



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



Apparently, light is less something we see directly, and more *something by which we see all other things*. In other words, we have faith *in* Christ so we can have the faith *of* Christ. That is the goal. ... We need to look at Jesus until we can look out at the world with his kind of eyes. The world no longer trusts Christians who “love Jesus” but do not seem to love anything else. *In Jesus Christ, God’s own broad, deep, and all-inclusive worldview is made available to us.* ... Christ is the light that allows people to see things in their fullness. The precise and intended effect of such a light is to see Christ everywhere else. In fact, that is my definition of a true Christian. *A mature Christian sees Christ in everything and everyone else.* That is a definition that will never fail us, always demand more of us, and give us no reasons to fight, exclude, or reject anyone.

~ Richard Rohr

JANUARY 4, 2026, EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude

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 Hundreth

**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

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God! Alleluia!
By the light of a star long ago, magi came to a stable from afar.
**And so we come from all distances and directions this day
to seek the epiphany of God's love in our lives.**

We enter here to find the light of life and to follow it on God's way in our world.
All the ends of the earth shall know the saving love of our God! Alleluia!

* HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you want us to find Jesus and reflect your light in him, so all may share life.
Often we lose our way, shining light on ourselves more than into the world around.
We lack devotion and humility to kneel before Christ, so we have little strength
to stand for Christ before the powerful and beside the vulnerable.
We turn away from others as poor as shepherds or as strange as magi.
Guided by greed, grudges, or anxiety, we stray into paths of fear and conflict.
Forgive us, God. By the power of your Spirit, beam among us and through us again
the radiance of your glory until your reign of grace and peace is fulfilled.**

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE #850

In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness

In a deep unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced as your own, evermore and evermore.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Friends, trust in God, the Holy Spirit, the giver and renewer of life. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community. Loving us still, 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 God's love in our Lord Jesus Christ!

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing and to serve Christ in daily tasks. We watch for God's new heaven and 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 #113 *refrain* Angels We have Heard on High Gloria
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

Children: You are loved!

Children: You are loved!
Congregation: You are loved!

Children are invited to remain in worship with their families for Communion.

Infants & children up through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of all light and life, open our hearts and minds to seek Jesus Christ. Help us trust the power and promise of your grace in him, which never falters.

By the gift of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your way in your Word, and lead us to offer our lives to you in love and service. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Old Testament, p.690

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEMAnd the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Text from Isaiah 40

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament p.2

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**

Inward Light the Lord Conveys

“Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice … ” (Isaiah 60:5)

*** HYMN 145**

What Child is This

Greensleeves

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCHWe 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 People that Walked in Darkness from *Messiah* G.F. Handel

Text from Isaiah 9 and 60

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people:
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined*** OFFERTORY RESPONSE** As with Gladness Men of Old (v.1,3) Dix**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasure bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

After all the parties and presents, O God, we begin our journey into a new year.
We offer you our hearts, with all our varieties of gifts and ways of service,
to be used for your communion of goodness. Fill us with your generous gift of love.
Guide us by your true dream of peace, in the name of Emmanuel, 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.

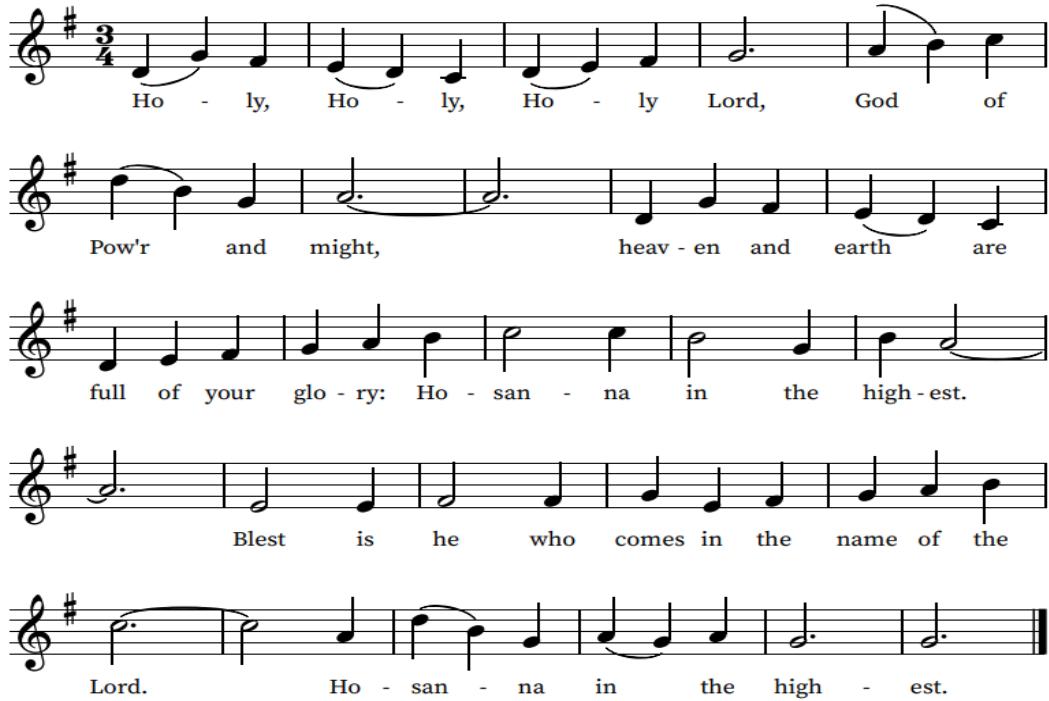
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high ... With herald angels and faithful
ones across generations we join in the song of your unending greatness:

SANCTUS (# 572)



Music notation for the Sanctus hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (G major), and a time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines, with each line corresponding to a specific phrase of the hymn.

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.

Hear us, O God of grace, breathe your Spirit upon us ... Then send us in service of 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

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, north and south, you have gathered us at your table, received us as your beloved, and nourished us for life with you. Now send us with the gift of your Spirit to serve as a blessing to all our neighbors, radiating the light of your peace and joy, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Kings of Orient

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Morning Star

Wayne Wold

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PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS	MUSIC	SOUND AND VIDEO TEAM
Meredith Alspach	The Choir	Chris Honeysett
Seth Weeldreyer	Jake Zimmer, soloist	Dirk Westbury
Chrissy Westbury	Autumn, organist	
	Michael Montgomery, director	
READER	GREETER	COMMUNION SERVERS:
Joanne Dunlop	Mary Lou Boughton	Susan Agostinelli
ACOLYTE	Pat Stromsta	Jennie Barry
Laurie Tupper		Victoria Coleman
		Laurie Tupper
		Rick Wielopolski
		Pam Zandt

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 PHYLLIS YOUSE 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.

Alissa Britigan	Samantha Fuehr	Austin Leder	Jill Piwko
Claudia Britigan	Arria Aileen Hay	Cindy Leder	Leo Thielman
Robert Britigan III	Clara Hay	Erin Leder	Sue Thielman
Mary Brooks	Evelyn McGregor Hay	Greg Leder	Carley Tuin
Bob Cowell	Jessica Hay	William Mack	Carter Tuin
Marcia Cowell	Terri Hunter	Norm McCallum	Jamie Tuin
Franklin Davidson	Robin Johnkoski	Linda Meloche	Astrid Westbury
Denise Freed	Steve Johnkoski	Marty Meloche	Chrissy Westbury
Ken Freed	Nancy Klesert	Heather Misner	Daphne Westbury
Andy Fuehr	Bob Klesert	Gary Piwko	Dirk Westbury
Avery Diane Fuehr			

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

In memory of my dad, who entered life eternal three years ago today,
I give thanks for his life and the love we shared. —Jennie Barry

CHILDREN & YOUTH

NURSERY

The nursery is open each Sunday morning, starting at 9:45, for children age 3 and under (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. Sunday School will resume on January 11.

YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

We will meet Sunday, January 11 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the church. All middle and high school students are invited to join us!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Thursday mornings, in Room 306— 9:30 coffee, 9:45 prayer

Our discussion of *A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine will pause for the holidays. We will conclude this study January 8th.

NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library... After a holiday break, we'll begin on Tuesday, January 13 with Gregory Boyle's book *Cherished Belonging*. "Boyle calls back to Christianity's origins as a subversive spiritual movement of equality, emancipation, and peace ... a way of life—not a set of beliefs.

Boyle's vision of community is a space for people to join together and heal one another in a new collective living, a world dedicated to kindness as a constant and radical act of defiance."

On January 13, we'll center in the introduction and chapter one. The book should be available through your preferred local or online retailer. See Pastor Seth with any questions.

CONNECTIONS (FORMERLY PRAYER PARTNERS)

We will meet next Sunday, January 11, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 302.

We meet to join and support members of our church, our community, our world and each other.

We hope that you will consider joining us. Please contact pat.stromsta@gmail.com if you have any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

There will be a **meeting today, January 4**, for all Sunday School helpers. Please join us in the third floor classroom immediately following worship. Thank you!

LISTENING POST TODAY

There will be a Session Member in the Gathering Space after church today to chat with congregation 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.

SUNDAY HELPERS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has served as greeters, acolytes, and lay readers this past year—your kindness and presence have truly blessed our worship!

We'd love for you to join in this beautiful ministry for 2026. Take a moment to look at your calendar and consider signing up to serve. It's a simple way to share God's love and make others feel welcome. The sign-up poster is waiting for you in the Gathering Place—we'd be delighted to have you!

THANK YOU TO LEADERS OF OUR CONGREGATION!

We celebrate and give thanks to the following people who are concluding terms of service:

Elders—Logan Brown, Kathy Jennings, Bev Murray, and Josph Sablan

Deacons—Michelle Greve, Deb Weurding, and JoAnn Yochim

Please, share in appreciating their care, dedication, and generous commitment of time and service!

Thanks be to God for gifts and devotion the following people offer as they begin terms of service:

Elders—Jim Clarke, Beth Dyer, Sarah Johnson, and Janet Lawing, joining with Al Parfitt, Rick Wielopolski, and Pam Zandt who are continuing on Session.

Deacons—Kim VanLoo, Joanne DeWit, and Phyllis Wilson, joining with Karen Hassler, Jim Mulcrone, and Sanny Nutter who are continuing on our Board of Deacons.

Please, share in prayerful encouragement as they lead our caring witness to God's love in our world!

IN MEMORIAM

We share with sadness the passing of

Susanne Rose

October 30, 1956 - December 26, 2025

The family is still finalizing service details that will be shared when available.



Pine Island Chapel, Christmas Night, 2025

WORSHIP AT PINE ISLAND CHAPEL

We offer worship at our Pine Island Chapel at 5:00 pm on the first and third Sundays of each month. The specific style and elements can vary from time to time—always including scripture, music, and prayer. It is typically more simple, meditative, and conversational. Contact Pastors Chrissy or Seth with questions. And come join us!

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP: WINTER BREAK

The Tuesday Morning Men's Group is on winter break and will resume in March. Enjoy the season, and stay tuned for the exact return date. We look forward to reconnecting for great conversation and fellowship in spring!

Please, note: Pastor Seth will be on vacation from January 5 - 11, returning to the church office on Monday, January 12.

————— “—————
You just have to do what you know is right.—Daniel Berrigan

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
10:00 a.m. **Worship—Communion**,
Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**,
8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**,
Dining Room/#308
12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
12:00 p.m. **Downtown Walking Group**,
Lovell Street Entrance
7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00 a.m. **Organ Maintenance**
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**
4:00 p.m. **KSO Orchestra Rouh**, Third
Floor Rooms
6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room



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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

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. **Communications Committee**
Meeting, Online
4:00 p.m. **Worship and Music Committee**,
Library
5:00 p.m. **CTV—Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

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
11:00 a.m. **PEO Chapter DI**, Gathering Place
12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance**
Committee, Library
7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. **Connections**, #302
9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
10:15 a.m. **Sunday School—PreK-5th**

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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
Logan McCafferty , Custodian	loganm@fpckzoo.org
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Dawn Reitano , Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
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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 A.M.

January 11	January 25
Baptism of the Lord	Third Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury	The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17	Psalm 27; Matthew 4:12-23
January 18	February 1
Second Sunday after Epiphany	Epiphany / Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer	The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
1 Corinthians 1:1-17; John 1:35-51	Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

*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.*