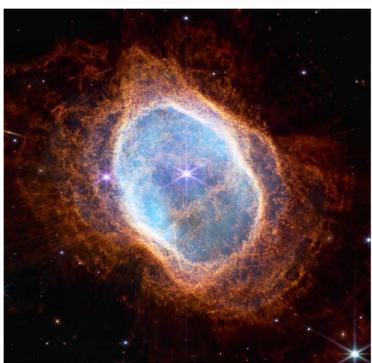
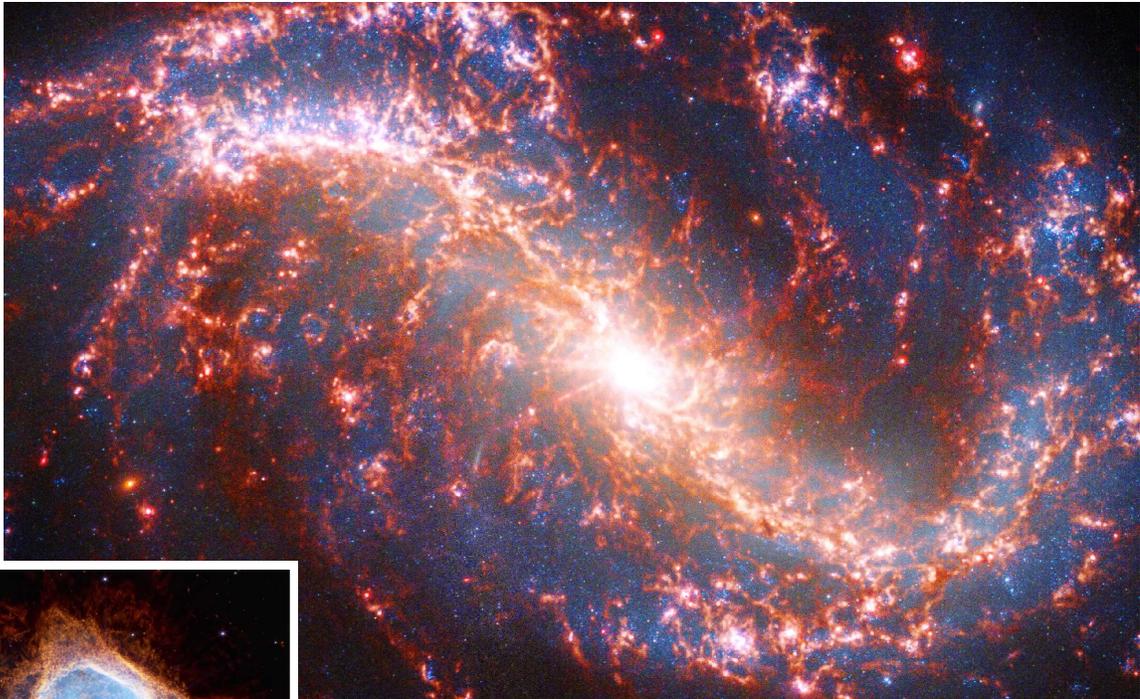


 KALAMAZOO  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

Images from the James Webb telescope



Whether the subject is cosmology or theology, chaos theory or prayer, there are limits to our knowledge. Science cannot explain where complexity comes from any better than religion can explain why bad things happen to good people. Every effort to understand reality begins with a leap of faith: the acceptance of a certain point of view, the adoption of a certain set of symbols.

Whichever ones we choose, there does not, at this moment in time, seem to be any way around the experience of awe. According to Albert Einstein, "The most beautiful emotion we can experience is the mystical. It is the source of all true art and science. [The one] to whom this emotion is a stranger is as good as dead."

~ Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Luminous Web*

AUGUST 21, 2022

ELEVENTH 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

“This Is My Father's World”

Franklin L. Sheppard

### \* 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

Praise God's glory in wonders of creation ,  
**from lights in the darkest sky to deepest sighs of elation!**  
The God of heaven is present on earth  
**shining in the universe of our soul and in sharing love and caring.**  
Gentler than breath, wilder than birthing stars, timeless and ever-changing,  
**we see God's vitality with wide-eyed awe and wise insight. May we be so alive today!**

### \* HYMN #24

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

Catherine Cameron

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all life, as we try to follow your way in our world, we open ourselves to you.  
We're sorry for losing sight of your grace—oblivious to wonders around us,  
centering in scarcity or selfishness more than loving gifts and humble gratitude.  
We're sorry for times we messed up—making bad choices with hurtful consequences,  
seeking needs or pleasures at others' expense, harming your flourishing creation.  
God of forgiveness, open our eyes, inspire our imagination, transform our hearts.  
God of hope, empower us to share in healing and creating abundant life.**

*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 all of life and death we belong to God. In sovereign love, God created the world good. Jesus proclaimed God's reign and was raised by the same Spirit who sets us free to accept ourselves and gives us courage in a broken and fearful world.

**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.**

Trust in God, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. Through gratitude empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks, living holy and joyful lives, 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

Luke 13:10-21

New Testament, P. 76

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ANTHEM

*"What a Wonderful World"*

Thiele / Weiss  
Jay Heckler, trumpet

I see grass of green, red roses too I see them bloom for me and you

And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

I see skies of blue and clouds of white \ The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night

And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky \ Are also on the faces of people going by

See friends shaking hands saying how do you do \ They're really saying I love you.

I hear babies crying, watch them grow \ They'll learn much more than I'll never know

And I think to myself what a wonderful world.

SECOND READING

Psalm 148

Old Testament, p. 582

All: Praise God! Shout your praises from the heavens. Shout them from the heights!

A: Sing praises, all you angels, all you heavenly beings.

B: Sing praises, sun and moon, and all you glittering stars.

A: Praise God, you highest heavens, you waters above the heavens.

B: Praise the holy name of the God who called you forth,  
who established you for ever and ever by a decree that will never change

A: Shout your praises, all the earth, you sea monsters and all depths.

B: Fire and hail, snow and frost, storm winds, fulfilling God's word.

A: You mountains and all you hills, you orchards and every cedar.

B: You beasts, both wild and tame; creeping reptiles, flying birds.

A: Monarchs of earth and all people, rulers and judges of every land.

B: Women and men alike, young and old together.

A: Praise the holy name, the name beyond all names.

B: God's splendor above the earth, above the heavens,  
giving strength and hope to all people.

All: God be praised by all the faithful people, by people close to God! Alleluia!

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

Seeing What a Wonder-full World

"Sing praises, sun and moon, and all you glittering stars ... all the faithful people ..." (Psalm 148:3)

\* HYMN #625

"O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)"

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**And when I think that God my life is sharing in Jesus Christ, I scarce can take it in;  
that in his life and death, my burdens bearing, and by his way makes us all loving kin:  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!**

## 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

“Grace Abounded More” J.W. Peterson / A.B. Christiansen  
Ron and Elaine Johns, soloists

Oh, precious is the promise God has given! My heart with rapture sings it o’er and o’er.  
O balm to souls by storm and tempest driven, where sin abounded, grace abounded more!  
Chorus: Where sin abounded, grace abounded more! My ransomed soul repeats it o’er and  
o’er;  
Tho’ vile as I could be, in love He rescued me—where sin abounded, grace abounded more.

O blessed thought, that I, though so unworthy, for needed help and strength may still implore  
In that blest name, the name of Christ, my Saviour—where sin abounded, grace abounded  
more!

Chorus

O love divine, beyond all human measure, Thou crownest me with blessings o’er and o’er;  
Yea Thou hast freely opened thy rich treasure—where sin abounded, grace abounded more!

Chorus

- \* 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

**Before us in plans and dreams, we look for the unexpected surging of new life.  
Around us in people we know and love, we look for unopened gifts of promise.  
Within us in the radiance of mind and heart, we look for the shining of everlasting light.  
Through awe and grateful praise, God, may we share in your life-giving mystery. 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 #611                      “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”                      Henry van Dyke
- \* BENEDICTION (*Our congregational response is “Alleluia! Amen!”*)
- POSTLUDE                      “God of the Sparrow”                      Carl F. Schalk

### PARTICIPANTS

**Worship Leaders**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

**Acolyte**  
John Diamond  
**Reader**  
Lisa Diamond  
**Greeters**  
Bob & Marcia  
Cowell

**Sound**  
Sound Team members  
**Music**  
Carl Witt, Director  
Autumn, Organist

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of John D. Vermeulen by Kay C. Vermeulen and family.

## **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 Rick Taylor 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.

Richard Jr. Byce  
Joan Colgren  
Phyllis Davis  
Martha Flynn  
Nancy Hamilton  
Susan Hanselman  
Richard and Jocelyn Hodgman  
Virginia Jacobowitz  
Brian and Ann Rohrbaugh Kastman  
Minnie Lapoint

Gloria Lee  
Dennis Lyman and Sharon Mattingly  
Gene and Jean Miller  
William and Amber Nettleton  
Noel Ocen-Gorgone  
William and Kathy Smyser  
William and Sharon Sorensen  
Carol Steinman  
Gayle Stephenson  
Ronald and Carmen Tanis  
Robert and Catherine Wall Emerson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.**

### WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER

... will not meet this Wednesday, due to staff being at an all-day retreat.

### 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.

### WORSHIP AT PINE ISLAND

Again this summer, 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!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Subject:** Garden Log for Week of August 7, 2022

**Garden Log:** As of 8/21/22



**Precipitation:** 2.4 inches for the week

**Volunteers:**

Beth D., Pam O., Bob P.  
Bob P., Todd S., John B., Beth D.  
(and grandkids Rodger and Sylvia)  
Beth D., Pam O., John B., Bill S., Bob P.,  
Lim A. and children.

**Accomplished:**

Harvested and processed 566lbs of cabbage, peppers, okra, cukes, sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant, and zucchini. Delivered above to Loaves & Fishes.

**To do:**

1. Continue the harvest.
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. Build a landscape barrier of stone, etc. around the water pump and electrical service post.

**Notes:**

1. Starting to harvest potatoes. 15 rows to go.
2. Started sweet corn harvest, over 75 lbs. It looks good and tastes better. But the sweet corn season is usually short and best harvested quickly.
3. Tomatoes are slow in maturing this year, and plants are not doing as well as I would like. What to do???
4. Mowing around the periphery of the garden is needed to complement what Deb Weurding is doing to prepare for the Presbytery picnic on Saturday. Thank you, Deb.

-Bill & Bob

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REFLECTIONS ON IONA

**Today after Worship**, 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.

### 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](mailto:jmbarnum68@gmail.com) or (269)330-5995.



### 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.

## 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: [mereditha@fpckzoo.org](mailto:mereditha@fpckzoo.org).

### OFFICE STAFFING

Our search for a Communications Coordinator continues, as Kelly Short transitions into the role of Operations Coordinator. We 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, [kellys@fpckzoo.org](mailto:kellys@fpckzoo.org). He is energetic, creative, and eager to help in any way he can. Thanks, in advance, for your understanding!

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: MEDIEVAL WOMEN – **Mystics, Martyrs, and Scholars**

Thursdays, 9:30-11 meeting at Connie Houts' home when weather permits, or 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 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 will meet in Room 300 from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month.

### 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.

## TENTATIVE WEEKLY CALENDAR

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### Sunday, August 21

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

### Monday, August 22

12:00 p.m. A.A., *Room 314/315*  
1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, *Card Crafting Room*  
7:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room/Room 102*

### Tuesday, August 23

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 24

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*  
6:30 p.m. Session, *Gathering Place*

### Thursday, August 25

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 28

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

\*meeting at Connie Houts' home when weather permits

Share David LaMotte's message  
With a yard sign:

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



**YOU** are our neighbors.  
No matter who you **vote** for, your **skin** color, your **faith**, or who you **love**, we will try to be **here** for you.  
That's what community means.  
**Let's be neighbors.**  
letsbeneighbors.org

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 building will be closed on  
August 24  
for the yearly planning day.

### IN MEMORIAM

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the souls of:  
Chuck Thiele  
Carolyn Houdek  
Dave Fenton

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**  
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The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor, x202  
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203  
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth and Families, x208  
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206  
Kelly Short, Operations/Communications Coordinator, x209  
Carl Witt, Director of Music, x220  
Autumn, Organist  
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213  
Custodians

Library  
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate  
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Parish Associate

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Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding  
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amber.nettleton@gmail.com

**UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.**

**August 28**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Chrissy Westbury**  
Psalm 27, Thessalonians 5:12-22

**September 4**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Chrissy Westbury**  
Genesis 1:26-31, Matthew 25:31-40

**September 11**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
Isaiah 55:1-13, Colossians 3:1-4,12-17

**September 18**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
Jeremiah 23:1-8, Luke 15:1-10

*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.*