



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH

“THE MARSH HAWK”

The marsh hawk doesn't, as other hawks
do, work his wings
like soft hinges
to make progress over
the morning marsh,
but merely,
or so it seems,
lays his breast upon the air
and the air, as if understanding,
floats him along
with his wing open, and raised,
just a little beyond the horizontal-
in thanks, perhaps,
to the great crystal carrier
of leaves and clouds - of everything.
And even though his shadow
follows exactly
his every tilt and flow, and even
though he must know that hunger
will win, he doesn't hurry,
but floats in wide circles as he gazes
into the marshes below
his hard beak
and the hooks of his feet, as though
wanting something more lasting than meat.
At noon he's still there
above the brambles, the grass, the flat water,
where, in their almost stately disengagement,
the inedible dampness and darkness shine.

BY MARY OLIVER



MAY 14, 2023 › SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.*

***Bold type** indicates congregational response.*

Where there is an asterisk, we are invited to stand together in God's Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE

- * DOXOLOGY #607 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Thomas Ken
**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

Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.
We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.
Come into the presence of the One who calls us into this sacred space.
Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.
Come and hear the stories of the One who loves you.
We will tell of the joy and of the love, of the peace and of the hope which is ours.

- * HYMN #401 "Here in This Place" Marty Haugen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news.

Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in that grace which can heal us, that hope which can enliven us, and that faith which enables us to follow Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE

Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New

**Behold, behold, I make all things new
Beginning with you, and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new,
My promise is true, for I am Christ, The Way.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

from A Brief Statement of Faith

Jesus proclaimed God’s reign and was crucified. Yet, God raised Jesus and acts with justice and mercy to redeem all creation. Loving us still, God sets us free to accept ourselves and to love neighbors, bound together as the one body of the risen Christ.

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 a broken world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to bear witness among all peoples, to unmask idolatries, to hear voices of people long silenced, and to 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 #591

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

Marty Haugen

Refrain only

**Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: You are loved!

Congregation: **You are loved!**

(Infants and children up to age 4 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all who wonder, question, and believe, by the gift of your Spirit, open our eyes and ears, and soften our hearts in the hearing of your Word. So may we abide in your love and abound with inspiration for new life, ever seeking to serve in the risen Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalms 68:8-20

Old Testament, p. 529

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Jesus, I Adore Thee

John Carraciolo

Jesus, I adore thee, Word of truth and grace,
Who in glory shineth light upon our race.
Christ, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed.
Alpha and Omega, thou true Son of God.
Taste and touch and vision to discern thee fail;
Faith that comes by hearing, pierces through the veil.
I believe whate'er the Son of God hath told.
What the truth hath spoken that for truth I hold.
Word of God incarnate, Lord of life and light,
Teach me how to love and worship thee aright.
Holy Spirit, ever 'bide within my heart,
Speaking thy commandments, telling all thou art.
Wondrous revelation, verity and grace.
Lo, in glory's heav'n, I see thee face to face.
Light of endless light whom heav'n and earth adore,
Fill me with thy radiance, now and evermore.

SECOND READING

John 14:15-21

New Testament, p. 108

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

“What Feathers the Nest”

“They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;”
(John 14:21)

* HYMN #300

“We Are One in the Spirit”

Peter Scholtes

THE THANKSGIVING

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Presentation, Questions and Prayer for New Members

Tom and Phyllis Thomas, and John and Marilyn Ufkes

Welcome

Let us welcome these newest members as they join with us in the worship, ministry,
and mission of the church!

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in Christ Jesus!**

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH

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

(Connection Cards are in the pews for information or prayer requests. Fill out a card; place it in offering plate.)

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

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #240 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Verse 2

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Spread the good news o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and is risen!

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(continuing to pray in unison)*

Abandoned by hope, forsaken by others, left behind by those who said they loved them - there are those around us who feel spiritually orphaned, Holy God.

May the gifts we offer be a home, a family, a rest, a respite for them and all others around us. This we ask in the name of Jesus. 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 #44

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us “

Daniel Bechtel

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

To the Glory of God, in celebration of our daughter, Liz Hamilton, on her first Mother's Day, our daughter-in-law, Megan Taylor, on her fifth Mother's Day, and to all of the mothers who have gone before us and who remain among us today. From Ginny and David Dell.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS	MUSIC	ACOLYTE
Meredith Alspach	Carl Witt, Music Director	David Dell
The Rev. Amber Nettleton	Autumn, Organist	READER
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer	SOUND TEAM	Laurie Tupper
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury	Sound Team Members	

GREETERS: David and Sandy Rozelle

CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK

Pre-school through Grade 5, meet immediately after Time with the Children.

All children Grade 6 and above are invited to remain in Worship with their families.

The Nursery is open for children age 4 and under.

NO YOUTH GROUP THIS WEEK!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, REGISTRATION

We are teaming up with our friends at Kalamazoo First United Methodist Church to offer VBS Camp, August 14 to 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is open to all rising kindergartners through Grade 5. And there is *no cost* to you! <https://tinyurl.com/4ct6u5sj>

T.A.G. GRADES 5/6/7 Meet Wednesday, May 17, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

MAY 21! WEST VIRGINIA & PANCAKES

Youth and College/Young Adults will *both* be making trips to West Virginia this summer to serve the impoverished community of Colcord.

On Sunday, May 21, the mission team will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the Dining Room immediately following Worship. You will have an opportunity to hear from some of the youth directly, as they talk about their previous service experiences in West Virginia.

You will also be served a copy-cat men's breakfast, complete with pancakes, sausage, and the *famous eggs!* We hope you will join us in support of the youth/young adults.

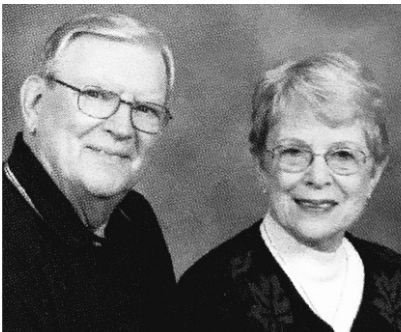
College/Young Adults will be in West Virginia from: June 24-July 1, 2023

Youth Mission Trip will be in West Virginia: August 5-12, 2023



NEW MEMBERS!

Tom and Phyllis Thomas have been married for 59 years, they have three daughters, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They have resided in Kalamazoo all their lives and are happy to have a new church home at First Presbyterian Church. They are especially happy that First Presbyterian broadcasts Sunday service live on YouTube, because they spend winters in Florida and the summers in Ludington. They say that it is a wonderful way to stay in touch.



John and Marilyn Ufkes met in Portage during High School and have been married for 68 years. They traveled for years, as John served in the United States Air Force. They eventually moved back to Portage, where they built their home and raised four children. They have eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. John worked for 41 years in insurance, and Marilyn in medical offices. They love First Presbyterian Church!

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 **JOHN FIORE** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives. Next week, we will pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Tim Aldrich	Bonnie Camburn	Edmund Kuczynski	Allene Page
Lynn Arwady	David Campbell	Cole Lewis	Steve Pifer
Dick Baker	Kathy Campbell	Bruce Lubbers	Donald Roberts
Barbara Baker	Aedin Clements	Ruth Lubbers	Leslie Roberts
Jan Bedrosian	Paul Clements	Mark Lubbers	Mary Ann Ross
Chris Bol	Anna Clements	Joanne Meier	Sandy Rozelle
Julie Bol	Bridin Clements	Robert Murray	David Rozelle
Annaliese Bol	Jeff Daniels	Bev Murray	Fred Sammons
Bridgette Bol	Marcia Daniels	Nathan Murray	Judy Swisher
Andrew Bol	Lillian Daniels	Cameryn Murray	David Warren
Sidney Brush	Macy Daniels	Lisa Padgett	Michelle Warren
Robert Brush Jr.	Julie Heath	Rob Padgett III	JoAnn Yochim



UPCOMING MEMORIALS IN OUR SANCTUARY

Janet Scarrow, May 19, 2023: 1:00 p.m.

Recorded Memorials: Follow this link and watch past memorials hosted here at our church.

<https://www.youtube.com/@fpckalamazooevents7687/streams>

CTV

Celebrate The Vision! Did you know that we serve dinner each Wednesday evening for our downtown neighbors? This important ministry of the church could use your help! We are always looking for more help making meals in our commercial kitchen, as well as for people to assist in preparing food for serving. If you'd like to be a part of CTV, or for more information, please contact Meredith: *mereditha@fpckzoo.org*.

CARD MINISTRY— MAY 21

Come before, rather than after Worship on Sunday, May 21, to view the wonderful selection of hand-crafted cards in the Gathering Place — Grad cards, and also Father's Day cards. Donations benefit CTV. Celebrate the Vision, an important food ministry of our church, which provides individuals in our community with a wholesome meal once a week Wednesday evenings.

New crafters are always welcome! Contact Julie: *Juliekech@gmail.com*



**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ACT JUSTLY;
who always do what is right.**

PSALM 106:3



KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

PICNIC

Bronson Park
June 4 following Worship
(Rain Location: Dining Room)

Hot dogs, hamburgers, & drinks
Please bring a dish to pass.
Fun activities for the kids!
Fellowship for all!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JANET TODD
jwtodd@hotmail.com

HELP!

The fabulous Red Door Ringers need a couple of substitutes for Pentecost on May 28. If you've been curious about the Bell Choir but don't want a long-term commitment, or if you just want to help out, this is a great chance.

Thank you! carlw@fpckzoo.org

BIBLE STUDIES



THOUGHTFUL READERS

Mark your calendar for May 22, when the next Thoughtful Readers group returns with a new book, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, by Pip Williams. We meet at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301. All are welcome! Please join us. Contact Donna Schonveld schonveld@comcast.net.

NOODLING FAITH @ NOON

Our next reflection together centers on the Otis Moss III book, *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*. We will pair chapters of the book with other selected resources reflecting various faith traditions and experiences, photocopies of which will be available in the church office. Find the book at your favorite retailer. Join us in the church library, Tuesdays at Noon.

Questions? Contact sethw@fpckzoo.org

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Matriarchs and More: The Women of Genesis. Join Pastor Chrissy, with special guest, Pastor Amber, for the next session of Women's Bible Study. We will work through the book of Genesis, focusing on the stories of the women who birthed and midwived the foundations of our faith. Coffee at 9:30, followed by study at 9:45 with prayer.

Thursdays — until May 25 — Rooms 314/315

chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 14

- 9:00 a.m. **Adult Choir**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Prayer Partners**, Room 301
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Rooms 208/211
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**, Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 15

- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons**, Room 301
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, MAY 16

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling Faith @ Noon**, Library

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV (Celebrate The Vision)**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **T.A.G. (Totally Awesome Group, Together Alongside God)**, Third Floor

THURSDAY, MAY 18

- 9:00 a.m. **Library Work Time**, Library
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Room 314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Bell Choir/Red Door Ringers**, Room 116
- 7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Faith Formation**, ZOOM

FRIDAY, MAY 19

- 1:00 p.m. **Memorial for Janet Scarrow**, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. **Memorial Reception for Janet Scarrow**, Gathering Place

SUNDAY, MAY 21

- 9:00 a.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Rooms 208/211
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**, Gathering Place
- 9:30 a.m. **Card Ministry Fundraiser**, Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. **Youth Mission Fundraiser**, Dining Room/Kitchen

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. — CLOSED FRIDAY - SUNDAY

GOOD NEWS

SPRING PLANTING HAS BEGUN AT HOPE GARDEN

located on the Pine Island Property, volunteers plant and harvest produce for local charities, like Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Potatoes and the *NEW* raspberry bushes are in – a third beehive has been added! Volunteers are always welcome every Mon., Wed., Fri.— 9 to noon!
mereditha@fpckzoo.org

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Autumn , Organist	autumn@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido , Parish Associate	elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
The Reverend Amber Nettleton , Associate Pastor, x211	ambern@fpckzoo.org
Shelly Parkhurst , Communications x209	shellyp@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Short , Operations Coordinator, x205	kellys@fpckzoo.org
Shawn Smith , Building Superintendent, x213	shawns@fpckzoo.org
Louise Taylor , Financial Coordinator, x206	louiset@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer , Pastor, x202	sethw@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury , Associate Pastor, x203	chrissyw@fpckzoo.org
Carl Witt , Director of Music, x204	carlw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221:

Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush, Stephen Pfeifer, Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt

Library: library@fpckzoo.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

May 21
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Children and Youth Sunday
Matthew 25:31-46

May 28
Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Acts 2:5-21; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

June 4
Trinity Sunday
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Holy Communion

June 11
Second Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 71:1-18
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

*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.*