

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



Over and again my journals reflect both hardship and gratitude on this journey. More than once I note—often with surprise—that I feel “deeply happy.” ... Fifty times a day I quietly and meditatively sing a Taizé verse:

Bless the Lord, my soul. And bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

I had perspective. I could recognize how God was at work, even in those hardest of times. I grew in my ability to see God’s larger purposes at work. I can embrace a quote from Meister Eckhart that I heard at a low point years ago: “Whatever happens to you is the best possible thing for your salvation.” Yes, God leads me into life.

~ Arthur Paul Boers, *The Way Is Made by Walking*

OCTOBER 12, 2025, EIGHTEENTH 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 from Psalm 146
- Praise the Lord with heart and soul! Let us praise God our whole life long!
**Blessed are all whose help and hope is God who made heaven, earth, and all therein.
God keeps faith forever, pursuing justice for the oppressed and food for the hungry.**
God frees prisoners, opens blind eyes, watches over strangers, heals the sick,
and upholds orphans, widows, and all who are bowed down.
God will reign forever, our God, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

- * HYMN 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above Mit Freuden Zart

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**As we receive your grace, God, we recognize what isn't right in our lives and world.
Open our eyes to see clearly, accept fully, and face together what we might not alone.
Help us lament when we get things wrong—when we twist your purpose, hurt people,
harm creation, and share complicity with bias or problems plaguing our community.
For all you made us to be and all we can become, God, in your love, renew us.
For all you intend ahead of us, all you may ask of us, God, in your love, prepare us.
For life to flourish in all the world and each person, God, in your love, send us to serve.**

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, trust in Jesus, who proclaimed God's reign: preaching and teaching, healing, eating with outcasts and forgiving. God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil. In everlasting love, the Spirit 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.

Grateful to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives. In a broken and fearful world, pray without ceasing 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)*

Taizé

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 is available for preK-5th graders this morning.

The nursery is open for children age 3 and under.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of all who wonder, question, and believe, by the gift of your Spirit open our eyes and ears, and soften our hearts in the hearing of your Word. So may we abide in your peace and abound with inspiration for new life, as we continue the healing of your Love for all people, in the risen Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-15

Old Testament, p.336

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Like a River in My Soul

African American Spiritual
arr. Tim Osiek

I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, soothing river, calmly flow.
When the world closes in, feel the stillness within.
I've got peace like a river, like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, endless ocean deep and full
When you're lost and alone, let the waves bring your home.
I've got love like an ocean, like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, like a fountain in my soul.
When your hope nearly dies, just remember, once again, you shall rise!

I've got joy like a fountain, love like an ocean
Peace like a river, in my soul.

SECOND READING

Luke 17:11-19

New Testament, p.80

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

Made Well on the Way

"Then [Jesus] said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'
(Luke 17:19)

* HYMN 694

Great God of Every Blessing

Aurelia

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

Oh Happy Morning

Cathy Moglebust

* 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)*

Christ, you are in each of us, deeper than breathing, more fully than hands and feet.

Through our eyes, in the divine mystery, look out with compassion on the world.

Shape our hearts, rough-hewn, into a truer beauty of your loving grace.

Inspire us and guide us outside these walls to serve amid the crossroads of our world.

Amen.

PRAYER 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 821

My Life Flows On

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Ellen Dykhuis
Seth Weeldreyer

READER

Heather Cloetingh

ACOLYTE

Paul Clements

MUSIC

The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Rick Van Enk, percussion
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Dean & Kim Van Loo, South Street
Bob & Nancy Klesert, Lovell Street

SOUND TEAM

Chris Honeysett
Mark Ohrstrom

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FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God in appreciation
for our church family and Deacons. We thank you for your support.

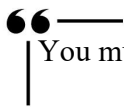
Your prayers and well-wishes held us up.

Yours in Christ, Paul & Linda Parks

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 GRACE COOK 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.

Richard Aldrich	Steve Breisach	Eva Hanka	Allison Myers
Thomas Becker	Colton Card	Char Hansen	Linda Parks
Brett Birch	Sue Caulfield	George Kremer	Paul Parks
Tammy Birch	Kyle Cooper	Susan Kremer	Leah Pierce
William Birch III	Frank Demcovitz	Charles Leibbrand	Joseph Sablan
Billy Birch IV	Becky Demcovitz	Curtis Leibbrand	John Sage
Mary Lou Boughton	Jim Gleeson	Katie Long	Johannes Stegmann
Caroline Breisach	Sharon Gleeson	Carolyn Maki	Tyler Swett
Evan Breisach	Caroline Ham	Lee Mizeur	Louise Wright



You must return to your God; maintain love and justice and wait for your God always.
Hosea 12:6

TODAY

CHURCH GREETERS MEETING

If you are looking for a minimal, but important job at FPC, we invite you to consider being a Church Greeter. Greeters can be individuals, couples, families or members of small groups. There is a Greeter sign-up board in the Gathering Place. We will be implementing Sign-up Genius soon. For additional information, contact Pat Stromsta @ pat.stromsta@gmail.com.

HALLOWEEN ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR

Sunday, October 12 at 4pm in the Sanctuary

A spooky selection of seasonal classics played by Autumn and Michael, featuring several special ghosts (special guests). Free admission. Family friendly, candy provided, costumes encouraged. Join us... If you dare!

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. Watch the calendar for details. Friends are always welcome to attend! For more details, please contact mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

TAKING ROOT

This group is for all 20-somethings looking to connect and share in fellowship with others from the downtown churches. Meet with us Saturday, October 18 from 5-7 PM at the Pine Island campus. Hosted by FPC, FUMC and FCC.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Book of James – What You Do Matters!

Join us for a 7-week study on the Book of James, starting October 2 at 9:30 AM in Room 306. We’ll gather for coffee and conversation, followed by prayer and discussion at 9:45. James challenges us to live out our faith through action—what we do truly matters. Pat Stromsta will facilitate. All are welcome! (No class on October 24.)

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. The book should be available at your favorite local or online retailer.

CTV: RED DOOR DINNER

Invite your favorite people to help with our weekly Wednesday dinner! It's more than a meal—it's a chance to build community. We provide recipes, kitchen tutorials, and even someone to handle dishes. Sign up outside Meredith's office. Help needed in November and December. We can't do this vital ministry without you!

CHAIR YOGA IS BACK!

Chair Yoga with Ana is back! All levels of experience encouraged to join. Bring water and a friend - Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Place.

CARD MINISTRY

Get crafting cards with us, Monday the 13th from 1-3 pm in the craft room. Cards will be available in the Gathering Place before and after worship on Sunday, October 19.

FPC'S RACIAL EQUITY POLICY CLASS

October 19 at 11:30 a.m.—Room 306

The PC(USA) Book of Order requires that all councils of the church have a policy on anti-racism. What is in the policy our Session recently passed, and how can we live into it?

JAMES ABBINGTON: HYMNS, SPIRITUALS AND GOSPEL MUSIC

Sunday, October 26 after worship in the library

Together we will watch a presentation by the late hymnologist Dr. James Abbingtion. We'll learn some history of African American Spirituals, Hymns, Gospel Music and how each style informs and interacts with one another; time for questions and discussion include. Dr. Abbingtion was an author, editor of several hymnals, and taught at Emory University's Candler School of theology for many years. Join us as we enrich our knowledge of sacred music!

EMPTY NESTERS/PARENTS OF YOUNG ADULTS

Are you part of this weird transition time in life when your kids are no longer kids and you have to figure out how to navigate this new relationship and new dynamics in your home? Would you like to get together with others who are going through the same transition for community and conversation?

We are starting a new group - beginning with a social gathering at One Well (4213 Portage Street) on October 29 at 6:30. We'll get to know each other, maybe play some games, and talk about what this group might look like. RSVP to Chrissy (chrissyw@fpckzoo.org) if you are planning to come so that we can be sure we have the right sized table!

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.

YOU ARE LOVED

We say it. We mean it. We show it.

We show love by caring FOR the things we care ABOUT – and boy did you show love during The Opportunity Fair – signing up to care for the environment, for children, for our downtown neighbors in need of food, fellowship and moments of grace, by ensuring we have beautifully moving music on Sundays – and donuts and coffee.

But one way we show love doesn't appear on a sign-up sheet. It rarely fits into a busy schedule, yet quietly fills a calendar. It consists of repeated gestures of kindness, quiet moments of understanding, a love language developed over the years, and a desire to meet another person where they are, with compassion.

Family caregiving .

You may be caring for a parent, child, spouse, family member, neighbor, or a friend in need. We see the love you show, the joy you bring, and we see how you rise to the challenges with grace.

We see you. And we are planning a special opportunity to show you some love coming up November 18, 2025 - appropriately National Family Caregiver Month.

Why such a long lead time? We know your calendars are full of reminders, appointments and schedules. So if you are a caregiver, or know someone who is, we invite you to contact your deacon or Pastor Chrissy, to learn more about this opportunity, and how we can help you take advantage of it. Let us help you refresh, as we head into the holiday season.

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONAL

Looking for daily inspiration? *These Days*, from the PC(USA), offers scripture, reflections, prayers, and even adult coloring pages—all in a beautifully designed quarterly booklet. Free copies are available in the Gathering Place kiosk, courtesy of the Deacons. Want your own subscription? Call 800-624-2412 or email customer_service@wjkbooks.com



Our Sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop. Use your T-coil-enabled hearing aids or borrow headphones from the sound booth for clearer sound.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 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
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**
- 11:00 a.m. **Greeter Meeting**, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. **Halloween Organ Spooktacular**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Group & T.A.G.**, FPC

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Crafters**, Crafting Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Chair Yoga with Ana**, Gath Pl

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. **PEO Officers**, Archives
- 6:00 p.m. **Kalamazoo Pipe Band**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **PEO Chapter—CN**, Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gath. Pl.
- 6:30 p.m. **Faith Formation Meeting**, Sunday School Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee Meeting**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. **Taking Root**, Pine Island Chapel

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 9:00 a.m. **Cards on Display**, Gath. Pl.
- 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. **Racial Equity Policy**, #306
- 1:00 p.m. **Communications**, Pine Island
- 2:00 p.m. **Crescendo Recital**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**
- 5:30 p.m. **Youth Group & T.A.G.**, FPC

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
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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.

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

November 2
All Saints Sunday / Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24; Ephesians 1:11-23

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

November 9
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
Psalm 145

*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.*