



And that's just it. The Kingdom of God has little to do with fairness. It has little to do with keeping proper ledgers and making sure that everyone gets what is their due. The Kingdom of God is about relationships. It is about reconciliation. It is about forgiving our debts, as we forgive our debtors. It is not an easy story to hear. It is sometimes an even harder story to live. It doesn't make good economic sense. Jesus had a funny way of not making sense."

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025, FIFTEENTH 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

Come, people of God, and hear the voice of the prophets.
We come to listen for God's word of justice and truth.
The Holy One calls us to faithfulness in small things and in great.
We come to offer our hearts, our hands, and our lives.
Let us worship the God who sees, who knows, and who loves.
We lift our voices in praise!

- * HYMN 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness Faithfulness

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from your call to justice.
We cling to comfort and security, while neighbors go hungry and the poor are forgotten. We justify greed, excuse dishonesty, and ignore inequity.
Forgive us, O God. Teach us to be faithful in little things, so that we may be trustworthy in much. Open our hearts to generosity, and guide our steps in your way of justice and peace.**

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE #430

Remember Not, O God

Southwell

Cantor Remember not, O God, the sins of long ago;
in tender mercy visit us, distressed and humble low.

All **Then, safe within your fold, we will exalt your name;
our thankful hearts with songs of joy your goodness will proclaim.**

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

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: teaching, healing, eating with outcasts, and forgiving.
God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil. Like a mother who won't forsake a nursing child, like father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God loves us still.

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.

The Spirit frees us to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor. In a broken world, the Spirit of prophets and apostles gives us courage to live holy and joyful lives 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 #583 *(sung twice)*

Taize

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

Children: You are loved!

Congregation: **You are loved!**

Sunday School classes are available for PreK-5th grade.

The nursery is open for children age 3 and under.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of truth and wisdom, by your Spirit open our ears to hear, our minds to understand, and our lives to be shaped by your Word. Speak to us through the cries of the prophets and the teaching of Christ, that we may live lives of faith.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

Old Testament, p.856

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Alleluia, Amen

Nolan Williams

Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, amen.
In all I say and I do:
Alleluia, amen.

We magnify your name,
We glorify your name,
For you are worthy of all praise

SECOND READING

Luke 16:1-13

New Testament, p.79

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

When Money Fails

“No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Luke 16:13

* HYMN 720

Jesus Calls Us

Galilee

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

Jesus Calls Us

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Life up your voices; the Lord is near

*OFFERTORY PRAYER *(continuing to pray in unison)*

Generous God, you entrust us with blessings beyond measure. Receive these gifts, signs of our gratitude, and use them for the healing of the world. Make us faithful stewards of all you have given, that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray....

**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 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Temple of Peace

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Chrissy Westbury
Mari Wielopolski

MUSIC

The Choir
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

SOUND TEAM

Kurt Grossman
Dirk Westbury

READER

Mari Wielopolski

GREETERS

Laura Boersma, South St
Jim & Sally DeBruyn, Lovell St

ACOLYTE

Gary Brown

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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 JENNIE BARRY 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.

Grace Agostinelli	Carol Eddy	Molly Longman	David Standish Sr.
Joe Agostinelli	Julie Hakken	Sharon Longman	Neil Stuut
Nicholas Agostinelli	Rick Hakken	Diane Misner	Phyllis Thomas
Susan Agostinelli	Amy Dark Bell Headapohl	Craig Misner	Tom Thomas
Joanne Baker	Bruce Houtman	Karen Nellums	Laurie Tupper
Michael Bova	Kathleen Houtman	Richard Nellums	John Ufkes
James Clark	Marilyn Jauch	Shelley Rylander	Aidan Ward
Nancy Colburn	Barb Kafil	William Rylander	Michael Ward
Kathy Cooney	Jake Longman	Donna Schonveld	Philip Ward
Megan Dark	Mark Longman	Paul Schonveld	Mari Wielopolski
Darrah Dorman	Maxwell Longman	Sandra Standish	Rick Wielopolski
Ellen Dykhuis			

“May God bless you with anger at injustice and oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.”

A Franciscan Benediction

CHILDREN & YOUTH

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be classes available for preK—5th grade students after the Moment with Young Worshippers. Adults please pick your children up immediately after worship.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Starting today, the children will enjoy “Music with Michael” weekly at the end of Sunday School.

YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us as we get together most Sundays from 5:30-7 pm. Mark your calendars for the next several weeks:

- Sept 21—Fellowship & activities at FPC
- Sept 28—S'mores & more at Pine Island
- Oct 12—Service project / planning at FPC
- Oct 19—Downtown skeleton tour, meet at FPC
- Oct 26—Halloween party at FPC (costumes encouraged)

Friends are always welcome to attend! If you'd like to be added to the email distribution to stay in-the-know, please contact mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

TAKING ROOT

This group of twenty-somethings is in full swing! For more information or to join us, contact Meredith.



JOIN US FOR A PICNIC IN THE PARK TODAY AT 11:30 AM

A chance to connect with our downtown church neighbors.
Join us at Bronson Park for live music, a sing-a-long,
delicious food from local trucks or your own picnic.
!Hosted by *Taking Root*, a young adult church collaboration!

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 Fruit of the Spirit, inspired by *Tending the Wild Garden* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Discover how spiritual growth can flourish through God's nurturing presence, not a checklist of traits. The book is optional and available online or at local bookstores.

NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library: We are centering in Bill McKibben's book, *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*. In this revelatory cry of the heart, McKibben digs deep into our history (and his own well-meaning but not all-seeing past)--race and inequality in America, the rise of the religious right, and our environmental crisis. He finds that he is not without hope. And he ponders what from our past could, or should, be reclaimed in the fight for a fairer future. The book should be available at your favorite local or online retailer.

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.

Prayer Chain

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



IN MEMORY OF MARILYN BOAL

We are saddened to share that Marilyn Boal has passed away. Her funeral service has already taken place. Please keep her loved ones in your prayers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Angela Hospice (c/o Development Department, 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48150) or to the Friends of the Portage District Library (300 Library Lane, Portage, MI 49002).

HEARTS-TO-HANDS

This ministry of caring is based on the thought that sending a handmade card to someone helps us share the love of Christ. Please look for the cards on display **in the Gathering Place today!**

AUTUMN IN SEASON

TODAY at 3 PM. Please stop by the Sanctuary to enjoy the free organ recital featuring our very own organist, Autumn!

TROOP 205 FUNDRAISER

Scouts will be selling first aid kits at the Opportunity Fair. These are commercially made kits with all of the essentials, great for home and car, \$15 each. Consider a thoughtful gift for loved ones! The Scouts and leaders appreciate the support of FPC.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

The Stewardship Campaign kicks off on **September 28th** with our Volunteer Fair, offering you an opportunity to meet with committee members and discover where your talents and time align with our programs.

After Sunday service, hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be available as you walk around the Gathering Space to sign up for various activities and to learn about our church involvement in the community.

A photo booth will also be set up in the narthex for you to have your picture taken for our online member directory.

We look forward to all your participation!

PLAN AHEAD -

The Bronson Children's Hospital Run & Walk begins at 10 AM on the 28th. Our Lovell Street lot will remain open!

Arrive a bit early for service to avoid any minor delays. Rolling exit closures may occur as the event wraps up, but if you stay for our Volunteer Fair after service, you'll likely miss all traffic disruptions. Come early, stay for the fair, and enjoy a smooth Sunday!

STAFF UPDATE

Pastor Seth is leading a CREDO conference for Presbyterian pastors this week. He will return to the church office on Tuesday, September 23.



CTV: RED DOOR DINNER

Gather your favorite people 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!

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!

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

Join us for worship at 5:00 p.m. at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 West Q Ave) on the first and third Sundays of each month. 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!

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!

GRANDPARENTS PARENTING KALAMAZOO

Presented by St. Luke's Kalamazoo and 55 & Better Ministry, this support group meets monthly on the third Thursday from Noon to 1:30 PM. They share stories and lunch before enjoying various guest presentations. Pre-school age childcare is provided. Facilitated by Rev. Anne Marie, this group meets at St. Luke's on Lovell. Email awarner@stlukeskalamazoo.org for more.

#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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 9:00 a.m.—Noon **Cards on Display**,
Gathering Place
- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Nominating Committee**,
Archives
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**
- 11:00 a.m. **Taking Root Multi-church
Picnic**, Bronson Park
- 3:00 p.m. ***Autumn in Season* concert**,
Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Group / T.A.G.**,
Youth Room

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Group**, Lovell
Street Entrance
- 7:00 p.m. **Thoughtful Readers**, #300

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives
- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling at Noon**, Library
- 6:30 p.m. **PEO Chapter—CN**, #301

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#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.
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**, #306

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, #306
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers Bell Choir**,
Gathering Place
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**
- 11:00 a.m. **Directory Photo Booth**,
Narthex
- 11:00 a.m. **Stewardship Volunteer Fair**,
Gathering Place
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Group / T.A.G.**,
Pine Island

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
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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.

September 28
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 32:1-3; 6-15; Luke 16:19-31

October 5
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 37:1-11; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

October 12
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 19
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 121; Luke 18:1-8

*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.*