or donate online at the church website (www.umc-kzo.org). Look for Online Giving.

Advent Labyrinth: A Prayer Practice. You are invited to walk the labyrinth after worship on Sunday or any weekday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Please **be careful about** spacing and keep your mask on. This labyrinth requires the removal of your shoes to preserve the fabric of the labyrinth. and can take 10-20 minutes to walk depending on your pace. There are also prayer stations set up outside the four corners of the labyrinth you may use to enhance your time of prayer and contemplation.

New Year's Fest. Plans are well under way. We will have events in the Sanctuary and Wesley Hall and are seeking volunteers to help throughout the evening. A shift is 2 hrs but flexible with your schedule. Everyone who volunteers will receive a pass to attend other shows around the park. Sign up in the Perks area on Sundays or email Sharon and Dan Bunker, djbunker@charter.net.

Healthy Habits of Hospitality.

- Wear masks while in the church building.
- Please wear a name tag.
- Introduce yourself freely.
- Greet safely



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**

(269) 381-6340 † www.umc-kzo.org

December 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.



We welcome you to worship. You are invited in these beginning moments to request prayers by using the prayer card found in the pew pocket. They will be collected by an usher, shared with clergy, and if you wish, offered up to God during worship.

GATHERING MUSIC & CHIME

PRELUDE *We Three Kings*

John Hopkins, Jr./Martha Yasuda

Cellists: Carolyn Librizzi and Anne Sherfield

WE OPEN THE DOOR

Rev. Julie Kline

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v. 1, solo

Today we offer the Light of Love to illumine the Door of Welcome. May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church. May Love awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality. There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy

**At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!**

We are a Reconciling Congregation, welcoming all.

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.*