

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



"Might I," quavered Mary, "might I have a bit of earth?"

"Earth!" he repeated. "What do you mean?"

"To plant seeds in — to make things grow — to see them come alive."

— Frances H. Burnett, *The Secret Garden*



JULY 20, 2025, 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

St. Columba

Healey Willan

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

Come, all who are weary from the world's demands.
We come seeking rest, renewal, and a word of hope.
Like Martha, we carry many burdens. Like Mary, we long to listen.
**In this place, may we find balance—between doing and being,
between striving and stillness.**
God meets us in the garden of life—
To tend our souls, to root us in love, to teach us what matters most.

- * HYMN 757 Today We All Are Called Kingsfold

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious Gardener of our souls, you planted us in a world of beauty and abundance,
but we confess how quickly we lose sight of the wonder. We busy ourselves with worry,
measure our worth by our productivity, and overlook the people right in front of us.**

**Forgive us, O God, for the ways we neglect both the stillness and the struggle.
Help us return to You—to be nourished by Your Word,
to sit at the feet of Christ, and to be re-rooted in compassion and justice.
In silence, we offer the places in our hearts and in our world that need tending...**

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

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and proclaimed, dig deep in our hearts.

Break up the hard soil, pull out what chokes our growth,

and plant seeds of truth, healing, and courage.

Let us hear not just with our ears, but with lives ready to bear fruit. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10

Old Testament, p.14

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

arr. K. Lee Scott

Text by Thomas Lynch

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee;
And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal;
And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee;
And with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear;
And with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee;
Separate from sin I would and cherish all things good,
And whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
Help me now thy pow'r to see, I would be like thee;
'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield;
Let thy word my refuge be, Lord, thine the victory.

SECOND READING

Luke 10:38-42

New Testament, p.72

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

Lessons from the Garden: Tending the Soil

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed."

Luke 10:41

* HYMN 308

O God in Whom All Life Begins

Noel

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 ANTHEM

Magnificat

Calvin Hampton
text from Luke 1

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For He that is mighty hath done for me great things and holy is His name.
And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.
He hath shown strength with His arm;
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and hath exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away.
He hath holpen (helped) His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy,
As He spake to our forefathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

* 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)*

**God of abundance, every seed begins small, and every gift,
when offered in love, can grow into something holy.
Receive these offerings—our money, our time, our energy—
and use them to nourish your justice, to cultivate your peace,
and to tend the needs of your people.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray....

Sung in call and response with the cantor.

**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;
and 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 14

For The Beauty of the Earth

Dix

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

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PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS	MUSIC	SOUND TEAM
Chrissy Westbury	Autumn, organist	Mark Ohrstrom
Frank Demcovitz	Michael Montgomery	Dana Underwood
Kathy Jennings	Summer Choir	
	Susan Anthony, soprano	
READER	ACOLYTE	
Rick Wielopolski	Bob Cowell	

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 LOIS HEUCHERT 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.

Lynn Arwady	David Campbell	Bruce Lubbers	Steve Pifer
Barbara Baker	Kathy Campbell	Mark Lubbers	Barbara Rider
Dick Baker	Aedin Clements	Ruth Lubbers	Donald Roberts
Jan Bedrosian	Anna Clements	Mary Ann Maxwell	Leslie Roberts
Andrew Bol	Bridin Clements	Joanne Meier	David Rozelle
Annaliese Bol	Paul Clements	Bev Murray	Sandy Rozelle
Bridgette Bol	Jeff Daniels	Cameryn Murray	Fred Sammons
Chris Bol	Lillian Daniels	Nathan Murray	Judy Swisher
Julie Bol	Macy Daniels	Robert Murray	David Warren
Sidney Brush	Marcia Daniels	Lisa Padgett	Michelle Warren
Robert Brush Jr.	Julie Heath	Rob Padgett III	JoAnn Yochim
Bonnie Camburn	Edmund Kuczynski	Allene Page	

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers are given in the glory of God,
in loving memory of Alan Chase
from his wife Sarah.

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.



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!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—NEW STUDY BEGINNING JULY 31

Thursdays at 9:30 for coffee and fellowship, study begins with prayer at 9:45, Room #306

Join Pastor Chrissy for a study on the Fruits of the Spirit, using the book *Tending the Wild Garden* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. In a world obsessed with appearances, *Tending the Wild Garden* invites readers to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Spirit, where love, joy, peace, and other virtues grow naturally. Pastor and author Eugenia Gamble challenges the common view of the fruit of the Spirit as a checklist, offering instead a vision of spiritual growth rooted in God's nurturing presence. Through thoughtful reflection and guidance, this book helps us tend the soil of our souls so that the Spirit's fruit may flourish in us. The book is available through your favorite online or local bookstore, but it is not necessary to purchase the book to participate in the study.

NOODLING AT NOON

Noodling is paused for the Summer!

CHAIR YOGA WITH ANA

Let's meet in the Gathering Place on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. for 45 minutes of chair yoga! Bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothes/shoes! Questions? Call or text Ana at 269-352-1733. ALL levels of experience welcome!

DOWNTOWN WALKING GROUP

Mondays at Noon, meeting at the Lovell Street entrance:

Want an opportunity to get some fresh air, to connect with others, and just to move your body? Come join in a new walking group on Mondays. Meet Pastor Chrissy at the Lovell Street entrance at Noon. From there, we'll wander our neighborhood and see where the Spirit leads us!

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.**

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.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP COMING SOON!

Join us for Sunday evening worship at 5:00 p.m. at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 West Q Ave) on the first and third Sundays of each month, **beginning August 14**. This will be an opportunity for us to explore a variety of ways to worship in a more informal setting, offering a fresh and meaningful way to connect with God and one another. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE -

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

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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, JULY 21

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Group**, Lovell
Street Entrance
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee
Meeting**, Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Chair Yoga—all levels**,
Gathering Place

TUESDAY, JULY 22

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. **Hope for Creation Board
Meeting**, Library
- 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
- 12:00 p.m. **Just Sanctuary Book Club**,
Library
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315

FRIDAY, JULY 25

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

SUNDAY, JULY 27

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Choir Room
- 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

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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
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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 27
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

August 10
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Young Adult Mission Trip Reflections

August 3
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43

August 17
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Hebrews 11:1-3, 29-12:2

*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.*