



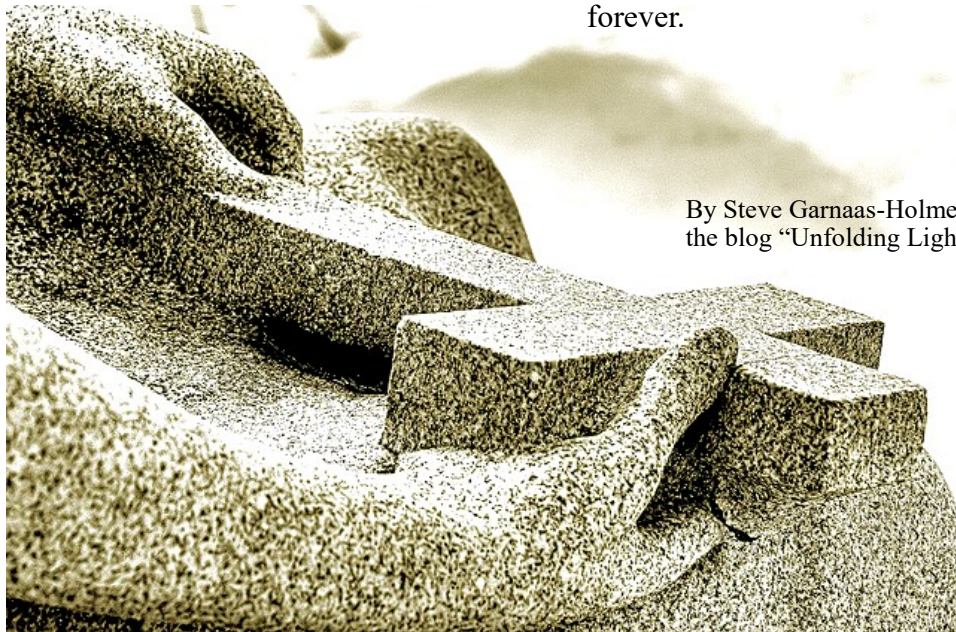
KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH

THE TEMPLE DID COME DOWN,
impossibly, the great twin towers fell,
and autumn leaves,
civilizations fell like desert rain,
your mother died,
your body, once naïve and strong
is slow and weak with wisdom.
Thrown or gently tugged,
it all comes down.
And here you are.

The present moment
is the only permanence.
You too some day will fall,
be born anew,
and leave here in your empty place
nothing but love.
In the world inside this world
when all is sand it is
the only thing still standing.

IN ALL THAT'S LOST,
oh, everything that passes,
in love alone you fall
into the arms of the Beloved
forever.



By Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
the blog "Unfolding Light"

NOVEMBER 17, 2024 TWENTY-SIXTH 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 Prelude in C Major J.S. Bach
Amazing Grace arr. Margaret Goldston

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 from Psalm 146
We gather to praise our God.
The One who created everything;
the One who keeps faith with us.
We gather to follow Jesus.
Who comes to build justice on the ruins of despair; who comes to set us free
from our fears.
We gather to listen to the Holy Spirit.
Who teaches us to care for the most vulnerable; who is our firm foundation amidst
the shifting sands of change.

* HYMN #463 *How Firm a Foundation* John Rippons

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have to admit, Holy Listener, that we are more likely to be irritated by the lives of others, rather than being provoked to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair.
Forgive us, Rock of Redemption. Cleanse our hearts, so we might be more loving; keep us on the path of faithfulness, so we might find those whom we are called to serve. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prayer continues in silence

KYRIE #577

Lord, Have Mercy

Dinah Reindorf

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Friends, trust in God the giver and renewer of life. God's Spirit raised Jesus from death, and sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor. The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles, engages us, claims us, feeds us, and calls us to serve.

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 Jesus Christ!

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to live holy and joyful lives. In a broken and fearful world, the 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 #583

Taizé

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

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 7th Grade.
Infants & children up through age 4 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, open our hearts and minds to receive good news passed on to us. As we hear a word of grace, fill the vessels of our hearts with knowledge and inspiration that never runs dry. So may we grow in hope and faithful service, becoming your love for others, in the name of Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 16

Old Testament, p. 495

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Beatitudes

H.R. Evans
text from Matthew 5

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.
Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heav'n.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you,
Blessed are ye when men shall persecute you,
And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.

Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is thy reward in Heaven!
Rejoice, be exceeding glad and glorify the Father in Heav'n.

SECOND READING

Mark 13:1-8

New Testament p. 50

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

Shifting Sands

* HYMN #353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Edward Mote

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

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Andrew Hakes

* 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
Whether out of our scarcity, or from our abundance, we pray that these gifts
might offer life instead of despair, hope instead of grief, and grace instead of fear.
This we pray 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
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 #766

The Church of Christ Cannot be Bound

Adam Tice

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

IN MEMORIAM

Tim Aldrich

January 15, 1951 – November 11, 2024

Memorial Service on November 23 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary, reception in the Gathering Place.

If you are interested in ushering this service, please get in touch with

kellys@fpckzoo.org

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
The Reverend Amber Nettleton
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury

SOUND TEAM:

Bob Murray, Kurt Grossman

MUSIC

Michael Montgomery
Autumn, organist
Church Choir
Red Door Ringers
Sandra Edwards, piano
Erika Mehring, cantor

ACOLYTE

Mason Coleman

READER

Paul Clements

GREETERS: Grace Cook, Lovell; Linda Swope, South

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 **NANCY JOHNSON** 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.

Kristen Allen	JoAnne Dunlop	Robyn Lewis	Nan Munn
Brad Allen	Sue Forsch	David Lewis	John Munn
Miriam Bauserman	Peg Hajek	Benjamin Lewis	Carol Noland
Bob Bauserman	Diane Heckler	Zachary Lewis	Tom Noland
Jeanne Case	Judy Johnson	Jim Lewis	Carrie Palmer
Rob Case	Robert Leasure	Karen Lewis	Chris Palmer
Ian Case	Jonathan Leasure	Mark Loehrke	Sally Pitt-Van Buren
Amelia Case	William Leasure	Diane Marsom	Nancy Raklovits
Donita DeBruin	Sarah Leasure	John Marsom	Marshall Rutz
Gary DeBruin	Emma Leasure	Michelle Molitor	Jamie Schnur
Shelly Denny	Sharon Lenderink	Matt Molitor	Jack Schnur
Joan Dewit	Timothy Lenderink	Michelle Molitor	Jalynn Schnur
Rob Dewit		Jack Molitor	Jakob Schnur
		Lila Molitor	Jim Van Buren

SENIOR RECITAL: MARYSOL MILLAR

Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. At the WMU Dalton Recital Hall (Free). In gratitude for the support this church has given Marysol as she has learned and grown, she and her family would like to invite everyone to her senior recital as she nears the end of her WMU journey.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY, NOV. 24

Session has called for a congregational meeting in the Sanctuary immediately following worship on Sunday, November 24. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- To elect individuals to serve as Deacons, Elders, and Nominating committee members;
- To approve terms of call for Pastor Seth Weeldreyer for 2024.

No other business will be conducted at that time.

GOLDEN GATHERINGS

Join us in the Dining Room for lunch and a presentation on Thursday November 21st at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker is our own cybersecurity professional, Rick Wielopolski. Rick will be presenting and taking questions on issues related to email scams, mail fraud, and other cyber issues targeted at older populations. Come for lunch, fellowship, and learning! This is a recurring lunch series sponsored by the FPC Deacons.

Please rsvp to Pastor Amber at ambarn@fpckzoo.org

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – THANK YOU!

As of Tuesday, November 12, we have received 114 pledges totaling \$514,840. This week we are pleased to be able to ***Open Another Heart*** on the posters in the Narthex and the Gathering Place! We are very grateful for your pledges of support for the work of our church!



CTV: ALL WE NEED IS YOU!

Have you been waiting for an opportunity to cook for the CTV Red Door Dinner? Now is your chance! We have a freezer packed full of ground beef and chicken breast, a recipe book full of easy and loved meals to feed the masses, and a beautiful kitchen full of all the things you'll need to make the meal you choose. All we need is you! If you'd like to be part of this ministry, please reach out to Meredith for more information or to sign-up.

mereditha@fpckzoo.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SAVORING THE LECTIONARY

9:00 a.m. on the first and third Sunday of each month. Join with us in Room 302. 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 facilitates the group. Join as you are able.

edykhuis@yahoo.com

NOODLING AT NOON

On Tuesdays at noon in the Library ... On November 19, we'll conclude our shared reflection on excerpts from Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. 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. 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. We have such a big tent approach to the way we think it can sometimes be hard to point to the basics of "what Presbyterians believe". Let's talk about the basics and all the wonderful room for diversity within them! Gather at 9:30 for coffee and conversation and begin with prayer at 9:45.

chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT

Begins on Dec. 5. *Disrupting Darkness* is a Bible Study that explores Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We explore the broader story of Jesus' birth to more effectively convey the full depth and significance of its meaning. Many of us think that we know this story well. However, we often fail to capture the subversive and relevant nature of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany stories.

In the midst of the "big commercial racket" of the season (as Lucy from Charlie Brown would say), we hope *Disrupting Darkness* will create a quiet space for all of us to discern how Jesus' birth calls us to live, love and act. The class will meet in Room #306 for coffee at 9:30, for prayer and lesson at 9:45. Pat Stromsta will facilitate this class.

pat.stromsta@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be Sunday School for all children in preschool through 7th Grade, immediately after the Children's Moment.

**The 2nd -7th graders will be practicing with the Chime Choir at the end of Sunday School. Parents can pick children up in Room 314 approximately 10 minutes after the conclusion of worship each week. Please contact Meredith if you have questions.*

On December 1, all Sunday School grades are invited to Room 304 following the Children's Message for movie and snack time while we fit the children for Christmas program costumes! Parents can pick children up immediately after worship on that day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL T.A.G.

Meets this week from 6 -7:30 at the church for all students in grades 6-9.

NEXT week, Sunday, November 24, T.A.G. is going bowling at Revel and Roll from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

TAKING ROOT—YOUNG ADULTS

Our multi-church group for 20-something's, will meet on December 8 from 12-2:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Lunch will be served and all are welcome! Please contact Meredith with questions!

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

Adult Education in conjunction with Hearts to Hand Card Ministry is hosting a holiday crafting session after worship on Sunday, November 24, 2024. You will be given materials and instructions and by the end of our time together will have your own Advent decoration. These are small items and suitable for a locker shelf, dorm room, workspace or a down-sized apartment. So that anyone who wants to participate can, crafts for children will be available for them to work on while you work on yours. Come and join the fun as we prepare for Advent. Please see Ellen Dykhuis in the Gathering Space to sign up so we can ensure we have materials available for you, or you may contact her via email at:

edykhuis@yahoo.com

GOOD NEWS: A NOTE FROM YOUR DEACONS!

Your designated gifts and “loose coins” in the Sunday offering plate continue to enable the ministry of the Deacons in our ability to support the financial needs of church members. We are happy to share that, this year, the Deacons have confidentially supported individuals and families in need of food, rent, and personal assistance. We thank you for your continued support and financial gifts toward this important ministry in our life together.

THE RICKMAN HOUSE

Did you know that FPC hosts Bingo monthly at Rickman House in downtown Kalamazoo? This long-time ministry of our church caps off each year with a Christmas Bingo party, complete with *PRIZES*. If you'd like to help make Christmas special for the residents of Rickman House, please consider donating an item or two for party prizes:

Items needed for Christmas Bingo:

BUS TOKENS!

(These are one item everyone at Rickman House needs to help get around town!)

Boots size 7, 9W, 11W

Winter coats in size 2X and 3X

Examples of additional items needed can be found here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/TZ3U6F8XJFWM?ref_=wl_share

All items can be dropped off in the Rickman House bin located in the mail room at church. Please contact Mike Boersma with any questions: mike.boersma@gmail.com

KIA GALLERY TOUR DECEMBER 1

Join members of the music ministry for a docent-led tour of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, including an in depth look at Henry O. Tanner's *The Visitation*. We will eat lunch together after worship before heading to the Museum. A \$10 suggested donation covers lunch and admission. Please let Michael know if you plan to attend ASAP:

michaelm@fpckzoo.org

Holiday

BAZAAR! DEC. 8!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 205

will be selling Christmas Wreaths before and after church service on Sunday December 1. They will also be selling at the Church Christmas Bazaar on December 8. \$35.00 per wreath.

WEEKLY CALENDAR - 2024

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- 9:00 a.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Lectionary Group**, Room 300
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Nursery, Room 208
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**,
Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 am. **Sunday School**, Preschool -
Grade 7
- 11:30 a.m. **Volunteer Celebration**,
Gathering Place
- 6:00 p.m. **T.A.G. 6/7/8/9**, Youth Room,
Dining Room, Game Room

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling@Noon**, Library
- 4:00 p.m. **Stewardship Meeting**, Archives

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Session Meeting**, Room 306

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**, Library
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Room 306
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Rooms 314/315
- 11:30 a.m. **Golden Gatherings**, Dining Room
- 2:00 p.m. **Healthy House Meeting**, Room 306
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, Rooms 314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers Bell Choir**,
Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. **Poetry Festival Meeting**, Library
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee Meeting**,
Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 9:00 a.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. **Child Care**, Nursery, Room 208
- 9:30 a.m. **Gathering Grounds**,
Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am. **Congregational Meeting**,
Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. **Getting Ready for Advent
Workshop**, Dining Room
- 1:30 p.m. **T.A.G. 6/7/8/9**, Bowling @
Revel and Roll, Stadium Drive

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MON - THURS
9 A.M. - 3 P.M. - CLOSED FRIDAY - SUNDAY

"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

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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: Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry, Bob Brush,
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

November 24

Reign of Christ Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 138; John 18:33-38a, 20:24-31

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 1:68-79

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 12:2-5; Luke 1:46-55/Luke 3:11-18

*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.*