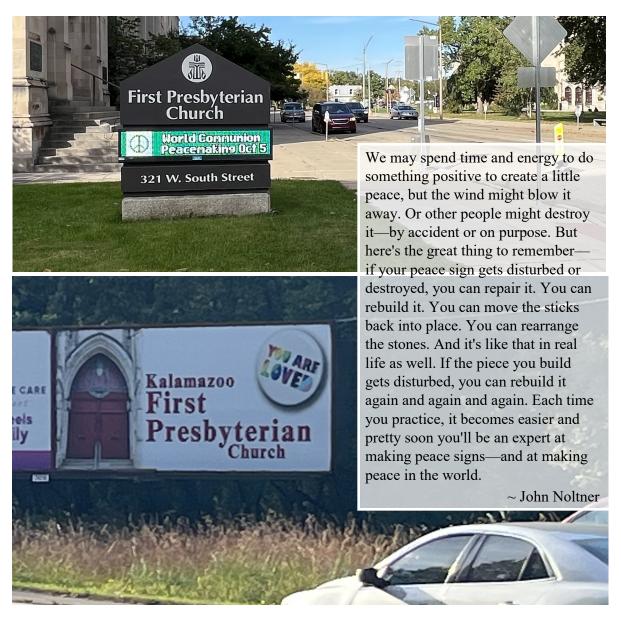


"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"



OCTOBER 5, 2025, SEVENTEENTH 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 Beach Spring Janet Linker

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 the ends of the earth and the center of our lives.

God calls us to yearn for communion and to pray for peace!

Peace be upon everyone who comes in joy or in need, to offer prayer and praise! Amidst trouble and anxiety in our world, God, astound us with glimpses of hope, and send us to seek and serve the commonwealth of your love for all creation.

* HYMN 756

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from the Philippines (adapted)

God forgive us, for we are fragmented persons. We go many directions at once.

We seek opposite goals and serve contradictory purposes.

We mouth liberation, but we shun, shame and support oppression.

We proclaim peace, but we practice hostility and violence.

We shout for justice, but we walk in bias and prejudice.

We preach love, but we harbor anger and even hate.

Through your compassion have mercy on us and make us whole.

Help us discern your voice among all the dissonant and discordant echoes we hear.

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 The

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

God created the world good, and calls us all to live as one community. In sovereign love, God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin and evil. Loving us still, God redeems us and all creation—freed to accept ourselves, and bound together in the body of Christ.

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 and fearful world, God's Spirit feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive with courage to 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 <u>loved!</u>
Congregation: **You are loved!**

There will be no Sunday School this morning. All children are invited to stay for Worship. The nursery is open for children age 3 and under.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, open us now, by the power of your Spirit – heart, soul, mind, and body. Amid the cacophony of our generation, speak your eternal Word to inspire and guide. So may we follow the way of Christ into the heavenly peace you want for all life. Amen.

FIRST READING

John 8:1-11

New Testament, p.510

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Ubi Caritas Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exultemus et in ipso iucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where there are charity and love, God abides.

We have been gathered into one by the love of Christ;

Let us rejoice, and find contentment in him;

Let us ponder and love the living god,

And out of sincere hearts let us love one another.

SECOND READING

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Old Testament, p.871

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

What Would We Write?

"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it." (Habakkuk 2:2)

* HYMN 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Presentation, Questions and Prayer for New Members

Let us welcome these newest members as they join with us in the worship, ministry, and mission of the church!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in Christ Jesus!

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

Uyai Mose

Alexander Gondo

Uyai Mose, tinamate mwari	Come all of you, let's pray to God
Uyai Mose, tinamate mwari	Come all of you, let's pray to God
Uyai Mose, tinamate mwari	Come all of you, let's pray to God
Uyai Mose zvino	Come all, come now

* 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)

Loving God of all, amid hunger and hurt, lead us in the promise of grace and plenty. Lead us from falsehood to truth, from fear to trust, from conflict to forgiveness. Lead us from hate to love, from despair to hope, from death to new life in your peace. Let peace fill us, our world, our universe—peace, peace, in the name of 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.

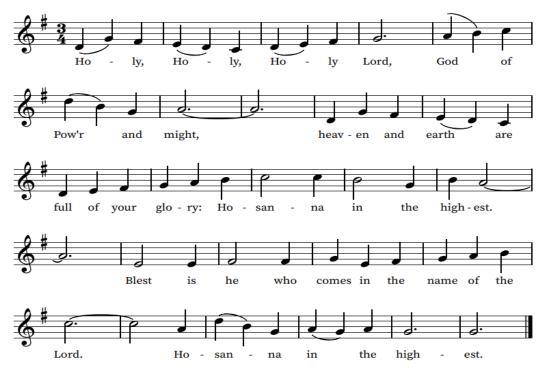
We lift them up to God.

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 ... Gratefully we join our hearts and voices with your faithful throughout earth, in heaven, and of every time and place who sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS 572



Come among us now, O God in Christ ... Empower us to share your life with the world, loving and serving in the way you teach us 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

Generous God, in our world, some hunger for food and others for meaning. You have blessed this place and time, where we have been fed in many ways. Bless us now as we go on, sharing food for the journey—the joy of heaven—and channeling your peace to companions on the way, in the name of Christ. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN 753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace Prayer of St. Francis

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Cwm Rhondda J. Bert Carlson

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS MUSIC SOUND TEAM Meredith Alspach The Choir **Bob Murray** Seth Weeldreyer Rick VanEnk, percussion Mark Ohrstrom Chrissy Westbury Autumn, organist Michael Montgomery, director COMMUNION READER **SERVERS: GREETERS** Mari Wielopolski Susan Agostinelli Joe & Catherine Gibson Logan Brown South Street ACOLYTE Chris Cross Janet Lawing Darrah Dorman Karen Hessler Lovell Street Paul Minert Rick Wielopolski

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FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Kathy Smyser in memory of Evelyn and Mary Smyser.

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 VICTORIA COLEMAN 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.

Gerald Case-Blanchard Mason Coleman	Erin Diamond Jordan Diamond	Janine Loughrin Matthew Loughrin	Ron Van Der Slik Carol Walters
Victoria Coleman	Logan Diamond	Judy Marvin	Deborah Wiebeck
Sarah Cox	Laura Fouty	James McGruder	Charlotte Wilson
Marianne Crawford	Luke Fouty	Dave Novak	Jill Wilson
Alexis Diamond	Ryan Fouty	Meredith Novak	Scott Wilson
Adrie Diamond	Jeffrey King	Ann Rigg	Sydney Wilson
Andrew Diamond	Wendy King	Jeff Ross	Jim Young
Anna Diamond	Margot Kinnear	Donald Swetay Sr.	Susan Young
Conner Diamond	Bennett Loughrin	Nancy Thiele	

TODAY

LISTENING POST

There will be a Session Member in the Gathering Place **after church today** 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 FPC. We look forward to speaking with you.

ADULT ED OPPORTUNITY!

Discover OLLI at WMU—Sunday, October 5 • After Worship • Room 306

Explore the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—offering enriching, non-credit courses, events, and trips for adults 50+. No tests, no grades—just learning for the love of it! Rooted in Presbyterian values of lifelong growth. Come learn about this opportunity and how you can get involved!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Today, come worship God in the garden at the Pine Island Campus (8882 West Q Ave) at 5 PM as we celebrate and give thanks for the animals in our lives. Well behaved, leashed pets are invited to join in worship and receive a special blessing. You may also bring a photo of a pet. There will be a time of remembrance for our animal companions who are no longer with us.

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 no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for 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. Our next gathering is the 12th here at the church. 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 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. *NO NOODLING ON OCTOBER 7th*.

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. Room 301.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Married for 55 years, **Edward and Joyce Artman** recently returned to Michigan from Arizona. In AZ, they were active in their church and served others through hospital volunteering and preparing meals for the hungry and unhoused. We're grateful to have them with us!

A returning member of FPC, **Janet Lawing** sang soprano solos for years under Tom Kasdorf's direction and pitched for the women's softball team. She still enjoys singing, along with reading and walking. We're delighted to welcome her back!

Originally from South Dakota, **Marilyn Loken** lived in three states before retiring to Michigan. A former teacher and adoption social worker, she also taught Sunday School and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. These days, she enjoys needlework, crafting, and quilting. We can't wait to see some of your creations!

Diane Talo is an educator, lifelong learner, and singer who enjoys travel and theater. At her former church, she taught Faith Formation and has also served as a foster parent. We're grateful to have her with us!

We're delighted to welcome **Phyllis Wilson** back to FPCK! Phyllis was a faithful member from August 1992 until her move to Chicago in 2000. She served as a deacon and worked at Bronson Hospital for 23 years. It's a joy to have her with us again!

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!



CHAIR YOGA IS BACK!

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

MARTHA CIRCLE

Presbyterian Women's Gathering - October 8 at 2:00 p.m.

All women of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to join us in The Gathering Place for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. This month's lesson, "Mary 'of a Certain Village'," highlights Mary's resilience as a disciple of Jesus. New members welcome! Facilitated by Elaine Johns.

CHURCH GREETERS MEETING

All members and those who are considering being a Greeter are invited to a short informational meeting in the Sanctuary right after worship on October 12.

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. Greeters serve at both the Lovell St. and South St. doors during regular and special worship services. There is a Greeter sign-up board in the Gathering Place. For additional information, contact Pat Stromsta @ pat.stromsta@gmail.com.

HALLOWEEN ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR

Sunday, October 12 at 4pm in the Sanctuary

Next Sunday! 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!

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.

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.

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!

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!

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 Friday before. Thank you!

STAY CONNECTED!

To start receiving Thursday announcements and other updates, visit **fpckzoo.org**, scroll to the bottom of the page and subscribe! You may also need to add communications@fpckzoo.org to your contacts so we don't end up in the spam folder. If you need assistance with this, you can reach out to Dawn in the office at extension 209.



Hearing Assistance Available:

FPC's Sanctuary and Pine Island Chapel are equipped with a Hearing Loop system. If your hearing aids have a T-coil (telecoil), you can connect directly to the sound system—check your manual or audiologist for activation help. Need a volume boost? Hearing Loop Visit the sound booth to borrow headphones that link to the loop.

Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others." - Coretta Scott King

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the Archives (Room 207). Returning and new faces welcome for coffee, donuts, and conversation to begin the day!

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?

PRAYING IN COLOR

Borrowed from Sybil MacBeth's book by the same name, praying in color is adaptable to all kinds of prayer and meditation. No art or prayer skills are necessary. Some ways a willing mind and open heart can use this concept:

- -Start doodling about a line of Scripture, a hymn or poem.
- -Let gratitude for specific joys, big and small, guide your hand to name and color those joys.
- -Doodle with no agenda—turn off your words and practice moving into listening mode.
- -Write the names of people you're praying for to initiate doodling.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SEPTEMBER 7—OCTOBER 5, 2025

SUPPORT PEACEMAKING, RECONCILIATION AND GLOBAL WITNESS.

Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering,

congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

Support Use:

25% retained by congregations to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities.

25% retained by mid councils to support peacemaking efforts at the regional level.

50% supports peacemaking, reconciliation and global witness.

Information from www.pcusa.org/special-offerings/peace-global-witness-offering. There is a giving link on their website, or use the envelopes provided in church today. You may also give by phone at 800-728-7228 x5885.

Thank you!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

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 OLLI, #314/315 5:00 p.m. Pine Island Worship— Blessing of the Animals

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

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 6:30 p.m. Chair Yoga with Ana, Gathering Place

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, Archives 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. R.I., Dining Rm/#308 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. OFFICE CLOSED Staff Training, Library 6:00 p.m. Kalamazoo Pipe Band,

Dining Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

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, OCTOBER 9

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 Meeting,

Archives

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, OCTOBER 10

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 9:00 a.m. Prayer Partners, #301 Child Care/Nursery, #208 10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Halloween Organ

5:30 p.m. Youth Group & T.A.G, FPC

Spooktacular, Sanctuary

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

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KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth, Families & Outreach, x208 Autumn, Organist, x214

The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate The Reverend Annamarie Groenenboom, Parish Associate Michael Montgomery, Director of Music, x220

Dawn Reitano, Communications Coordinator, x209

Kelly Short, Operations Coordinator, x205 **Shawn Smith,** Building Superintendent, x213

Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor, x203

The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x204

mereditha@fpckzoo.org
autumn@fpckzoo.org
elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
annamarieg@fpckzoo.org
michaelm@fpckzoo.org
dawnr@fpckzoo.org
kellys@fpckzoo.org
shawns@fpckzoo.org
louiset@fpckzoo.org
sethw@fpckzoo.org
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 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

October 26 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Psalm 65; Luke 18:9-14

November 2 All Saints Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24; Ephesians 1:11-23

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.