

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

MARCH 8, 2026, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



My Lord God,
I have no idea
where I am going.
I do not see the road
ahead of me. I cannot
know for certain where
it will end. Nor do I really
know myself, and the fact that
I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing
so. But I believe that the desire to please
you does in fact please you. And I hope that
I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope
that I will never do anything apart from that
desire. And I know that if I do this you will
lead me by the right road, though I may know
nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you
always though I may seem to be lost and
in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for
you are ever with me, and you will never
leave me to face my perils alone.

“The Merton Prayer”
from *Thoughts in Solitude*
by Thomas Merton.

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

Olivet

Karl Osterland

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 Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

* HYMN 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life Noel

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**

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 4:5-42

New Testament p.94

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks‡

Herbert Howells
Text from Psalm 42

Like as the hart (deer) desireth the waterbrooks,
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.
When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night
While they daily say unto me: "Where is now thy God?"

SECOND READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Old Testament p.64

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

What's Next?

"... those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."

John 4:14

* HYMN 479

Ho, All Who Thirst

Jacob's Well

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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Sandra Eithun

*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 741

Guide My Feet

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Herbert Howells (1892-1983) was an English organist and prolific composer. Raised as a Baptist, he attended the Royal School of Church Music in London, studying under Anglican giants Charles Villiers Stanford, Hubert Parry, and Charles Wood. This morning's anthem was composed in a single day in 1941, responding to the devastation left after attacks by the Luftwaffe. Howells was profoundly influenced by Tudor (16th century) church music, which can also be heard in this piece. The alternation between unison and harmony calls to mind Anglican "verse anthems," which developed after calls from reformers for greater textual clarity. These melodies are dressed in a decidedly twentieth century harmonic language, with a very expressive organ accompaniment.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Meredith Alspach
Kathy Jennings
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

READER

Tina Egan

ACOLYTE

Joseph Sablan

MUSIC

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

GREETERS

Paul & Donna Schonveld, Lovell St.
Joyce Artman, South St.

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Mark Ohrstrom
Dirk Westbury

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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 LOIS HEUCHERT 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.

Deb Bender	Joe Gibson	Dawn Marciniak	Roland Prevost
Dick DeVries	Kathy Jennings	Robert Marciniak	Jose Santamaria
Ruth DeVries	Julie Kechele	Brian Nederveld	Amy Schreiner
Tina Egan	Phil Kechele	Dean Panse	Matthew Schreiner
Catherine Gibson	Leora Knickerbocker	Mary Panse	Dana E Underwood

IN MEMORIAM

Beloved church member Mary Brooks passed away on the morning of March 5.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

We will share memorial information as soon as it is available.

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.

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 March 15th and 22nd.

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.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

Check out the library cart in the Gathering Place!
It's filled with books on social justice.
Choose one, check it out and read it!

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, Meredith will be leading this group with a discussion on *When We Walk By*, a book by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes. This week we will discuss Chapters 2 and 3. If you have any questions, please contact mereditha@fpckzoo.org

JUST SANCTUARY

Join Just Sanctuary **today at 11:30 a.m. in Room 301** for a viewing and discussion 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. We hope you’ll join us.

In addition, we are always looking for new faces to come be a part of our 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.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS

This month, donations for cards will be passed along to One Great Hour of Sharing. So, take a moment to stop by the card rack that is always in the Gathering Place. There are many types of cards, all handmade, to choose from!

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. This month we craft together twice, on the 9th and the 16th.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

If you still need a copy of this year’s devotional, *Discipleship in a Divided Age: A Lenten Journey Through Matthew’s Gospel*, please email Pastor Chrissy: chissyw@fpckzoo.org.

**Join Pastor Chrissy midweek as we use this devotional
to guide the Wednesday Noon Prayer Service through Lent.**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and shared meal (brunch) 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!

THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY SESSION ON FEBRUARY 25, 2026

- + to elect the following individuals as members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee:
Mary Lou Boughton, Mike Boersma, Susan Agostinelli, Pam Zandt, Al Parfitt, Ginny Dell, and Roland Prevost.
- + to appoint Susan Agostinelli as Moderator of the Interim Pastor Search Committee.
- + to remove Leo and Sue Theilman from the FPC membership rolls pursuant to their transfer of membership to Southern Presbyterian Church in Centerville, Ohio.
- + to receive the resignation of Angela VanHeest as Ruling Elder for the Session class of 2027.
- + to approve the following yearly distributions of Kuney Funds for 2026, Totalling \$8,976:
Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering \$1,000; Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering \$1,000; Edison School (up to) \$2,732; Library (up to) \$2,122; Archives (up to) \$2,122.
- + to disburse up to \$1,500 per quarter as needed for Gathering Grounds.
- + to request the expenditure of the McShane Colloquium funds up to the amount available for the purpose of the visit of the Rev. Jihyun Oh.
- + to accept Michele Fritz, Matthew and Jennifer Freeland, and Luis Rodriguez as new members of First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo.

FAITH. CLIMATE. ACTION.

Saturday, March 21, Portage United Church of Christ (Milham Ave)

Join Hope for Creation for an afternoon of learning and connection!

Workshops & Discussion: 1:00–4:00 PM

Networking/Social Hour: 4:00–5:00 PM

Please RSVP at hopeforcreation.net.

Prayer Chain

Digital form on website,
Scroll down to "Prayer Chain".



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 FOR THE SANCTUARY

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.

A NOTE FROM SETH:

Dearly Beloved friends,

My heart is so full after our time together this past Sunday. We celebrated with great gratitude amid the tears. I appreciate so deeply all the effort from so many who made the day so memorable. Great delicacies to delight. Touching stories, letters, highlights, so many heartfelt expressions of love. I cherish beyond measure the immense generosity in the gifts offered and our time together. I will carry you with me in all that is ahead. With gratitude and thanks ...

Peace be with you, *Seth*

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.

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.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Would you like to provide flowers for the Chancel, at the front of the Sanctuary, in honor or memory of a loved one? An updated sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Once you sign up, please be sure to contact dawnr@fpckzoo.org so that we can put an announcement together for you. Flowers need to be brought to service on Sundays or delivered by Noon the Friday before. Please note that flowers for Easter Sunday should be purchased through the annual sale. Thank you!

WE'D LOVE TO HELP YOU FEEL AT HOME?

If you would like a name badge—whether you're new, visiting, or have been here for years—simply email Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org and we'll be glad to make one for you. Name tags are kept in **The Gathering Place** for you to use each week.

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.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

There will be a slight adjustment to our usual twice-a-month services at the Pine Island Chapel. The next service at 8882 W Q Ave. will be Sunday, April 19.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report has been published and shared via the weekly email announcements. There are also printed copies in the Narthex and Gathering Place. If you do not find one, or would like the digital version emailed to you, please let the Dawn know. Thank you!

*Hearing Assistance Available: FPC's Sanctuary equipped with a Hearing Loop system.
Visit the sound booth to borrow headphones that link to the loop.*

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



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 8

- 9:00 a.m. **Connections**, #302
- 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. **Just Sanctuary Video & Discussion**, #301
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**, FPC

MONDAY, MARCH 9

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 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
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee Meeting**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Taking Root Service**, East Transept

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 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, MARCH 13

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

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



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

Meredith Alspach , Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
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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 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Lenten Lessons and Hymns

March 29

Palm Sunday

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

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

*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.*