

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



Photographic insert by Aaron Van Heest

“... the real solution to the inequality crisis lies in focusing on community rather than simply on self-interest—both community as a means to prosperity and as a goal in its own right. ... Indeed, we are a community, all communities help those who are less fortunate among them. [Still,] we do have a divided society ... between those (including many members of the 1 percent) who see America as a community and recognize that the only way to achieve sustained prosperity is to have shared prosperity, and those who don't; between those who have some empathy for those who are less fortunate than themselves and those who don't.”

~ from *The Price of Inequality*, Joseph E. Stiglitz

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, SIXTEENTH 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

You are Loved

Carrie Newcomer

*We're a choir of voices, diverse and one,
In harmony and unison, Our hearts are joined, the bells ring out,
Children stand unafraid to shout: "You are Loved!"*

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

Blessed be God forever! The world belongs to you, O God, the earth and all people.
How good and lovely it is to live together in unity.
Love and faith come together. Justice and peace join hands.
Grace springs from the ground and hope leans down from heaven.
God, help us confront all that makes for death and despair in our lives and world.
Give us vision for real transformation, as we believe in your power at work among us.

* HYMN 714 God of the Fertile Fields Italian Hymn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all life, you create us to flourish together in community.
Yet, often we don't embody your loving image. We diminish life more than nourish it.
Forgive us when our selfishness dishonors the dignity of others and all creatures.
Forgive us when what we say and do conveys more harm than healing grace.
Forgive us when we fuel and benefit from inequity in society, by choice or complicity.
Redeem us, O God. Reconcile us with others. Raise us to new life in Christ.
Hear our confession, and move us from fearful sin toward the fullness of your 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*

Friends, God created the world good and calls us all to live as one community.
In sovereign love, God raised Jesus from death, breaking the power of sin and evil.
Loving us still, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem us and all creation.

**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.**

God's Spirit frees us to accept ourselves and to love neighbors, bound together with all
believers. In a broken world, the Spirit gives us courage to live holy and joyful, 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 #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

based on *Ephesians 1*

**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

Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15

Old Testament, p.736

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

New Every Morning is the Love

Gary James

New ev'ry morning is the love
Our wak'ning and our rising prove
Through sleep and darkness safely
brought,
Restores to life and pow'r and thought.

Old friends and scenes will lovelier,
As more of heav'n in each we see;
Some softening gleam of love and
prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

New mercies each returning day,
Around us hover while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiv'n,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of
heav'n.

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask:
Room to deny ourselves;
A road to bring us daily nearer God.

If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us this and ev'ry day,
To live more nearly as we pray

SECOND READING

Luke 16:19-31

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

Investing in Equity

“Buy my field that is at Anathoth ... for the right of possession and redemption is yours ...”
(Jeremiah 32:8)

* HYMN 712

As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought

Forest Green

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Linda Hartman

* 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.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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

**God of Community, we look around our city: the beauty, the poverty, the generosity,
silenced stories and clear kindness everywhere. We see the past. We envision a future.
Grateful for the gift of our resources, guide us to seek the Holy City you call us to be.
So may our service in this sanctuary nourish all life in your loving purpose. 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 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Abbot's Leigh

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Karen Nellums

ACOLYTE

Deb Bender

MUSIC

The Choir
Sandra Edwards Garcia, piano
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Margot Kinnear, South Street
Janet Lawing, Lovell Street

SOUND TEAM

Bob Murray
Mark Ohrstrom

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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 JAN CARPENTER 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.

Cari Anderson	Christopher Gleaton	Sue Grossman	Sanny Nutter
Samantha Jean Anderson	Cindy Gleaton	Beth Jarl	Ann Ridge
Betty Bennett	Nicholas Gleaton	David Jarl	Lyle Schenck
Caroline DeMello	Patrick Gleaton	Bill Kelser	Brian Stults
Kristin DeMello	Estella Graziano	Amy Miedema	Benjamin Taylor
Stephen DeMello	Mira Graziano	Anna Miedema	Megan Taylor
Stuart Deming	Neal Graziano	Clare Miedema	Anais Totobesola
Dan Dowswell	Sarah Graziano	Neal Miedema	Orlando Totobesola
Juanita Erdos	Sylvie Graziano	Sawyer Miedema	Charri Withrow
Janet Gladstone		Wendy Miedema	Gary Zandt
Anna Gleaton			Pamela Zandt

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers are dedicated to the glory of God
in honor of Gary Elfring,
who would have celebrated his 85th birthday on September 30.

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 Worshipers. “Music with Michael” will occur weekly at the end of Sunday School. Adults, please pick your children up immediately after worship.

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. Today, it will be s’mores and more at Pine Island! Friends are always welcome to attend! If you’d like to be added to the email distribution, please contact mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

TAKING ROOT

This group of twenty-somethings is in full swing! For more information contact Meredith.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NEW WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Book of James – What You Do Matters! Starts October 2nd at 9:30 AM—Room 306

When you’re facing a hardship, challenge or uncertainty, where do you turn for answers in the Bible? One possible resource is the Book of James. James’ letter is a cry to listen to God’s words, and to look for every opportunity to live them out. Genuine love of God expresses itself through faith and action. What we do matters.

Come and explore the book of James together as we seek God’s wisdom and direction for our lives. We meet at 9:30 for coffee and conversation. Our class begins at 9:45 with prayer. All are welcome to join us for one or all 7 sessions, October 2 – November 20 (off on Oct. 24).

Pat Stromsta will facilitate this class.

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.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FAIR



The Stewardship Campaign kicks off **TODAY**
after Worship with our Volunteer Fair,

offering you an opportunity to meet with committee members and discover where your talents and time align with our programs. 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!

MARTHA CIRCLE

All women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to join in nurturing faith through prayer, Bible study, and meaningful fellowship. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in The Gathering Place. The current study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ", offers an opportunity for spiritual growth and reflection. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Elaine Johns at emjohns513@aol.com.

A WISH LIST FOR GOOD

Donna Schonveld and Nancy Johnson would like to share their wish list for Edison School supplies through Amazon. Please remember when you visit the Amazon page, check quantity and be sure it's set to deliver to Edison school. Thank you for your consideration of our mission to help Edison have a successful school year!



HOSPITALITY WITH HEART

We invite volunteers to join our Memorial Hospitality Team. This caring group helps host receptions following memorial services by setting up refreshments, welcoming guests, and offering comfort to families during this tender time. If you feel called to serve in this meaningful ministry, please get in touch with Kelly Short at kellys@fpckzoo.org for more information.

TROOP 205 FUNDRAISER

Scouts will be selling first aid kits in the Gathering Place today! These are commercially made kits with all of the essentials are only \$15 each. Consider a thoughtful gift for loved ones!

#KUDOS

Kalamazoo United Day of Service would love your help to form a team to help winterize homes in the Northside neighborhood. Sign up now for the October 3rd work, fellowship and outreach opportunity. Questions? Contact Wendy King at jeffwendyking@gmail.com

ADULT ED OPPORTUNITY!

October 5, after worship, in Room #306—Come learn about OLLI!

Founded in 2011, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Western Michigan University (OLLI at WMU) is a volunteer-driven organization offering high-quality, non-credit programs designed for adults aged 50+ throughout Southwest Michigan and beyond. With the support of dedicated volunteers, WMU emeriti, faculty, and staff, OLLI provides enriching educational experiences, engaging events, memorable trips, and a welcoming community of lifelong learners. There are no tests or grades—just learning for the love of it. Education and lifelong learning are core historical Presbyterian principles. We believe that God means for us to learn and grow as long as we are able. Come learn about this valuable opportunity in our community!

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.

WATER IS LIFE

You are invited to Hope for Creation's annual Harvest of Unity event, October 18. This free event is open to the public, begins at 5 PM and takes place at First United Methodist Church downtown. Food and drink provided.

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

- * A motion to accept Edward Artman, Joyce Artman, Marilyn Loken, and Diane Talo into membership of First Presbyterian Church.
- * A motion to approve the re-activation of Janet Lawing's and Phyllis Wilson's FPC memberships.
- * A motion to remove Jacque Jennings-Carter and Ashley Carter from the FPC membership roll.
- * A motion to approve a \$2500 disbursement from the Ford/Neff Fund to purchase survival tarps for people sleeping outside.
- * A motion to approve a \$4707.08 disbursement from the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the main control circuit board in the Lovell Street elevator.

“There are two principles of justice; not to harm anybody and serve to the society's welfare.” - Cicero

Happy Birthday

OCTOBER 1

Karen Cooper
Helen Creager
Jim DeBruyn
Darrah Dorman
Emma Leasure
Sarah Leasure

OCTOBER 2

Ryan Fouty
Adriane Siefert
Ron Van Der Slik

OCTOBER 3

Ann Fergemann

OCTOBER 4

Hillary Cloetingh
Jennalie Shepherd
William Smyser

OCTOBER 5

Nevaeh Rogers
Nancy Wood

OCTOBER 6

Gary Fergemann
Robert Tyler

OCTOBER 7

Kay Burtis
Jordan Diamond
Isabella Fisk
Nancy Klesert
Phyllis Wilson

OCTOBER 8

Daniella Finjap
Rick Hakken

OCTOBER 9

Marcia Cook

OCTOBER 10

Steve Breisach
Sylvie Graziano
Neal Miedema
David Rozelle
Orlando Totobesola

OCTOBER 11

Heidi Egloff
Elizabeth Honeysett
Ruth Moser

OCTOBER 12

Izaak Marciniak

OCTOBER 13

Elaine Johns
Paisley Wall Emerson
Caeli Wiersema

OCTOBER 14

John Ufkes
Mari Wielopolski

OCTOBER 15

Kyle Cooper
Jamie Schnur

OCTOBER 16

Katrina Kore
Leonard H Marcilous

OCTOBER 17

Rebecca Bell
Rob Case

OCTOBER 19

Priscilla Blair
Nikos Diamond
Bruce Johnson
Jose Santamaria

OCTOBER 20

Sarah Beaver
Cerica Finjap
Wesley Todd

OCTOBER 21

Sue Johnson
Bill Kelser

OCTOBER 22

Kathryn Novak

OCTOBER 23

Ralph Jarl

OCTOBER 24

Joanne DeWit
Brian Hirt
Dave Hutton
Candice Parmley

OCTOBER 25

Margo Light

OCTOBER 26

Dave Novak
Linda Swope

OCTOBER 27

William Leasure

OCTOBER 28

Abraham Konjoh
Bartina Konjoh
Lucyma Konjoh
Joanne Meier

OCTOBER 29

Susan Young

OCTOBER 30

Susanne Rose

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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. **Photo Booth**, Narthex
- 11:00 a.m. **Volunteer Fair**, Gathering Pl
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Group / T.A.G.**, Pine Island

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 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 St
- 4:00 p.m. **Just Sanctuary**, Library

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 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**
- 1:00 p.m. **Communication Committee Meeting**, Online
- 4:00 p.m. **Worship & Music Committee Meeting**, Library
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 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, OCTOBER 3

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

****OUR PARKING LOT
WILL BE CLOSED**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
FOR REFRESHING****

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship, Communion**, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. **WMU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Presentation**, #314/315
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship—Blessing of the Animals**

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

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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
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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.

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

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

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

October 26
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 65; Luke 18:9-14

*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.*