



FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO

December 24, 2021  
4:00 p.m.

## Welcome all to the celebration of Christ's birth!

Children are invited to participate in this evening's service! Please have your child choose a headpiece for the character they wish to be on the way in to the sanctuary. During the service Ms. Julia will call the children by character to go to the back of the narthex, gather their prop, and process down the aisle up to the manger for the telling of the Christmas Story.

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Bold denotes all reading together**

### PRELUDE

George Yeung, piano ..... Hark! Hear the Bells  
Marty Yeung and father Bob Yeung, piano ..... The First Noel  
Bixler Weiler , piano ..... The First Noel  
Max Newman , piano ..... Away in a Manger  
Carolyn Librizzi, cello ..... Christmas Cello-bration  
Zoe Newman, piano ..... God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  
Coulter Weiler, piano ..... Silent Night  
Campbell Weiler, piano ..... Away in a Manger  
Neela Parthasarathy, piano ..... Angels We Have Heard on High

### WELCOME

Rev. Julie Kline

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A light shining in the darkness	<b>People: What could it be?</b>
Leader: The sound of angel's wings	<b>People: What could it mean?</b>
Leader: A baby born in a stable	<b>People: Who could it be?</b>
Leader: Come to Bethlehem and see!	

**\*CHRISTIMAS CAROL #234** (v. 1, 3 and 6) *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Congregational Response: **Let us make room for Jesus.**

**ADVENT SONG #2090** (refrain only)

### **THE OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Matt Weiler

(please respond to each phrase with “We welcome you, Lord Jesus.”)

It’s Christmas Eve again, God.	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>
We’re barely ready for it.	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>
Let us hear angel voices,	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>
See shepherds hurrying to a stable,	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>
Feel the baby’s soft breath on our cheeks,	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>
And ponder in our hearts what all this means.	<b>We welcome you, Lord Jesus.</b>

### **THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

*Please join in singing the hymns, as announced during the pageant.*

The characters are invited forward in this order:

Joseph(s)

**CAROL #230** (v. 1 and 4) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Mary(s)

**CAROL #229**    *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.**

Animals

**CAROL 217#**    (v. 1 and 2)    *Away in a Manger*

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Shepherds

**CAROL #245** (v. 1 and 4)    *The First Noel*

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

Angels

**CAROL #238 (v. 1 and 3) *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Wise Ones

**CAROL #254 (v. 1 and 2) *We Three Kings*  
We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**PRAYER (praying together)**

**Thank you God, for the wonderful gift of Jesus. Wherever we travel, help us to follow Jesus. Amen.**

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #240 (v. 1 and 2) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERTORY** *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Evelyn Moon, pianist

French Carol arr. By C. Rollin

## **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

Rev. Matt Weiler

On this special evening, we light our candles remembering that Jesus is the light of the world that the darkness cannot overcome. Once all the candles are lit we will sing "Silent Night." (Please remember, when lighting candles to tip only the unlit candle.)

**\*CHRISTMAS CAROL #239** (verses 1, 2, and 3) *Silent Night*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

## **BLESSING**

When the song of the angels is stilled, the star in the east has diminished its brightness, and the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the work of Christmas begins . . .

**to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, bring release to the captives,  
proclaim peace among all people, and make music in the heart.**

*Please extinguish your candles.*

*As you leave, place them in the receptacles near the exits of the church.*

**\*CLOSING CHRISTMAS CAROL #246 "Joy to the World"**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make His blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders, of His love.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Julie Kline

*Please place your child's headpiece back in the container it came from on your way out.*

*Merry Christmas!*

## LEADING US IN WORSHIP

Rev. Julie Kline, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Matt Weiler, Pastor of Community Formation  
Jacqueline Stilger, Director of Music  
Bernie Foulk, Organist  
Julia Librizzi, Director of Children & Families

## Ushers and Greeters

Jocelyn & Matt Newman  
Brian & Jennifer Moon  
Jim & Carolyn Librizzi

## Tech/AV

Casey Curran  
Elise Warnicke  
Thom Victor

## Visuals/Displays

Deb Search Willoughby

# Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

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If you are visiting First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo for the first time or are visiting us for the holidays, we bid you welcome! If you are seeking a church home, please consider worshipping with us again and discovering more about the journey of faith offered to all by our loving and seeking God. Our upcoming worship schedule is:

### **Sunday, December 26 Worship together at home**

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.

**Sunday, January 2      10:00 a.m. worship      Rev. Matt Weiler      John 1:1-18**

### **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.