

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"



Now, you may be an atheist, an agnostic, a Christian, a Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or something else, but this posture of respect and reverence, this awareness of the infinite dignity of each person you meet, is a precondition for seeing people well. ... When you're practicing Illuminationism, you're offering a gaze that says, "I want to get to know you and be known by you." It's a gaze that positively answers the question everybody is unconsciously asking themselves when they meet you: "Am I a person to you? Do you care about me? Am I a priority for you?" ... I've come to believe that wise people don't tell us what to do; they start by witnessing our story. The anecdotes, rationalizations, and episodes we tell, and see us in a noble struggle. They see the way we are navigating the dialectics of life ... Their essential gift is receptivity, the capacity to receive what you are sending.

(David Brooks, *How to Really Know a Person*)

JULY 13, 2025, FIFTH 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 Old Hundredth
**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

Jesus calls us through the tumult, through our toil and hours of ease:
“follow me, in all cares and pleasures, Christian, love me more than these.”
Jesus calls us in joys and sorrows, from the worship of gold or illusions we're told.
Loving you, God, may we hear you call, and give our hearts to serve you most of all.

- * HYMN 298 Lord, You Give the Great Commission Abbot's Leigh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of All Life, you call us to grow in love. You send us to share good news of hope.
Yet we stumble in service and falter in faithfulness, as we center too much in ourselves.
We're here to say sorry for all the times we don't bear the fruit of heaven among us—
for forgetting your gracious generosity and ignoring others' need for ours;
for harming community with unkind words, selfish choices, and careless complicity;
for abusing creation when you trust us to nurture abundant life for all.
Hear us as we hold regrets in this silence and release them into your mercy.**

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE #551

Lord, Have Mercy

Land of Rest

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: preaching and teaching, healing and forgiving, calling all to repent and believe the gospel. God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil.

Loving us still, God frees us to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.

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 a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage to pray and to bear witness as we work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks of holy, joyful lives. 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

Vasile

**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.

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

Children: You are loved!

Congregation: **You are loved!**

There will be no Sunday School this morning. All children are invited to remain in Worship. The nursery is open for children age 3 and under.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In every age, God, you give servants gifts of courage, faith, and joyful trust as you send people out to spread good news of Holy Love. As we open our hearts to hear you now, grant us a like Spirit in our time and place. Further your sacred purpose through us, with hope restored and new ways to touch the hearts of all, in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST READING

Luke 10:1-11

New Testament, p.71

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Psalm 136

Marty Haugen

We give thanks unto you, O God of might
For your love is never ending
We give thanks unto you, the God of gods,
For your love is never ending
You have filled all the skies with glory and light
For your love... (etc)
The sun for the day and the moon for night
From of old you have led your people in faith
You have shown your compassion, strength, and love
You have opened the sea and brought your people through
Brought them into a land that flows with life
You remember your promise age to age
You show mercy on those of low degree

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:1-14

New Testament, p.199

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

Fruitful

“... as you bear fruit in every good work and grow in the knowledge of God.” (Colossians 1:10)

* HYMN 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm Gonna Live

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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

arr. Kenneth Morris
and Phillip Keveren

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #701 Lord, Prepare Me

Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER *(Continuing to pray in unison)* from Hymn 526 by Fred Kaan

**God, help us our talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy;
teaching people to live, to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus calls us in and sends us out, bearing fruit in a world of doubt.
Give us good news to tell, grace to share, so you Immanuel may be known everywhere.
Amen.**

PRAYERS 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 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Maryton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

Emma Lou Diemer

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

MUSIC

Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery
Summer Choir
Sandra Edwards, piano
Caitlin Brooks, guitar

SOUND TEAM

Chris Honeysett
Bob Murray

ACOLYTE

Deb Bender

READER

Alfred B Garcia

GREETERS

Steve Johnkoski, Lovell Street
Joe & Catherine Gibson, South Street

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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 KAREN HASSLER 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.

Analouise Appel	Cheryl Fritz	Addison Misner	Julie Shaw
Matthew Beaver	Cory Fritz	Audra Misner	Gayle Sparks
Aimee Beehler	Olivia Fritz	Conner Misner	Kenneth Sparks
Morgan Beehler	Owen Patrick Fritz	Warren Misner II	Jim Stephenson
Valerie Burke	Michelle Greve	Albert Newman	Deborah Taylor
John Cooper	Howard Hoffman	Emmit Newman	Kaylin Taylor
Karen Cooper	Carol Hutton	Jennifer Newman	Rick Taylor
Carole Cupps	Dave Hutton	Mark Ohrstrom	Aaron Van Heest
Sam Cupps	Keith Johnson	Mark Olmsted	Angela Van Heest
Dylan Davis	Nancy Johnson	Vic Onweller	Maya Van Heest
RJ Davis	Kristen Kern-Beaver	Paulette Rayel	Rosa Van Heest
Jim DeBruyn	Marilyn Lamb	Jeff Scott	Kay Vermeulen
Sally DeBruyn	Tom Lamb	Jeffrey Shaw	

CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL -

There will be no Sunday School this week. All children are invited to stay in Worship.

NURSERY -

The nursery is open each Sunday morning, starting at 9:45, for children age 3 and under in Room 204. Parents will be given a pager in the event they need to be contacted during worship.

YOUTH MISSION– IT’S TIME!

The youth mission trip heads to West Virginia on August 2 and we need your help!

The community we serve is quite remote so all food and supplies need to go with us. If you can help by providing an item or two from our list, **please sign up** with the link in the announcements email (also found on our website events page). Donations are due by July 30. If you’d rather make a financial contribution, simply note “Youth Mission” and drop it in the offering plate or send it to Louise in the office. Contact mereditha@fpckzoo.org with any questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

VBS DAY CAMP IS FILLING UP!

If your rising kindergartners through rising 6th graders are interested in attending Vacation Bible School Day Camp, **please register right away to be sure you get a spot!** This camp is no cost for participants and runs from August 11-14. Daily hours are 8:30 am—4:30 pm. A link to register is in the weekly email. For more information please contact Meredith: mereditha@fpckzoo.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PRAYER PARTNERS

At 9:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month, members of the congregation gather for prayer for the church, the community, and the world.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Women’s Bible Study restart information coming soon!

NOODLING AT NOON

Noodling is paused for the Summer!

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY SESSION ON JULY 2, 2025

A motion to approve a financial appeal from the FPC Music Ministry for a free will offering to be taken during an Ascension Day concert in February 2026.

A motion to approve a distribution of up to \$1000 from the Eliane Kuney Fund to support Samantha Finjap's attendance as a young adult delegate to the UN High Level Political Forum as a representative of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations.

A motion to approve a \$6000 distribution from the Elaine Kuney Fund to cover costs of Summer Bible Camp.

A motion to approve a \$2000 distribution from the Ford Neff fund to be given to Kalamazoo United Day of Service (KUDOS).

A motion to approve a distribution of up to \$6,000 from the Lois Jean Powell Fund to cover the cost of repair of the leather reservoirs of the Cassavant Organ.

A motion to elect Elders Kathy Jennings and Mary Lou Boughton as commissioners to the September 13, 2025 Stated Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, MI.

A motion to appoint Elder Pam Zandt to serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee as the second Session representative, serving along with Moderator Ginny Dell.

A motion to call a Special Congregational Election Meeting after worship on July 27 for the purpose of electing Andrew Bol to another one-year term as Youth Elder.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE

Session has called for a Special Congregational Election Meeting in the Sanctuary immediately following worship on July 27 for the purpose of electing a Youth Elder to a one-year term according to Church by-laws, serving from August 2025 through July 2026.

NURTURE CHILDREN & YOUTH AT CHURCH

There will be an informational meeting and training for all who are interested in working with children, either in Sunday School or nursery, during the new program year. Please join us Sunday, August 24 following worship, in classroom 304. If you are interested, but unable to be at the meeting, please contact Meredith: mereditha@fpckzoo.org

SUMMER CHOIR

This "pick-up" style group prepares simple anthems for worship each week. With no additional weekly rehearsal and no long-term commitment, this is a great chance to give choir a try. We meet at 9 o'clock Sunday mornings. **Ages middle school and up are welcome.**

SUNSET PRAYER VIGILS

You are invited to join a weekly 30-minute "candlelight" vigil –featuring song and prayer– in solidarity with those affected by the current administration. Gather 10 minutes before sunset on the Bronson Park side of First Congregational Church on Mondays.

FAITHFUL WITNESS WEDNESDAYS

All are invited to gather on the steps of Kalamazoo City Hall at Noon each Wednesday, along with multiple interfaith clergy colleagues, for a time of prayer, reflection, and call for action. This nonpartisan vigil focuses on the unique opportunity of faith communities to raise a prophetic and pastoral call, urging congressional leaders to act for the common good and protect their role as a check and balance to the executive branch.

WALK FOR RECOVERY

Mothers of Hope invites you to join the community on Saturday, August 2nd for the 6th Annual Walk for Recovery. This substance abuse awareness event celebrates recovery, reduces stigmas and supports a vision of a healthy community free of substance use disorders. *Recovery IS Possible!* Please consider signing up to volunteer at the event or to register to walk. Links are in our weekly email announcements.

ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

You're invited to this 5th annual community event hosted by the Northside Ministerial Alliance. Free and open to the public, this day of joy, promoting peace and uplifting youth, is August 23rd. Come for resources, food, fun and connection: 11 AM– 3 PM at Lincoln Elementary.

GATHERING GROUNDS NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers to help with Sunday morning coffee before and after worship this summer. If you haven't done it before, you can partner with an experienced "barista"! Please sign up on the sheet by the coffee makers in the Gathering Place. Thank you!

OFFICE CLOSURE

On Wednesday, July 16,
the office staff will be away on retreat.
The office will reopen on the 17th.

PRAYING IN COLOR

Borrowed from Sybil MacBeth's book by the same name, praying in color is adaptable to all kinds of prayer and meditation. No art or prayer skills are necessary. Some ways a willing mind and open heart can use this concept:

- Start doodling about a line of Scripture, a hymn or poem.
- Let gratitude for specific joys, big and small, guide your hand to name and color those joys.
- Doodle with no agenda—turn off your words and practice moving into listening mode.
- Write the names of people you're praying for to initiate doodling.



Prayer Chain

Digital form on website.
Scroll down to "Prayer Chain".



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JULY 13

- 9:00 a.m. **Prayer Partners**, Room 301
- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care, Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

MONDAY, JULY 14

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Crafters**, Crafting
Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Chair Yoga—all levels**,
Gathering Place
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, JULY 15

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Panera
Bread, West Main Street
- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

**Office Closed for Staff Retreat
(No Noon Prayer Service)**

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m. **Racecraft Book
Club**, Library
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R

THURSDAY, JULY 17

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
- 2:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315

FRIDAY, JULY 18

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308

SUNDAY, JULY 20

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Cards On Display**,
Gathering Place
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care, Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAY & SATURDAY

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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 , Parish Associate	annamarieg@fpckzoo.org
Michael Montgomery , Director of Music, x220	michaelm@fpckzoo.org
Dawn Reitano , Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Short , Operations Coordinator, x205	kellys@fpckzoo.org
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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.

July 20

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 27

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

August 3

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion**

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43

August 10

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Young Adult Mission Trip Reflections**

*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.*