

**Psalms 23** Grace Johnson

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures;**  
leads me beside still waters and restores my soul.  
**leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord’s name.**  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

**Anthem** *There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place* (Mark Miller)

**Lighting the Candle of Peace** Alex Moon  
*We light the candle of peace, remembering that God goes with us in all times and places.*  
*And we now invite all to stand to share the Peace of Christ with one another.*

**COVENANT OF BAPTISM** (UMH, red hymnal, p. 39)  
*This morning we have the privilege of baptizing William “Liam” John Bloembergen, son of Grant and Trisha Bloembergen.*

**Response #2249** (FWS, black hymnal) *“God Claims You”*  
*Please sing “Liam” where the name “Daniel” is printed.*

**\*NEW TESTAMENT READING + John 10:22-30** Trevor Anderson

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

**MESSAGE** “To Know and to be Known” Rev. Matt Weiler

**CELEBRATING AND BLESSING OUR GRADUATES**  
*This morning we celebrate and bless our high school graduates: Trevor Anderson, Olivia Cramer-Erbes, Alec Hornish, Grace Johnson, Max Johnson, and Alexander Moon*

God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth.  
Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

**We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.**

Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

**Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.**

For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.

**May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.**

**\*HYMN #383** (UMH, red hymnal) *This is a Day of New Beginnings (vs. 1 & 4)*

**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**

**OFFERTORY** *Exultation* (Matthew Compton)

**\*DOXOLOGY #94** (UMH, red hymnal) *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** Acolyte

**God who is our shepherd and provider, accept these gifts as offerings to you that we might continue to bear the hope of resurrection in a hurting world. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\*OUR SHARED LIFE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #2130** (FWS, black hymnal) *The Summons*

**BENEDICTION**

**SILENCE**  
*Today in lieu of a postlude, we invite you to observe a moment of silence to pray for our organist, Bernie Foulk.*


**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.


**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

**Sunday, May 11**  
10:00am Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00am Connecting Through Prayer Quilts - Parlor & Fellowship Room  
11:00am Life & Ministry of Pope Francis - ??

**Monday, May12**  
1:00pm Building & Grounds - Zoom  
6:00pm SPRC - Parlor/Zoom

**Tuesday, May 13**  
9:30am Worship Planning - Zoom  
10:30am Restorative Yoga - 3rd floor Library  
4:15pm First Beats - Choir Room  
4:30pm Food Pantry Open - Food Pantry  
6:30pm Manna - Youth Lounge

**Wednesday, May 14**  
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  
2:30pm Stephen Ministry - 310  
7:00pm Children & Families Ministries Team - Zoom

**Thursday, May 15**  
9:30am First Stitchers - Fellowship Room  
10:30am Restorative Yoga - 3rd floor Library  
7:15pm Chancel Singers - Choir Room

**Friday, May 16**

**Saturday, May 17**

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, May 18  
Fifth Sunday of Easter @ 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Matt Weiler  
Confirmation & Baptism Sunday  
“To Belong to Something”  
Acts: 11: 1-18

Sunday, May 25  
Memorial Day Weekend  
Sixth Sunday of Easter @ 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. John Boley  
“Even If it is Only for Food”  
Acts 16: 9-15

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 Stilger .....Director of Music  
Julia Librizzi.....Children & 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..... AV Team Leader  
Andrew Weare .....Building Host  
Ava Loncharte .....Building Host  
Eamon Bronson.....Building Host  
Sofia Fleming .....Building Host  
Jim Tiffany .....Custodian  
Ruth Butters..... Young Adult Resident

Worship Leaders: Rev. Matt Weiler, Rev. Cara Weiler  
Piano: Rev. Bufford Coe  
Chancel Choir: Cari Miller  
Bell Choir: David Brown  
Audio-Visual Team: Bryan Heany, Drew Eaton,  
Lucas McGinnis, Jamie Gruber

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connecting Through Prayer Quilts. All are invited to contribute to a prayer quilt for Bernie and Jackie so that they may be wrapped in God’s love. There are fabric squares and markers on tables outside the sanctuary, the lounge area outside the pastors’ offices, and in the chapel. Anyone of any age is invited to write a prayer, message, or draw a picture to offer love and care to our beloved music leaders. The quilt will be put together and given to them this week.

The Life and Ministry of Pope Francis. TODAY and May 18 following worship in the Parlor. When Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio became Pope Francis in 2013, few people knew who he was. Even fewer knew the impact he would have on the Catholic Church and the entire world during his papacy. To honor the Pope's recent death, we will reflect on the life and ministry of the first pope from Latin America. What can his teachings tell us, as United Methodists, about the power of Jesus' message in today's society? John Clark is leading the discussion using a PBS documentary on Pope Francis.

Faith Milestones Meeting Change. This group for 3rd through 5th graders will meet for their last time this school year on Sunday, May 18 from 5:30pm-7:30pm (and not Friday, May 16 as previously scheduled) for a scavenger hunt and dinner! NOTE: this scavenger hunt will be different than ones we have done in the past!

Earth Day Spring Garden Festival. The Growing Community Garden at Sunnyside UMC is having a day of volunteer activities from 9am to 4pm on Sat., May 17. Join them for garden care info, planting, games, and earth-friendly activities for the whole family. More info can be found in our weekly Around the Corner E-News.

Confirmation Sunday, May 18. Please join us on Confirmation Sunday as we welcome three young people into our faith community as members to not only participate within our church, but to also help shape the future of our church.

May Mission of the Month: Growing Community Garden located at Sunnyside UMC. Please consider a donation to help support this important community ministry. Checks can be made to the church with “Community Garden” in the memo. A list of gardening items needed is included in our weekly e-newsletter, Around the Corner.

Book Club. Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10am in the chapel. For May 27, they will be discussing “Reading Genesis” by Marilynne Robinson. Contact Jan Schoenherr at schoenherrjan@gmail.com with questions.

Bay Shore Day Camp. Our summer day camp for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade is scheduled for August 11-14 (Mon. - Thurs.) from 8:30am - 4:30pm. Sign up for this fun day camp experience by picking up a brochure located at the welcome desk. For help registering, please email Ms. Julia at jlibrizzi@umc-kzo.org.

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. To learn more and join our efforts to share God’s love or receive care from a team member, contact the Cares Team coordinator Judy Kingsley at judykings@charter.net.

Grace Outside. Check out a UMC summer camp! There are camps for all ages available. Every camp includes outdoor activities, games, swimming, waterfront (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards), archery, age-appropriate Bible study/devotions, small group time, unstructured time for rest, music and worship, crafts, and more. (https://graceoutside.org/summer-camps/)

Restorative Yoga with Ana Lucia. On Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30-11:45am all are invited to join Certified Yoga Therapist Ana Lucia for restorative yoga in the library (3rd floor). Email ganga.anadayoga@gmailcom for more info. All levels welcome!

Pastor Julie is on Renewal Leave. Pastor Julie’s renewal leave will continue through July 7, 2025. During Pastor Julie’s 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.

Audio/Visual Team Members Needed. For more information on joining our Audio/Visual Team, email AV Team Leader Bryan Heany at bheany@umc-kzo.org. Training is provided and involves learning set up and operation of sound and video equipment for church events.

Are you on our mailing list? If you would like to be added to our mailing list for our weekly Around the Corner E-News and monthly The First Word newsletter, please email Jennifer Stupica at jstupica@umc-kzo.org.

10:00 a.m.

May 11, 2025



First United Methodist Church of Kalamazoo

212 S. Park St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Covenant of Baptism & Celebrating our Graduates

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 Pastoral Symphony (G.F. Handel)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP  
ONE: Christ is risen!  
ALL: Christ is risen indeed.  
ONE: Siblings in Christ, on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we come to the waters to baptize a baby, to renew our own baptisms, and to celebrate our graduates and bless them on the journey..  
ALL: May all who are thirsty come to these waters finding hope and renewal. May our worship today form us to bear witness to the resurrected Christ among us.  
ONE: Let us worship the risen Christ.  
ALL: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

\*HYMN #88 (UMH, red hymnal) Maker, in Whom We Live

WELCOME Rev. Matt Weiler

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE & \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST