

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

JANUARY 25, 2026, THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Near Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee



Jeong is one of Korea's most defining cultural concepts. It is a deep connection and emotional bond. Much like *mitzvah*, it's an engagement of righteous action that is endlessly connecting us to each other. It creates lasting kinship and encourages



generosity. It's forever, and different from love. It fosters mutual understanding beyond the tight circle of those who share your experience.... It posits that our health as a community is inextricably linked to the thriving of everyone in the community. What gets cultivated is a warmth and kindness that genuinely wants another to be happy. It enables us to shift people to say, as Heather McGhee writes, "We've found the enemy and it's not each other." ... I don't say "Kingdom." The "King" keeps me from saying that. ... I say "kinship" because it's not a place but a stance. It's not a position; it's a disposition and a temperament. It is where we abide, an anchor.

~ Gregory Boyle

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

Holy Manna

Mark Sedio

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

God calls us on journeys of our own to this sanctuary where journeys meet.
Jesus says, "I am the Way for you." And so, we come to follow Christ.
Jesus says, "I am Truth for you." And so, we come to dwell in the light.
**Jesus says, "I am Life for you." And so, we come to share the reign of Christ,
leaving behind all else to which we cling.**

* HYMN 761 Called as Partners in Christ's Service Beecher

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You call us to walk in your way of love, God.
You show us in Jesus how we should live.
You want us to invite others.
Sometimes we get it right. And sometimes ... not quite.
For helping hands we don't offer, and caring words we don't speak, God, forgive us.
For false gods we worship, and true selves we starve of love, God, forgive us.
For hidden hurts we hold too tightly, and conflicts we cause anew, God, forgive us.
For careless use of time or money, and biases that misguide us, God, forgive us.
In your spirit of mercy, touch our hearts, change our minds, and transform our lives.**
Prayer continues in silence.

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 Spirit frees us to accept ourselves, to repent, and to believe good news of grace, as we love God and neighbor.
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

**We open our ears, longing to hear your voice, Loving God.
We open our hearts, longing to be part of life the way you want it.
Teach us your way of grace and truth in Christ; inspire us to comprehend and commit.
Through questions, uncertainty, and fear, empower us to serve your will in our world.
Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 27

Old Testament p.503

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Son of God, Our Christ

arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Text by Edward Blumenfeld

The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
Shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
From commonfolk he called the twelve to be
Coworkers in his sacred ministry.

In ev'ry test, in trials manifold
These servants witnessed by their faith made bold;
And with the gifts and talents that they brought
The church was founded and God's message taught.

Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
To follow boldly and his work to share,
To help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
Declaring to the world his holy name.

In city street, in town, or on the soil,
May each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,
And in each thought and kindly word and deed,
Obey Christ's all and go where he may lead.

Where e'er we find our witness to be made,
What e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,
That we may gladly give for thee our best
And find each task divinely sent and blest.

SECOND READING

Matthew 4:12-23

New Testament, p.3

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

In Lowly Paths of Service Free

“From that time, Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’”
(Matthew 4:17)

* HYMN 721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Pescador de Hombres

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 MUSIC

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE 710 We Lift Our Voices Offering

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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

In every age, O God, you give servants gifts of courage, faith, and cheerfulness, and send them out to carry your good news of love and life to all creatures. Grant, we pray, a like spirit to us. May hidden things be revealed. May we find new ways to touch the lives of all, and transform our world, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER 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 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Maryton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach

Seth Weeldreyer

Chrissy Westbury

READER

Paul Clements

ACOLYTE

Deb Bender

MUSIC

The Choir

Helen Rathbun, flute

Autumn, organist

Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Janet Lawing, Lovell St.

Dean & Kim Van Loo, South St.

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Chris Honeysett

Dana Underwood

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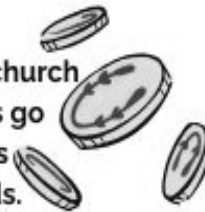
DEACON'S PRAYERS

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 VICTORIA COLEMAN 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.

Aimee Beehler	Darrah Dorman	Matthew Loughrin	Danielle Sabato
Morgan Beehler	Beth Dyer	Judy Marvin	Donna Schonveld
Grace Cook	Laura Fouty	James McGruder	Paul Schonveld
Marianne Crawford	Ryan Fouty	Dave Novak	Ryan Smith
John Day	Jeffrey King	Meredith Novak	Bridgit Smith
Margaret Day	Wendy King	Al Parfitt	Carole Stoddard
John Diamond	Margot Kinnear	Carol Parfitt	Jim Weeldreyer
Lisa Diamond	Janine Loughrin	Ann Rigg	Nathaniel Weeldreyer
			Sue Weeldreyer

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.



PASTORAL TRANSITION

Pending Session action, Pastor Seth's last Sunday with us is scheduled to be March 1. Representatives of the Presbytery Commission on Ministry will meet with Session this week, Wednesday, January 28. At that point, details of the transition ahead will begin to be clarified. In brief, there are three stages:

1. We celebrate ministry with Pastor Seth and our congregation, while we clarify expectations to support Pastor Chrissy and otherwise provide for leadership in an immediate bridge period. Session selects an Interim Pastor / Head of Staff.
2. Session nominates and the congregation elects members of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC and Session lead reflection on the mission / identity of the church, which feeds the process of preparing to search for the next Pastor / Head of Staff.
3. The PNC actively interviews applicants for the pastoral vacancy and nominates a candidate to receive the call. The candidate comes to preach and be elected by the congregation.

Please, watch for more detailed information about the transition process to come in weeks ahead.

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 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.

Join us today, January 25, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Revel and Roll. All middle and high school students are invited! The group will not meet on February 1st.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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) 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 3 and 4 for this week, January 27. See Pastor Seth with any questions.

*** Please note: Noodling will meet at 1:30 on Tuesday, February 3. ***

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Weekly coffee and conversation to start your day: 7:30 a.m. in the Archives. Returning faces and new friends are welcome to start their Tuesdays with us!

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.

PLEDGE UPDATE

The Stewardship Committee thanks all of you for submitting your prayerful pledges to meet our 2026 goal of \$610K. We received \$612,726.00! Check out the last open window on our board in the Gathering Place! If you have not submitted a pledge, you are still welcome to do so.

JUST SANCTUARY

Our social justice group will meet on January 29 at 4:30 p.m. in the library. If you've been curious about what Just Sanctuary is, this would be a great time to stop in and check us out! 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.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual soup/chili cook-off returns on Sunday, February 15th. It's a friendly and fun football-themed competition featuring good food and community. Plan on attending on the 15th to sample the soups and chilis, and then vote for your favorite.

Do you have a favorite soup that you would like to prepare for the competition? We would welcome your entry! Call Sherrill at 269.808.1096 to reserve a place at the table.

HOPE FOR CREATION

***Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit* by Lyanda Lynn Haupt**

A discussion on this book will take place on Sunday, February 22 from 5-7 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (1747 Milham Ave.). You are welcome, even if you haven't read the book!

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.

OFFICE UPDATES

The office will be closed until 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3rd as the staff will be in a previously scheduled training session.



We Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice...the path of faith, the path of hope and the path of love toward our fellow man.—Franklin D. Roosevelt



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.

Prayer Chain

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



WEEKLY CALENDAR

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**, Revel & Roll West

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**, Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
- 12:00 p.m. **Downtown Walking Group**, Lovell Entrance
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room
- 7:30 p.m. **Thoughtful Readers**, #300

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

- 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.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling at Noon**, Library
- 4:00 p.m. **KSO Orchestra Rouh**, 3rd floor
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **PEO— Chapter CN**, #301

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

- 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**
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**, #306

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. **Just Sanctuary**, Library
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 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

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)

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	annamariieg@fpckzoo.org
Logan McCafferty , Custodian	loganm@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 A.M.

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
Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 22
First Sunday in Lent /
Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Matthew 4:1-11

*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.*