

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

FEBRUARY 8, 2026, FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



We realize that in isolation, hope dims, but in a community of cherished belonging, our hope flourishes and thrives. ... We choose to brighten, so that we can cherish with every breath and find ourselves alive and thriving, flourishing in relational wholeness ... indeed, WE ARE the generosity of God. Our brightening with each other finds a full participation in that. It enhances our benevolence so that our goal is not our own happiness but another's happiness. ... We seek to help folks become, more and more, their truth in love by loving them, by choosing to brighten, and this builds loving societies. Systems change when people do. People change when they are cherished. We propel our intentions away from our own self-absorption, and we choose to forget ourselves on purpose. Our awakened heart sees that everyone gleams with the splendor of God, and being a constant reminder is our joy.

~ 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

Bunessan

Emma Lou Diemer

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 all directions in our community, amid all conditions of life, as we center in faith,
God calls us to this sanctuary, a house of prayer for all people, home for all who come!
Welcome friend and stranger, saint and sinner, kin in Christ among all who gather here!
We seek the light of God's love in the unity and mystery of the Spirit's power!
We are called ever anew to salt the earth and radiate your grace for all people.

* HYMN 664

Morning Has Broken

Bunessan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gladly we live, move, and have our being in you, God.
Yet amid creation's glory, we see sin's shadow and we feel clouds of conflict.
It is deep within us as we strive against your Spirit.
It is between us as we hurt and betray one another.
It is beside us in people who are broken, hungry, poor.
It is around us in abuse of earth, sea, sky, and creatures living there.
It is among us in community fractured by selfishness more than generous service.
Forgive us, God, that we may forgive and become people of healing, ever open to
learning your way and living faith as salt and light, in the name of Jesus Christ.**

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. Loving us still, God redeems us and all creation. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God remains faithful still.
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!
The same Spirit of prophets and apostles frees us by grace to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbors. In a broken and fearful world, 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

Guide us, O God, by your Spirit, that in your light we may see light; and in your truth savor fullness of life in peace. Kindle in us the glory of your love that shone in the life of Jesus. So may the world become radiant, flourishing, revealing your desire for all people and creation. Amen.

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

Adoration‡

Florence Price
arr. Michael Montgomery

* 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 eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, with some triplets indicated by a '3' above the notes.

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

With the eye of a weaver, God, you receive glorious threads of our life and entwine us into a unity of witness that the world might believe. So may we embody your purpose as we open generously to one another, stretch the fabric of your love, and accept gladly the cost and joy of service, following Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

The Servant Song

BENEDICTION

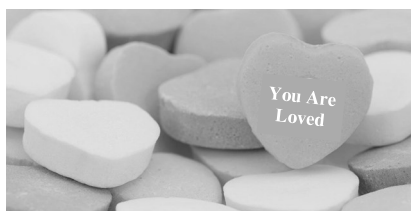
POSTLUDE

Theme from *NFL on Fox*

arr. Michael Montgomery

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Throughout February, Black History Month, we will highlight African American musical voices. Florence Price (1887-1953) is often remembered as the first Black woman whose symphony (her first in E minor) was performed by a major orchestra (the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933). She was also an accomplished organist and service player, having studied under Michigan native Leo Sowerby. This morning's Offertory Music was originally published as a short voluntary for the organ. A beautiful melody rises and falls within its ternary (three part) form, perhaps illustrating the yearnings of a heart at prayer. Notably, the piece ends with a plagal (IV-I) cadence, often associated with the "amen" at the end of a hymn.

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



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.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Sherrill Busboom
Seth Weeldreyer

MUSIC

The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM
Chris Honeysett
Dana Underwood

READER

Sandra Dennehy

GREETERS

Gerald & William Case-Blanchard, Lovell St.
JoAnn Yochim, South St.

ACOLYTE

Mark Ohrstrom

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 DEWIT 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.

Brad Allen	Donita DeBruin	Sandra Hintz	Lyle Schenck
Kristen Allen	Gary DeBruin	Connie Houts	Jack Schnur
Cari Anderson	Sarah DeRusha	David Johnson	Jakob Schnur
Matt Bates	Dan Dowswell	Judy Johnson	Jamie Schnur
Jan Carpenter	Jennifer Fiore	Craig Kortlandt	Jana Marie Schnur
Heather Cloetingh	John Fiore	Heather Kortlandt	Morgan Schut
Jamie Cloetingh	Diana Gilmer	Mark Loehrke	Shari Schut
Amy Coon	Thomas Gilmer	Barbara Perl	Donald Swetay Sr.
Grady Coon	Nancy Hamilton	Andrew Roberts	Charri Withrow

TODAY

GUEST SPEAKER: CROSSROADS ELDERCARE OPTIONS

Today after worship, Room 301

Navigating options as we age, or as those we love age, can be overwhelming. Crossroads Eldercare Options are experts on the clinical, financial, legal, and senior housing aspects of eldercare planning that are critical when making important decisions. Members of FPC attended a workshop with Crossroads recently and thought their resources might be useful to others in the congregation who are planning for their later years or exploring options with aging parents or family members. Crossroads works with families and area facilities to provide personalized care recommendations in an open and honest environment. There is no cost to the care-seekers to use their services.

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.

These groups are for all middle and high school students! Join us today at Revel and Roll West from 5:30—7 p.m. Next Sunday we will meet up at the church at 5:30 p.m.

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." This week we center in Chapters 7-8.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 11 at 2:00 pm in the Gathering Place.

Our Bible Study is taken from Mark 12:41-44 and is about finding our joy in Christ, even in difficult times. You are invited to join us for fellowship, sharing and study. For more information contact Elaine Johns at 269-808-7109 or emjohns513@aol.com



HEARTS-TO HANDS

Stop by the Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry rack in the Gathering Place and check out our selection of Valentines and cards for many occasions. Feel free to pick up a card or two before or after worship. 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. And, join us for our crafting session on Monday, Feb. 9, 1:00-3:00 in the basement crafting room.

OFFICE UPDATES

Pastor Chrissy will return to the office February 12.

FEBRUARY 15TH IS SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY!



Come to our football-themed soup and chili cook-off—NEXT SUNDAY—in the church dining room after worship. Bring your appetite and enjoy sampling different types of soups prepared by various church groups. Vote on your favorite! Wear your favorite team's gear! Tickets may be purchased today in the Gathering Place for \$5.00 per person (\$10 per family) or on the day of the event. Remember, all proceeds go to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a Presbyterian Church special offering that supports disaster relief, hunger alleviation and self-development programs for communities in need.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Beginning on Sunday, February 15, pick up your Lenten devotional from the kiosk in the Gathering Place: *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel*.

In a world marked by division, uncertainty and competing narratives, Matthew's Gospel speaks with striking relevance. Matthew's first audience — a young, fragile community navigating conflict, identity and fear — sounds a lot like the church today. This Lenten devotional by *Outlook* editor Teri McDowell Ott invites readers to journey through Matthew's Gospel to discover how Jesus leads us toward humility, courage, compassion and faithful discipleship amid the fractures of our age.

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

If you would prefer a digital version, please email Chrissy: chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

NOISY COINS

Remember to bring 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.
THANK YOU!

THURSDAY MORNING 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.

NEW MEMBERS EXPLORATION CLASS

Are you interested in learning more about our church and what it means to become a member? Join us for a New Members Exploration 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!

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Several endowments have been established at FPC 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.

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.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly...
Micah 6:8

Check out Pastor Chrissy's message at the
Northside Ministerial Alliance meeting
held on January 27, 2026.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Connections**, #302
- 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. **Guest Speaker**, #301
- 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**,
Revel & Roll West

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Crafters**, Crafting Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 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

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 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. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 2:00 p.m. **Martha Circle**, Gathering Place
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee**, Archives

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

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

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 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; 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 of Lent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42

*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.*