



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH



Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern. ... For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves; indeed, our very being is nothing but subsistence in the one God. Then, by these benefits shed like dew from heaven upon us, we are led as by rivulets to the spring itself. Indeed, our very poverty better discloses the infinitude of benefits reposing in God. ... Again, it is certain that we never achieve a clear knowledge of ourselves unless we have first looked upon God's face, and then descend from contemplating God to scrutinizing ourselves.

~ John Calvin

OCTOBER 29, 2023 · TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REFORMATION SUNDAY

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

Tocatta in D minor, BWV 565

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

“Amazing Grace”

* 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

You call us, God, to this sanctuary in the city, with our joy, concern, hope, and hesitation,
to praise your steadfast love, and celebrate the promise of salvation!
**Grant us, Sure Redeemer, your grace, by which alone we live. Sustain us with hope,
strengthen us with faith, and send us to serve in your peace, calm and sure!**

* HYMN #624

“I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”

Psalms, Strasbourg

A LITANY OF LIVING FAITH FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

Through ages of history and our lineage of hope,
from Swiss cities and Scottish clans to communities in our nation and around the world,
God calls us to pursue holy purposes amid the powers of our world.
As tartans were once outlawed in Scotland, we know these powers can corrupt or repress
God's grace in us, and tear apart our fabric of communion in Christ's love.
**We lament the brokenness in our personal lives and our relationships,
the selfishness and insensitivity of which our thoughts and actions are a piece.**
We celebrate divine incarnation and redemption through God's love in Jesus Christ!
**Early Christians gathered in secret. Scots slipped tartan pieces into sanctuaries.
Faithful people across ages faced powers that abuse or oppress, seeking full *shalom*.
And so, we bring to God the pieces of our lives and relationships this day.**

Lest we forget that our heritage of witness is a responsibility to uphold, not to hoard;
lest we falter in living faith, may holy love continue to touch our hearts, reform
our church, and transform 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 God's love in our Lord, Jesus Christ!**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks,
to live holy and joyful lives, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
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;
children Preschool to Grade 5 will head to their Sunday School classes)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, as we long to receive your saving grace, fill us with your Spirit.

Soften our hearts, that we may delight in your presence.

Sharpen our minds, that we may discern your truth.

Shape our wills, that we may desire your purpose for life in us and all creation. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17

Old Testament, p. 550

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

If You Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If you love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,

And he shall give you another comforter;

That he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of Truth,

Even the spirit of Truth.

SECOND READING

Matthew 22:34-40

New Testament p. 25

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

“Reflections on Living Faith”

“So teach us to count our days that we gain a wise heart.”

(Psalm 90:12)

* HYMN #314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Bernadette Farrell

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 #711 Lord of All Good

Albert F. Bayly

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you; use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew, that our whole life is offered to your will.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER AND LITANY OF DEDICATION

God of All Life, in baptism you claim us in love, and call us to serve.

You join us with the company of Jesus in the rich inheritance of your grace.

We praise you, God, for all blessings of time, money, or ability we offer!

We dedicate to You our pledges and every purpose we share together.

**Grounded in our living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, O God,
we seek to reflect Christ’s light in your world.**

Continually discerning your vision of grace and peace,

we pledge to share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture,

compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice—

to the glory of your love in our community and all creation! 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 #697

“Take My Life ”

Frances Ridley Havergal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

J.S. Bach

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

“In memory of our parents, Oren and Arlene Sherman,
who were married on Halloween 70 years ago.”

Renee Mulcrone and Denny Bouchie

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach

The Rev. Amber Nettleton

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

SOUND TEAM

MUSIC

Bagpipes

Choir

Autumn, Organist

Dr. Carl Witt, Music Director

GREETERS

Karen and Rich Nellums & Carol and Tom Noland

Last week’s Greeter was Steve Johnkoski; forgive us for not having his name in the bulletin!

ACOLYTE

Michael Roberts-Riggle

READER

Pamela Zandt



DEACON'S 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 **DIANE WHITE** 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.

Erin Arwady

Rand Arwady

Andrew Arwady

Alexandra Arwady

Martin Baker

Bruce Birkel

Marcia Cook

Emily Curtis

Sandra Edwards-Garcia

Alfred Garcia

Ann Fergemann

Gary Fergemann

Joseph Jack

Sheryl Lee-Ruff

Greg Lozeau

Lester Roberts-Riggle

Michael Roberts-Riggle

Calvin Ruff

Toni Tyler

Deborah Weurding

Ray Wicks



IONA PILGRIMAGE IN 2024

June 11 - 25 – We'll journey through places of history, faith, and culture in Scotland on the way to Iona Abbey and back. We'll spend a week living in community together in the Abbey itself, with people from around the world. We'll worship twice each day, share meals and chores, engage in discussion and other fun activities, hike around the island, and spend other personal time on the island. We had an informational meeting on Sunday, October 15. We have a limited number of spots available ... and they're filling quickly. If you are interested, contact Pastor Seth ASAP.

sethw@fpckzoo.org



ALL ABOUT RECYCLING!

Chris Broadbent, the Solid Waste Coordinator for the City of Kalamazoo, will be present on Tuesday, November 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the church library to describe Kalamazoo's recycling program and answer any questions you might have about it. Email your questions in advance to Susanne Rose, and we will forward them to Chris, so he'll be well prepared. Presented by the Earth Care Team.

Where Does Styrofoam Go?

We are still collecting Styrofoam for recycling, but the large box for it has moved. It is now downstairs, across the hall from the custodians' room. Recycled Styrofoam is made into useful products! Keep bringing it in! *susanner575@gmail.com*

YOUTH & FAMILIES

There will be Sunday School for all children in preschool through 6th Grade immediately after the Children's Moment.

**Please be sure to pick up your children from their classrooms immediately after worship.*

The Nursery is open for children under age 4.

Today! From 5 - 7:00 p.m. is the Halloween Party for BOTH Middle School T.A.G. and High School Youth Group! We will meet at the church for dinner, followed by games, activities, and a costume contest! Arrive hungry and in costume! All youth in Grades 6-12 welcome!

Youth Group
Umbrella and
Blanket Drive

Please Donate to
Help our
Downtown
Neighbors



Collection Bin in Meredith's Office



IT'S BUTTER BRAID TIME AGAIN!

The Youth Mission Team will be selling
Butter Braids
after worship through November 5.
Payment is due at time of ordering.
Contact Meredith with any questions:
mereditha@fpckzoo.org



We are placing a
"YOU ARE LOVED"
gear order!

Contact Meredith if you are interested:
mereditha@fpckzoo.org



“MY RESEARCH KEPT POINTING ME TO THE SAME ANSWERS:
THE SOURCE OF RACIST IDEAS WAS NOT IGNORANCE AND HATE,
BUT SELF-INTEREST.”
IBRAM X KENDI



CHURCH GREETERS NEEDED

If you are looking for a minimal, but important job at FPC, we invite you to consider being a Church Greeter. Greeters play a vital role in forming a visitor’s first impression of our church. Sign up to be a greeter by sending an email to Pat Stromsta, or by signing the Greeter schedule in the Gathering Place. There will be a Greeter meeting on November 5, after church. We thank Sue Weeldreyer for scheduling greeters for many years at FPC! pat.stromsta@gmail.com



NOODLING @ NOON

On Tuesdays we are discussing “*Do I Stay Christian?*” by Brian McLaren. More than digging in our heels about doctrine or running for the exit, McLaren writes that we can make responsible, honest, ethical decisions about our religious identity. We can say both *yes* and *no* to staying Christian by shifting the focus from *whether we stay Christian* to *how we stay human*. Contact Pastor Seth with any questions.

sethw@fpckzoo.org



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us Thursdays in Rooms 314/315 beginning at 9:30 a.m. for coffee. Study begins at 9:45. We will dive into the Hebrew Scriptures with Pastor Chrissy, using the book, *Enjoying the Old Testament: A Creative Guide to Encountering Scripture* by Eric Seibert.

Many Christians struggle to engage with the first part of God’s Word — finding it confusing, theologically troubling, or too remote. Demonstrating the critical importance of Old Testament literacy, Seibert offers dozens of practical suggestions, strategies, and creative activities for hands-on interaction with the text, equipping readers to grasp its vital significance and bring “dry” passages to life.

The book is available on Amazon, or through “This is a Bookstore”. If you need help ordering the book, (financial or logistical), contact Pastor Chrissy.

chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who have pledged so far and we are excited to move toward our goal. As of Friday, Oct. 19 we have received 66 pledges for a total of \$248,815! We have opened four doors on our campaign calendar found in the Gathering Place and the Narthex. Can you help us open even more doors? Our goal to help the church meet its 2024 budget is to raise \$620,000 in pledges.

PLEASE HELP US OPEN THE NEXT DOOR.



RICKMAN HOUSE BINGO

The Rickman House needs volunteers to assist with monthly Bingo. Bingo is at 6:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month. At Christmas Bingo will also include prizes for the residents. This is a mission that means so much to our downtown neighbors. If you are interested in volunteering, or donating prizes, please contact Mike Boersma.

Items needed for Christmas Bingo Prizes:

House slippers, warm gloves, mittens, warm socks, woolen scarfs, bath towels, floor cleaner, laundry pods, warm jackets, stuffed animals, canned goods, macaroni, bus tokens.

mike.boersma@gmail.com

NEW YEAR'S FEST COORDINATOR NEEDED!

Exciting news! We're seeking a Volunteer Coordinator to lead the evening festivities at our Annual New Year's Eve Fest at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church.

The role includes organizing volunteers, coordinating with Kelly in the office, and ensuring a memorable event. The previous coordinator is eager to provide guidance to the new volunteer. If you are interested in this exciting role, please contact Kelly Short.

kellys@fpckzoo.org

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 1

Mark Ohrstrom
Mary Lou Boughton
Sue Cole
Joseph Sablan

NOVEMBER 2

Diane Hollenbeck
Ellen Stults

NOVEMBER 3

Kelsey Oliver
Jim Stephenson

NOVEMBER 4

Annie Leong
Mark Loehrke
JoAnn Yochim
Beth Jarl

NOVEMBER 5

John Petro

NOVEMBER 6

Seth Weeldreyer
Mary Jo Poel

NOVEMBER 7

Alfred Garcia
Sandra Standish
Betty Mbangwana

NOVEMBER 9

James Steffey
Miranda Howard

NOVEMBER 10

Bridin Clements
Martin Baker

NOVEMBER 13

Heather Misner
Carol Hutton
Micah Mechling

NOVEMBER 14

Jay Heckler
Donald Swetay Sr.

NOVEMBER 15

Warren Misner II
Miriam Bauserman

NOVEMBER 16

Louise Wright
Gabriel Weeldreyer
Dirk Westbury
Alan Griffin

NOVEMBER 17

Ann Parfet
Joe Agostinelli
Michael Palmer
Evelyn Wiersema
Tom Noland

NOVEMBER 18

Belinda Drok
Ailih Weeldreyer
Andrew Arwady

NOVEMBER 19

Dean Panse
Victoria Coleman
James Stefi
Jean Scott

NOVEMBER 20

Sandra Dennehy
Kari Crook
Michael Ward

NOVEMBER 21

Dorothy Larkin
Jo Russell
Grace Cook
David Warren
Luke Fouty

NOVEMBER 22

Ann Ridge
Mackenzie Hunter
Greg Leder

NOVEMBER 23

Preston Meeker

NOVEMBER 24

Marlena Kirton
Barbara Graham-Palmer

NOVEMBER 26

Courtney Wiersema

NOVEMBER 28

Vic Onweller
Susan Kremer
RJ Davis
Sheliah Tramel

NOVEMBER 29

Diane Eberts
Karen Nellums
Dylan Davis

NOVEMBER 30

Terri Hunter
Jamie Cloetingh

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School: Preschool** to Grade 5
- 5:00 p.m. **Halloween Party: Middle School/T.A.G./ High School Youth Group** FPC

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

- 8:30 a.m. **Bronson Parkinary**, Library
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 9:00 a.m. **Library Work Time**, Library
- 9:30 a.m. **Thursday Bible Study**, Rooms 314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Simmons Wedding Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. **Bell Choir/Red Door Ringers**, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. **Adult Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 2:30 p.m. **Simmons Wedding**, Sanctuary

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

- 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
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School: Preschool** to Grades 5

GOOD NEWS

THE PRAYER CORNER

The Prayer Corner has become more welcoming thanks to gifts in memory of Nancy Owen.

We invite you to visit the corner at the back of the Sanctuary for meditation, candle lighting, and prayer.

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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PHONE: 269.344.0119/FAX

Meredith Alspach , Director of Youth, Families & Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
Autumn , Organist, x214	autumn@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido , Parish Associate	elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
The Reverend Amber Nettleton , Associate Pastor, x212	amberrn@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, x203	sethw@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury , Associate Pastor, x204	chrissyw@fpckzoo.org
Dr. Carl Witt , Director of Music, x215	carlw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221:

Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush, Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt

Library: library@fpckzoo.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

November 5

All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Matthew 23:1-12

Revelation 7:9-17

November 12

24th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Amber Nettleton

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-3

November 19

25th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Amos 4:1-5; 5:21-24

Matthew 25:31-46

November 26

**26th Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ/Holy Communion**

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Ephesians 1:15-23

Ezekiel 34:11-16

*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.*