

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to turn to those nearby and offer a greeting. You may use a simple gesture such as a nod of the head, a wave, a smile, handshake, or a verbal greeting with the words, "Peace of Christ be with you."

*GOSPEL PROCLAMATION + Luke 24: 1-12

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

*HYMN #2026 (FWS, black hymnal) *Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

*THE WORLD METHODIST SOCIAL AFFIRMATION

Rev. Matt Weiler

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, Incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort. We believe; God, help our unbelief. We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom:
in the upholding of human dignity and community;
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;
in each act of self-giving on behalf of others;
in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough;
in all responsible use of earth's resources.
Glory be to God on high; and on earth, peace.

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

A TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

Julia Librizzi

Children 4 years old to 5th grade are invited to their own kind of worship on the second floor called "Godly Play." Nursery care is also available for infants through four years on the second floor in room 208.

HYMN #2233 (FWS, black hymnal) *This is Where Children Belong*

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE "He is Not Among the Dead"

Rev. Julie Kline

*HYMN #2115 (FWS, black hymnal) *Christ Has Risen*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God/Father/Mother, 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

Our Easter offering will help support three ministries of the church: The Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica, Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans, and the Refugee Resettlement Fund for a local family.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Alleluia, Jesus is Risen* (Johnson/Brokering)

*DOXOLOGY #94 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Cora Welter, Acolyte

Radiant God, whose love endures forever, we gather today in the light of resurrection hope, offering these gifts as a response to the abundant grace we have received. In this time of spiritual renewal, may our giving reflect the joy of the empty tomb and the promise of life. Transform our offerings into acts of love that bring light to the world, just as Christ's light dawned in our hearts. We dedicate these gifts to your service, trusting that, in your hands, they will bring forth new life. Amen.

*OUR SHARED LIFE

*HYMN OF SENDING FORTH #318 (UMH, red hymnal) *Christ is Alive*

After the second verse, the congregation is invited to proceed up to the front of the sanctuary to join the choir in singing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

*BLESSING

*HALLELUJAH CHORUS

CONGREGATIONAL EASTER PICTURE

Following this worship service, we invite everyone to participate in our annual tradition of taking a congregational Easter photo!

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

In our worship, we strive to witness to the wholeness of God, embracing the diversity of images of God that are found within Scriptures. We will seek to include male, female, and gender-neutral language and imagery for God, and utilize language that helps to avoid binary terms in pronouns and images of people. In our hymns and liturgy, we invite you to use pronouns that best express your practice and affirm your faith.

UMH - United Methodist Hymnal | FWS - The Faith We Sing

MISSION

We are called to:
· Experience God's Love
· Celebrate God's Love
· Share God's Love

VISION

We are a Christ-centered community where our stories are woven with God's story.

CORE VALUES



Love: God is Love and all creation is made in love, by love, for love.



Community: Sacred relationship with God and one another.



Inclusion: All identities belong and are loved in Christ.



Justice: Restoration of equity and wholeness.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9 am - 4 pm

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

10:00am Sunday Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, April 21

Church Closed for Easter Holiday
5:00pm Finance & Trustees - Zoom

Tuesday, April 22

9:30am Worship Planning - Zoom
10:00am Book Club - Chapel
4:15pm First Beats - Choir Room
4:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry
6:30pm Manna - Youth Lounge
6:30pm Church Council - Parlor/Zoom

Wednesday, April 23

8:00am Yoga - Zoom
9:00am Dawn Patrol - Parlor
11:30am Prayer Group - Chapel
12:00pm Faithful Witness - Kalamazoo City Hall Steps
12:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry

Thursday, April 24

9:30am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room
4:00pm Outreach Team - Parlor

Friday, April 25

6:00pm Mom's Retreat - Ludington

Saturday, April 26

All Day Mom's Retreat - Ludington

Sunday, April 27

Morning Mom's Retreat - Ludington
10:00am Worship - Sanctuary
11:15am - Sunday School for Children
11:30am Dramatic Reading: "Who Stole Them Church Hats?" - Sanctuary
1:00pm CROP Walk - Trinity Lutheran Church

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

Worship @ 10am

Rev. Matt Weiler

“Living Proof”

Revelation 1:4-8, John 20: 19-29

Sunday, May 4

Third Sunday of Easter

Worship @ 5:00pm

Andrew Stange, Wesley Foundation

Director

Lisa Batten, Michigan Conference

Assoc. Dir. for Connectional Ministries

John 21: 1-19

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE OUR

GUEST TODAY!

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

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

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.

Church Staff

Rev. Julie Kline..... Lead Pastor

Rev. Matt Weiler...Community Formation

Jacqueline StilgerDirector of Music

Julia LibrizziChildren & Families

Bernie Foulk.....Organist/IT/Website

Drew Bolton.....Bldg. Superintendent

Christine Landreville.....Office Manager

Christiane Stakely.....Office Assistant

Jennifer Stupica.....Communications

Marilyn Storch.....Interim Bookkeeper

Bryan Heany.....A/V Team Leader

Andrew Weare.....Building Host

Ava Lonchante.....Building Host

Eamon Bronson.....Building Host

Sofia Fleming.....Building Host

Jim Tiffany.....Custodian

Ruth Butters.....Young Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Kline, Rev. Matt Weiler, Christine Charles

Director of Music: Jacqueline Stilger

Organist: Bernie Foulk

Brass: Liem Nguyen (trumpet), Gretchen Bonnema (horn), Gabriel Funk (trombone), Wesley Falk (timpani)

Acolytes: Cora Welter, Lilly Nolan

Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton, Lucas McGinnis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Easter offering this morning will help support the following ministries. Offering envelopes for your gift are available in the pew pockets.

The Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica

The Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica is a Christ-centered, family-oriented ministry for children who need a safe and loving home. This Home provides spiritual, emotional, physical, and educational support for the children. Many members of First United Methodist Church have had the privilege of working on building projects and providing activities for the children during service projects from 2016 to 2020. Our church recognizes and supports the impact that this Home has on the lives of the children and know that our gift of money will be gratefully appreciated.

Clean Water for Rural Nicaraguans

El Porvenir is working to provide clean water to improve health and lives for rural Nicaraguans now and for the future. This project provides tangible solutions to communities that are committed to improving their access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and better health. Key principles: (a) community empowerment through active participation and ownership in all aspects of the project, (b) creation of organizations in the community to manage resources long-term, and (c) focus on appropriate technology from low-cost, locally available materials.

Refugee Resettlement Fund for a Local Family

Our church is currently assisting a refugee family of six to resettle in Kalamazoo. They are originally from Central African Republic. They spent ten years in a refugee camp in Cameroon waiting for their application for refugee status in the United States to be approved. Donations will be used to help pay for everyday necessities while the family learns English and seeks employment.

Pastor Julie's Renewal Leave will begin tomorrow and continue through July 7, 2025. During this time she will rest and restore her spirit while renewing her call to ministry. This is also a time for the congregation to trust that God abides and will do wonderful work through our laity leaders, staff, and ministries. During Pastor Julie's renewal leave, we will welcome several guest worship leaders on Sundays. In addition, retired clergy and Stephen Ministers will be available for congregational support if needed.

Staged Reading. On Sunday, April 27 @ 11:30am in the sanctuary, we invite you to a dramatic staged reading of "Who Stole Them Church Hats?" written and directed by local playwright Buddy Hannah. The reading is a collaboration of The Allen Chapel AME and our church as we continue "Our Story is Never Over" project and the four pivots of awareness, connection, vision, and presence by Dr. Shawn Ginwright. This reading ties in with the "connection" pivot. A reception will follow.

Crop Walk. Save the date of Sunday, April 27 for the annual Kalamazoo Valley Crop Hunger Walk. The walk will begin and end at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Ave. First Church has two teams walking this year: the youth and young adults, and a separate team formed by the Outreach Team. You can donate online to either team (or both!) and monitor their progress. If you would like to receive more information concerning the walk, or make a donation, stop by the information table by the food pantry today.

****May 4 Worship Time Change!**** Because of the 2025 Ziegler Kalamazoo Marathon in the morning of May 4 in downtown, **worship is at a special time of 5pm.** Please mark your calendars for this change! (Note: our church's parking lot will be used by the coordinators of the Kalamazoo Marathon that morning and will be closed to the public. The parking lot will be open for worship that evening after 3pm.)

Join the CARES Team. This ministry team connects and cares for members and friends of our church, especially our elders and those with ongoing health concerns or significant life events. Contact Judy Kingsley at judykings@charter.net to learn more and join our efforts to share God's love or receive care from a team member.

10:00 a.m.

April 20, 2025



First United Methodist
Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

www.umc-kzo.org
(269) 381-6340

Easter Sunday

Welcome to Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church

We would like to connect with you. Please fill out the attendance pad and introduce yourself as you pass it to your neighbor. You are invited in these beginning moments to use the green prayer cards found in the pews. The cards will be collected by an usher during the opening hymn to be shared with clergy.

***Please rise in body or in spirit**

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *Fantasia* (A. Gabrieli)

LITANY OF THE DAWN (by Roddy Hamilton)

INTROIT *Alleluia, Amen* (T. Norton)

***A CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christine Charles, Church Council Co-Chair

ONE: The tomb is dark, but empty.

ALL: **The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness.**

ONE: The stone has been rolled away.

ALL: **The one you are looking for has overcome death.**

ONE: The burial clothes are put aside.

ALL: **The one you are looking for is alive!**

ONE: Christ is Risen!

ALL: **Christ is Risen indeed! Let us worship our Risen Savior!**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #302** (UMH, red hymnal) *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

***WELCOME**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

Rev. Julie Kline