



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



I saw Eternity the other night,
Like a great ring of pure and endless
light,

All calm, as it was bright;
And round beneath it,

Time in hours, days, years,
Driv'n by the spheres
Like a vast shadow mov'd;
in which the world
and all her train were hurl'd.

There is in God, some say,
A deep but dazzling darkness,
as we here
Say it is late and dusky, because we
See not all clear.

A great ring of pure and endless light
Dazzles the darkness in my heart
And breaks apart the dusky clouds of
night.

The end of all is hinted in the start.
When we are born we bear the seeds of
blight;
Around us life and death are torn apart,
Yet a great ring of pure and endless
light
Dazzles the darkness in my heart.

~ Madeleine L'Engle

NOVEMBER 2, 2025, ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

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

Solemn Processional

Robert A. Harris

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 Ephesians 1

In Christ we have received an inheritance, according to the purpose of God.
God fulfills all things by Divine counsel and will, so that we who set our hope on Christ might live for his praise and glory.

In Christ, each of us hears the word of Holy Love, the good news of salvation.
As we believe in Christ, we get marked as promised with the seal of the Holy Spirit.
That is our sacred inheritance—redemption as God's people, in praise of God's glory.

* HYMN 687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past St. Anne

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In every age, God, you raise up servants to live and die in your loving Spirit.
Yet, we confess that often we fail to follow your way of steadfast love in Christ.
Lost in fear and selfishness, we wound our lives, lives of others, and life of the world.
It comes in words we say, plans we calculate, and harm in which we are complicit.
As hurts we've caused join those we carry, God, do not take your Spirit from us.
In your saving grace, restore us and guide us in paths that lead to life full of joy.**

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 humbled 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 raised Jesus from death, breaking the power of sin and evil.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ in the covenant of life eternal.

The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles, redeems us and all creation.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ!

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks.

Live holy and joyful lives, watching for God's new heaven and new earth, 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!**

There will be NO Sunday School today. Children are invited to stay for Worship.

The nursery is open for children age 3 and under.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of All Life, as we try to follow Jesus' way of loving service, fill us with your Spirit.

Soften our hearts to desire your presence. Sharpen our minds to discern your truth.

Shape our wills, that we may delight in your purpose for us and all creation. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24

Old Testament, p.527

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

Text attr. Rev. Richard Hutchins

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared to Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, But ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21

New Testament p.192

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

Our Inheritance and Legacy

"I pray that you may have the power ... with all the saints ... filled with all the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:18-19)

*HYMN 506

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

Copeland

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

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

Text by Michael Dennis Browne

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own?
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered; Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?

After wind, after rain when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air, there's a calling from far away;
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

“Rise up, follow me, come away” is the call,
“With love in your heart as the only song;
“There is no such beauty as where you belong.
“Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.”

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #711 Lord of All Good

Toulon

**Lord of all good, our gifts we bring to you; use them your holy purpose to fulfill,
tokens of love and pledges brought anew, that our whole life is offered to your will.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God, we cherish our inheritance of your grace among saints in every age and place.
Receive our offering of gratitude and commitment. Enlighten our hearts, call us to
hope, and work your power of love through us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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 God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Hearts lifted high and grateful, these we give you, dear God . . . welcomed at your
heavenly banquet table here and now.

Members of First Presbyterian Church who have entered life eternal in the past year:

Sherman Van Solkema (1/4/1931 - 2/9/2025)

I. Charles Madden (8/31/1931 - 2/22/2025)

Sue Elyn Knappen (8/29/1950 - 3/9/2025)

Carol Payne Smith (3/21/1933 - 3/18/2025)

Robert Oorbeck (6/10/1938 - 3/21/2025)
Gary Elfring (9/30/1940 - 4/11/2025)
Martha Ford (10/10/1961 - 4/27/2025)
Diane Heckler (2/1/1941 - 5/27/2025)
Gloria P Lee (7/27/1934 - 6/17/2025)
Jeanene Lewis (6/6/1936 - 6/19/2025)
Paul Hartwigsen (9/15/1938 - 6/23/2025)
Marilyn L Lindbeck (7/20/1928 - 6/26/2025)
Nancy Raklovits (6/11/1932 - 7/27/2025)
Robert Poel (2/10/1941 - 8/4/2025)
Marilyn P. Boal (9/29/1934 - 9/14/2025)
William Barton Kelser (10/21/1950 - 10/1/2025)

You have shown them the path in life ... and of every time and place who sing to the glory of Your 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.

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us ... 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

**Number us among your saints, O God, and join us with the faithful of every age,
those who hunger and thirst no more and rest at peace in your holy presence.
Strengthened by their witness and by your grace, may we serve you faithfully,
until we feast at your eternal table in the glory of your heavenly love,
ever in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THE SENDING

* HYMN 326

For All the Saints

Sine Nomine

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sine Nomine

Arthur Hutchings

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Paul Clements

ACOLYTE

Joseph Sablan

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MUSIC

The Choir
Marysol Millar, guest
April Shandor, guest
Autumn, organist

Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Paul & Ruth Minert, South St
Karen & Rich Nellums, Lovell St

COMMUNION SERVERS:

Lana Griffin, Kathy Jennings, Brian Nederveld,
Richard Nellums, Phyllis Youse, Pam Zandt

SOUND TEAM

Mark Ohrstrom
Dirk Westbury

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 LANA GRIFFIN 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.

Greg Chambers	Sairi Elliott	Pat Stromsta	Catherine Willoughby
Becky Chambers	Amy Harik	Scot Stromsta	Harrison Willoughby
Amy Coon	Salim Harik	Linda Swope	Jonathan Willoughby
Ava Coon	Diane Johnson	Jane Todd	William Willoughby
Grant Coon	Katherine Millar	Janet Todd	Priscilla Willson
Grady Coon	Keenan Millar	Wesley Todd	Benji Yohe
Kendall Coon	Marysol Millar	Wesley Todd	Kirsten Yohe
Caroline Elliott	Craig Oliver	John Todd III	Lela Yohe
Derick Elliott	Kelsey Oliver	Phil Torrence	Matthew Yohe
Kennedy Elliott	Bernard Rodee	Sarah Torrence	Rosie Yohe
Mary Elliott	Helen Rodee	Cindy Trout	Helen Yonan
		Ruth Tyler	Pamela Zeller

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.

We do not meet today. Group resumes on 11/9, here at the church, from 5:30—7 p.m. Friends are always welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 21st during worship.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Book of James – What You Do Matters!

Join us at 9:30 AM in Room 306. Thursdays, we gather for coffee and conversation, followed by prayer and discussion at 9:45. Pat Stromsta will facilitate.

NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library, we are discussing *The People's History of Christianity*, by Diana Butler Bass. In the spirit of the Reformation, we reflect on how the church has lived faith in the past and how we witness into the future. This week we center reflection in chapters 8 and 9. The book should be available at your preferred local or online retailer.

CONNECTIONS (FORMERLY PRAYER PARTNERS)

Connections will meet next Sunday (11/9) at 9:00 in Room # 302. We will begin a new study based on the Sacred Space Prayer Book. Prayer is the raising of our hearts and minds to God. It is a holy and sacred experience open to everyone.

We meet to join and support members of our Church family where they are on their faith journey. We hope that you will consider joining us. Please contact Pat Stromsta (pat.stromsta@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

TODAY, AT THE LISTENING POST

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 FPC. We look forward to speaking with you.

POVERTY BEYOND RACIAL LINES

Systemic poverty transcends racial lines. In researching her family, church member Allison Hammond has realized how poverty touched her own family story, and how that poverty was used to pit poor white folks against their neighbors in ways that only benefitted those who already had wealth and power. **Join us TODAY in Room 306** for this discussion about systemic poverty across racial lines, and how it has been weaponized to keep people apart.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

Join us **today at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary for a free concert celebrating the birthday of Joseph Sablan, who is generously sharing his musical talents with us—what a blessing! The program will feature songs in Italian, Spanish, and German, operatic solos and duets, solo hymn arrangements, and choir anthems. We are also delighted to welcome three guest performers, as well as our own FPC Choir. Accompanists are Michael Montgomery and Autumn. Following the concert, please join us for a reception in the Gathering Place.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following motions were adopted by Session on October 22, 2025:

- A motion to approve a distribution of up to \$300.00 from the Elaine Kuney Fund for metal pans/lids for baking/serving food (CTV dinner and church functions).
- A motion to elect Elder Pam Zandt as a commissioner to the December 2, 2025 Presbytery Stated Meeting at Parkwood Presbyterian, Jenison, MI.

KSO COMMUNITY CONCERT

Join us November 4 at 7 p.m. for this concert in the sanctuary. This chance to connect with our community and Kalamazoo Symphony musicians is free and open to the public.

PUBLIC TALK: DR. MARK BRAVERMAN

November 5, from 7–8:30 PM at Skyridge Church of the Brethren (394 S. Drake Rd.)

Dr. Braverman, a Jewish American and longtime advocate for Palestinian rights, will explore the historical context of the 2023 Hamas attack, U.S. support for Israel, and the rise of Christian nationalism and authoritarianism in the U.S. He will also discuss the role of churches—alongside Jewish, Muslim, and secular groups—in defending human rights both abroad and at home, and offer ideas for community action. Sponsored by Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents to War (KNOW) and KAIROS West Michigan.

SUPPORT EDISON SCHOOL

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!



FOOD SECURITY – WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

You can help fight hunger in our community by donating to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. A large collection bin is located in the Gathering Place—consider contributing items such as low-sodium canned vegetables, cooking oil, canned soups and stews, or cereal. Additionally, we're looking for a small team of 5–7 volunteers to help pack and organize food at the KL&F warehouse on Thursday, November 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Aedín Clements at aedinclements@gmail.com or 269-352-6856.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Pending approval from Session, a congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following worship on Sunday, November 23. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect individuals to serve as Deacons, Elders, and Nominating Committee members, as well as to approve terms of call for Pastor Seth Weeldreyer for 2026.

MWC UNDERWEAR PARTY

Ministry with Community's annual underwear party is coming up on December 1. Annually, this group hosts this event to collect new underwear, socks, gloves, hats, and thermal gear to distribute to our neighbors throughout the year.

If you would like to help, but cannot attend the event, bring items to church during the month of November. There will be a box in the Gathering Place to collect donations.

60 WATT INCANDESCENT BULBS

Help needed to find these for several fixtures in the Sanctuary. Please drop them off in the office.

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!

*Hearing Assistance Available: FPC's Sanctuary equipped with a Hearing Loop system.
Visit the sound booth to borrow headphones that link to the loop.*

It's Butter Braid time!

Order Now!

Meredith will be in the Gathering Place after
Worship to take your delicious orders.

- Order Deadline: November 16
- Payment Due at Time of Order
- Pick-Up: Sunday, November 23 after service

Your purchase helps fund the next Youth
Mission Trip — thank you for your support!



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
10:00 a.m. **Worship—Communion**,
Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. **Poverty Beyond Racial Lines
Discussion**, #306
3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. **Joseph Sablan
Birthday Concert/Reception**
5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**
(8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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
2:00 p.m. **KSO—Community Concert
Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. **Boy Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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. **KSO Orchestra Rouh**
7:00 p.m. **KSO Community Concert**,
Sanctuary

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:30 a.m. **Taking Root Meeting**
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, NOVEMBER 6

9:00 a.m. **Library work time**
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, #306
11:00 a.m. **DOCC Soup Making**, Kitchen
12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gath. Pl.
7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. **Connections (formerly
Prayer Partners)**, Room 301
9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**
5:00 p.m. **Youth Group/T.A.G.**, FPC

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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	annamarie@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.

November 9
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
Psalm 145; Luke 20:27-38

November 23
Reign of Christ Sunday / Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 46; Colossians 1:3-20

November 16
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Luke 21:5-19; Isaiah 65:17-25

November 30
First Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

*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.*