



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



To ancient Christians hospitality was a virtue, part of the love of neighbor and fundamental to being a person of the way. While contemporary Christians tend to equate morality with sexual ethics, our ancestors defined morality as welcoming the stranger. ... In greeting, meeting, eating, and caring, the church acted as a community with its arms open, attracting inquirers through a practical demonstration of God's love "...with zeal and alacrity, with readiness, as going about is as if one were receiving Christ himself." ... Early Christians found both spiritual and social power in such acts, for creating inclusive community, a community of radical welcome and love, can put one at odds with the authorities. "It is our care of the helpless, our practice of loving kindness that brands us in the eyes of our many opponents," claimed the African theologian Tertullian. "'Only look,' they say, 'Look how they love one another!'"

~ Diana Butler Bass

DECEMBER 7, 2025, SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# 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

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Christopher Tambling

## 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

*As the choir concludes verse 1, the congregation rises in God's Spirit to sing:*

**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish, as the shadows clear away.**

## \* OPENING RESPONSES

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came and crept in beside us, God.  
**And few knew. Only those who dared to believe you might do something different.**  
Will you come again this year, God, into the lonely and fearful darkness where it seems  
war won't end, food won't come, the phone won't ring—to bless and embrace us?  
**God, will you come into our lives, if we open to you with courage to do something new?  
When the world was dark and quiet, you came. Please, do the same this Christmas!**

## \* HYMN #97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

## LITANY FOR ADVENT

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 a 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*

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.  
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
 and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 A highway shall be there—the Holy Way—  
 where not even fools can go astray.  
 Strengthen weak hands, feeble knees, and fearful hearts!  
 God's people shall return home singing with gladness—  
 everlasting peace shall be upon their heads, and all sorrow shall flee away!

Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
 last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all, we  
 pray you, hear us when we call. A - men.

Gracious One, thank you for the promise of peace.  
**Thank you, for moments where we feel it deep in our hearts.**  
**Teach us to make peace with our words, with our hands,**  
**for our own place and all places. Amen.**

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 95 (*sung twice*)

Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. Pre-prepare the way of the Lord,  
 and all peo-people will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

# THE WORD

## MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS AND BLESSING

*All children are invited to join us at the front of the sanctuary.*

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

**Holy God, your word of hope speaks amid our yearning in this Advent season.**

**Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to receive your spirit.**

**Open our minds to understand, that we may trust and live your way of peace. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Old Testament, p.640

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

## ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

text by Theodore Baker and Harriet Spaeth

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.

It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter  
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior  
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance ten-der with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
En-fleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

New Testament, p.163

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

## Christmas Hospitality

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”  
(Romans 15:7)

\* HYMN #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

## 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

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Text by Frederick Martens

*The composer of this carol, Pietro Yon, played the first organ recital here in our sanctuary in 1930.*

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night,  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,  
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang,  
The grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

Venite adoremus Dominum. O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows  
To greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,  
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,  
The grateful chorus swell.  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

Venite adoremus Dominum. O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)

Cranham

**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

**God, come to enfold us and surround us; come fill the space between us.  
God, be in our life and on our lips; let your love be shown through us.  
So may we seek your ways of peace, and continue still to be a sanctuary and a light  
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### PRAYERS 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 #123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wachet Auf

Emma Lou Diemer

“

I will sing of love and justice to You, Lord, I will sing praises. (Psalm101:1-3)

## PARTICIPANTS

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach  
Seth Weeldreyer  
Chrissy Westbury

### READER

Tina Egan

### ACOLYTE

Deb Bender

### MUSIC

The Choir  
Calli Bennet-Bowman, soloist  
Autumn, organist  
Michael Montgomery, director

ADVENT CANDLE READERS  
Stephen and Robin Johnkoski and  
Avery Long

### SOUND TEAM

Mark Ohrstrom  
Jim Van Buren

### GREETERS

Phyllis Youse,  
South Street  
Stephen Johnkoski,  
Lovell Street

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## 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 CAROL AND TOM NOLAND 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.

Alexandra Arwady	Caitlin Cochran	Gary Fergemann	Lester Roberts-Riggle
Andrew Arwady	Marcia Cook	Alfred Garcia	Michael Roberts-Riggle
Erin Arwady	Emily Curtis	Joseph Jack	Calvin Ruff
Rand Arwady	Sandra Edwards-Garcia	Sheryl Lee-Ruff	Toni Tyler
Bruce Birkel	Ann Fergemann	Greg Lozeau	Deb Weurding
			Ray Wicks

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers today are given by Gary and Pamela Zandt in loving memory of our parents  
Ralph and Carroll Zandt and Roger and Phyllis Jacox.

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

# TODAY

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## 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.

## OUR HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Today is the day for the FPC Holiday Bazaar! Browse, mingle, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season while supporting our ministries. The Scouts will also be on hand selling beautiful holiday wreaths, perfect for brightening your home or gifting to a friend.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

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## 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 classes available for PreK—5th grade students after the Moment with Young Worshippers. *All Sunday School children will be heading to the sanctuary immediately following worship for a quick Christmas Program rehearsal both December 7 and 14. Parents can pick children up there approximately 15 minutes after the end of worship.*

## YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

Today, the middle and high school students will have their annual Christmas party at the church from 5-7:00 p.m. Bring a gift to exchange with a value of \$10 and your favorite appetizer or dessert to share with the group. Please contact Meredith with any questions.

## THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program will take place during worship on December 21. ***ALL CHILDREN PARTICIPATING MUST BE AT CHURCH THAT MORNING IN ROOM 304 BY 9 AM TO GET IN COSTUME AND PREPARE FOR THE PROGRAM!***

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### ADVENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Reading and discussing *A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine. The book is able to be ordered through your favorite local bookstore or online retailer.

### NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library ... Our reflection continues this week, December 9, centering in *The People's History of Christianity*, by Diana Butler Bass. We began with the Reformation, and have worked our way through the Modern period until recent decades. For the last two weeks — December 9 and 16 — we return to Part One (Chapters 1-3) about the earliest church, paired with contemporary Christianity into the future (Chapter 13 / Epilogue). Join us, whether you've been before or pick up the fruitful conversation now. See Pastor Seth with any questions.

We should be deciding on a new book in the week ahead. Watch for information about how we'll begin in the New Year!

### MARTHA CIRCLE

Presbyterian Women's Gathering – Monthly on the second Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

This week, they will be taking themselves out to lunch! Contact Elaine Johns for more information.

### 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!

### CONNECTIONS (FORMERLY PRAYER PARTNERS)

**We will meet next Sunday (12/14) at 9:00 a.m. 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, our community, our world and each other.

We hope that you will consider joining us.

Please contact Pat Stromsta @ [pat.stromsta@gmail.com](mailto:pat.stromsta@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## Prayer Chain

Digital form on website  
Scroll down to "Prayer Chain".



## CALLING ALL EMPTY NESTERS!

Whether you've been an empty nester for a while, you're new to it, or you see it looming on the near horizon, this time of transition from raising kids to navigating relationships with young adults can be challenging. Come gather with others wrestling with and enjoying this time for fellowship and support! Our December gathering will be hosted by Richard and Anne Louise Coryell on December 10 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Chrissy for the address and details!

## OFFICE UPDATES

The church office will close at Noon on December 10th and 31st.

## CALL FOR COOKIES!

We are putting out the call for our expert FPC bakers to provide 2-3 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies. You can drop them on Sunday morning, December 14, before church at the Lovell Street entrance, or earlier in the week at the church office. Thank you in advance for your contributions in continuing to make this a great fellowship tradition.



## CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE 2025

Before the Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service on December 14, at 5 p.m., the Congregational Life Committee will again host Christmas Chocolate this year. Come to the Gathering Place before Candlelight Lessons and Carols to enjoy holiday fellowship with friends and family while enjoying delicious homemade Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!

## CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 14, 6 p.m.

Following the Christmas Chocolate, we'll share our traditional service of music and readings which recall the wider narrative of salvation. We line the center aisle and front of our sanctuary with candles, opening our hearts to the beauty and wonder of Divine Light. We proceed through ten scripture readings, alternating with choral anthems and congregational carols of the season. And through this wondrous worship, we prepare our hearts to welcome the birth of our loving Savior Jesus Christ.

There are postcard-sized invitations available in the Gathering Place and on the greeter desk for you to hand out to your friends and neighbors. We hope to share this beautiful expression of God's Love for our world with as many as may have yearning hearts to hear!

## AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CHRISTMAS RECITAL

Monday, December 8, 7:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church (2122 Bronson Blvd 49008)

Featuring organ students, and guild members, this concert will include many familiar carols and hymns, everything from “O little Town of Bethlehem” to “Sleigh Ride”! Admission is free.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Pick up your Advent Devotional from the kiosk in the Gathering Place: *Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*. Alongside daily reflections, this journey through Advent is enriched by artwork from children. Enjoy Advent with childlike wonder!

If you would prefer a digital version, please email Chrissy: [chrissyw@fpckzoo.org](mailto:chrissyw@fpckzoo.org)

## SHINE THE LIGHT ON JOY

This season, let's celebrate the joy that surrounds us! Everyone is invited to help create a colorful “String of Joy” on the bulletin board in the church office hallway (across from Room 208).

Participating is simple: write something that makes you happy on one of the paper bulbs provided and add it to the string. Together, let's fill the board—and our hearts—with reminders of joy and gratitude.

## PILGRIMAGE 2026 UPDATE

Plans for our 2026 pilgrimage are being finalized—thank you to everyone who attended the informational meeting last week! If you missed the meeting or have questions, we're here to help:

### **Iona Abbey**

August 26—September 8, 2026 // approximate cost: \$3650, plus airfare

We will begin with a few days touring the Scottish Highlands, including prehistoric cairns, castles, and other places of distinctive culture and natural beauty on our way out to the Isle of Iona. Then the centerpiece of this pilgrimage is a week together in the Iona Abbey. We will worship morning and evening, with opportunities to share numerous conversations of faith, a pilgrimage hike, and boat trip to sit with puffins! The final few days conclude again with more touring of significant historical sites in Scotland, centering in staying at Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. Contact Pastor Seth for more information. Deposit to hold a spot will be due by January 1.

### **English Mystics**

October 15-23, 2026 // approximate cost: \$2500, plus airfare

The trip will begin and end in London, and be primarily based in Norwich. We will spend time experiencing architecture, folklore, and the mystic traditions of the medieval period in England, focusing on the stories of Christina of Markyate, Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe.

Contact Pastor Chrissy for more information.

## CTV CHRISTMAS SHOP

**Help us make this Christmas extra special for our neighbors!** On December 17 we will host the annual Christmas store where our guests are able to shop our free gifts for themselves and loved ones. Your donations will help stock the shelves and make this a memorable experience for our CTV guests. We ask for small practical items that can be easily carried in bags and on bikes.

### **Items that would be most helpful include:**

*NEW* long underwear (Sizes L, XL, XXL)

*NEW* hoodie sweatshirts (Sizes L, XL, XXL)

Small giftable items for adults and children

Fleece blankets

Tarps (10 x 10)

Let's brighten the holiday for our neighbors. Donations can be dropped off to Meredith's office and are due by the 15th. If you have a question or need to coordinate donations, please contact [mereditha@fpckzoo.org](mailto:mereditha@fpckzoo.org)

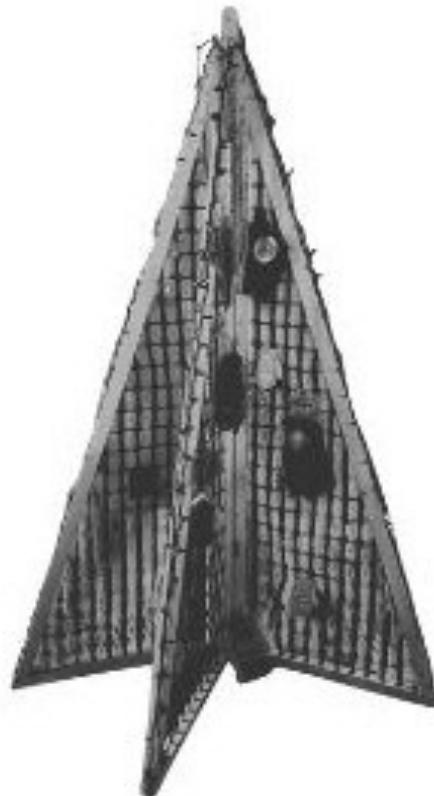
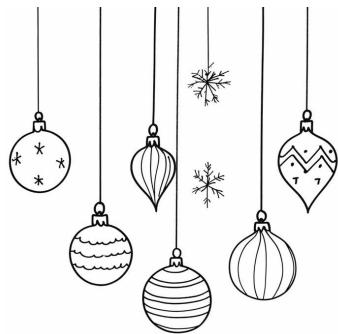
## MITTEN, HAT & SOCK TREE

Help keep our CTV neighbors warm this winter!

Martha Circle is collecting socks (most requested), plus warm hats, gloves, and mittens for men, women, and children.

**Lined and waterproof items are especially appreciated.**

Hang your gifts on the tree in the Gathering Place, or leave them nearby. On Dec. 17, the tree moves to the dining room for guests to choose what they need. Thank you for sharing warmth this season!



NEW YEAR'S FEST 2025 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*A Kalamazoo tradition in the Performing Arts – and we are proud to be a host site!*



#### EVENT OVERVIEW

New Year's Fest is a five-venue performing arts festival centered around Bronson Park, featuring 22 acts: magicians, comedians, classical performers, bands, silent films, and more.

#### VOLUNTEER AND CELEBRATE!

**First Presbyterian Church has a long and joyful history supporting New Year's Fest, and we're excited to continue that tradition. Volunteers are the heart of this community-wide celebration. Each volunteer receives: free admission button, paid parking, a chance to enjoy the festival before or after your shift. Volunteers may sign up as individuals, couples, or families. All Shifts are 2 hours. Site Coordinators are present at every venue to support volunteers and answer questions.**

#### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- **Button Checkers:** Welcome guests, check admission buttons, and enjoy the show once everyone's inside. Shift options: **5:45–7:45, 7:30–9:30, 9:15–11:15**
- **Arts & Crafts Supervisor:** Help children and families with creative, messy, joyful crafting. Shift: **5:45–8:00**
- **Floaters:** Ideal for “date-night” volunteers – help where needed across multiple venues. Shifts: **5:45–7:45, 7:30–9:30, 9:15–11:15**

**Buttons:** \$10 in advance / \$15 on Dec. 31

**Bronson Park events:** Free (Fireworks & Ball Drop)

Visit site or  
scan here to sign up!



**Sign up here: [www.newyearsfest.com/volunteer](http://www.newyearsfest.com/volunteer)**  
*(Be sure to select First Presbyterian Church so you're assigned to our site!)*

#### PERFORMANCES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

##### **Doug Church – “Elvis Lives!”**

*Sanctuary – 6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 p.m.*

##### **WMU Afro Latin Ensemble**

*Sanctuary – 6:45, 8:30, 10:15 p.m.*

##### **Vinyl Tap – Classic Rock Favorites**

*Social Hall – 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 p.m.*

#### JOIN US!

Volunteering at First Presbyterian Church helps welcome hundreds of neighbors with warmth and hospitality.

Thank you for being part of this cherished event.

**Your support truly makes New Year's Eve shine in Kalamazoo.**

*Questions? Contact: [kellys@fpckzoo.org](mailto:kellys@fpckzoo.org)*

## BEWARE SCAMS

A variety of fake emails are circulating, which look like they are from Pastor Seth and/or the church in some way. **Do not engage or respond to ANY messages asking you to purchase gift cards!** Even a reply to an email can be dangerous, so we advise you delete them immediately.

To help you identify legitimate communication:

- **Only trust emails from the official @fpckzoo.org domain.**
- **If you cannot see the pastor's original church email as the sender, be cautious.**
- **All official church emails will include gold seals in the closing.**

Again, we will not ask you to purchase gift cards, or to make any donations online. If you have questions about seasonal donations to the church, just give us a call to check the details.

## PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

**December 7:** We will share worship centering in reflection together on the Magnificat, Mary's song. It's her expression of joy and delight at news of Jesus' birth. And it's a rousing declaration of how God will act throughout Jesus' life, and through us as we seek to follow his way of living faith.

**December 21:** The Longest Night Service is a time to acknowledge the grief often accompanying the joy of the holiday season. Together we will honor both the light and the shadows, share prayers, seek peace and remember that even in the longest night, God's light shines.



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

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. **Holiday Bazaar**, Gathering Pl  
5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**,  
8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan  
5:00 p.m. **Youth Group/T.A.G.**

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

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 Street  
1:00 p.m. **Card Crafters**, Crafting Room  
3:30 p.m. **Organ Tuning**, Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:00 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Archives  
8:00 a.m. **Organ Tuning**, Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308  
9:00 a.m. **R.I. Board Meeting**, #306  
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**  
6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308  
12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. **Office Closes Early**  
5:00 p.m. **CTV**, Dining Room  
7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee**, Archives

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

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**, Gathering Pl  
6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance**  
**Committee Meeting**, Library  
7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir  
Room

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. **Crescendo Academy of**  
**Music Recital**, Sanctuary

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary  
9:00 a.m. **Connections**, #301  
9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208  
10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**  
11:30 a.m. **New Elder Orientation**, Archives  
5:00 p.m. **Christmas Chocolates**, Gathering  
Place  
6:00 p.m. **Candlelight Lessons and Carols**,  
Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. **Music Ensemble Christmas**  
**Party**, Choir Lounge

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
MONDAY - THURSDAY  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF  
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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<b>Kelly Short</b> , Operations Coordinator, x205	<a href="mailto:kellys@fpckzoo.org">kellys@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Shawn Smith</b> , Building Superintendent, x213	<a href="mailto:shawns@fpckzoo.org">shawns@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>Louise Taylor</b> , Financial Coordinator, x206	<a href="mailto:louiset@fpckzoo.org">louiset@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer</b> , Pastor, x203	<a href="mailto:sethw@fpckzoo.org">sethw@fpckzoo.org</a>
<b>The Reverend Chrissy Westbury</b> , Associate Pastor, x204	<a href="mailto:chrissyw@fpckzoo.org">chrissyw@fpckzoo.org</a>

**South Lobby Receptionists, x221:** Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry, Bob Brush,  
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

**Custodians:** Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt

**Library:** [library@fpckzoo.org](mailto:library@fpckzoo.org)

## UPCOMING WORSHIP — 10:00 A.M.

### December 14

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
The Rev. Dr. Liz Candido  
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### December 24

**Christmas Eve / Communion**  
**7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

### December 21

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Children / Youth Christmas Pageant

### December 28

**First Sunday of Christmas**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Jeremiah 31:15-17,31-34; Matthew 2:13-23

*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.*