



## KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH



He may not have been making sense, but then again he may have had a sense of the situation that went beyond the disciples' common sense. They were, after all, operating out of a sense of scarcity. They looked at the crowd, saw no picnic baskets or backpacks, and assumed that no one had anything to eat. They looked at their own meager resources and assumed that it was not enough to go around their own circle, much less to feed the whole crowd. But Jesus operated out of a different set of assumptions. If the disciples operated out of a sense of scarcity, then what Jesus operated out of was a sense of plenty. He looked at the same things the disciples looked at, but where they saw not enough, he saw plenty: plenty of time, plenty of food, and plenty of possibilities with the resources at hand ... what Jesus knew beyond a shadow of a doubt was that wherever there was plenty of God there would be plenty of everything else.

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

**AUGUST 6, 2023 › 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

from Isaiah 25:6-10

Here on this mountain God will throw a feast for all people of the world—  
a feast of the finest food, vintage drink, and lavish gourmet desserts.

**Here on this mountain, God will banish the shroud of doom hanging over all people,  
any shadow of death darkening all creation.**

God will wipe away tears from every face, all signs of disgrace everywhere.

**At that time, people will say, "Look what's happened! This is our God who saves us—  
the One for whom we've waited. Let's celebrate and sing the joys of God's salvation!"**

### \* HYMN #401

"Here in This Place"

Marty Haugen

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you call us to nurture life in your blessedness,  
but often we fail to feed hunger we see.  
We don't always trust in your love and turn from grace in fear, anger, or selfish envy.  
We hold onto hurts. We hoard or use resources carelessly.  
Our hearts get twisted by bias.  
So we hurt others. We stay silent in the face of abuse.  
We share complicity with harm to our community and creation.  
In your mercy, search us, know us, and forgive us.  
Heal and nourish what brings new life and makes it flourish among us here and now,  
in the name of Christ.**

*(Prayer continues in silence)*

KYRIE #437                      “You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy”  
**You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy!**  
**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

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

Trust in Jesus, who proclaimed God’s reign: teaching, healing, eating with outcasts, and forgiving. In sovereign love, God raised Jesus, breaking sin’s power, freeing us to love God and neighbor. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem all creation.

**We belong to God. 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 same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation. In a broken and fearful world, God’s Spirit gives us courage 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    “Glory to God”    Gloria  
**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

## THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPERS AND 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)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**We listen for your Word, God, coming to us in scripture, connecting with our lives.**

**Amid all our experiences, 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

Isaiah 55:1-13

Old Testament, p. 685

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*I Will Sing With the Spirit*

John Rutter

I will sing with the spirit  
I will sing with the spirit  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

I will sing with the spirit  
I will sing with the spirit  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

And I will sing with the understanding also  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
And I will sing with the understanding also  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

SECOND READING

Matthew 14:13-21

New Testament p. 16

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

“Recipe for a Miracle”

“Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to heaven,  
and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples ...”  
(Matthew 14:19)

\* HYMN #523

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Omer Westendorf

## 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

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #717 “For the Life that You Have Given” Carl P. Daw Jr.

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,  
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:  
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;  
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God, use us to embody your love, bigger than our lives alone, beyond all we control.  
May the lonely find companions. May broken hearts be embraced and the lost found.  
May the despairing and displaced be encouraged. May the aimless be inspired.  
Jesus, help us live into your deepest longing for us and for your world. Amen.**

# HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The table is now made ready ... The Lord be with you,  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

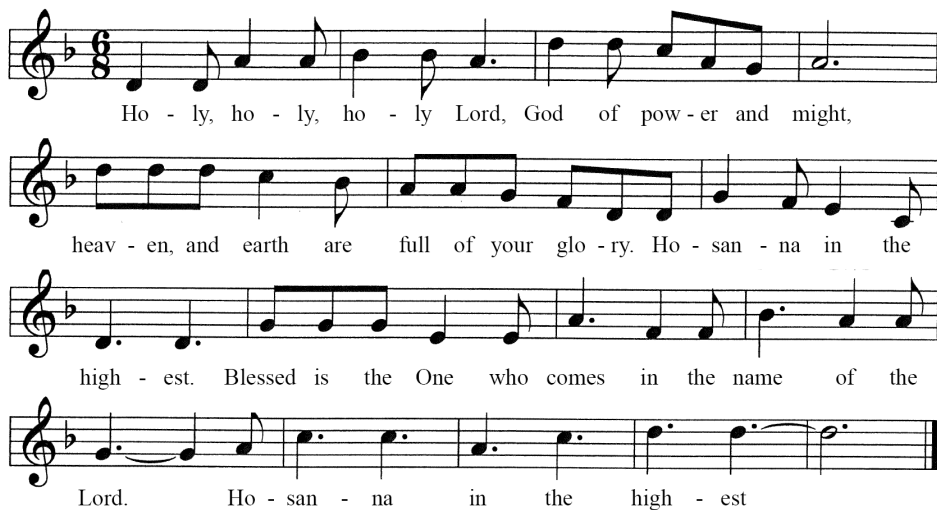
**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Yes, it is right, O God ... as in concert with the church in heaven and earth we join the song of your unending praise:

## SANCTUS (# 569)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en, and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy God, we are not just here to continue an ancient tradition ....  
enable us to know you more deeply and to love, honor, and serve you more faithfully,  
living as Jesus would have us pray together:

**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.**

## COMMUNION

*To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the servers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten free). Then each person may choose **a**) to share intinction by dipping the bread into the common cup, or **b**) taking a small juice cup from the tray. Upon receiving the Sacrament, you may wish to respond by saying, “Amen”. If you prefer to remain seated and receive the elements, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you in your pew.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

### PRAYER OF RESPONSE *(in unison)*

**We thank you, God, for these gifts of your grace, blessing us with love and purpose. May we, who share the bread and cup, embody the presence of the risen Christ, bringing life to others and giving light to the world. May we ever increase your peace, as inhabitants of earth and citizens of your heavenly commonwealth. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\* HYMN #546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

John Fawcett

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Meredith Alspach and Chrissy Westbury are leading the youth service trip in Colcord, West Virginia this week — August 5-12. We hold them and our youth in prayer as they journey with others to share new life.  
If you need assistance with anything around our church, please contact the office.

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of  
John D. Vermeulen (8-3-1933 — 5-20-2012)  
by Kay C. Vermeulen and family.



## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

**WORSHIP LEADERS**  
The Rev. Amber Nettleton  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

**MUSIC**  
Autumn, organist  
Choir  
**SOUND TEAM**

**ACOLYTE**  
Joseph Sablan  
**READER**  
Louise McCallum

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Bob Brush • Marcia Cowell • Bob Poel • Pat Stromsta • Suzanne Weeldreyer • Deb Weurding



## WITH GREAT SORROW

It is with great sorrow we share that Mike Millar has entered life eternal, and we hold his family and friends in prayer. Visitation will be held at Betzler Life Story Funeral Home on Friday August 11 from 5-7 p.m. Memorial details to be determined.



## 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 **JO RUSSELL** 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.

Linda Bower	Samantha Fuehr	Nancy Klesert	Jill Piwko
Claudia Britigan	Andy Fuehr	Bob Klesert	Gary Piwko
Robert Britigan III	Avery Diane Fuehr	Cindy Leder	Sue Thielman
Alissa Britigan	Jessica Hay	Greg Leder	Leo Thielman
Mary Brooks	Arria Aileen Hay	Erin Leder	Jamie Tuin
Bob Cowell	Evelyn McGregor Hay	Austin Leder	Carter Tuin
Franklin Davidson	Clara Hay	William Mack	Carley Tuin
Denise Freed	Terri Hunter	Louise McCallum	Chrissy Westbury
Ken Freed	Nick Hunter	Norm McCallum	Dirk Westbury
	Robin Johnkoski	Marty Meloche	Daphne Westbury
	Steve Johnkoski	Heather Misner	Astrid Westbury
		Ruth Moser	



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**No Sunday School today. The Nursery is open for children up to age 4.**

**Have you ever considered helping with Sunday School, either as a teacher or assistant?  
Or, is playing with little ones more your speed?**

If so, please join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, August 20, in Room 304 following worship to learn more about how you can help with our children's ministry. There is no commitment required to attend! [mereditha@fpckzoo.org](mailto:mereditha@fpckzoo.org)



## NOODLING AT NOON

We will share a special three-week summer series of discussions on Tuesdays at noon in the Library. On August 8 and 15, we'll center on a two-part reflection on creation and faith, with resources from Sallie McFague and Barbara Brown Taylor. On August 22, we'll discuss articles from *Christian Century* about present church life and witness. Copies of these resources are available in the church office. Contact Pastor Seth with any questions.

[sethw@fpckzoo.org](mailto:sethw@fpckzoo.org)



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Celebrating the Sabbath Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice.** Sabbath and justice go hand in hand. Celebrating the Sabbath means living lives of justice all week long.

We will meet at Connie Houts' home (2015 Wild Cherry Lane). If the weather is cooler than 60, or if it is raining, I will send out an email indicating that we will meet at the church.

**We will meet on Thursday August 10 at 9:45 a.m.**

[pat.stromsta@gmail.com](mailto:pat.stromsta@gmail.com)



## CARD MINISTRY

Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry will meet to craft cards on Monday, August 14, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the church. No experience needed and we have lots of supplies! Please join us!

**Contact Julie Kechele: [juliekech@gmail.com](mailto:juliekech@gmail.com)**





## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, August 20 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary, we will hold a special congregational meeting to elect one deacon and one elder. Nominating Committee will present individuals willing to fill vacant terms in the class of 2025. Please, plan to attend what should be a brief meeting ... so we can have a quorum!



## FPC PRAYER CHAIN

Do you have a particular prayer request you would like to share with others in our congregation? Would you like to join in praying for others in our community?

Join the FPC Prayer Chain. Send an email to share your request or to receive requests for prayer.  
*kfpcprayer@gmail.com*



## HOST HOMES PROGRAM

Have an extra bedroom to spare? OutFront Kalamazoo will be offering another round of training for individuals and families who are interested in learning more about becoming Host Homes for LGBTQIA+ youth.

OutFront's Host Home Program provides safe, affirming, temporary housing for LGBTQIA+ youth aged 13-18 years old, and thorough training and support to all hosts.

For more information, and to complete the registration form for the next training session, visit:  
*<https://www.outfrontkzoo.org/hosthomes>*



## MEMBER INFORMATION

**Update Requests:** The mailing of member information update requests has been completed. If you have received your forms, please complete and return them within 2 weeks. Kelly is working on updating all the information. A new directory is in the works and should be available by the start of the program year in September.

If you are a member and have not received an information update request by mail, please, contact Kelly in the office at 269.344.0119 x205 or:  
*[kellys@fpckzoo.org](mailto:kellys@fpckzoo.org)*.



## SESSION MEMBER AT GATHERING PLACE TODAY

There will be a Session Member in the Gathering Space after church, today, to chat with congregation members at the Listening Post. This is your chance to tell the Session what you think is going well and what could be improved at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church. We look forward to speaking with you.

*ekathleen28@gmail.com*

**B L A C K**  
*wall street*  
**- K A L A M A Z O O -**

Kalamazoo Black Business Expo, 2023. August 26, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Kalamazoo County Expo Center 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. Speaker Panel, noon; Business Pitch Competition, 2:00 p.m.; Fashion Runway, 4:00.

*Vendor Registration Here:*  
*[blackwallstreetkalamazoo.org/expo](https://blackwallstreetkalamazoo.org/expo)*



“LEARN TO DO RIGHT; SEEK JUSTICE. DEFEND THE OPPRESSED.”  
ISAIAH 1:17

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- 9:00 a.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Congregational Life**, Archives
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Rooms 208/211
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**, Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

## MONDAY, AUGUST 7

- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 6:00 p.m. **Communications Committee**, ZOOM
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling @ Noon Book Club**, Library
- 2:00 p.m. **Archive Work Time**, Archives
- 5:30 p.m. **Earthcare Team**, Library

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

- 10:00 a.m. **Archive Work Time**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV-Celebrate the Vision**, Dining Room
- 6:00 p.m. **Personnel Committee**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee**, Archives

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

- 9:00 a.m. **Library Work Time**, Library
- 9:45 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Houts' Home
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance**, Library

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

- 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

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – THURSDAY 9:00 TO 3:00 P.M.

**GOOD NEWS**

## THE CHOIR

Our director of music, Carl Witt, is on a well deserved three week break, so our organist, Autumn, and our fabulous choir have graciously stepped in to make sure the music doesn't stop.

Thanks to all our volunteers who spend countless hours making our church run without hardly a hitch.

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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PHONE: 269.344.0119 • FAX: 269.344.4645

<b>Meredith Alspach</b> , Director of Youth, Families & Outreach, x208	<a href="mailto:mereditha@fpckzoo.org">mereditha@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Autumn</b> , Organist	<a href="mailto:autumn@fpckzoo.org">autumn@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido</b> , Parish Associate	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu">elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu</a>
<b>The Reverend Amber Nettleton</b> , Associate Pastor, x211	<a href="mailto:amberrn@fpckzoo.org">amberrn@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Shelly Parkhurst</b> , Communications x209	<a href="mailto:shellyp@fpckzoo.org">shellyp@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Kelly Short</b> , Operations Coordinator, x205	<a href="mailto:kellys@fpckzoo.org">kellys@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Shawn Smith</b> , Building Superintendent, x213	<a href="mailto:shawns@fpckzoo.org">shawns@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Louise Taylor</b> , Financial Coordinator, x206	<a href="mailto:louiset@fpckzoo.org">louiset@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer</b> , Pastor, x202	<a href="mailto:sethw@fpckzoo.org">sethw@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>The Reverend Chrissy Westbury</b> , Associate Pastor, x203	<a href="mailto:chrissyw@fpckzoo.org">chrissyw@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Dr. Carl Witt</b> , Director of Music, x204	<a href="mailto:carlw@fpckzoo.org">carlw@fpckzoo.org</a>

**South Lobby Receptionists, x221:**

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

**Custodians:** Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt

**Library:** [library@fpckzoo.org](mailto:library@fpckzoo.org)

**UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.**

**August 13**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

The Rev. Amber Nettleton

1 Kings 19:9-18

Matthew 14:22-33

Baptism

**August 27**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Matthew 15:21-28

Matthew 16:13-20

**August 20**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Luke 1:68-79

Genesis 45:1-15

Congregational Meeting

**September 3**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Exodus 3:1-15

Matthew 16:21-28

*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.*