

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2026, TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



This combination of the mystical and the political is what is so remarkable about [George] MacLeod. The true mark of Christian spirituality, he now declared, 'is to get one's teeth into things.... Painstaking service to humankind's most material needs is the essence of Christian spirituality.' In other words, to move more deeply into life, and especially into its places of struggle and suffering, like those he was seeing in Glasgow, is to move closer to the life of Christ, light that is within even the darkest of situations.... People generally imagine that 'to go mystical', as he put it, is to turn away from the affairs of the world. It is rather to go more deeply into life, to find God at the heart of life, deeper than any wrong, and to liberate God's goodness within us and in our relationships, both individually and collectively.... seeing or listening for God within the whole of life.

~ John Philip Newell, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*

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

Three Duets

Wilhelm Wurm

Maestoso

Allegro

Andantino

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

From many places and experiences of life, you gather us, God, in this moment of time.

Startle us again, glorious God, with your revelation, your vision for true life in Christ.

As Jesus' presence shone, help us share your grace and love. Inspire us. Transform us.

Then send us to reflect your light of salvation to all people, through all creation.

* HYMN 189 O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair Deo Gracias

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all life, you are near us every moment, everywhere we go, in everyone we meet.

Yet often, in the midst of your glorious world, we cast a shadow of sin.

Forgive us, when we veil your Spirit and confuse your will, pursuing selfish desires.

Forgive us, when our words hurt, our actions harm, and we harbor needless conflict.

Forgive us, when we ignore needy neighbors and abuse the earth, sea, and sky.

In the space of our humble hearts, draw near to renew us in your mercy,

until your glory shines through all we say and do, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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, and forgiving. God loves us still and redeems all creation. The Spirit of prophets and apostles frees us to accept ourselves and to love neighbors, and binds us together with all believers in 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 a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to bear witness, and to hear voices of peoples long silenced. We live holy and joyful lives 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 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—5th.

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.
Amid our questions, help us listen for the inspiration of your grace and truth in Christ.
Amid uncertainty and fear, empower us to serve your will in our world. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Matthew 17:1-9

New Testament p.18

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

A Canticle of Peace

Joseph Clokey

Text from Isaiah 2

And it shall come to pass in the latter day
That the Lord's house shall be established
In the top of the mountain

And many shall go and say:
"Come ye and let us go into the house of the Lord,
And he will teach us his way, and we will walk in his paths."

And he shall judge between the nations,
And shall reprove many nations.

And they shall beat their swords into plowshares;
Nation shall not lift sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Come ye, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Come.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

New Testament p.236

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

Glory to God: Humble Curiosity

"While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, '... listen to him.'"

(Matthew 17:5)

* HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

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 All Praise to God for Song God Gives

Dale Wood
Text by Carlton Buck

All praise to God for song God gives,
For music and a hope that lives;
God's sacred word is so profound,
We sing and let the truth resound.

God gave us music, gave us voice;
Sing "alleluia" and rejoice!
We lift in faith secure and strong
The sacred word through sacred song.

The word gives both the life and light,
And guides us through the shades of night,
So let the music sound God's praise
As hymns bring gladness to our days

God gave us music...

In song let God be glorified,
For God is able to provide
The music for the singers art
As song god places in the heart.

God gave us music...

All praise to god, whose sacred word
Has brought good news to all who heard.
We worship God and sing with joy,
And instruments of praise employ.

God gave us 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**

**Christ, your glory is within us, filling every breath, guiding our feet, hands, and words.
In the great mystery of faith, look through our eyes with compassion on the world.
Lead us outside this sanctuary, to the wondrous and wounded crossroads of society.
There may we bring life in your Holy Love, as we serve for your sake. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

**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 459**

O Word of God Incarnate

Munich

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit‡

Adolphus Hailstork

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Throughout February, Black History Month, we will highlight African American musical voices. Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) is a composer and educator from New York. Hailstork began his career studying violin, piano, organ, and voice. He then went on to study with Nadia Boulanger, and later received a PhD in composition from Michigan State University. His arrangement of “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”, for organ, presents the familiar spiritual tune with eccentric jubilation. The original text of the refrain is: “Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray,” and this setting shows that prayer is not always silent, but sometimes a joyful exclamation.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Ethan Hegelmann

ACOLYTE

Genevieve Miller

MUSIC

The Choir
Layla Michaels, trumpet
Jacob Lewkowitz, trumpet
Autumn, organist and soloist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Representing Troop 205:
Ethan Hegelmann,
Genevieve Miller, Robert Stedje

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Bob Murray
Mark Ohrstrom

*Music reprinted with
permission under
One License 731778-A.
All rights reserved.*

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 JOANNE DUNLOP 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.

Priscilla Blair	Janet Gladstone	Dianne Shaffer	Wesley Todd
Laura Boersma	Neal Graziano	Kevin Shaffer	Julie Tyler
Michael Boersma	Sarah Graziano	Kathy Smyser	Robert Tyler
Sarah Chase	Bassam Harik	William Smyser	Ruth Tyler
Daniel Corse	Veronica Harik	Joanne Stewart	Timothy Tyler
Patricia Corse	Minnie LaPoint	Richard Stewart	Michael Warlick
Linda Dalrymple	Timothy Lenderink	Marlene Stoops	Peggy Warlick
Susan DeJong	Diane Marsom	Pat Stromsta	Diane White
Randy Eberts	John Marsom	Scot Stromsta	Jim Young
Ann Fergemann	King Pegheleh	Jane Todd	Susan Young
Gary Fergemann	Jeff Ross	Janet Todd	

SCOUT SUNDAY

Today we recognize Scout Sunday, with members of our church Troop 205 participating in worship and helping with the Soup-er Bowl event. We appreciate their willing spirit and supportive energy.

And we look forward to hearing Scoutmaster Scott Willoughby provide a Presbyterian Service Announcement update about recent activities. Join in celebrating gratefully all the people past and present who have been touched by our congregation's long association with Scouting!

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 Worshippers. 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 at 5:30 here at the church. This is an invite to all middle and high school students. Bring a friend!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: LENTEN STUDY BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 19

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

This season, we are diving into *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times* by Magrey R. deVega. In this six-week Lenten journey, we will explore the many ways God meets us in the middle of life's unknowns, using the stories of Jesus to find peace and courage. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book through their favorite local shop or online retailer. Contact Pastor Chrissy with any questions.

NOODLING AT NOON

Tuesdays in the Library... This week we finish Gregory Boyle's book *Cherished Belonging* with chapters 8-9 and a summary recap. Next week, on February 24, we'll recall the book and topical discussions we've shared over recent years. We'll reflect on how we've been touched. What lingers in memory and continues to inspire? Join the appreciative conversation, listening to one another and opening to God's Spirit, as we ever continue to grow in living faith together.

NOODLING with Meredith: Starting March 3, Meredith will be leading this weekly group with a discussion on *When We Walk By*, a book by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes. The first week we will cover the Introduction along with Chapter 1.

SOUP-ER BOWL COOK-OFF DAY IS HERE!

Everyone is invited to come on down to the church dining room after worship today. Remember, all proceeds go to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - a Presbyterian Church special offering that supports disaster relief, hunger alleviation and self-development programs for communities in need.



NEW MEMBERS EXPLORATION CLASS

If you are interested in learning more about our church and what it means to become a member, join us for this class on Sunday, February 22, immediately following worship, in Room 314.

This informal gathering is a great opportunity to ask questions, explore your faith journey, and discover how you can get involved in our church community. Lunch will be provided and the class will end by 1 p.m. RSVP to Pastor Chrissy at chrissyw@fpckzoo.org and indicate any dietary needs so that we can be sure there is food for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

THOUGHTFUL READERS

All are welcome to join us for this book club. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 4th Monday of the month in room 300. On February 23 we will discuss *The Hidden Life of Trees*, by Peter Wohlleben. On March 23 we will discuss *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir*, by Safiya Sinclair.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Pick up your Lenten devotional in the Gathering Place kiosk: *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel*.

In a time of division and uncertainty, Matthew's Gospel speaks with fresh relevance. This devotional by Outlook editor Teri McDowell Ott invites us to journey with Jesus toward humility, courage, compassion and faithful discipleship. If you would prefer a digital version, please email Pastor Chrissy.

Join Pastor Chrissy on Wednesdays at noon, beginning March 4, as we use this devotional to guide the Wednesday Noon Prayer Service through Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**Begin the sacred season of Lent with us on Ash Wednesday, February 18,
with services at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**

Each service includes scripture, prayer, and the imposition of ashes.

2026 WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

The young adults (age 18-23) will be making their annual service trip to Colcord, West Virginia on August 1-8, 2026. If you'd like more information, or to register, please contact Meredith.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS

Stop by the Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry rack in the Gathering Place and check out our selection of cards for many occasions. If you wish to make a donation please put it in the Sunday offering (check payable to FPC with 'Card Ministry' designation on the 'For' line.) All donations received in February and March will be passed along to One Great Hour of Sharing.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Several endowments at FPC include funds designated for scholarships. Awards are for one year, and recipients may reapply annually.

Eligibility:

Active participation in the spiritual and community life of FPC Kalamazoo

Plans to pursue education beyond high school or current enrollment in post-secondary studies

Application deadline: March 31. Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

For more information or to apply, contact Meredith: mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

NOISY COINS

Thank you for bringing your loose change to church and toss it in the offering plate! All loose coins go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund which exists to help church members with emergency needs.

FROM THE EARTH CARE TEAM

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

Hope for Creation invites you to 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!

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

RECOMMENDED READING

KPL Reading Together book

***Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez**

It is a searing and compassionate novel about a young Black nurse's shocking discovery and burning quest for justice in post-segregation Alabama. You can meet the author on April 11 at Chenery Auditorium (3-5 p.m.).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 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**
- 11:00 a.m. **Soup-er Bowl Cook-off**,
Dining Room
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**,
8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**, FPC

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- 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 St. Entrance
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**,
Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life Committee**,
Library
- 4:00 p.m. **KSO Orchestra Rouh**, 3rd floor
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m. **Taking Root**, Library
- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday Service**,
Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Ash Wednesday Service**,
Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. **Library Work Time**
- 9:30 a.m. **Women's Bible Study**, #306
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #314/315
- 3:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 9:00 a.m. **Cards on Display**, Gathering Pl
- 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**
- 11:00 a.m. **New Member Class**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**, FPC

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 W. SOUTH STREET, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49007
FPCKZOO.ORG • FACEBOOK.COM/ASANCTUARYINTHECITY
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
Dawn Reitano , Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
Kelly Short , Operations Coordinator, x205	kellys@fpckzoo.org
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.

February 22
First Sunday in Lent /
Communion
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 107

March 1
Second Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Psalm 25:1-10; Ephesians 3:14-21

March 8
Third Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

*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.*