



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Sanctuary in the City: Living Faith



"I remember standing outside the building talking with a friend who had just returned to church; she was speaking of how glad she was to be back in faith community, how she loved the liturgy, and how grateful she was to speak of God. 'But,' she said in a confiding tone, 'I don't really know what to say about Jesus. He's important, the center of everything. But I don't know how to think about him, how to explain him.' ... If we think that being with Jesus means getting the right answers from a creed or remembering points of doctrine from a sermon, we probably will not manage to truly know Jesus. 'Who are you, Lord?' is the question of a lifetime, to be asked and experienced over and over again ... finding Jesus along the way."

~ Diana Butler Bass,
Freeing Jesus

JANUARY 22, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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 ever more.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OPENING RESPONSES

To Pharisees minding their business and fishermen mending their nets,
Jesus said, "Follow me!"
To money-handlers and lawyers, intellectuals and politicians,
Jesus said, "Follow me!"
To carers and cleaners, married and single, young and old, country-folk and city-folk,
Jesus said, "Follow me!"
Then and now, individually and together, willing and doubting, ready or not,
Jesus says, "Follow me!"

* HYMN #726

Will You Come and Follow Me

J. Bell/G.Maule

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God of All Life, you call us in baptism and anew every day to follow Jesus' way.
Yet, we admit that we don't always live that sacred path of love. We lose patience and
kindness, speak rudely, and act with prejudice. We push selfish perspectives, insisting
we're right and best, not listening for goodness and truth in others. We tarnish your
glory in people, in our community, and in all creation floundering not flourishing as
you intend us to be. In your grace, mercy, and healing power, forgive our wrongdoing.
Give us wisdom, strength, and commitment to keep mending our lives and world, as
you want.**

Prayer continues in silence.

* KYRIE (#437)

Em D Em Am Em D Em
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

Am D C D Em C Em
You are the Christ, giv-er of mer-cy!

Em D G Am Em D E
You are the Lord, giv-er of mer-cy!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: preaching, teaching, healing, eating with outcasts, and forgiving. Loving us still, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem us and all creation. God's Spirit frees us to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in our Lord Jesus Christ!

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we pray without ceasing and hear voices of people long silenced. In a broken and fearful world, we witness to Christ and 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.)

* GLORIA

"Glory to God"

Gloria

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We invite children to come forward as usual to share in the baptism as a Moment with Young Worshippers.

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Oona Wren Lutke, child of Annalise and Matthew Ludtke
Charlotte Rose Stears, child of Carmen and Nick Stears
Vivianne Faye Stears, child of Carmen and Nick Stears

* PROFESSION OF FAITH *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.
In sovereign love, God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image, to live as one community.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
and calls us all to ministries of the church.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BAPTISM AND WELCOME

Let us welcome our newly baptized kin in Christ.
**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church
to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ!**

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Children: You are loved!
Congregation: **You are loved!**
Infants and children up to age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Your word, O God, is living water, a light upon our path and wisdom for our journey.
Amid all the other voices of our age, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word.
So may we grow toward greater joy and faithfulness as we follow Jesus in your service.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

Matthew 4:12-23

New Testament, p. 3

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Christ is the World's True Light

Stanton/Briggs

Christ is the world's true light, the bringer of salvation;
The Day Star clear and bright of every one and nation.
New life, new hope awakes wherever we own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.
In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting;
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting.
When Christ is throned as Lord, we shall forsake our fear;
To ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.
One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame, that hinder to enthrone thee.
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, come Prince of Peace and reign.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

New Testament, p. 92

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

"Looking For Jesus"

"As he walked by the Sea of Galilee ... he said to them, 'Follow me ...'"
(Matthew 4:18-19)

* HYMN #721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Cesáreo Gabaráin

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.

(Friendship pads are located near the aisles; please sign and pass them along the pew.)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Freely we receive at the hand of God; freely let us open our hands for the work
of God. Let us worship God with our offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

* RESPONSE #644 v3

Give Thanks, O Christian People

Mary Cathey

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,
to use the talents given, to plant the gospel seed.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER (*continuing to pray in unison*)

**We give you thanks, God, for every blessing and spiritual gift poured out upon us.
Receive the offering of our lives, flowing from the gratitude of our hearts.
Here we are, ready to serve as disciples of Christ, a source of blessing in your world,
for your holy purposes of peace in every time and place. 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 #738

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

Washington Gladden

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

* POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
The Rev. Amber Nettleton
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

ACOLYTE

Gary Zandt

READER

Richard Aldrich

GREETERS

Dan and Patty Corse

MUSIC

Carl Witt, Music Director
Autumn, Organist

SOUND TEAM

Sound Team members



FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

To the Glory of God! In loving memory of John Houts,
from Connie, Sarah, and Martha



BAPTISMS

As we move into the New Year, we will share the pleasure of numerous Baptisms. We have reached out to include those who may wish to share this Sacrament. If you would like to coordinate Baptism for your child or for yourself, please contact one of our **Pastors: Amber Nettleton: amber.nettleton@gmail.com, Chrissy Westbury: chrissyw@fpckzoo.org, Seth Weeldreyer: sethw@fpckzoo.org**



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 especially for **KAREN HASSLER** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives.

Valerie Burke
John Cooper
Karen Cooper
Sam Cupps
Carole Cupps
Dylan Davis
RJ Davis
Olivia Fritz
Cory Fritz
Cheryl Fritz
Owen Patrick Fritz
Michelle Greve
Howard Hoffman
Carol Hutton
Dave Hutton

Keith Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Addison Misner
Conner Misner
Audra Misner
Warren Misner II
Albert Newman
Emmit Newman
Jennifer Newman
Mark Ohrstrom
Mark Olmsted
Vic Onweller
Paulette Rayel
Jeff Scott
Julie Shaw
Jeffrey Shaw

Gayle Sparks
Kenneth Sparks
Jim Stephenson
Rick Taylor
Deborah Taylor
Andrew Taylor
Kaylin Taylor
Dave Todd
Jacalyn Todd
Mary Tyler
Aaron Van Heest
Angela Van Heest
Maya Van Heest
Rosa Van Heest
Kay Vermeulen



CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

There will be Sunday School this week immediately following time with the children. Preschool through first grade will be in the classroom next to the nursery, and parents are encouraged to join them this week. Second through fifth grades will be in the third floor classroom. Please pick up your children from their classroom following Worship. The nursery is open for children ages 3 and under.

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS are for all students from grades 8 to 12. Normal meeting time (revised) is 5:30 —7:00 p.m., with snacks only. January 22, January 29, February 5, and February 12.

YOUTH RETREAT at Sherman Lake YMCA

Friday, February 17 – Sunday, February 19. This retreat will be based on the Matthew 25 initiative that calls us to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, and poor. The retreat also will serve as the confirmation “class” for this year for all who are interested. All students from grades 8 to 12 are welcome. **Registration is required. Contact Meredith Alspach: mereditha@fpckzoo.org**

T.A.G. — Totally Awesome Group, Together Alongside God

Grades 5 to 7. Meeting in 3rd Floor Classroom, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Wed., Feb. 1, Feb. 15.

MISSION TRIPS: 2023 YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS: REGISTER NOW!

Mission trips to West Virginia this summer are to serve the impoverished community of Colcord. Grades 8 to 12: August 5-12, 2023, College/Young Adults: June 24 - July 1, 2023. **Contact Meredith Alspach: mereditha@fpckzoo.org**

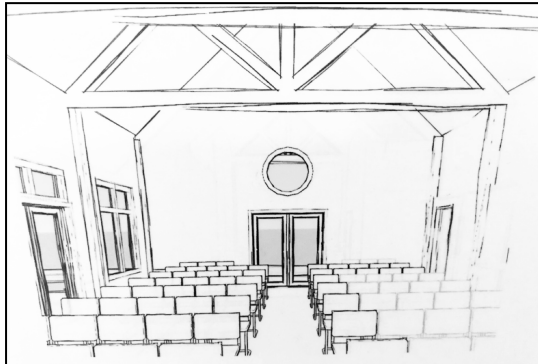


COPE NETWORK 2.1.2023

OVERDOSE PREVENTION & NARCAN TRAINING — Dining Room, 1-3 p.m. Training is designed to increase understanding, reduce stigma, and prevent fatal overdose due to substance use disorder/addiction. Everyone 18 years and up will be eligible for a free naloxone kit. Training lasts about two hours.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED by Jan. 25: <https://tinyurl.com/495werak>. Meredith Alspach: mereditha@fpckzoo.org

MATCHING FUND OPPORTUNITY FOR PINE ISLAND CHAPEL



A donor who is as committed as we are to the construction of a chapel at our Pine Island Campus has offered a matching grant opportunity. The donor, John Woollam, who already has contributed a significant amount to the project, has offered \$20,000 in matching money to help continue the momentum in donations for the construction project.

His offer of matching funds comes at a critical time. What began as an estimated \$250,000 to \$280,000 project is now estimated to cost around \$580,000.

With that in mind, Session members voted January. 15 to continue a fund-raising campaign to support the building of the Pine Island Chapel in order to secure matching funds for the first \$20,000 raised.

Many of our church members have grown to appreciate the beauty of the Pine Island Campus, have shared meaningful experiences there, and have come to see the ministry potential that our former Pine Island members have known was there all along. We are determined to build a chapel to continue fostering those experiences and relationships.

We remain very grateful for everyone who has supported the effort to build there. So far, we have received contributions totaling \$470,000 (the present figure after architectural design) above and beyond other contributions to our general operating budget.

As we know, inflationary pressures are very real and building material costs are continuing to fluctuate wildly. Though we once believed we had received more than enough for the project, we now, according to current estimates, have a \$100,000 to \$125,000 gap. It is frustrating when we seem to be approaching the “finish line”... and it keeps moving further away.

If you have been wondering if funds still are needed, the answer is they are! And when funds received match or exceed costs estimated, we will move immediately to Session for approval. We hope that moment will come soon!

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE? You can contribute as you would for any other donation as long as it is clearly marked for the Pine Island Chapel Project. **Pastor Seth is happy to chat about this project: sethw@fpckzoo.org**



PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH

MAPPING OUR FUTURE —ENVISIONING GOD’S CALL, as we seek how God calls us to serve. We’ll come out with a plan. We’ll be filled with gratitude, and hopeful energy! We are offering a series of meetings: Special meetings for youth and residents of Friendship Village, the Artisan (Heritage Community), and Bronson Place.

Open to all people. Meeting in the Dining Room. Sunday 11:30 a.m. — Jan. 22.
Signup url: <https://tinyurl.com/288tz7c3> (or Gathering Place after worship).
For details, contact Kelly Short: kellys@fpckzoo.org



BIBLE STUDIES

MARTHA CIRCLE the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 3 p.m., the Gathering Place.
“*Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God’s Gift of Rest and Delight.*” You are invited!
Contact **Elaine Johns** at emjohns513@aol.com or **269.808.7109**.

NOODLING FAITH @ NOON Tuesdays at Noon in the Gathering Place.
“The End of White Christian America.” — **Pastor Seth: sethw@fpckzoo.org**

SUNDAY ANNE-THOLOGY Sundays at 11:30 p.m. in the Library. Starts January 22.
Anne Lamott writes memoirs intentionally suffused with faith. Photocopies of material to read are available in the church office. **Pastor Seth: sethw@fpckzoo.org**

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Rooms 314/315.
The Sermon on the Mount — **Beatitudes and Beyond — How Jesus calls us to live.**
Pastor Chrissy: chrissyw@fpckzoo.org



FINANCE 2022 YEAR-END MEMBER CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS will be emailed on or about January 25, 2023. Please check your “junk mail” if your statement isn’t in your regular email. Statements for members with no email or those requesting their statement not be emailed, will be mailed by the end of January. Contact Louise Taylor at 269.344.0119, Mon. through Thurs. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with questions. Thank you for your generosity during the past year.

WEEKLY CALENDAR - 2023

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

- 9:00 a.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Child Care**, Rooms 208/211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Groups: 8-12**, Dining/Youth Room

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

- 12:00 p.m. **AA**
- 7:00 p.m. **Book Club**, Room 300
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Celebrate the Vision**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Session**, Gathering Place

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- 9:00 a.m. **Library Work Time**, Library
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Rooms 314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**
- 4:00 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Handbell Rehearsal**, Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

- 9:00 a.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Child Care**, Rooms 208/211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 a.m. **Youth Groups: 8-12**, Dining/Youth Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY:
9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

CLOSED FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY.



WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING GOOD — WE WILL SAY SOMETHING GOOD!
Want to spread love, or joy? Know something funny, or nice? Want to make someone happy?
Send your good news to Shelly Parkhurst: shellyp@fpckzoo.org



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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www.**fpckzoo.org**
phone: **(269) 344-0119**

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor, x202
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Associate Pastor, x211
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth, Families & Outreach, x208
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206
Kelly Short, Operations Coordinator, x205
Shelly Parkhurst, Communications x209
Carl Witt, Director of Music, x204
Autumn, Organist
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodians

Library
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate

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Logan McCafferty
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Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu

UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

January 29
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

February 12
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 119:1-8, 33-40; Matthew 5:17-24

February 5
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Matthew 5:13-16;
1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 9-13
Communion

February 19
Transfiguration Sunday
The Rev. Amber Nettleton
Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9

*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.*