

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



A pilgrimage is not a vacation; it's a journey of discovery. Sometimes we need to be uncomfortable. Sometimes we need to remember a God of wildness who calls us beyond our edges to a landscape where we might discover a passion and vitality we never knew we could experience. ... Ultimately, pilgrimage leads us back home. We return, bearing gifts for the community. We are called back to share what we have been given with others. Pilgrims don't return home with all the answers. They receive better questions; questions that bring the pilgrimage experience into daily life and reveal depth in all they see around them.

~ excerpted and abridged from Christine Valters Painter, *The Soul of a Pilgrim*

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025, THIRTEENTH 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

Holy God, you have called us from many places to share life together for a little while.
We have come with all our delights and differences seeking common ground.
We come on journeys of our own to this place and time where journeys meet in grace.
Here in this sanctuary we make space to open to your Spirit, Loving God.
For when paths cross and pilgrims gather, there is much to share and celebrate.

- * HYMN 65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM Rhondda

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Wandering and Welcome, you call us anew every day to follow Jesus' way.
Yet, we admit that we don't always live that sacred path of love. We lose patience and kindness, speak rudely, and act with prejudice. We push selfish perspectives, insisting we're right and best, not listening for goodness and truth in others. We tarnish your glory in people, in our community, and in all creation floundering not flourishing as you intend us to be. In your grace, mercy, and healing power, forgive our wrongdoing. Give us wisdom, strength, and commitment to keep mending our lives and world, as you want.**

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 and was crucified. Yet God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil, redeeming us and all creation. Like a mother who will not 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.

In a broken world, the Spirit feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation. In gratitude to God, we strive to serve Christ in daily tasks and to live holy, 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 #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 Source of all Wisdom and Strength of All Who Walk, help us see and celebrate gifts of life in scripture, community, and all creation. As we breathe in your presence, open our hearts to listen for inspiration from your voice of grace. So guide us to live that all beings everywhere may share the fullness of your peace. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalms 139:1-18, 23-24

Old Testament, p.577

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

John Foley

arr. Lynda Hasseler

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without price.
Why should you pay the price except for the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
Without money, without strife.
Why should you spend your life except for the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
All who labor without rest.
How can your soul find rest except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
Bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light; come to the Lord.

SECOND READING

Luke 24:13-35

New Testament, p.90

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

Camino Claro

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them ...”
(Luke 24:15)

* HYMN 500

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

St. Flavian

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 Come Share the Lord

Bryan J. Leech

We gather here in Jesus' name;
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through the loving Son, the Father makes us one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here; ev'ryone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, He breaks the bread;
The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead:
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come share the Lord.

We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us in the breaking of the bread!
We'll gather soon where angels sing;
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate that feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine, come share the Lord.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #701 (*sung twice*) Lord, Prepare Me
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Sanctuary

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

Jesus always kept moving—new places, new people, new experiences.

And usually, God, he invited those closest to him to come with him.

Help us trust where you lead us with peace of mind, willing spirits, and open hearts.

**May we discover anew how to serve, and rededicate ourselves to your Way in Christ.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The table is now made ready ... The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you, dear God, with joyful hearts lifted high ... with your faithful
throughout earth, in heaven, and of every time and place, who praise your holy name:

SANCTUS 572

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of
Pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry: Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Now, lest we believe our praise alone fulfills your purpose ... may we be changed
into your fullness, loving and caring in the world, serving the One who taught all
who would follow him to live and to pray together:

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.

COMMUNION

*To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the servers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten free). Then each person may choose **a)** to share intinction by dipping the bread into the common cup, or **b)** taking a small juice cup from the tray. Upon receiving the Sacrament, you may wish to respond by saying, "Amen". If you prefer to remain seated and receive the elements, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you in your pew.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Creator God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have fed us with your love. As you have nourished us at this table, send us out to nourish others — with compassion, with justice, with joy. Let our lives bear fruit that gives glory to you and life to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Maryton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Ellen Dykhuis

ACOLYTE

Daniella Finjap

MUSIC

Summer Choir
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, soloist
Joseph Sablan, soloist

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Victoria Coleman Chris Cross
Michelle Greve Joseph Sablan
Laurie Tupper Pam Zandt

SOUND TEAM

Chris Honeysett
Jim Van Buren

GREETERS

Ruth Minert,
South Street
Steve Johnkoski,
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 JOANN YOCHIM 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.

Jane Beers	William Hassler	Donald McCloud	Joanne Stewart
Sally Bristol	Chris Honeysett	Jacob Schut	Richard Stewart
Sarah Chase	Claire Honeysett	Morgan Schut	Karen Trout
Wayne Conner	Elizabeth Honeysett	Shari Schut	Julie Tyler
Deb Droppers	Elaine Johns	Cameron Shaffer	Robert Tyler
Kurt Droppers	Ron Johns	Dianne Shaffer	Timothy Tyler
Justin Hassler	Justin Lombardi-Tyler	Kevin Shaffer	Richard Van Enk
Karen Hassler	Carol McCloud	Samantha Shaffer	Diane White

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in celebration of the August 2, 2025 birth of Noah Douglas Minert, son of
Jess and Brendan Minert, and great grandson of Ruth and Paul Minert.

TODAY

There will be a Session Member in the Gathering Place after church to chat with congregational members at the Listening Post. This is your chance to tell the Session what you think is going well and what could be improved at First Presbyterian Church. We look forward to speaking with you.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

NURSERY -

The nursery is open each Sunday morning, starting at 9:45, for children under age 4 in Room 204. Parents will be given a pager in the event they need to be contacted during worship.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR -

Starting September 21, the children's choir will meet weekly at the end of Sunday School.

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

We will begin to Noodle again together on September 9. We will center conversation 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – MARTHA CIRCLE

Purpose: To nurture faith through prayer and Bible study, and to build a caring, inclusive community of women within PC(USA).

Meets: Second Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in The Gathering Place.

New Bible Study Begins Sept. 10: “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ”

New Members Welcome! Enjoy fellowship, shared concerns, planning, study, and warm hospitality. Come grow with us! Contact for questions: Elaine Johns, 269-808-7109 or emjohns513@aol.com

NEW MEMBERS EXPLORATION CLASS

Are you interested in learning more about our church and what it means to become a member?

Join us for a New Members Exploration Class on Sunday, September 14, immediately following worship in Room 314. This informal gathering is a great opportunity to ask questions, explore your faith journey, and discover how you can get involved in our church community.

Hors d'oeuvres will be provided, and the gathering will end by 1 p.m. **RSVP to Pastor Chrissy** at chrissyw@fpckzoo.org and indicate any dietary needs so that we can be sure there is food for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

PICNIC IN THE PARK – SEPTEMBER 21 AT 11:30 AM

Join *Taking Root* for a relaxing and fun-filled picnic at Bronson Park with our downtown church neighbors. Bring your blankets or chairs and settle in for live music, great company, and community connection. Feel free to bring your own food, or treat yourself to something tasty from the food trucks that will be on site. We hope to see you there!

#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

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!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship with Communion**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 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
- 12:00 p.m. **Communication Committee Meeting**, Online
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Crafting**, Crafting Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 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 10

- 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**
- 2:00 p.m. **Martha Circle**, Gathering Pl
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV, Red Door Dinner**, D.R
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee Meeting**, Archives

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 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
- 6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance Committee**, Library
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Prayer Partners**, #301
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. **New Members Class**, #314/315



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
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.

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

September 28
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 146; Luke 16:19-31

September 21
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

October 5
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 37:1-9, Luke 17:5-10

*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.*