

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 W. SOUTH STREET, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007
FPCKZOO.ORG FACEBOOK.COM/ASANCTUARYINTHECITY
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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
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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 SCHEDULE

December 25

10 a.m. - Christmas Day

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Carols, Scripture, Prayer
Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

December 28

10 a.m. - First Sunday of Christmas

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 31:15-17, 31-34; Colossians 3:12-17

January 4

10 a.m. - Epiphany / Communion

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

January 11

10 a.m. - Baptism of the Lord

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

*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.*



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Sanctuary in the City: Living Faith



See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo! we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Savior's birth."

Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
teach us to resemble Thee,
in our own humility!

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"
Edward Caswall
(altered)

DECEMBER 24, 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 P.M.

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.*

PRELUDE Prelude in C major J.S. Bach
 Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

INTROIT Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Choir: King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

At the organ interlude,, the congregation rises in spirit to sing.

**At his feet the six winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!**

* OPENING RESPONSES

When the world was dark and quiet, a star shone brightly to announce the birth of Jesus.
God, come into our darkness and lead us to your light, that we may worship you!
Angels sang to shepherds, filling the night with a celebration of Holy Love!
God, fill us with joy as we open our hearts to make room for you and sing your praise!

* HYMN 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful Adeste Fideles

A LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

As we watch and wait for Christ's coming, we light Advent candles
of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
**God, come be with us in the shadows of our lives and in our world
not flourishing abundantly, as you created and want it to be.
Redeem us as we feel the burden of harm we cause or our complicity.**

prayer continues in silence

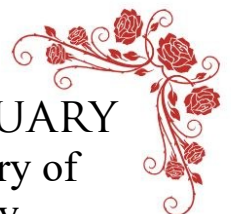


GIVEN IN HONOR OF

IN HONOR OF **Parents & Grandparents** by The Bullard Family
IN HONOR OF **My Special Prayer Partner, Al Parfitt** by Ginny & David Dell
IN HONOR OF **All Staff, Including Our Gifted Pastors, First Presbyterian Church**
by Ginny & David Dell
IN HONOR OF **Our Grandchildren, Jonathan, Elliot, and Teddy, and their Parents,
Ben, Megan, Liz, and Andy** by Ginny & David Dell
IN HONOR OF **The Girls: Dream Team** by Sarah T. Chase
IN HONOR OF **Louise & Norm McCullum** by Sarah T. Chase
IN HONOR OF **Tim Tyler** by Sarah T. Chase
IN HONOR OF **Toni Lyn Tyler** by Sarah T. Chase
IN HONOR OF **My Care Village** by David & Sue Johnson
IN HONOR OF **Dave & Sue Johnson** by Ellen Johnson
IN HONOR OF **Ray Wicks** by Ellen Johnson
IN HONOR OF **Louise & Norm McCallum** by Ellen Johnson
IN HONOR OF **Our Children & Grandchildren, Steve, Sue, Greg, Elliot & Avery**
by Keith & Nancy Johnson
IN HONOR OF **Susan Caulfield** by Shawn Lewis-Lakin
IN HONOR OF **Our Church Family** by Rich & Karen Nellums
IN HONOR OF **Kathy Oudsema** by Jeff & Paige Oudsema
IN HONOR OF **Our Children & Grandchildren** by Paul & Donna Schonveld
IN HONOR OF **Wes & Jenna Todd** by Janet & Mark Todd
IN HONOR OF **Annie Cannon-Brooks & Her Children** by Janet & Mark Todd
IN HONOR OF **Mary Brooks & Todd, Mathais & Rosemary Townsend**
by Janet & Mark Todd



THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are given to the Glory of God in memory of
Mary L. Tyler from The Tyler Family.





GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

IN MEMORY OF **Daryl & Patsy Donaldson, Donald & Priscilla Donaldson**
by Keith & Nancy Johnson

IN MEMORY OF **Janet & Jim Hogan** by Sarah & Jimmy Johnson

IN MEMORY OF **Joanne Johnson** by Sarah & Jimmy Johnson

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Our Parents, Vivian & Gurney Klesert,**
Gertrude & Manford Dalrymple by Bob & Nancy Klesert

IN MEMORY OF **Jeanene Lewis** by Bob & Nancy Klesert

IN MEMORY OF **Dean & Jeanene Lewis** by The Lewis Family

IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents, Ruth & Harold Mackinder and**
Wanda & George Minert by Ruth & Paul Minert

IN MEMORY OF **Dean & Lois Nederveld** by Brian Nederveld & Roland Prevost

IN MEMORY OF **Ronald & Marie Prevost** by Roland Prevost & Brian Nederveld

IN MEMORY OF **Fred & Faith Neitzke** by Jeff & Paige Oudsema

IN MEMORY OF **My Long Lost Partner, L.H.S.** by John Sage

IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents** by Paul & Donna Schonveld

IN MEMORY OF **Evelyn & Mary Smyser** by Kathy & Bill Smyser

IN MEMORY OF **Dale Swope** by Linda Swope

IN MEMORY OF **Marilyn Ufkes** by John Ufkes

IN MEMORY OF **Betty L. Van Der Slik** by Ron Van Der Slik

IN MEMORY OF **John Douglas Vermeulen** by Kay C. Vermeulen

IN MEMORY OF **Arthur & Evelyn Haupt** by Jim & Sue Weeldreyer

IN MEMORY OF **Meindert & Gertrude Weeldreyer** by Jim & Sue Weeldreyer

IN MEMORY OF **John & Esther Kroon** by Rick & Mari Wielopolski

IN MEMORY OF **Bruno & Stella Wielopolski** by Rick & Mari Wielopolski

IN MEMORY OF **Phyllis & Roger Jacox, Carroll & Ralph Zandt** by Pamela & Gary Zandt

IN MEMORY OF **Aaron Andrew Zandt** by Pamela & Gary Zandt

Hear God's promise from the prophet Isaiah:

In days to come the heights of God's presence
shall be raised above the highest hills and mountains.

Nations shall beat swords into plows, and spears into pruning hooks.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and leopard lie down with the young goat,

The dry wilderness shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,

and shall name him Emmanuel (God is with us).

Now, this night ... the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

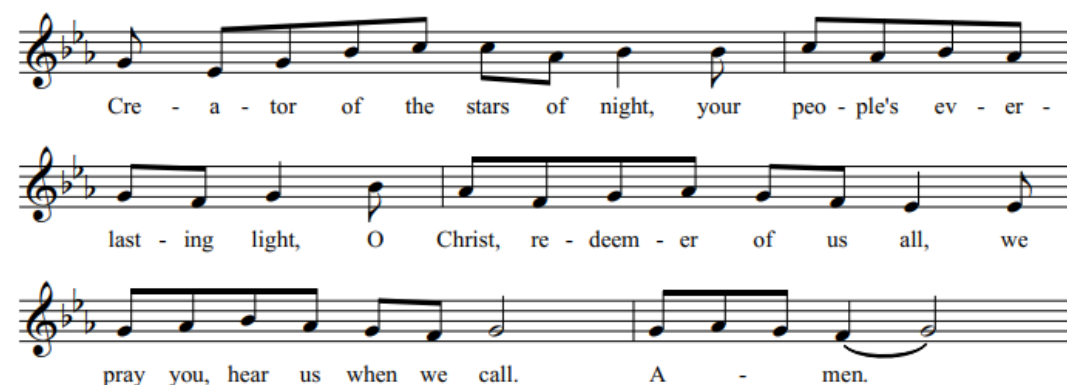
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

He will establish it and uphold it with justice and righteousness,

from this time onward and forever more!

The zeal of our Loving Lord will do this!



Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Friends, as we light these candles let us walk in the light of the Lord.

For Christ shall be known to the ends of the earth,

and Christ shall be the one of 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.

*MUSICAL RESPONSE 113 (refrain only)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Old Testament p.667

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels,
Called by love and angels:
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars,
Searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.
My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
Sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20

New Testament, p.58

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!

MEDITATION

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see [what] the Lord made known to us.” (Luke 2:15)

* HYMN

See Amid the Winter’s Snow

1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,

2. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say, what your joy - ful news to - day?

3. "As we watched at dead of night, Lo! we saw a won - drous light;

4. Sac - red In - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY ARE GIVEN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD BY MEMBERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

- IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Garrett Boersma** by Laura, Michael, Mark & Jake Boersma
- IN MEMORY OF **Robert & Marian Brown** by Gary & Logan Brown
- IN MEMORY OF **Craig & Sarah Smith** by Gary & Logan Brown
- IN MEMORY OF **John Denton** by Robert & Belinda Bullard
- IN MEMORY OF **Alan B. Chase** by Sarah T. Chase
- IN MEMORY OF **Mary L. Tyler** by Sarah T. Chase
- IN MEMORY OF **Our Moms, Margaret & Maxine** by Victoria & Mason Coleman
- IN MEMORY OF **Our parents: Bob & Edith Rasmussen, Wally & Jenny Cook**
by Grace & Mark Cook
- IN MEMORY OF **Our Daughter-in-Law, Deborah Klinko Cowell**
by Bob & Marcia Cowell
- IN MEMORY OF **“Rod” Enzs, Brother-in-Law of** David & Ginny Dell
- IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents, Russ & Darlys Fergemann** by Gary & Ann Fergemann
- IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents, Dean & Lee Platt** by Gary & Ann Fergemann
- IN MEMORY OF **Harold & Anne Carlyle** by Joe & Catherine Gibson
- IN MEMORY OF **Jim & Alexis** by Joe & Catherine Gibson
- IN MEMORY OF **Don Gilmer** by Tom & Diana Gilmer
- IN MEMORY OF **Catherine Vande Bunte** by Tom & Diana Gilmer
- IN MEMORY OF **Austin Scott** by Michelle Greve
- IN MEMORY OF **Bud Hanselman** by Susan Hanselman
- IN MEMORY OF **Billy Hanselman** by Susan Hanselman
- IN MEMORY OF **Alton & Mary Walker, Sue’s Parents** by David & Sue Johnson
- IN MEMORY OF **Dr. & Mrs. J. Frederic Johnson, David’s Parents**
by David & Sue Johnson

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born;
Christ, the Savior, is born.

* PROCLAMATION

Christ, the Light, has come into the world; the darkness cannot overcome it.
The reign of God is at hand, and of it there shall be no end!

Please extinguish your candles and return them to baskets by the doors as you leave.

* SUNG RESPONSE 134 Joy to the World (stanza 2)

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

* BENEDICTION

Congregational response: “Alleluia! Amen!”

* POSTLUDE Antioch Emma Lou Diemer

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS	MUSIC
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer	The Choir
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury	Autumn, organist
	Michael Montgomery, director
ADVENT CANDLES	SOUND AND VIDEO TEAM
Brian Nederveld and Roland Prevost	Mark Ohrstrom
COMMUNION SERVERS	Dana Underwood
Logan Brown, Paul Minert,	
Brian Nederveld, Donna Schonveld,	GREETERS
Rick Wielopolski	Paul and Donna Schonveld

THE THANKSGIVING

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 gifts and offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC Good King Wenceslas Traditional

OFFERTORY RESPONSE 144 In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4) Christina Rosetti

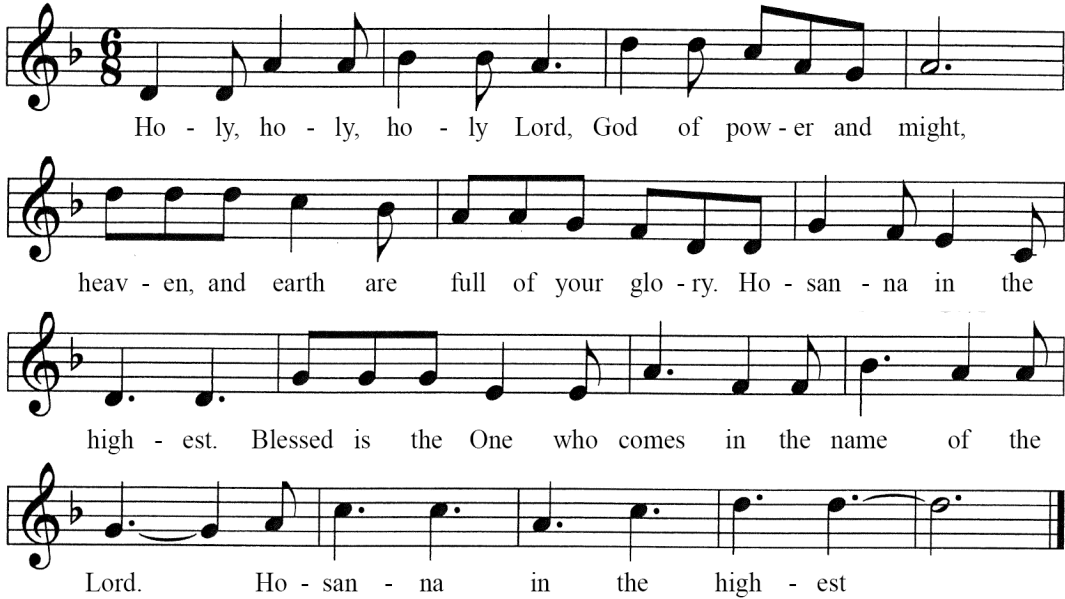
**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER *(in unison)*

**We thank you, God, for your gift of grace and truth in Jesus Christ.
Now we join shepherds and magi, offering our gifts of love.
May our service accompany the chorus of herald angels singing your glory,
that all may know good news of life in the fullness of your peace! 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en, and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est

With all mortal flesh, now we fall silent to remember him ...
Then send us to extend your presence to others around us, loving and caring in the
world, living and serving as we've been taught to pray, saying:
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	The First Nowell O Holy Night	Traditional Adolphe Adam
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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In the communion of your love tonight, God, you draw us into holy wonder.
As bells peal, help us feel gratitude and joy resound in our hearts.
Like starlight over a stable long ago, guide us with a sign—the light of Christ.
And kindle within us such faith that we may see clearly the way before us,
the truth to speak, and the life to live for Jesus Christ, love’s pure light.

GIVING OF THE LIGHT

BELLS HERALDING CHRIST’S BIRTH

COMING OF THE LIGHT

*At the conclusion of Communion, servers will share the light of Christ from the side aisles,
beginning with persons sitting at the ends of the pews. Please light your candle from your
neighbor’s by tipping the unlit candle to the lighted candle.*

* HYMN 122	Silent Night, Holy Night!	Franz Gruber text by Joseph Mohr
1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ, the Savior, is born; Christ, the Savior, is born.”	