

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

Truth Anyway · Do It Anyway · Show up Anyway · Include



Up Anyway · Include Anyway · Serve Anyway · Hope Anyway · Speak

Hope Anyway · Speak Truth Anyway · Do It Anyway · Show

**Do It Anyway · Show up Anyway · Include Anyway · Serve Anyway ·
 Anyway · Serve Anyway · Hope Anyway · Speak Truth Anyway...**

AUGUST 10 2025, NINTH 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

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

Mark Sedio

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 summons us to be vessels for his word.
**We are called to serve those who are not only like ourselves,
But those who are unlike us.**
Jesus summons us to offer hope and love by living justly through him.
**By loving you, Jesus, we lift up one another, and remember
To be kind, love, and do it anyway in the name of Jesus Christ.**

- * HYMN 401 Here in This Place Gather Us In

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, in your infinite love and wisdom, you call us to always be present and devoted in each other's lives. But we confess that we ignore our neighbors' burdens when we fear that helping will not be worth it, or when we doubt our own capabilities. We hesitate to welcome differences in the people around us, and allow those differences to stop us from expressing our personal truths. And when the troubles of the world are too daunting and heavy, we sink into our worries. Forgive us for adding conditions to our service. Help us to see the ways that we can serve our neighbors, and help us view their differences as ways to come together. Give us the hope to look past our burdens, and give us the strength to do it anyway.

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, we are thankful as you build onto our hearts and minds. Allow us to see your presence in the Earth. From the mountains, to the valleys, and everything in between.

You have laid the foundation on which we build our lives, allowing us to create a stable structure for us to stand. Even if we struggle through the rocks and stones in our path, Let us do it anyway! Amen

FIRST READING

Micah 6:8

Old Testament, p.866

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Offertory

John Ness Beck
Text from Micah 6

With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before God with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
With ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give God my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O world;
He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Galatians 6:9

Romans 15:7

Mark 10:45

Romans 15:13

Proverbs 31:8-9

New Testament, p.191

New Testament, p.163

New Testament, p.47

New Testament, p.164

Old Testament, p.613

SERMON

“Do It Anyway”

* HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

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 The Greatest of These is Love

Roberta Bitgood
text from 1 Corinthians 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels,
And have not love,
I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge;
And though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains,
And have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor,
And though I give my body to be burned,
And have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind,
Love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
Doth not behave itself unseemly,
Seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked,
Thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity,
But rejoiceth in truth, beareth all things, believeth all things.

Love never faileth.

But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail;
And whether there be tongues, they shall cease;
And whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

But love never faileth.
And now abideth faith, hope, love; these three:
But the greatest of these is love.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #701 (*sung twice*) 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 765 May the God of Hope Go With Us Argentina

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata Brevis Daniel Gawthrop

Music reprinted with permission under One License
731778-A. All rights reserved.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury
Young Adult Mission Team

MUSIC

Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery
Summer Choir
Helen Rathbun, flute
Brian Nederveld, tenor

SOUND TEAM

Chris Honeysett
Dirk Westbury

GREETERS

Jim and Sally DeBruyn, South Street
Mark Loehrke, Lovell Street

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 SANNY NUTTER 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.

Jean Appel	Evelyn Garner	Georgia Keep	Patricia Mullen
Deb Bender	Nancy Harwood	Joan Keep	Marion Palmer/Braak
Kim Cummings	Jerre James	Marilyn Lindbeck	Susanne Rose
Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox	Ralph Jarl	Jim Mitchell	Carol Schreiner

IN MEMORIAM

Beloved friend and church member Bob Poel passed away on August 4th.
A service and reception are being planned for August 13, beginning at 2 PM.

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.

WELCOME HOME

YOUTH MISSION GROUP!

Thank you again to everyone who supported us with supplies, homemade treats and lots of prayers. Our time at our favorite little green church, a home away from home, was precious and impactful.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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, inspired by *Tending the Wild Garden* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. In a world focused on appearances, this book invites us to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Spirit, where love, joy, peace, and other virtues grow naturally. Gamble offers a vision of spiritual growth rooted in God's nurturing presence, rather than a checklist of traits. Through reflection and guidance, we learn to tend the soil of our souls so the Spirit's fruit can flourish. The book is optional and available online or at local bookstores.

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.

USHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for usher volunteers for the Memorial Service honoring Bob Poel on *Tuesday, August 13, at 2:00 PM*. If you're available to help welcome guests and support the service, please contact Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org. Your presence will be a meaningful part of this special remembrance.

CHAIR YOGA SCHEDULE CHANGE

August 11, the next yoga session, will be the last one for a while. If you can attend, please join us in the Gathering Place at 6:30 p.m. for 45 minutes of accessible chair yoga! All levels of experience welcome! Bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothes/shoes! Questions? Call or text Ana at 269-352-1733.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

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!

NURTURE CHILDREN AT CHURCH

There will be an informational meeting and training for all who are interested in working with children, either in Sunday School or the 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

ADULT CHILDREN UPDATE 2025

If you have Adult Children listed on your profile, please update your contact information by visiting the link from the QR code.

Thank you, in advance, for helping us be good stewards of our ministry, our care, and our resources.



DOWNTOWN WALKING GROUP

Want an opportunity to get some fresh air, to connect with others, and just to move your body? Come join the Monday walking group with Pastor Chrissy starting 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.**

#KUDOS

Kalamazoo United Day of Service would love your help to form a team to help winterize homes in the Northside neighborhood. Supplies will be partially provided from the Ford Neff fund, as approved by Session in July. Sign up now for the October 3rd work, fellowship and outreach opportunity. Questions? Contact Wendy King at jeffwendyking@gmail.com

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Would you like to provide flowers for the Chancel, at the front of the Sanctuary, in honor or memory of a loved one? An updated sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Once you sign up, please be sure to contact dawnr@fpckzoo.org so that we can put an announcement together for you. Flowers need to be brought to service on Sundays or delivered by Noon the prior Friday. Thank you!

CTV: RED DOOR DINNER

Gather your family or besties and make plans to help with the dinner we host each week for our downtown neighbors. More than providing a meal, this is a time of fellowship and relationship building. We have a list of recipes available adapted to meet our quantity needs, kitchen tutorials are available, and we even have someone to do dishes, so clean-up is covered!

Plan ahead for the fall and get to the signup calendar outside of Meredith's office.

We can't make this important ministry of our church work without your help!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The updated printed directory is available in the church mailroom. Feel free to stop by and pick one up. If you'd prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please get in touch with Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org. A Deacon copy is also available by request.

SUNDAY HELPERS

Thanks to all greeters, acolytes and lay readers! Your hospitality and participation is appreciated. Please look at your calendar and consider signing up to serve in this easy and fulfilling way. You'll find the sign-up poster in the Gathering Place.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

- 9:00 a.m. **Prayer Partners**, Room 301
- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Choir Room
- 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. **Sign-up Table—ISAAC**
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care, Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. **Memorial—Elyn Sue Knappen**, East Transept

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**, Dining Room/Room 308
- 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. **Piano Tuning**
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Group**, Lovell Street Entrance
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Crafters**, Crafting Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Chair Yoga—all levels**, Gathering Place

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**, Dining Room/Room 308
- 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. **Piano Tuning**
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. **Presbytery of Detroit**, Room 306
- 7:00 p.m. **Michigan Pilgrimage Leadership Council**, Library

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. **Memorial—Bob Poel**, Reception to follow
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R.
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Comm.**, Archives

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, D.R./#308
- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
- 11:00 a.m. **Memorial—Diane Heckler**, Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance Committee**, Library

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

- 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Cards on Display**, Gathering Place
- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care, Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**

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

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 , Parish Associate	annamariieg@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
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.

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

August 31
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16

September 7
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
Jeremiah 18:1-11

*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.*