

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

MARCH 1, 2026, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.
In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

~ Washington Gladden, *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* (#738)



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 Wondrous Love with Forty Days and Forty Nights arr. Michael Montgomery

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

O God, we gaze upon you in this sanctuary to behold your power and glory!
To you, God, we lift up our souls; in you we trust. Teach us to know your ways!
Lead us in your truth, for you are the God of our salvation. We'll wait all day for you.
**God guides the humble in heart. Divine paths are marked with love and care, for all
who adore their Maker and revere God's Holy Way.**

* HYMN 611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Hymn to Joy

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION 431 Perdón, Señor

This paraphrase of Psalm 51 is sung in call and response with the cantor.

Leader: Perdón, Señor

O God, have mercy on us,
Your love is everlasting,
Blot out our transgressions,
And wash away our guilt.
Our misdeeds, Lord, we know them,
Our sins corrupt your way.
O God, have mercy on us,

**All: Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor**

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

Jesus proclaimed God's reign: preaching, teaching, healing, eating with outcasts and forgiving. Unjustly condemned, Jesus was crucified. But God raised Jesus from death, breaking the power of sin and evil. Loving us still, God redeems us and all creation!

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 Jesus Christ!

We trust in God who frees us to accept ourselves and to love neighbors. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ, living holy and joyful, 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 698 Take, O Take Me as I Am (sung twice)

**Take, O take me as I Am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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!**

There will be no Sunday School today. Children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for worship.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open us to your Spirit among us in this season of Lent, Holy God. As we journey with Jesus toward the cross, prepare our minds to listen for your Word. Prepare our hearts to receive your grace. Propel our wills to follow Christ in courage and in faith. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 40:1-11

Old Testament p.513

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Lift Thine Eyes from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
Text from Psalm 121

Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the mountains,
Whence cometh help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord,
The Maker of heaven and earth.
He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy Keeper will never slumber.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21

New Testament p.193

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: Enduring Trust

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish
abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,
to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever.”
(Ephesians 3:20-21)

* HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House

Two Oaks

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 If God Be For Us from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifieth. who is he that condemneth?
It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,
Who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #716 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending Beach Spring

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**In every age, God, you give servants gifts of courage, faith, and joyful trust,
sent to spread good news of your Holy Love.
Grant, we pray, a like spirit to us in our place and time.
Further your Sacred Purpose in us as hidden things get revealed,
hope restored, and new ways found to touch the lives of all.
So, may we continue still to be a sanctuary and a light, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

WITH CHORAL AMEN

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 542

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Last Goodbye (from *The Hobbit*)

Billy Boyd

*Many places I have been
Many sorrows I have seen
But I don't regret
Nor will I forget
All who took that road with me
Night is now falling
So ends this day
The road is now calling
And I must away
Over hill and under tree*

*Through lands where never light has shone
By silver streams that run down to the sea
To these memories I will hold
With your blessing I will go ...
And though where the road then takes me
I cannot tell
We came all this way
But now comes the day
To bid your farewell
I bid you all a very fond farewell*

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Seth Weeldreyer
Chrissy Westbury

READER

Mari Wielopolski

ACOLYTE

Darrah Dorman

MUSIC

The Choir
Bob Dyer, guitar
Tina Egan, viola
Pat Stromsta, soloist
Jake Zimmer, percussion
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Jim and Sally DeBruyn, Lovell St.
Paul and Ruth Minert, South St.

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Mark Ohrstrom
Dana Underwood

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

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
in honor of Pastor Seth, with deep gratitude from the congregation. You are loved!

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 KAREN HASSLER 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.

Lem Ala-ambong	Hillary Cloetingh	Abraham Konjoh	Jim Mitchell
Erin Arwady	Caitlinn Cochran	Bartina Konjoh	Mark Ohrstrom
Rand Arwady	Marcia Cook	Justine Ngweka Konjoh	Vic Onweller
Bernice Atemandeh	Kathy Cooney	Konjoh Konjoh	Paulette Rayel
George Atemandeh	Emily Curtis	Lucyma Konjoh	Jeffrey Shaw
Bruce Birkel	Jim DeBruyn	Sheryl Lee-Ruff	Deborah Taylor
Michael Bova	Sally DeBruyn	Greg Lozeau	Kaylin Taylor
Valerie Burke			Rick Taylor

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 no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for Worship. Sunday School will resume March 8th.

YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

We will not be meeting today. Join us next Sunday, March 8th at 5:30 p.m. here at the church. All students grades 6-12 are invited. Bring a friend!

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: mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: LENTEN STUDY

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

In a six-week Lenten journey, we are diving into *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times* by Magrey R. deVega. Participants are encouraged to purchase the book through their favorite local shop or online retailer. Contact Pastor Chrissy with any questions.

NOODLING AT NOON WITH MEREDITH

In the library, 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 will cover the Introduction and Chapter 1. Please direct any questions to mereditha@fpckzoo.org

CONNECTIONS (FORMERLY PRAYER PARTNERS)

We will meet March 8, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 302. We meet to join and support members of our church, our community, our world and each other. Please contact pat.stromsta@gmail.com if you have any questions. We hope that you will consider joining us.

JUST SANCTUARY

Join Just Sanctuary on March 8 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 301 for a viewing of the video “How FDR Segregated Kalamazoo.” In the video, Matt Smith shares insights from his extensive research into Kalamazoo’s history and examines the segregation policies of the past. The screening will be followed by a conversation. We hope you will join us.

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 through March will be passed along to One Great Hour of Sharing.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Pick up your Lenten devotional in the Gathering Place kiosk: *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey Through Matthew's Gospel*. If you would prefer a digital version, please email Pastor Chrissy: chissyw@fpckzoo.org.

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

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Pastor Seth and FPC. Afterward, please join us in the Dining Room for an open-house reception (11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.) as we share gratitude and fond reflections on our time with him.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

March 1, 5:00 p.m. ~ 8882 W Q Ave - Pine Island Chapel

Join Pastor Chrissy for a reflective moment as we sink more deeply into this Lenten Season. We will begin with a time of prayer and then will journey through a series of interactive Lenten prayer stations where you will be invited to experiment with different prayer practices, some contemplative, some more concrete that you can take with you on your Lenten journey.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and shared meal on Sunday, March 15, in the Dining Room immediately after worship. This special time together lets us celebrate the past year, renew our commitment to one another, and consider our hopes and challenges for the future. We hope you'll stay and be part of the conversation!

The Congregational Life Committee will provide warm breakfast casseroles. Please bring a dish to share—fruit, salad, vegetables, or pastries are all welcome. Potluck items may be dropped off in the kitchen before worship; our committee will handle warming and serving. If you have questions, contact Sherrill at 269-808-1096.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful and joyful time together!

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.

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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

FPC's Sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop system.

If your hearing aids have a T-coil (telecoil), you can connect directly to the sound system—check your manual or audiologist for activation help. Need a volume boost? Visit the sound booth to borrow headphones that link to the loop.

Happy Birthday

MARCH 2
Kennedy Elliott
Jake Longman
Bridgit Smith
Catherine Willoughby

MARCH 3
Ellen Dykhuis
Cory Fritz
Evelyn Garner
Joyce Ryskamp
Lyle Schenck

MARCH 5
Cindy Gleaton

MARCH 6
Sandra Edwards-Garcia

MARCH 7
Bennett Loughrin

MARCH 8
Clara Hay
Chuck Schmiege

MARCH 9
Kristen Allen
Leslie Roberts
Jeff Siefert

MARCH 10
Colton Card
Franklin Davidson
Charlie Warren

MARCH 11
Joyce Artman
Jerre James
Phil Kechele
Wendy King

MARCH 12
Celine Finjap
Todd Richman

MARCH 13
Robert Murray

MARCH 14
Jimmy Johnson

MARCH 15
Bruce Lubbers

MARCH 16
Richard Aldrich
Rob Bradford

MARCH 17
Julie Bol
Linda Meloche
Shayne Plemmons
Sue Weeldreyer

MARCH 18
Julie Kechele
Dean McWethy II

MARCH 19
Jacque Jennings-Carter
Robert Scholten
Jana Marie Schnur
Benjamin Taylor
Margaret Towner

MARCH 20
Benjamin Lewis
Jean Miller

MARCH 21
Brad Allen
Gary Dorrien
Dick Hodgman
Amy Schreiner

MARCH 22
Marcia Daniels
Catherine Gibson
Mohseh Pegheleh
Paulette Rayel

MARCH 23
Sharon Bradford
Matthew Novak
Bob White

MARCH 24
Craig Kortlandt
Shari Schut

MARCH 25
Alexis Diamond
Frank Johnson
Bob Klesert
Nan Munn

MARCH 26
Samantha Shaffer
Scott Wilson

MARCH 27
Dick DeVries
Patrick Gleaton
Gordon Ryskamp

MARCH 29
Taye Bradford
Sarah Chase
John Fiore

MARCH 30
Marjorie Wardwell

MARCH 31
Grant Coon
Becker Siefert
Lela Yohe



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 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
- 11:00 a.m. **Congregational Meeting**, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. **Reception for Seth**, Dining Room
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**, 8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 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 Roush**, 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, MARCH 4

- 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**
- 1:00 p.m. **Communication Committee**, #301/online
- 4:00 p.m. **Worship & Music Committee**, Library
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**, Dining
- 7:00 p.m. **Taking Root Service**, East Transept

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 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
- 11:00 a.m. **Literacy Center**, #316
- 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, MARCH 6

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 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 grade**
- 11:30 a.m. **Just Sanctuary Video & Discussion**, #301
- 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.

March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

March 22

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Timothy McNinch

March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

March 29

Palm Sunday

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

*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.*