

 KALAMAZOO  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

JANUARY 18, 2026, SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Christian life is about entering into relationship with that to which the Christian tradition points, which may be spoken of as God, the risen living Christ, or the Spirit.... As a journey with Jesus, discipleship means being on the road with him.... listening to his teaching—sometimes understanding it, sometimes not quite getting it. It can involve denying him, even betraying him. ... Discipleship means eating at his table and experiencing his banquet, including not just me and not just us, but those we tend to exclude. ... Journeying with Jesus also means to be in a community, to become part of the alternative community of Jesus. Discipleship is not an individual path

... [this relationship] does not leave us unchanged but transforms us into more and more compassionate beings, “into the likeness of Christ.”

~ Marcus Borg,  
*Meeting Jesus Again  
for the First Time*



KYRIE 441

Hear the Good New of Salvation, v 1

Nettleton

**Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.**

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

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: preaching, teaching, healing, eating with outcasts, and forgiving. Loving us still, God redeems us and all creation. The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
**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 gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. In a broken and fearful world, we witness to Christ and 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 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me, v 1

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,  
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## 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!**

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

*Sunday School is available for youth in grades PreK—5.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, amid distractions of our minds and swirling words of world,  
silence in us now any voice but your own. Turn us again to hear your call,  
to see you in Jesus Christ, and to accept your invitation to follow your way of grace.  
God be in our listening. God be in our understanding. God be in our living faith. Amen.**

FIRST READING

John 1:35-51

New Testament p.92

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Brother James Air

James Leith Macbeth Bain

arr. Gordon Jacob

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.  
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own Name's sake.  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.  
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod  
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.  
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,  
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling place shall be.  
And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling place shall be.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-10

New Testament, p.165

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

Called Anew: to Look for Jesus

“When Jesus turned ... he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’”  
(John 1:38)

\* HYMN 726

The Summons

Kelvingrove

# THE THANKSGIVING

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

*Today we ordain and install the following persons to lead our congregation:*

*Deacons — Joanne DeWit, Karen Hassler, Jim Mulcrone, Sanny Nutter, Phyllis Wilson,  
Kim Van Loo*

*Elders — Jim Clark, Beth Dyer, Sarah Johnson, Janet Lawing, Al Parfitt, Rick Wielopolski,  
Pam Zandt*

Do we, the members of the church, accept ... the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree ... serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**We do.**

## 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 MUSIC      Improvisation on Kelvingrove

### \* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 710      We Lift Our Voices      Offering

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. we are an offering." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes).

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**From where we are ... to our world in need, Jesus, lead us on.  
From life we share ... to new visions you reveal, Jesus, lead us on.  
Through purposes we pursue, your grace to show and peace to grow ...  
Jesus lead us on—called, compelled, and courageous in our living faith. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray...

*Sung in call and response with cantor.*

**Our Father  
in heaven,  
holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth  
as in heaven.**

**Give us today  
our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us,**

**Save us from the time  
of trial,  
and deliver us  
from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory are yours, forever.  
For ever,  
and ever.**

**Our Father  
in heaven,  
holy is your name.**

**\* HYMN 733**

We All Are One in Mission    Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

To God Be the Glory

arr. Pepper Choplin



*Our Sanctuary is equipped  
with a Hearing Loop.  
Use your T-coil-enabled  
hearing aids or borrow  
headphones from the sound  
booth for clearer sound.*

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## PARTICIPANTS

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach  
Seth Weeldreyer  
Chrissy Westbury

### MUSIC

The Choir  
Autumn, cantor  
Michael Montgomery, director

### SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM  
Bob Murray  
Dana Underwood

### READER

Kathy Jennings

### GREETERS

Jim & Sally DeBruyn , Lovell St.  
JoAnn Yochim, South St.

### ACOLYTE

Paul Clements

## 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 JAN CARPENTER 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.

Cari Anderson

Samantha Jean Anderson

Matt Bates

Betty Bennett

Caroline DeMello

Kristin DeMello

Stephen DeMello

Stuart Deming

Dan Dowswell

Juanita Erdos

Janet Gladstone

Anna Gleaton

Christopher Gleaton

Cindy Gleaton

Nicholas Gleaton

Patrick Gleaton

Estella Graziano

Mira Graziano

Neal Graziano

Sarah Graziano

Sylvie Graziano

Sue Grossman

Beth Jarl

David Jarl

Amy Miedema

Anna Miedema

Clare Miedema

Neal Miedema

Sawyer Miedema

Wendy Miedema

Sanny Nutter

Ann Ridge

Lyle Schenck

Brian Stults

Benjamin Taylor

Megan Taylor

Anais Totobesola

Orlando Totobesola

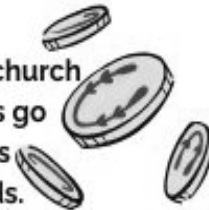
Charri Withrow

Gary Zandt

Pamela Zandt

### Noisy Coins!

Just a reminder to bring your loose change to church and toss it in the offering plates. All loose coins go to the Deacons' Benevolence Fund which exists to help church members with emergency needs.



## 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 Worshipers. Please pick your children up in their classrooms immediately following service. PreK/K/1st Grades—Room 211; 2nd-5th Grades—Room 304

### YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

Meets today, January 18, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the church. All middle and high school students are invited to join us!

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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### NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays in Room 306

Enter a Sacred Space wherever you are. This study, based on the Prayer Book *Sacred Space*, is designed to lead us into a life of prayer and, in doing so, inspire new expressions and depths of faith. Coffee is served at 9:30 and the class begins with prayer at 9:45. Pat Stromsta ([pat.stromsta@gmail.com](mailto:pat.stromsta@gmail.com)) will facilitate this class.

### NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library... 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." We'll center in Chapters 2 and 3 for this week, January 20. See Pastor Seth with any questions.

### TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Tuesday Morning Men's Group has cut their break short. Weekly meet-ups will now be at 7:30 a.m. in the Archives. Returning faces and new friends welcome! We look forward to great conversation and fellowship to start our mornings!

## HOPE FOR CREATION

***Bad River*** viewing and discussion. Sunday, January 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Milwood United Methodist Church (3919 Portage St.). This movie is a powerful documentary about the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's fight to protect their land and water against Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline.

## EMPTY NESTERS GROUP

We will meet at Brewery Outré on January 21 at 6:30 p.m. for Team Trivia Night. Anyone in the "parenting young adults" stage of life—from those anticipating an empty nest to experienced empty nesters—is welcome! Contact Pastor Chrissy for more information.

## ENGLISH MYSTICS PILGRIMAGE MEETING

All those interested in the English Mystics Pilgrimage being offered this coming October are invited to join Pastor Chrissy for a meeting on **January 25 at 11:30 in Room 306**. This will be an opportunity to share more logistics about the trip. Pastor Chrissy will also be sharing some information about the Mystics, sites we will visit, and a reading list. It's not too late to join us!

### **Exploring 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.

## PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Each day, our neighbors reach out to us in need of a little help. Many are housing insecure or seeking stable housing, desperately trying to keep the heat on or struggling with mounting medical bills. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund here at FPC exists to help meet those needs, in collaboration with other community agencies and churches.

In 2025, the fund helped dozens of individuals and families with around \$6000 total in rent and utility assistance. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is funded by our Christmas Eve offerings and other contributions. If you did not have a chance to contribute on Christmas Eve, or would otherwise like to support this ministry, please note "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" in the memo of your check or on an offering envelope.

## BIBLE DONATIONS

Do you have extra Bibles you are looking to rehome? Each day we receive requests for Bibles from our neighbors. If you happen to have an extra, of any translation, we would love to pass it along to someone with a desire to seek the Word as they navigate life's challenges. If you have Bible to donate, please drop it off outside Meredith's office.

## STAFF UPDATE—INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS

With the approval of our church budget for 2026 at the last Session meeting in December, changes in staff hours will take effect beginning January 5.

- Meredith will increase from 30 hours per week to full-time.
- Michael will increase from 28 hours to 30 hours per week.
- Logan will increase an average 5 hours per week to foster additional training and awareness of operational systems.

These increases reflect both a) excellence with which each person fulfills responsibilities, and b) valued affirmation of their positions in the ministry of our congregation.

Personnel Committee considered these adjustments for months and gratefully celebrates the ability to recognize the willing commitment and effective contributions Meredith, Michael, and Logan make alongside excellent ongoing work by all members of our staff team! Thanks be to God for good service provided, the gracious spirit with which we work together, and generous financial contributions that enable fair compensation!

## ORGAN REPAIRS

You may notice the absence of our organ's beautiful sound this week. The organ is currently undergoing important repairs to its inner components. These updates will ensure it plays more efficiently, operates more quietly, and continues to sound as lovely as ever. We look forward to its joyful return at the end of the month!

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Several endowments have been established at First Presbyterian Church with portions of these endowments designated to be used for scholarships. Scholarships are awarded for one year and a scholarship recipient may reapply for consideration in subsequent years.

You are considered eligible to apply for a scholarship if:

- You have been active in the spiritual and community life of FPC Kalamazoo
- You plan to continue education beyond high school OR are already a student beyond the high school level

***The deadline for applications is March 31. After this time, applications cannot be accepted. Only current applications will be accepted and must be completed in full to be considered.*** Contact Meredith for more information or to apply: [mereditha@fpckzoo.org](mailto:mereditha@fpckzoo.org).



When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression we'll find our opportunities to make real change. —Ijeoma Oluo

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. **Cards on Display,**  
Gathering Place
- 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—PreK-5th**
- 11:15 a.m. **Deacons Meeting,** #306
- 11:15 a.m. **Session Meeting,** #301
- 11:30 a.m. **Session/Deacon Luncheon,**  
#314/315
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship,**  
8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G. Youth Group,** FPC  
Youth Room

## MONDAY, JANUARY 19

**Building Closed**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

- 7:30 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. **Noodling at Noon,** Library
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life Meeting,**  
Library
- 4:00 p.m. **KSO Orchestra Rouh,** 3rd floor
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**  
**Meeting,** Archives
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band,** Dining Room

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.,** Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service,** Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV—Red Door Dinner,**  
Dining Room

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts,** #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers,** Gathering Pl.
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal,**  
Choir Room

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

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

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

- 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—PreK-5th**
- 11:30 a.m. **Pilgrimage Meeting,** #306
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G. Youth Group,** FPC  
Youth Room

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

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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PHONE: 269.344.0119/FAX

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF  
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

<b>Meredith Alspach</b> , Director of Youth, Families & Outreach, x208	<b>mereditha@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Autumn</b> , Organist, x214	<b>autumn@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido</b> , Parish Associate	<b>elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu</b>
<b>The Reverend Annamarie Groenenboom</b> , Parish Associate	<b>annamariieg@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Logan McCafferty</b> , Custodian	<b>loganm@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Michael Montgomery</b> , Director of Music, x220	<b>michaelm@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Dawn Reitano</b> , Communications Coordinator, x209	<b>dawnr@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Kelly Short</b> , Operations Coordinator, x205	<b>kellys@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Shawn Smith</b> , Building Superintendent, x213	<b>shawns@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Louise Taylor</b> , Financial Coordinator, x206	<b>louiset@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer</b> , Pastor, x203	<b>sethw@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>The Reverend Chrissy Westbury</b> , Associate Pastor, x204	<b>chrissyw@fpckzoo.org</b>

**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 25**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Psalm 27; Matthew 4:12-23

**February 1**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany /**  
**Communion**  
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury  
Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

**February 8**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
Psalm 112:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20

**February 15**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer  
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

*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.*