

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

MARCH 22, 2026, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



"Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew
That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do."
Edwin Hatch, 1878

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

Give Me Jesus

Robert Billingham

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

Psalm 130

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in God's word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.
Hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

*HYMN 27

Sacred the Body

Tenderness

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,
Your love is everlasting,

All: Perdón, Señor

**Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor
Perdón, Señor**

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.

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

John 11: 32-43

New Testament p.105

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Give Me Jesus‡

African American Spiritual
arr. Larry Fleming

O, when I am alone
O, when I am alone
O, when I am alone
Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus
You may have all the rest
Give me Jesus

O, when I come to die...
And when I want to sing...

SECOND READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Old Testament p.806

SERMON

Prophecy to These Bones

*HYMN 286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Trentham

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Joel Raney

*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

For the gifts offered this day and every day we give thanks, O God. Make us good stewards of all you have entrusted to our care. May these gifts be used to serve your beloved creation, to sustain your children in all they say and do, and to build up your kin-dom throughout the earth. 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 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in A Minor from BWV 543

J.S. Bach

‡MUSIC MINUTE: While often identified as a Spiritual, the origins of this beloved hymn are not entirely clear. By the mid nineteenth century, several hymns with the refrain “Give me Jesus” were sung by both black and white congregations, sharing musical and textual resemblances. The familiar version we know today is drawn from the African American tradition. Its words are simple, personal, and rich with spiritual meaning. An alternate rendering of the refrain is: “You can have all this world, give me Jesus.” How does “all this world” compare with “all the rest” as heard in our anthem? How does your heart hear these words?

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Tim McNinch
Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Meredith Alspach

ACOLYTE

Roland Prevost

READER

Brian Nederveld

MUSIC

The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Joseph Sablan, piano
Richard Aldrich, piano
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETER

Joyce Artman, South Street

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Chris Honeysett
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 JIM MULCRONE 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.

Greg Chambers	Elizabeth Hamilton	Carol McCloud	Phyllis Thomas
Becky Chambers	Justin Hassler	Donald McCloud	Tom Thomas
Shelly Denny	Karen Hassler	Craig Oliver	Phil Torrence
Derick Elliott	Elaine Johns	Kelsey Oliver	Sarah Torrence
Sairi Elliott	Ron Johns	Sally Pitt-Van Buren	Jim Van Buren
Lana Griffin	Diane Johnson	Linda Swope	Richard Van Enk
Andy Hamilton			Jonathan Willoughby

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

In loving memory of our dear Sherry Sorensen
on this third anniversary of her passing. Thanks be to God for her life
and the example she set in finding joy amid life's challenges.
With gratitude, Jennie & Gabby Barry

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. Bring a friend! Please note that we will **not** meet 3/29 and 4/5.

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 March 31 deadline is approaching. Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted. For more information or to apply: mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

We challenge you to watch two videos. They are on Netflix and run about 90 minutes each.

- ◆ *13TH* (2016 historical/political documentary)
- ◆ *Stamped from the Beginning* (2023 documentary/scripted feature hybrid)

We hope you will accept our challenge.

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 6 & 7. 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 Little Liar*, by Mitch Albom.

JUST SANCTUARY

We are always looking for people who might be interested in joining our social justice group here at church. We usually meet monthly, but no particular day or time. Everyone is welcome to join. Please come and be a part of this energetic team. Our next meeting is set for March 24 at 1:30 in the FPC Library. You may contact Donna Schonveld with any questions: 269-598-3345 or schonveld@comcast.net. Thank you for considering joining us in this very important work.

FROM THE EARTH CARE TEAM

As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. The Presbyterian Hunger Program accompanies people as they move toward sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. Here are a few action suggestions intended to create more mindful behaviors during Lent and throughout the year.

- Download the Climate Action Now app to take meaningful climate action on your phone in just seconds or minutes at www.climateactionnow.com
- Read Psalm 96:11-12 and reflect on one way you see the Earth rejoicing
- Eat low on the food chain today and consider committing to one or more meat-free days a week: www.mondaycampaigns.org/meatless-monday.

CARDS ON DISPLAY

Stop by the Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry display rack in the Gathering Place **today**.

Find a handmade card or two for a neighbor, friend, family member, or stranger. Share love, joy and hope with others while we share this month's card donations with 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.). Thank you!

EASTER FLOWERS ORDERS ARE DUE

Memorialize or honor someone you love with 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.

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



GOOD FRIDAY READERS NEEDED

Pastor Chrissy needs 12 to 13 readers for the Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Readers would need to arrive by 6:30 p.m. on Good Friday for a quick run through how the evening will progress. Please sign up in the appropriate spot on the worship volunteers board in the Gathering Place!

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

The next services at the 8882 W Q Ave. chapel 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.

USHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES

We are seeking ushers for upcoming memorial services in the Sanctuary:

Jerre James on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 am (reception in the Dining Room);

Mary Brooks on Friday, April 24 at 10:30 am (visitation at 9:30 am, reception in the Gathering Place).

Ushers are asked to arrive 45 minutes before each service. If you can help welcome guests, distribute bulletins, and assist with seating, please contact kellys@fpckzoo.org.

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.

PRINTED MEMBER DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Printed copies of the church member directory are now available for those who are unable to access the directory through the church app. If you would like a printed copy, please contact Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org. Copies are also available for our Deacons and Elders.

SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that the McShane Colloquium speaker and visiting pastor will be The Rev. Jihyun Oh. Rev. Oh is the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Executive Director of the Interim United Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Please plan to join us for her sermon and keynote address on April 12. Watch for more detail as the date approaches.

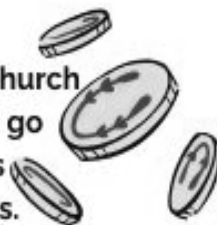
SHARE SOMETHING GOOD!

Read anything great? Hear an inspiring podcast? Spot some uplifting local news?

Our newly updated bulletin board is ready for your shout-outs and joyful discoveries. You'll find it in the hallway on the Library level, on your way to the offices. Share a quick review, rave, or joyful ramble. Your reflections, big or small, are a gift to others. Short, sweet, quirky — whatever your style, we're here for it. Email your entry to dawnr@fpckzoo.org or drop it off in the office.

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.



WELCOME REV. DR. TIM MCNINCH!

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Tim McNinch as our guest preacher today.

Following worship, Tim will also lead a talk-back conversation in the sanctuary focused on learning from the Old Testament prophets. Together, we'll explore how the prophets can shape our spiritual lives today: how they learned to listen for God amid the noise of turbulent times, where they found the courage to speak truth on God's behalf, and what a "prophetic" spirituality might look like in our own lives.

All are invited to stay and join the conversation.

About our guest:

Rev. Dr. Tim McNinch, PhD, is the Asst. Professor of Hebrew Bible at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, where he also directs the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree program. He has an online footprint with his popular YouTube channel for learning biblical Hebrew and as one of the founding hosts of the Old Testament Lectionary podcast, "First Reading." He writes regularly for the "Politics of Scripture" blog and for "Working Preacher." But his greatest claim to fame is that he attended seminary alongside the one and only, Rev. Chrissy Westbury! While Tim's primary vocation is as a biblical scholar, he is also an ordained PC(USA) minister. Tim grew up here in Kalamazoo, attended Loy Norrix High School and K College, and even served for a number of years as the pastor of the Vineyard Church of Kalamazoo before his downward spiral into Presbyterianism. He now lives in Indianapolis with his spouse Elisabeth and three children. He can also be spied as a fixture in the Irish traditional music scene, singing and playing guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, tenor banjo, flute, whistle, or concertina at his local pub.



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.

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, includes Communion



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 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

MONDAY, MARCH 23

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Thoughtful Readers**, #300

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- 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
- 1:30 p.m. **Just Sanctuary**, 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, MARCH 25

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Taking Root Service**,
East Transept

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. **Big Room Meeting**, #306
- 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 27

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 9:45 a.m. **Blessing of the Palms**, Bronson
Park
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

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

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

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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 29

Palm Sunday

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

April 5

Resurrection of the Lord - Communion

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

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Jihyun Oh
John 20:19-31

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter

Orlando Totobesola
Luke 24:13-35

*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.*