

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



When Roots Run Deep

When roots run deep
there's a stately tree
above, firm in its stance
waving for nothing
as it clings to the roots
that run deep beneath

when roots run deep
when the strength of the tree
is all you think you can see
you have forgotten what
lies underneath
the foundation of the roots
the roots that run deep

when roots run deep
they spread, they grow,
they sink to deeper depths,
anchoring their feet
when roots run deep

~Marcie Bridges

JULY 27, 2025, SEVENTH 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 F Major

Charles Villiers Stanford

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, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One—
**We come to root ourselves in the Word,
to draw strength from prayer, to grow in grace and resilience.**
When storms rise and winds howl,
God is our steady ground.
**We are not alone— the Spirit sustains us, Christ leads us,
and the love of God makes us strong.**

* HYMN 175

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Gardener of our hearts, You have given us deep wells of wisdom in scripture and a direct path to you through prayer, but we confess how easily we wither. We chase distractions instead of seeking you, forgetting that our strength comes from your Spirit. We uproot ourselves from your presence and wonder why we feel shaken in the storm. Forgive us. Anchor us once more in your grace. Teach us to pray with open hearts and to listen with grounded souls, so we may live as your resilient people. Hear now, in this silence, the places in our lives and in our world where we need to find rootedness.

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.

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

Colossians 2:6-19

New Testament, p.200

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African American Spiritual

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving... more holy... like Jesus...

SECOND READING

Luke 11:1-13

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: Roots and Resilience

"Lord, teach us to pray..."

Luke 11:1

* HYMN

In the Garden

Garden

**1. I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses...**

***Refrain: And... He walks with me, and He
talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there...
None other has ever known.***

**2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing... [Refrain]**

**3. I'd stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; through the voice of
woe,
His voice to me is calling... [Refrain]**

*The underlined words indicate fermatas or
holds—where a note should be prolonged.*

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

Love Lifted Me

arr. Michael T. Smith

text by James Rowe

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore;
Very deeply pained within, sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the Sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

All my heart to Him I'll give, ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live, ever His praise I'll sing!
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful loving-service too, to Him belong.

Love! When nothing else could help, Love!
Love! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me!

* 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)*

**Generous God, you pour out blessings like rain on thirsty soil.
With grateful hearts, we offer these gifts—fruits of your goodness and signs of our
trust. May what we give today be planted in love, nurtured by your Spirit,
and bear the fruits of justice, compassion, and peace.
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 822

When We Are Living

Somos Del Señor

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G major BWV 568

J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Chrissy Westbury

Meredith Alspach

Ginny Dell

MUSIC

Michael Montgomery

Summer Choir

Erika Mehring, soloist

SOUND TEAM

Dana Underwood

Jim Van Buren

READER

Karen Hassler

GREETER

Mark Loehrke, South Street

ACOLYTE

Mark Loehrke

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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 PAUL MINERT 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.

Priscilla Blair	Hillary Cloetingh	Veronica Harik	Laureen Meeker
Sherrill Busboom	Helen Creager	Richard Hintz	Andrew Roberts
Abigail Candido	Sarah DeRusha	Sandra Hintz	Mike Ruesink
Bob Candido	Barb DeVries	Brian Hirt	Lynn Russell
Clara Candido	Diane Eberts	Connie Houts	Rick Russell
Elizabeth Candido	Randy Eberts	David Johnson	Faith Simpson
Jan Carpenter	Jackson Fiore	Sue Johnson	Martha Straatmeyer
Jamie Cloetingh	Jennifer Fiore	Cain Kortlandt	Dean Van Loo
Connor Cloetingh	John Fiore	Craig Kortlandt	Kim Van Loo
Heather Cloetingh	Miranda Fiore	Heather Kortlandt	Michael Warlick
	Bassam Harik	Rowan Kortlandt	Peggy Warlick

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by Louise and Norm McCallum
in memory of many loved ones.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY-

Session has called for a Special Congregational Election Meeting
in the Sanctuary immediately following worship today,
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.

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.

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.

!GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

Lend a hand to The Hope Garden at Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan), which is already providing fresh veggies for our community through Loaves & Fishes. Join us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wear gardening clothes. Beverages provided and restrooms available.



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 with Pastor Chrissy starting at the Lovell Street entrance. 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.**

CHAIR YOGA WITH ANA

Join us 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!

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 17**. 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!

A SACRED RESTING PLACE

As part of our care for one another in life and in death, First Presbyterian Church offers columbarium niches to members who choose cremation. The cost is \$500 per set of cremains. This sacred space provides a peaceful and lasting connection to the church community we hold dear. To learn more or reserve a niche, please contact Kelly in the church office at kellys@fpckzoo.org.

August Birthdays

AUGUST 1
Jacob Schut

AUGUST 3
Michael Bova
Diane Marsom

AUGUST 4
Nick Hunter
Wendy Miedema

AUGUST 5
Bev Murray
Jakob Schnur

AUGUST 6
Kim Cummings
Beth Dyer
Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox
Grace Kande

AUGUST 7
Annaliese Bol
Logan Brown
Carol Steinman

AUGUST 9
Scott Carter
Bob Cowell
Andrew Lenderink
Leo Thielman

AUGUST 10
Abigail Nkwewoh
John Sage

AUGUST 11
Erin Leder

AUGUST 12
Cozette Ruff

AUGUST 13
Juanita Erdos

AUGUST 14
Mason Coleman
Phyllis Thomas

AUGUST 15
Christopher Honeysett
Curtis Leibbrand
Marshall Rutz
Ronald Tanis

AUGUST 17
Jill Aspergren
Crystal Richman

AUGUST 18
David Campbell

AUGUST 19
Joan Colgren
Brittany Robbins

AUGUST 20
Mary Brooks

AUGUST 21
Sydney Wilson

AUGUST 22
Carol Barratt-Schmiede
Ashley Carter
Benji Yohe

AUGUST 23
Rosingh Amofa-Adarkwa
Rosie Yohe

AUGUST 24
Lynn Arwady

AUGUST 25
Samantha Fuehr
Jeffrey Shaw
Norma Smith

AUGUST 26
Alden Bell
Daniel Corse
Geoffrey Wardwell

AUGUST 27
Alex Coryell
Marilyn Lamb
Michael Warlick

AUGUST 28
Semashere Pegheleh
Abigail Sherrill

AUGUST 29
Alissa Britigan
David Dell
Henry Lewis

AUGUST 30
Mackenzie Jonas

AUGUST 31
Patricia Corse
Sharon Hartwigsen
Paul Perks
Carter Tuin

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, JULY 28

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. **Chair Yoga—all levels**,
Gathering Place

TUESDAY, JULY 29

- 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 30

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 10:30 a.m. **KAMSC Organ and Piano
Demonstration**, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**,
Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, Room
306
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308
- 6:00 p.m. **Memorial—Lucy Hammond**,
Pine Island Chapel

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

- 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

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	annamariieg@fpckzoo.org
Michael Montgomery , Director of Music, x220	michaelm@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.

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

August 17

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Hebrews 11:1-3, 29-12:2

August 24

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 13:1-9

*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.*