

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



Now I am mostly afraid of my son and grandchild dying before me, beside which all other fears pale. I do worry about falling and breaking my hip. Gravity is a killer. I am, as we speak, on a long airplane flight, hearing a loud mechanical rattle, such as what a wing might make as it works itself off toward freedom. Also, I fear inheriting my mother's Alzheimer's, my father's brain cancer, snakes, the election and the guy behind me coughing. ... we usually discover how life miraculously goes on, reshapes itself toward homeostasis and more grace than we could have imagined. We learn to look beyond dire imaginings and trust that this miracle might just happen again. I once heard someone say that hope is faith with a track record. ... I showed up to teach Sunday School two days after the Newtown shootings. I didn't overthink what I would say, because I always end up telling the kids the same things: that they are loved and chosen, that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it; and to keep trusting God, no matter what things look like and no matter how long an upswing takes.

~ Anne Lamott

AUGUST 17 2025, TENTH 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

The Sky above the Roof

Reynaldo Hahn

Poem by Paul Verlaine and Mabel Dearmer

A bell from out the blue drowsily rings...

Murmurs of strife are here lost in the air

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

God calls us from all corners of our world and from the center of our lives.

God calls us to watch for a Holy Presence and to seek purposes of Divine Peace.

God calls us to walk the way of love and shows us in Jesus how we can live fully.

God help us to trust your grace, ever sufficient to strengthen us amid every struggle.

* HYMN 463

How Firm a Foundation

Foundation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of All Life, you give us a firm foundation for flourishing through life in Christ.
Yet, uncertainty or anxiety can cloud our ability to trust. Worry constricts our hearts.
Amid fear we lose the way of faith and wound others by what we say and do, or not.
As you desire deep, inner truth, forgive us when others hear more judgment than joy.
Forgive us, when our selfishness harms community and abuses life in creation.
Purify in us all fault that distances us from you. Put a new and right spirit within us,
and restore to us the vitality of your salvation.**

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 and gives us courage in a broken and fearful world.

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 gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks and to live holy, joyful lives. Pray without ceasing. Bear loving witness among all peoples as we work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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 God, give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we yearn to know you,
so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us live faith
in the hope to which you call us, the riches of your glory we share among all people,
and the greatness of your loving power at work within us and all creation.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 40:1-5, 11-17

Old Testament, p. 513

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

As Pants the Hart

K. Lee Scott

Text from Psalm 42

As pants the hart for cooling streams
When heated in the chase,
So longs my soul for Thee, O God,
And Thy refreshing grace.

For Thee, O God, the living God,
My thirsty soul doth pine;
O when shall I behold thy face,
Thou Majesty divine.

Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Trust God who shall employ
His aid for Thee, and change these sighs
To thankful hymns of joy.

Why restless, why cast down, my soul?
Hope still; and thou shalt sing:
Praise of the Lord who is thy God,
Thy health's eternal Spring.

SECOND READING

Luke 12:22-38

New Testament, p. 74

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

From Worry to Light for the World

“I tell you, do not worry about your life ... Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit ...”
(Luke 12:22, 35)

* HYMN 314

Longing for the Light, We Wait in Darkness

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

Non nobis, Domine

William Byrd

arr. By Douglas Wagner

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis
Sed nomini tuo da gloriam.
Alleluia.

*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us
But unto your name be the glory.
Alleluia.*

* 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*)

**All that we have and all that we are flow as your gifts to us, O God.
As we return this portion of our wealth and dedicate all of our resources for service,
guide us in our gratitude and generosity. Through us kindle the light of comfort,
encouragement, and capability for all life to flourish, in the name of Christ. 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 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Houston

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

Wilbur Held

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Pamela Zandt

ACOLYTE

Gary Zandt

MUSIC

Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery
Summer Choir
Sarah Johnson, soloist
Kate Reed, soloist

GREETERS

Hillary Cloetingh, South Street
Michael Roberts-Riggle, Lovell Street

SOUND TEAM

Kurt Grossman
Dana Underwood

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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 DONNA SCHONVELD 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.

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

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.

NOODLING AT NOON

The summer pause in Noodling continues, given a memorial service for Jeanene Lewis this week. We will plan to begin again on September 9. Watch for an announcement about our next resource to come next week!

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.



LOVE KIDS? WE NEED YOU!

We invite you to join us for an informational meeting and training on **August 24 following worship, in room 304**. This is for anyone who may enjoy working with children in Sunday School or the nursery. Volunteers are the very heart of our children's programs and we need you! Please contact Meredith with any questions: mereditha@fpckzoo.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION MEETING

August 24, after worship, in room 306

Do you lead a small group or adult education program? Are you interested in helping to organize or lead adult education opportunities at FPC? Whether it's a one-time class on a topic, a book study, or a longer-term small group, the possibilities are endless. Come join with the Adult Faith Formation Task Force to plan out our calendar for this fall.

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.**

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 TODAY**. 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!

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 WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Nope— summer is not over! Here's your reminder to get out there and try some of the church-wide challenges set forth by our youth.

August 17-23 = Tell someone "I love you" that needs to hear it

August 24-30 = Help someone who needs a hand

August 31-September 6 = Give yourself a break

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 sign up** calendar outside of Meredith's office. We can't make this important ministry of our church work without your help!

ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE CARNIVAL

The community is invited to join as the Northside Ministerial Alliance brings together resources, food, fun and connection. Free and open to the public, Saturday, August 23, 11 AM—3 PM at Lincoln Elementary on N. Burdick Street.

ISAAC—BELOVED COMMUNITY

WALK/RUN/ROLL 2025

Justice on the Move: Rally, Resist, Reform—September 6, 2025 at Spring Valley Park. Register by August 22 for the best price. Scan code for link to more details:



#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

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.

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.

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.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

- 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 Comm**, Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, Room 306

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/Room 308
- 11:00 a.m. **Memorial Visitation—**
Jeanene Lewis, Gath. Place
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12 30 p.m. **Memorial Service—Jeanene**
Lewis, Sanctuary (Reception
to follow, Dining Room)
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life Meeting**,
Library

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

- 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**, #306
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, Room 314/315
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 6:30 p.m. **Faith Formation Committee**,
Sunday School Room

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir**, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. **ISAAC Sign-up**
Table
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care, Nursery, #208**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. **Adult Faith Formation**
Meeting, Room 306
- 11:00 a.m. **Children's Ministry**
Volunteers Meeting, Rm 304

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	annamariieg@fpckzoo.org
Michael Montgomery , Director of Music, x220	michaelm@fpckzoo.org
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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 24
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 13:1-9

September 7
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

August 31
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Jeremiah 2:4-13, Hebrews 13: 1-8

September 14
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 25:1-10, Luke 15:1-10

*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.*