

# THE FIRST WORD

212 S. PARK STREET, KALAMAZOO, MI 49007 // (269) 381-6340 // [WWW.UMC-KZO.ORG](http://WWW.UMC-KZO.ORG)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE ON SUNDAYS AT 10AM.



First United  
Methodist  
Church of Kalamazoo

Photo by Keith Mumma



## The Giving Campaign: Grace and Gratitude

This year's Giving Campaign has as its theme "Living Grace-Filled: the Joy of Stewardship." One way of showing gratitude for God's grace in our lives is to contribute our financial gifts to First Church. Those contributions to the 2023 operating budget pay for the staff salaries and the building upkeep that make possible worship, education, and outreach to our members and the larger community.

By mid-October, you should have received a pledge card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider the amount you can give to the church to support its varied ministries. Consecration Sunday will be October 31, but you do not need to wait until then to make your pledge.

- Turn in the card during worship on October 23 or October 30.
- Mail the pledge card to:  
First United Methodist Church  
212 S. Park Street  
Kalamazoo MI 49007
- Make your pledge online at  
[www.umckzo.org/generosity/stewardship](http://www.umckzo.org/generosity/stewardship)



*"From God's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16*

## Kalamazoo United Day of Service: October 28, 2022

Kalamazoo United Day of Service (KUDOS) is a day when volunteers from nearby churches, banks and community non-profit organizations and service clubs will work together with our neighbors on the Northside to forge relationships and help residents prepare for winter weather. On October 28, ten teams of volunteers will gather at 8:30am at the Allen AME Chapel (804 W North St., Kalamazoo, 49007) to work with 25-30 Northside residents.

KUDOS volunteers will work to remove old caulk and re-caulk around windows, secure plastic coverings over windows and seal gaps around doors. Work will take place from 9am-1pm and then the residents will be invited to share a meal with the volunteers. (Breakfast and lunch will be provided for volunteers.)

If you can help our Outreach Team take part in this community effort, please contact Dan Duncan at [danduncan56@gmail.com](mailto:danduncan56@gmail.com) or (616) 502-5092.

## Celebrating the Dream

Thank you to the many people who have helped the congregation's Dream become reality. The individuals listed served on one of the three teams that over the past 5 1/2 years guided the Dream from a desire to make a difference in the housing shortage to the completion of the financial campaign. Along the way, many lasting relationships have been built in our community and many lives changed.

Serving were: Steve Charnley, Donna Dunyak, Cheryl Anderson, Kim Taylor, Ruth LaMachia, Julie Kline, Mark Oudersluys, Sally Stevens, Barbara Toshalis, Mary Whitaker Duncan, Aaron Cantrell, Ed Birch, Tim Mullikin, Linda Lueth, James Houston, Ginnie Hessler, Christina Stamper, Donna Oudersluys, Judy Ross, Amy Evans, Pat Elzerman, Keith Mumma, Bethany Gauthier and Nancy Hilliard.



## All Saints' Day: November 6

Our tradition each year is to remember and honor our family members who have died in the past twelve months. If there was a death in your family since last year's All Saints' Day of which we may not be aware, please contact the church office at (269) 381-6340 or email [kalamazoofumc@umc-kzo.org](mailto:kalamazoofumc@umc-kzo.org). Please include a photo of your loved one for the worship video. A formal portrait that clearly displays the person's face works best. **The last day to receive names and photos is November 2.**



# Children and Families Ministries News

## Sunday Morning

**Schedule:** We are rejoicing the return of many things this fall!

You are always invited to join us in person or online. In person, we have the Nursery available on the 2nd floor with trained and fully vaccinated caring adults for infants through 4-year-olds from 9:45am to 12:15pm each Sunday.



During worship and after "A Time for the Child Within Us All," children 4-years-old to 6th grade are invited to join us for their own kind of worship on the 2nd floor called, "Godly Play." We hear and see one of God's stories and wonder about what it might mean together. Children will be returned to their family during the closing hymn of worship, unless it is a Communion Sunday. Then children will be returned a bit earlier for communion.

After church there is Sunday School for children 4-years-old through 5th grade in room 203. Thank you to Ms. Anne Sherfield, Ms. Lisa Coe, Ms. Jane Barnes and Ms. Joyce Moore for taking turns to lead Sunday School this year! Sunday school begins with snacks in the Arches area. During Sunday School, there is also Fellowship Time (with coffee!) for parents and it is located in the room next to the Arches.

**Milestones for 3rd through 5th graders:** Faith Milestones are those firsts as we grow in our faith experiences because we know it doesn't happen just on Sunday mornings. It's part of all we are and all we do as God's beloved people.

This is a new opportunity for for 3rd - 5th graders! Please join us for our upcoming "Milestones" meetings (upcoming dates to be confirmed). We will share dinner, play games and have a time to learn about the bible and how to use it in daily living. Please contact Ms. Julia for more information.



**Save the dates for family fun:** Join us for a Christmas Family Fun Night on Friday, December 2 from 6-8pm in Wesley Hall on the lower level of the church. We'll share pizza and decorate cookies to be delivered to people in our community. If your family can attend, please RSVP to Ms. Julia at [jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org](mailto:jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org) by Tuesday, November 29 so she knows many cookies and how much pizza to bring.

Please join us for Family Camping at Van Buren State Park from June 9-11, 2023. Katy McGinnis needs RSVPs and payment by December 4, 2022 in order to book campsites. (You may also book your own campsite at a later date if preferred.) Contact Katy McGinnis at [mcginnik82@gmail.com](mailto:mcginnik82@gmail.com) to access the Google form sign up.

## September Mission of the Month: Thank You!

The Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for their support of the September Mission of the Month to benefit YWCA Kalamazoo. The following items were donated:

- 27 deodorant
- 9 hair conditioners
- 3 body wash
- 7 toothbrushes
- 10 dental floss
- 25 ladies briefs
- 1 case plus 2 individual packs of baby wipes

Thank you for making a difference in our community!



## Finance Committee

By Sandy Gower

Finance Committee Chair

Fall is my favorite season. I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather and the beautiful landscapes. In August, we had income of \$76,543 and expenses of \$100,014. We had a monthly deficit of \$23,471 and a year-to-date deficit of \$79,690.

As we enter into the last quarter of the year, the Finance Team is tasked with preparing the annual budget for 2023. October is also the month we as a congregation are called to reflect on our annual giving to the church. Our gifts to the church enable us to provide the many ministries to our congregation and the community. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation.

## Thank You: Sunday Photos

We'd like to extend our gratitude to Keith Mumma for sharing his considerable skills by photographing our services each Sunday. Thank you for capturing the life of our church. Watch for Keith's photos in our FUMC Kalamazoo communications!



## EPS/Styrofoam Recycling Available Every Day!

EPS collection will now take place every day that our church building is open! Please bring washed food containers or cups, foam labeled 6 or any items made of foam that break when bent to the box at the security desk. (Foam peanuts are not allowed.) Thank you for joining us in another effort to make every day Earth Day!



## October Mission of the Month: Share the Warmth Coat Drive

Join us in supporting the Salvation Army Share the Warmth coat drive as our October Mission of the Month.

**New or gently worn coats, hats, mittens and boots are needed.** You may bring donations to church and place them in the cardboard Share the Warmth designated box located near the Welcome Center. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

*Share the Warmth  
Coat Drive*

**This October!**



LOVE BEYOND WINTER'S COLD



## Save the Dates and Support Our Youth: November 6 & 13

Thank you to everyone who came and helped make apple pies, crisps and applesauce on October 9. There was plenty of help (and fun) and much was accomplished! The apple pies, apple crisps and applesauce will be available for purchase after worship during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, November 6 and 13. Proceeds from every apple item sold will benefit our youth and Kalamazoo Service Project 2023.

## Gift Planning with the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan

As we consider generosity and stewardship this month, we'd like to share information about The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, which has served congregations, pastors, church and ministry leaders and individuals across Michigan since 1926. Staffed by dedicated professionals and governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, they offer a broad continuum of financial stewardship services, including value-aligned investment funds, stewardship consultation, planned giving seminars, grants, awards and scholarships.

If you are interested in learning more about gift planning and touching the lives of others while creating a lasting legacy, visit their website at <https://umfmichiganliving.org>. Resources on their site include a free estate planning guide to help plan for the people and causes you care about as well as planned giving calculators to view the tax and income benefits of making a gift. Personal consultations are available and The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan would welcome the chance to work alongside you in planned giving and living generously.



## Advocate for Fair and Free Elections as a Michigan Poll Worker

As was recently reported by The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, Michigan United Methodists are urged to consider signing up to become election workers to fill the critical need in our state, as just one of several ways to live out our faith as United Methodists and advocate for fair and free elections.

Earlier in October, the Michigan Department of State contacted the Michigan Conference requesting that communities of faith assist in recruiting election workers to serve during the upcoming midterm elections on November 8. The election is coming up quickly and there is a significant shortage of volunteers. As noted by James Deaton, Content Editor for the Michigan Conference, "Engaging in the electoral process is a way United Methodists can put Christian faith into practice by ensuring all people have access to free and fair elections as a fundamental human right and a pillar of democracy. These beliefs are rooted in the Scriptures and our United Methodist Social Principles."

If you would like to apply to be an election worker, you must be a registered voter in the state of Michigan and complete the Democracy MVP Election Inspector interest form located on the Michigan Department of State Democracy MVP website at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/Resources/Initiatives/democracy-mvp>. When filling out the form, please type "UMC" in the organization name field. For more information on volunteer qualifications, please visit the Democracy MVP website listed above.

## Our Sympathy and Prayers to the Family and Friends of:

Nellie Holland, who died on October 1.  
Margie Houseman, who died on September 18.

## Please keep these friends in your prayers:

Lana Allen & Family  
Don & Harriet Chalker  
Georgia & Billy Dalton  
Lenora Holliday  
Nancy Hyde  
Nancy Johnson  
Bill & Ruth LaMachia  
Bob & Judy McClelland  
Durrell & Marsha McKenzie  
Anna Rassmussen  
Mary Lou Sanderson  
Barb Skuza  
Nelson & Mary Stapleton  
Jim Treece  
Uggen Family  
Lori Valkema  
Liza Wolfe  
Janet Wydendorf



## Prayer requests

If you would like to share a prayer request with our clergy and prayer ministry team, please visit [www.umc-kzo.org/contact-us/prayer-request/](http://www.umc-kzo.org/contact-us/prayer-request/). If you do not have internet access, please call the church at (269) 381-6340 and leave a message. Prayer requests need to be received each **THURSDAY by noon** for inclusion in our weekly list for the prayer ministry team.

## After Worship Coffee Service Volunteers

Sunday coffee service has resumed at FUMC Kalamazoo. Join us after worship in the Perks area on the first level of the church. We look forward to once again sharing coffee and fellowship with you! If you have questions or would like to assist, please contact Ruth LaMachia at [rlamachia@umc-kzo.org](mailto:rlamachia@umc-kzo.org).



## SHARE 2022 Summit on Racism on November 10



Society For  
History And  
Racial Equity  
S • H • A • R • E

The Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) is hosting a 2022 Summit of Racism on Thursday, November 10 from 10am to 3pm at The Xperience by LuXury Escapes, located on 145 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo, 49007.

The Summit on Racism aims to educate the community on issues of racial inequity through testimonials from current activists and conversations with participants. Given this year's climate the committee believes that the theme: "Healing TRAUMA, Building COMMUNITY, Inspiring ACTION" is necessary. Tickets are \$40 for general admission and \$20 for student admission. To learn more and access event registration information, visit the SHARE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sharekzoo>.

## Milestone Senior Services Hosts Senior Resource Fair

Milestone Senior Services (formerly known as Senior Services of Southwest Michigan) is hosting a Senior Resource Fair on Thursday, October 27 from 1-6pm at their facility on 918 Jasper St., Kalamazoo, 49001.

This free community event is for aging adults, disabled persons and those who care for them. 20 Kalamazoo area community partners will be at the event and free refreshments and door prizes will also be available.

**Senior Resource Fair**  
An event for aging adults, disabled persons, and those who care for them.

**October 27th 1pm - 6pm**  
**Milestone Senior Services**  
918 Jasper St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

**Free Admission - Free Refreshments - Door Prizes**

Join us and over 20 Kalamazoo Area Community Partners to learn about:

- In-Home Care
- Home Repair
- Pet Support
- Food Support
- MI Choice Waiver
- Meals on Wheels
- Paid Meal Delivery
- Medical Alert Systems
- Disability Needs
- Fun Activities for Seniors
- Medical Equipment Support
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Assisted Living Facilities
- And Much more!

**Best of Care 25th Edition will be available!**

Call 269-382-0515 ext. 124 for more information

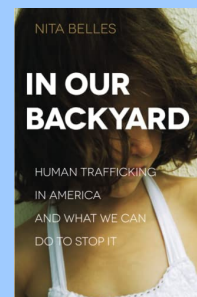
Event partners will share information on topics including in-home care, food support, medical alert systems, disability needs, medical equipment support, assisted living facilities and many other topics. To learn more about Milestone Senior Services, visit <https://milestoneseniorservices.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/MilestoneSeniorServices>.

## Disability Awareness Sunday photos by Keith Mumma



Taken October 16, 2022

## JFON Michigan Book Club



Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON) Michigan has announced their next book club selection. "In Our Backyard: Human Trafficking in America and What We Can Do About It" by Nina Belles will be discussed on January 21, 2023. Human Trafficking is a topic that relates to immigration and has been in consideration as a JFON book club selection for some time. Although the meeting is not until January, please plan ahead if you'd like to join the discussion. The Saturday, January 21 at 10am book club meeting will be on Zoom. Please direct any questions to Tori Booker at [tbooker@jfonmi.org](mailto:tbooker@jfonmi.org).

## Día de los Muertos Event



Join El Concilio Kalamazoo on Saturday, October 29 from 4-8pm at the Kalamazoo Expo Center to celebrate **Día de los Muertos** and remember our loved ones. This family event will have food, activities, presentations, music and more. Visit the El Concilio website for details: <https://elconciliokzoo.org/diadelosmuertos>.

## The First Word for November

Articles for the next issue are due no later than **November 7, 2022**. The next newsletter will be mailed the week of **November 14**. Articles submitted to the newsletter should be sent to [communications@umc-kzo.org](mailto:communications@umc-kzo.org). Articles may be edited for space and content.