KALAMAZOO
First Presbyterian Church
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

Carolina Crown, Drum Corps International—Atlanta, July 30, 2022

We saw devastation, of course, but we also witnessed holiness in the burned world and what was left standing—a fireplace, a heavily laden persimmon tree, pallets of bottled water from out of state, the sky. We saw humanity. Don't get me wrong—it sucked. I believe I would grieve and wail forever if this happened to me. But I would be mistaken. I would come through via friends, community, love, grace, relief efforts. … when people's hearts pounded with fear, when their breath constricted with loss, there was another heart beating with them—ours. Another breath was with them, and there were hands to hold. Such beautiful comfort, the holy form, the only comfort there really is—the heart, a breath, a hand.

~ Anne Lamott, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*

AUGUST 14, 2022 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Gathering

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions, or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all!
You are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude, as we prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

Prelude

* Doxology (tune #607)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* Opening Responses

Jesus says, "I am the Way for you."
And so we come to follow Christ.
Jesus says, "I am Truth for you."
And so we come, seeking pathways into peace.
Jesus says, "I am Life for you."
We come, joining faithful friends gone before us, beside us, and who may yet join us.

* Hymn #731 "Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm" Martin E. Leckebusch

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you guide us in Jesus, but we wander from your way of grace.
For false gods we seek, true selves we don't love, good trails we leave- God, forgive us.
Amid infectious ignorance or bias and careless use of resources, God, save us.
From wounds we cause and hurts we carry, weighing on our hearts, God, release us.
For all we can be and do, God, in your love, prepare us.
Through our repentance and your grace, God, in your love, renew us.
That life in all creation may flourish, God, in your love, commit us.
Prayer continues in silence

Kyrie #551 "Lord, Have Mercy" Richard Proulx

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Friends, in everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah acts with justice and mercy to redeem us and all creation. Loving us still, God sets us free to accept ourselves and binds us together in love for neighbors. We inherit the covenant of new life in Christ!

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles calls us to share ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to proclaim God's reign as we work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Please stand and take a moment to share Christ's peace with others, respecting personal need for distance and level of comfort.

* GLORIA #583 "Glory to God" Gloria (Taizé)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPERS AND BLESSING

Children: You are loved!
Congregation: **You are loved!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We listen for your word, God, coming to us in scripture, connecting with experiences of our lives. Open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit. God be in our listening; God be in our understanding, God be in our daily living. Amen.

FIRST READING Psalm 98 Old Testament, p. 551

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Change My Heart, O God" Text by E. Espinosa
Mary Lou Boughton, soloist

Change my heart; O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart; O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay,
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Cámbiame, Señor, con tu gran poder.
Hazme como tú, tú yo quiero ser.
Tú el alfarero, yo el barro soy.
Sólo a tu imagen, quiero siempre ser.

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:29-12:2 New Testament, P. 225

For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

SERMON A Corps of Faithfulness

"… surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses … let us run with perseverance …"
(Hebrews 12:1)

* HYMN #741 "Guide My Feet" (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6) African-American Spiritual

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

We give thanks to God and live faith, offering ourselves through worship, work, service, and love in all its forms.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Benedictus" from *The Armed Man–A Mass for Peace*
K. Jenkins

(Lyrics:)

Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini	Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in excelsis	Praise God in the highest!

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #701 "Lord, Prepare Me" John Thompson / Randy Scruggs

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have resources for life.
May your purpose guide our every purpose, your hand empower our hands.
May your love in Christ be revealed in our love, your will fulfilled in our work.
So, through the song of this day, may we echo the harmony of eternity. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.…
Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Sending

* Hymn #641 "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" Fred Pratt Green

* Benediction *(Our congregational response is **"Alleluia! Amen!"**)*

Postlude

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Acolyte

Joanne Dunlop

Reader

Michael Boersma

Greeter

Joanne Meier

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Carl Witt, Director
Autumn, Organist

Announcements

Deacons' Prayers

One of the great gifts of a community of faith is that we take time and intention to pray for one another. This week, we pray for John Fiore and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives.

Next week, we'll pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Timothy Aldrich
Mary Lynn Arwady
Richard and Barbara Baker
Janice and Steven Bedrosian
Chris, Julie, Annalise, Bridgette, and Andrew Bol
Robert, Jr. and Sidney Brush
Bonnie Camburn
David and Kathy Campbell
Paul and Aedin Clements
Jeff, Marcia, Lillian, and Macy Daniels
Julie Heath
Bruce and Ruth Lubbers
Mark Lubbers
Robert and Beverly Murray
Robert and Lisa Padgett
Allene Page
Donald and Leslie Roberts
David and Florence Rozelle
Gordon and Joyce Ryskamp
Frederic Sammons and Barbara Rider
Judy Swisher and Edmund Kuczynski
David, Michelle, and Charles Warren
JoAnn Yochim

Announcements

Taizé Worship

The Taizé service planned for this evening has been canceled, because of our pastors need to attend a Presbytery event at Pine Island. Service will resume on Sunday, September, 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the East Transept of the Sanctuary.

Sunday School

There is *no* Sunday School this week. Families are invited to take advantage of the Prayground during Worship. The nursery will remain open for all children under age three.

CHILDREN'S PRAYGROUND

Philosophy of a Prayground

- It's important for children to be a part of Worship, so that Worship can become a part of their heart language.
- Children don't always listen best when they're sitting still all the time.
- The intent is to give parents a way to worship with their children- a way that makes it easier for families.

Ways to use the Prayground

- Families can sit together in the West Transept.
- Children can take a "stretch" break during Worship, taking advantage of the various activities available to help quiet their bodies while they listen.
- **However, the Prayground is not staffed. *Please do not leave children unattended.***

Worship at Pine Island

Again this summer, on the fourth Sunday evening of each month, we'll gather at our Pine Island campus for Worship at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Sunday evening of each month. We'll next meet on the evening of August 28. Amid the natural beauty of the grounds we've come to love, we'll share a more informal rhythm of
prayer, readings, and conversation about the texts, with maybe some simple songs, too. Come, share inspiration and joy in the wonders of creation!

Wednesday Noon Prayer

… continues! Join us in the Sanctuary for Worship.

Announcements

Office Staffing

Our search for a Communications Coordinator continues, as Kelly Short transitions into the role of Operations Coordinator. We thought we were close with one candidate, are generally agreed about persisting until we find someone we're confident will fit well. So, for now, if you have business related to the bulletin or *Presbyter,* or general activities to coordinate with calendar and for which you seek office support, please contact Kelly, He is energetic, creative, and eager to help in any way he can. Thanks, in advance, for your understanding! kellys@fpckzoo.org

Red Door Prayers

We meet immediately after our Celebrate the Vision meal (5:45 - 6:00) on the front steps of our church. Join us and members of the community as we gather for prayer for our community and for one another.

Reflections on Iona

After Worship on Sunday, August 21, come to the dining room to learn a little more about the Iona Pilgrimage experience this summer. We'll show a few pictures and hear some stories, all to provide an in-depth understanding and inspiration for our journey of faith together as a kind of pilgrimage every day.

Planning for the Next Pilgrimage—2023

At that same gathering **after Worship on Sunday, August 21** we'll consider where we might go next summer, 2023. People have expressed interest in the Camino de Santiago, Ghost Ranch in New Mexico, and another Iona experience. Pastor Seth will share possibilities, welcome all questions, and he wants to hear of your interest! If you are interested in sharing a pilgrimage experience but cannot attend the meeting, please contact Pastor Seth.

Announcements

Celebrate the Vision

CTV NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our crew is **awesome**, but they need help! **Burnout is real**. Keep this service available to the community by volunteering. Consider participating in our active outreach ministry by helping to make a meal for a Wednesday night community dinner. We will help with logistics and anything you need along the way! For more information or to get you or your small group on the schedule, please contact Meredith: meredithа@fpckzoo.org.

Refugee Resettlement Team

God is Good! A house has been found for the Salarzai family! Our team has been working hard, cleaning and getting the home ready. We hope to have them moved in and settled before the start of the school year.

Women's Bible Study: Medieval Women
– Mystics, Martyrs, and Scholars

Thursdays, 9:30-11 in Room 314/315
Beginning on **August 4,** Join Pastor Chrissy for a four-week study of strong female voices who shaped theology in the medieval period. We'll spend time with Hildegard of Bingen, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Julian of Norwich, and Marguerite Porete, hearing about their lives and deaths, their near-death experiences, visions of the divine, and even a burning at the stake! These women, whether revered or reviled in their time, changed history and engaged the divine in new ways that continue to be a part of the theological conversation today.

Thoughtful Readers Book Club

Meetings of the Thoughtful Readers Book Club will resume in September. We meet in Room 300 on the fourth Monday of every month from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.

Announcements

Vacation Bible School

Dates for Vacation Bible School have changed!
We will have VBS on **August 21**, starting with activities for the children during Worship (Sunday School time), followed by lunch and activities for the whole family.

Register by Thursday, August 18, to ensure that we have enough supplies and food for eveyone.

To register, please scan the QR code with your mobile device, or visit:

https://bit.ly/3JrS2uK

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Card Ministry

Interested in crafting cards? Join us! The card-crafting room in the basement of the church is nice and cool! No card-crafting supplies or experience needed.
Monday, August 22, 1:00-3:00.

Adult & Bell Choir

No rehearsals or performances through the end of August. Our rehearsals will resume in preparation for Sunday, September 11.

Fall Yoga

Jill Barnum will be offering yoga on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the dining room.
If you have questions, contact Jill at: jmbarnum68@gmail.com or (269)330-5995.

Announcements

Subject: Garden Log: Week of July 24, 2022
Garden Log: 7-25-22, 7-27-22, 7-29-22
Precipitation: 0.6 inches for the week
Volunteers: Bob C., Bob P., Pam O., John B.
Bob P., Todd S.
Bob C., Bob P., John B., Todd S., Carol P., Bill S.

Accomplished:

1. Harvested and processed 405 lbs. of cabbage, peppers, eggplant, okra, cukes, tomatoes, and zucchini. Delivered above to Loaves & Fishes.
2. Watered tomatoes via milk jugs, and most of the rest of the garden with sprinklers.
3. Diagnosed a fungal disease in the potatoes and tomatoes, and subsequently sprayed them and zucchini with a fungicide/algicide.

To do:

1. Continue the harvest of veggies.
2. Water as necessary.
3. Cultivate and weed as needed and as time is available.
4. Mow as needed.
5. Finish killing the poison ivy near the road.
6. Stain the shed as time permits.
7.

Notes:

1. Tomatoes seem to be a bit behind in setting fruit, perhaps due to later planting.

COVID Update

We continue to follow CDC guidelines, informed by community spread and rate of hospitalization in our area. Here are current guidelines, as we encourage each person to make a wise decision:

- The CDC strongly urges ALL people, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in public places.
- If you are at high risk for severe illness, consult a healthcare provider about your need to wear a mask, and other precautions.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and get tested if you have symptoms.
- People with symptoms or a positive test should follow CDC guidelines for self-isolation.

As ever, please respect those whose circumstances and choices may differ from your own.

Tentative Weekly Calendar

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays—Sunday

Sunday, August 14
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:15 a.m. Refugee Resettlement, *Room 301*

Monday, August 15
12:00 p.m. A.A., *Room 314/315*
7:00 p.m. Congregational Deacons
7:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room/ Room 102*

Tuesday, August 16
7:00 a.m. Presbyterian Men's Group, *Archives*
10:00 a.m. Bulletin/Announcements deadline
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*

Wednesday, August 17
10:00 a.m. Yoga, *Dining Room*
12:00 p.m. Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Dining Room*
5:45 p.m. Red Door Prayers, *Church steps*

Thursday, August 18
9:00 a.m. Library work time, *Library*
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 314/315*
12:00 p.m. A.A., *Room 315*

Sunday, August 21
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:15 a.m. Refugee Resettlement, *Room 301*

Share David LaMotte's message by yard sign:

Let's Be Neighbors. - 18"x 24"
Cost: $15
Includes: sign & stake

Available in the Gathering Place after Worship or from the Church Office, M-Th, 9-3:00 p.m. Ask for Kelly or Louise. Quantities are limited; we will reorder if demand is high.

Office Planning Day

The office will be closed August 24, for the yearly planning day.

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	Logan McCafferty
Library	library@fpckzoo.org
South Lobby Receptionists, x221	Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush
	Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate	elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Parish Associate	amber.nettleton@gmail.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

August 21
11th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 13:10-17, Psalm 148

August 28
12th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Jeremiah 2:4-13, Sirach 10:12-18

September 4
13th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Jeremiah 18:1-11, Psalms 139:1-6

September 11
14th Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28, Psalms 14

Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world. Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice...all to the glory of God.