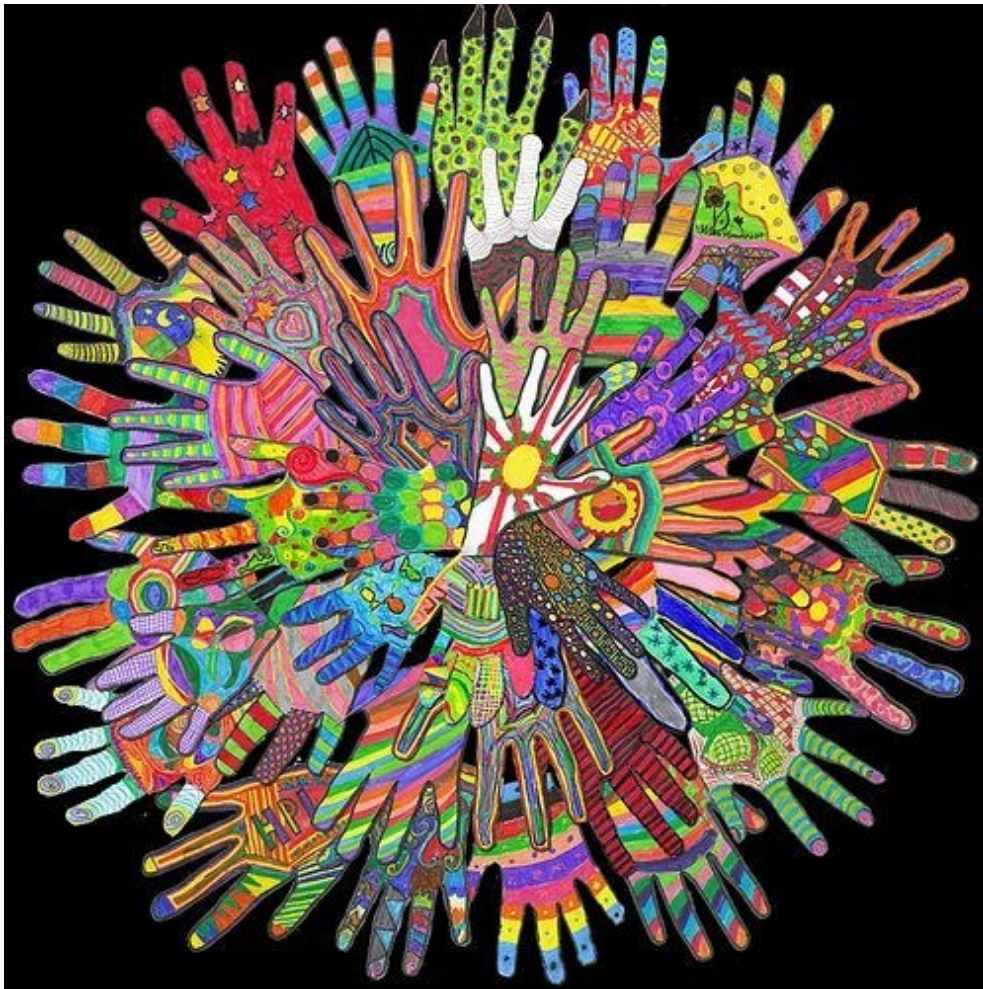




KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH



“Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children.”

— Khalil Gibran

OCTOBER 20, 2024 - TWENTY-SECOND 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.

Bold type indicates congregational response.

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

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

- * DOXOLOGY #607 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* Genevan Psalter
**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

We gather as God's beloved children –
However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.
We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –
So this becomes a place where all are welcome.
We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with one other –
Let us worship God.

- * HYMN #689 *When the Morning Stars Together*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all creation, who laid the foundations of the earth, who set the stars in place and gave the seas their boundaries, we confess that we often forget our place in your realm. When we demand answers when faced with mystery, remind us that you give us more than we could ask or imagine. When we seek to control what is beyond our reach, move us to patience. When we clamor for positions of power, call us to follow in the way of humility. When we seek our own interests at the expense of others and fail to serve as you have served, humble our hearts, and teach us to follow your way of love and service. By your grace, may we find our place in your story, trusting in your wisdom, and seeking to serve rather than be served.

(Prayer continues in silence)

KYRIE #437 *You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!* Appalachian
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*
God created the world good, and calls us all to live as one community. In sovereign love, God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil. Loving us still, God redeems us and all creation, making us heirs with Christ in the holy covenant of living faith.
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.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to Christ in our daily tasks. In a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage, to pray without ceasing, 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.

* GLORIA #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* Paul Vasile
verse 1 only
**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING
Children: You are loved!
Congregation: **You are loved!**
*(There will be Sunday School for all children in preschool through Grade 5.
Infants & children up through age 4 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
**Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Old Testament, p. 484
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

We Shall Walk Through the Valley

arr. Undine Smith Moore
African American Spiritual

Ah, Lord we shall walk, shall walk in peace

We shall walk through the valley in peace

We shall walk through the valley in peace

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader

We shall walk through the valley in peace

There will be no trials there

There will be no trials there

And if Jesus himself shall be our leader

We shall walk through the valley in peace

SECOND READING

Mark 10:35-45

New Testament, p. 46

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

“Giving up?”

“To sit at my right or left hand isn't mine to give” Mark 10:40

* HYMN #727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Richard Gillard

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 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 #712 *As Those of Old*

Frank von Christierson

**In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

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

God of abundance, these are gifts for you. Gifts that will be spent on teaching each other about you, making opportunities to grow in love for one other, maintaining a space of hospitality in this building, and reaching outside our doors to those who need our support, so they, in turn, can share their gifts. Teach us to give good gifts, for you are the giver of life, the giver of love, the giver of grace. Amen

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

**Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth
as in heaven**

**Give us today
our daily bread;
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us**

**Save us from the time
of trial,
and deliver us
from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever,
for ever,
and ever.**

**Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

THE SENDING

* HYMN #546

Lord, Dismiss Us

John Fawcett

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury
The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

SOUND TEAM:

Dirk Westbury, Dana Underwood

MUSIC

Autumn, organist & conductor
Church Choir
Cara Hintz, cantor

GREETERS:

Keenan & Katherine Millar, South; Joanne Baker, Lovell

ACOLYTE

Laurie Tupper

READER

Laurie Tupper

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 **AMBER NETTLETON** 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.

Becky Chambers	Amy Harik	Pat Stromsta	Priscilla Willson
Greg Chambers	Salim Harik	Scot Stromsta	Kirsten Yohe
Amy Coon	Diane Johnson	Janet Todd	Matthew Yohe
Grady Coon	Marysol Millar	Wesley Todd	Kirsten Yohe
Ava Coon	Katherine Millar	Jane Todd	Rosie Yohe
Kendall Coon	Keenan Millar	John Todd III	Benji Yohe
Grant Coon	Kelsey Oliver	Sarah Torrence	Lela Yohe
Sairi Elliott	Craig Oliver	Phil Torrence	Helen Yonan
Derick Elliott	Helen Rodee	Cindy Trout	Pamela Zeller
Kennedy Elliott	Bernard Rodee	Ruth Tyler	
Caroline Elliott		Jonathan Willoughby	
Mary Elliott		Harrison Willoughby	
		William Willoughby	
		Catherine Willoughby	

"RACISM IS NOT HOW YOU LOOK;
IT'S ABOUT HOW PEOPLE ASSIGN MEANING TO HOW YOU LOOK."
D.G. KELLY

NEW CLASS: SAVORING THE LECTIONARY

9:00 a.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month. We will meet the first and third Sunday of the month. Join with us in Room 302 as we begin the new church year with an old favorite activity, reading and savoring scripture together. We will read the scriptures that will be used in worship that day and reflect on our own thoughts, before hearing what our pastors have to say. Ellen Dykhuis will facilitate the group. Join as you are able.

Contact: edykhuis@yahoo.com

CHURCH GREETERS NEEDED!

EMAIL PAT STROMSTA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED: [PAT.STROMSTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:pat.stromsta@gmail.com)

CHILDREN & YOUTH

This week, Sunday, October 20,

Middle School T.A.G.

Group will meet at church from 6-7:30
to make cupcakes for the CTV meal next week.

Next week, on Friday, October 25,

Middle School T.A.G.

will have a Halloween party/movie night at the church from 6 - 9:00 p.m.
Dinner will be provided and costumes are encouraged!

On Sunday, October 27,

High School Youth Group

will meet at Gull Meadow Farms from 1 - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday School:

Starting on Sunday, October 27, the 2nd - 7th graders
will be participating in a chime choir coordinated by

Michael Montgomery & Volunteers

They will be practicing at the end of Sunday School
so parents can pick children up in room 304
approximately 10 minutes after the conclusion
of worship each week. Please contact Meredith with questions.

CTV

If you have been waiting for just the right time to help
make a meal for CTV, this is your moment!

Our freezers are stocked full of ground beef and chicken breast, ready for any casserole
or comfort food you may have in mind. Pro tip: our neighbors love anything that includes
tater tots or cheesy potatoes and simple is best!



Contact Meredith with questions.



IT'S BUTTER BRAID TIME AGAIN!

The youth mission crew will be taking Butter Braid orders
in the Gathering Place immediately following worship this week
and all proceeds go to support the 2025 mission trip.

Payment is due at the time of order and butter braids will be
available for pick-up at the church starting November 14.

VOICES UNITED: TOGETHER FOR PEACE

Sunday, November 3rd at 4:00 p.m. • First Congregational Church • Free admission

A harmonious gathering of five local church choirs and bell choirs: First Congregational, St. Luke's Episcopal, Kalamazoo First Presbyterian, First Baptist, and First United Methodist. This event celebrates the power of music to inspire peace, showcasing works by Mendelssohn, Parry, Hagenberg, Forrest, Ames, and Smith Moore. Unite in song and spirit, as we come together as a community to reflect on the themes of peace and hope. Bring your family and friends for an uplifting afternoon filled with the joy of music!

— ADULT FAITH FORMATION —

NOODLING AT NOON

On Tuesdays at noon in the Library, we've begun to center our shared reflection in excerpts from Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Photocopied packets are available on the round table in the office and at the Faith Formation kiosk in the Gathering Place. sethw@fpckzoo.org

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday mornings in Room 306. From October 24 through November 21, we'll spend a few weeks on a brief overview of theology in the Reformed tradition, of which we are a part, and the PC (USA) Book of Confessions. We have such a big tent approach to the way we understand God, the Bible, humanity, and other aspects of our theology in the PC(USA), it can sometimes be hard to point to the basics of "what Presbyterians believe." So, let's talk about the basics and all the wonderful room for diversity within them! We'll gather at 9:30 for coffee and conversation and begin with prayer at 9:45.

WHAT DO PRESBYTERIANS BELIEVE?

Oct. 27, After worship, Room 306. October 27 is Reformation Sunday, when we remember a big moment in Church history, when Martin Luther challenged church leaders and members to really consider what messages they were sending about God, the Bible, Jesus, humanity's place in God's kingdom, and so many other aspects of theology. After worship, let's gather in Room 306 for a brief discussion of the PC(USA) Book of Confessions which demonstrates the evolution of theology in the PC(USA) and serves as the foundation for why we do things the way we do them in our denomination.

OPPORTUNITIES!

Check out the recent Opportunity Fair, volunteer opportunities are posted on the Outreach bulletin board in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions, or want to add your name to the list contact kellys@fpckzoo.org



BURIED SEEDS BOOK STUDY, OCT 20

Book Study after worship today, 11:30 a.m.: *Buried Seeds: Learning from the Vibrant Resilience of Marginalized Christian Communities* by Alexia Salvatierra & Brandon Wrencher. Join Wendy King and Pat Stromsta for a two-week overview of this fascinating book, asking the question of what the church might learn from marginalized Christian communities when many question the relevance of traditional institutional structures. This book study will lead up to a special presentation in Kalamazoo by Alexia Salvatierra later in October, funded by a grant FPC received from the Fetzer Institute. Come discuss the book in preparation of hearing the author.

jeffwendyking@gmail.com & pat.stromsta@gmail.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TASK FORCE, TODAY!

Meeting @ 11:30 a.m. : Adult Faith Formation Task Force – Do you have ideas for adult classes? Is there a group you'd like to form, or a subject into which you'd like to delve more deeply? Join the Adult Faith Formation Task Force in **Room 306** as we make plans for the coming season.

THE CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS, OCT 27

Class @ 11:30 a.m. The Creeds and Confessions – How the Church has Built Community Through Statements of Belief in Complex Times – Join Pastor Chrissy in Room #306 for a Reformation Sunday discussion of the Book of Confessions and the church's call to speak out in tumultuous times about what we believe and who, and whose, we are.

GOLDEN GATHERINGS

Join us for lunch on Thursday Oct. 24 at 11:30 a.m., FPC Dining Room. Our guest speaker is from Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging, we will discuss how to safely age in place at home with the support of local resources. Come for lunch, fellowship, and learning! This will be a recurring series sponsored by the FPC Deacons. Rsvp, Pastor Amber: ambarn@fpckzoo.org scan QR code or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/5t4b8j7x>





HOLIDAY BAZAAR! DEC. 8!

GOOD NEWS

We have a beautiful new sign on our Lovell Street entrance! And a brand new roof as well! Thanks to the diligence and perseverance of Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, and our friends in Property & Maintenance:)

PILGRIMAGE TO GHOST RANCH

Tentative dates: April 4-11. Cost: ~\$1300 / person, plus airfare (depending on participants). Ghost Ranch is a Presbyterian Conference Center northwest of Santa Fe, NM. Hike, visit a museum, ride horseback, practice art, and explore the topography so inspired Georgia O'Keefe. Pastor Seth will center us in desert spirituality, from the early church through the ages. Insights will be enhanced by ancient Chaco culture and the contemporary Monastery of Christ in the Desert. Spots will be limited. Contact Seth by November 3, if interested.

sethw@fpckzoo.org

EL CAMINO TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Tentative dates: August 26—September 6. Cost: ~\$1800 / person, plus airfare (depending on participants). This pilgrimage centers on walking around 100 miles over nine days (~11 miles per day). We begin and end the day together, staying in clean, comfortable simple hotels. Along the way, we proceed at our own pace, together or alone, with the aid of taxis or not. Each *Camino* experience is your own! Daily prayer and conversation will be enhanced by ordinary life witnessed and shared, in the company of so many saints gone before. Spots will be limited. Contact Seth by November 3, if interested.

sethw@fpckzoo.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR - 2024

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 9:00 a.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Lectionary Group**, Room 302
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Room 208
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**, Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**, Preschool-Grade 6
- 11:15 a.m. **Adult Ed Task Force**, Room 306
- 6:00 p.m. **Middle School T.A.G.**, FPC Kitchen

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, Room 306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV Red Door Dinner**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**, Room 306

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**, Library
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Room 306
- 11:00 p.m. **Golden Gatherings Luncheon**, Gathering Place
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 2:00 p.m. **Healthy House Meeting**, Room 306
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 5:00 p.m. **Kalamazoo Literacy Council**, Dining Room
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 6:00 p.m. **Middle School T.A.G.**, Halloween Party/Movie Night @ FPC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 9:00 a.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Room 208
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**, Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**, Preschool-Grade 7
- 11:30 a.m. **Class: The Creeds & Confessions**, Room 306
- 1:00 p.m. **High School Youth Group** @ Gull Meadow Farms

COPIES OF RECENT SERMONS

In response to popular request, printed copies of recent sermons are available on the table in the Narthex, or electronically on our website. (Or contact a pastor directly!)

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 W. SOUTH STREET, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007
FPCKZOO.ORG • FACEBOOK.COM/ASANCTUARYINTHECITY
PHONE: 269.344.0119/FAX

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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 Annamarie Groenenboom , Associate Pastor, x219	annamariieg@fpckzoo.org
Michael Montgomery , Director of Music, x220	michaelm@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Amber Nettleton , Associate Pastor, x212	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, x203	sethw@fpckzoo.org
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury , Associate Pastor, x204	chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221: Jennie Barry, Bob Brush, Bensan Howard, Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt • **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

October 27
Reformation Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:28-34

November 3
All Saints Sunday / Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 25:6-9; Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21

November 10
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
1 Kings 17:8-16; Mark 12:38-44

November 17
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
The Rev. Amber Nettleton
Psalm 16; Mark 13:1-8

*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.*