

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

MARCH 15, 2026, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

When he was ready, in perfect harmony the whole of the Trinity, God created us all at once. He wove us into and united us with himself. In light of this blessed oneing, he keeps us as pure and noble as he created us to be. And through the power of this blessed union, we adore our Creator and delight in him, praising him, thanking him, and endlessly rejoicing in him. The work of this joining is constantly unfolding within every soul...



(God) is our true partner in this weaving and oneing. We are his beloved spouse, his precious sweetheart, and it is impossible for him to be displeased with us. He says, "I love you and you love me, and our love will never be broken in two."
Julian of Norwich: The Showings (Mirabai Starr translation)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life and calls us to a new obedience. Through reconciling love, God overcomes estrangement, heals brokenness, and brings forth new life.

We belong to God. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, God is not only reconciling us but the whole of creation. The power of sin and death is defeated, and we are called to live as forgiven and free people, joining in God's work of renewal 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 response)

**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!**

Infants & children up through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 208. There is Sunday School available for PreK - fifth grade students.

FESTIVAL OF ATONEMENT: A SERVICE OF WORD AND SONG FOR LENT

Orientation/Introduction

Movement 1: Christus Victor

Scripture

Romans 8:31-39

New Testament p.158

Reflection

Hymn

Up From the Grave He Arose (v 1, 3)

(gently)

1. Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sa - vior,
2. Death can - not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sa - vior,

wait - ing the com - ing day, Je - sus my Lord.
he - tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord.

(faster)

Up from the grave He a - rose, with a migh - ty triumph o'er his
foes! He a - rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he

(o'er His foes)

lives for - ev - er, with his saints to reign! He a - rose! He a -

(slower)

(He a-rose)

rose! All vic - tor - ious, Christ a - rose!

(He a-rose)

Movement 2: Ransom

Scripture

1 Peter 1:17-21

New Testament p.232

Reflection

Hymn 625

How Great Thou Art (v 3)

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!**

Movement 3: Penal Substitution

Scripture

Romans 5:6-10

New Testament p.155

Reflection

Hymn 218

Ah, Holy Jesus (v 1 cantor, v 2 all)

*Cantor: Ah, holy Jesus,
how hast thou offended, that we to judge
thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!*

**All: Who was the guilty?
Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my
treason, Jesus hath undone thee.
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.**

Movement 4: Sacrifice

Scripture

Hebrews 10:11-18

New Testament p.224

Reflection

Hymn 518

Lamb of God (v 1)

**Your only Son, no sins to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.**

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Movement 5: Moral Exemplar

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-11

New Testament p.197

Reflection

*HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

They'll Know We Are Christians

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Presentation, Questions, and Prayer for New Members

Let us welcome these newest members as they join with us in the worship, ministry, and mission of the church!

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in Christ Jesus!**

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

Lead Me Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Text from Psalm 5

Lead me Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.

For it is Thou, Lord,
Thou, Lord, only, that maketh me dwell in safety.

*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

God of abundance, we bring these gifts as signs of gratitude and trust. Use them to strengthen the witness of your church and to bring hope where there is despair, justice where there is oppression, and love where there is need. In Christ's name we pray. 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 162

O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench

Lewis-Town

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was a celebrated English composer, known mostly for his orchestral music. In 1920, he published a set of three organ preludes based on Welsh hymn tunes. The second of these preludes, set to "Rhosymedre," is perhaps his most-beloved piece outside of his orchestral works. It was played at the funeral of Princess Diana, the weddings of Prince William and Prince Harry, and at the coronation of King Charles. Even after a hundred years, the prelude on "Rhosymedre" continues to be a favorite of organists and lovers of organ music. The beautiful, rich counterpoint that delicately surrounds the tune throughout provides a sense of peace and tranquility. It is no wonder that this piece is sometimes known as "Lovely."

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

ACOLYTE
Joseph Sablan

READERS
Brian Nederveld
Heather Cloetingh
Rick Wielopolski
Laurie Tupper
Roland Prevost

MUSIC
The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Erika Mehring, soloist
Rick Van Enk, percussion
Bob Dyer, guitar
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS
Mark Loehrke, Lovell St.
JoAnn Yochim, South St.

SOUND AND
VIDEO TEAM
Bob Murray
Mark Ohrstrom

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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 PAUL MINERT 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.

Matthew Beaver	Jessica Hay	Greg Leder	Marshall Rutz
Sarah Beaver	Lois Heuchert	Norm McCallum	Gayle Sparks
Alissa Britigan	Terri Hunter	Don Meldrum	Sue Thielman
Claudia Britigan	Kristen Kern-Beaver	Karen Meldrum	Jamie Tuin
Robert Britigan III	Nancy Klesert	Linda Meloche	Geoffrey Wardwell
Sue Cole	Bob Klesert	Marty Meloche	Marjorie Wardwell
Martha Finjap	Cindy Leder	Heather Misner	Sandra Western
Denise Freed	Erin Leder	Jill Piwko	Bob White
Ken Freed			

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God in memory of our parents' and grandparents' March 15 wedding anniversaries by Laurie Tupper, Judy Marvin, Jamie, Josh, Carter and Carley Tuin

IN MEMORIAM

Jerre James, a beloved member of our congregation since 1947, passed away last weekend. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers. Memorial service details will be shared as soon as they become available.

TODAY

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join us in the dining room after today's service for food, fellowship, fun, and helpful information. We look forward to spending this time together!

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.

The middle and high school students will meet for T.A.G./Youth Group today from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the church. The group will be working on a service project together. (This can count towards school service hours for those who need them!) All are welcome! The group will also meet 3/22.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

Tuesdays in the library, join us in our group discussion on *When We Walk By*, a book by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes. This week we will consider Chapters 4 & 5. If you have any questions, please contact 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 March 23 we will discuss *How to Say Babylon: A Memoir*, by Safiya Sinclair. Our April book is *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS

Card will be on display next Sunday, though you can check out the rack in the Gathering Place anytime! This month, donations for cards will be passed along to One Great Hour of Sharing. 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.)

If you wish to join in on the card crafting fun, join us in the crafting room from 1-3 p.m. on 3/16.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

There is no evening service today due to an adjustment to our usual services schedule. The next services at 8882 W Q Ave. will be the 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service on April 5 and the returning Sunday evening service at 5 p.m. on April 19.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...



If you missed last Sunday's gathering, you can watch "How FDR Segregated Kalamazoo" here. The presentation begins at the 12-minute mark and lasts about an hour. Matt Smith shares his research on Kalamazoo's history of segregation and offers suggestions for the future.

THE PALM SUNDAY PATH

March 29, 3:00 p.m. in Lansing

On Palm Sunday, while Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly and peacefully, the Roman Empire staged a military parade on the other side of the city—a show of domination and power. In that same spirit, we are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday Path in Lansing, a nonpartisan, faith-based procession rooted in Matthew 25—healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger—offering a public witness to Christ’s way of love, justice, and radical hospitality in contrast to the violence, hate and fear so often seen in our public life. Participants will gather at Pilgrim Church (125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in Lansing) at 3:00 p.m. to walk approximately one mile to the Capitol (the full event will last 2–3 hours), with singing, palms, signs, and a closing program of music and speakers; those unable to walk may meet at the Capitol for the 45-minute program.

Please scan the QR code to register online (or find the link in weekly announcement email). Contact Pastor Chrissy if you would like to be part of a carpool: chrissyw@fpckzoo.org



EASTER FLOWERS

Memorialize or honor someone you love! Celebrate the joy and splendor of the Resurrection by ordering Easter flowers to adorn the Sanctuary. Each plant is \$25, and **orders must be placed by March 24, 2026**. Please complete the form included in this bulletin and submit payment, payable to First Presbyterian Church, by mail or in person at the church office. A list of flowers will be included as an part of the Easter Sunday bulletin.

FAITH. CLIMATE. ACTION.

Saturday, March 21, Portage United Church of Christ (Milham Ave), join Hope for Creation for an afternoon of learning and connection! Please RSVP at hopeforcreation.net.
Workshops & Discussion: 1:00–4:00 PM; Networking/Social Hour: 4:00–5:00 PM

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michele Fritz retired and moved to Kalamazoo five years ago to be closer to her sons and their families (she also has an adult daughter who lives in North Carolina). She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, hiking, biking, pickleball, dancing, and learning and growing in her faith.

Luis Rodriguez works in AI Acquisitions. He has been attending here for a while now, often with his partner and his two children. As he likes to say, he finally ate enough donut holes that he figured it was time to get more involved. He enjoys chess, soccer, baseball, KSO Concerts, and serving the community in any way he can.

Matthew and Jennifer Freeland are the parents of two young adult children. Jen is a medical writer and a life-long learner who enjoys gardening and working with kids. Matt is a contracts manager who has been involved in scouting (he's an Eagle scout!) and enjoys photography and the outdoors – hunting, fishing, camping, boating, golf. They both appreciate the service orientation of this church.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 29
9:45 a.m. Ecumenical Blessing of the Palms in Bronson Park
Continues to the Sanctuary for 10 a.m. service

Wednesday Noon Prayer, April 1
In the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 2
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary, includes Communion

Good Friday, April 3
7 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5
7 a.m. Sunrise Service at the Pine Island Chapel
10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



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.



EASTER FLOWERS

MEMORIALIZE OR HONOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE

These beautiful flowers will be arranged in the Sanctuary,
glorifying God with the joy and splendor of the Resurrection!

\$25 PER PLANT.

Please fill out the form below, and mail with payment, or
deliver it to the church office. Payable to First Presbyterian Church.

DEADLINE: TUESDAY MARCH 24th.

A list of flowers will be part of the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

I would like: _____ plants (\$25 each)

Check for \$ _____ enclosed.

In **memory** of, or in **honor** of (choose one)

In **memory** of, or in **honor** of (choose one)

In **memory** of, or in **honor** of (choose one)

Given by: (include your name with your phone or email)

(Attach another form if you need more space.)



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



EASTER FLOWERS



Cut out and complete this form
and deliver to the church office
with payment.

Attn: Louise

Payable to First Presbyterian Church

DEADLINE:
TUESDAY MARCH 24th



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 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 gr.**
- 11:00 a.m. **Annual Meeting**, Dining Room
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**, FPC

MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**, Dining Rm/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 12:00 p.m. **Downtown Walking Group**, Lovell St. Entrance
- 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. **Card Ministry**
Crafting, Crafting Room
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee Meeting**, Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**, Din. Rm
- 7:00 p.m. **Taking Root Service**, E. Transept

THURSDAY, MARCH 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**, #300
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
- 5:30 p.m. **UCM**, Library
- 6:30 p.m. **Faith Formation Committee**, Sunday School Rm
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Church Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.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 gr.**
- 11:30 a.m. **Conversation with Rev. Dr. Timothy McNinch**, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. **Crescendo Recital**
- 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
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 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 22

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Timothy McNinch
John 11:32-43; Ezekiel 37:1-14

April 5

Resurrection of the Lord - Communion

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

March 29

Palm Sunday

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Jihyun Oh
John 20:19-31

*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.*