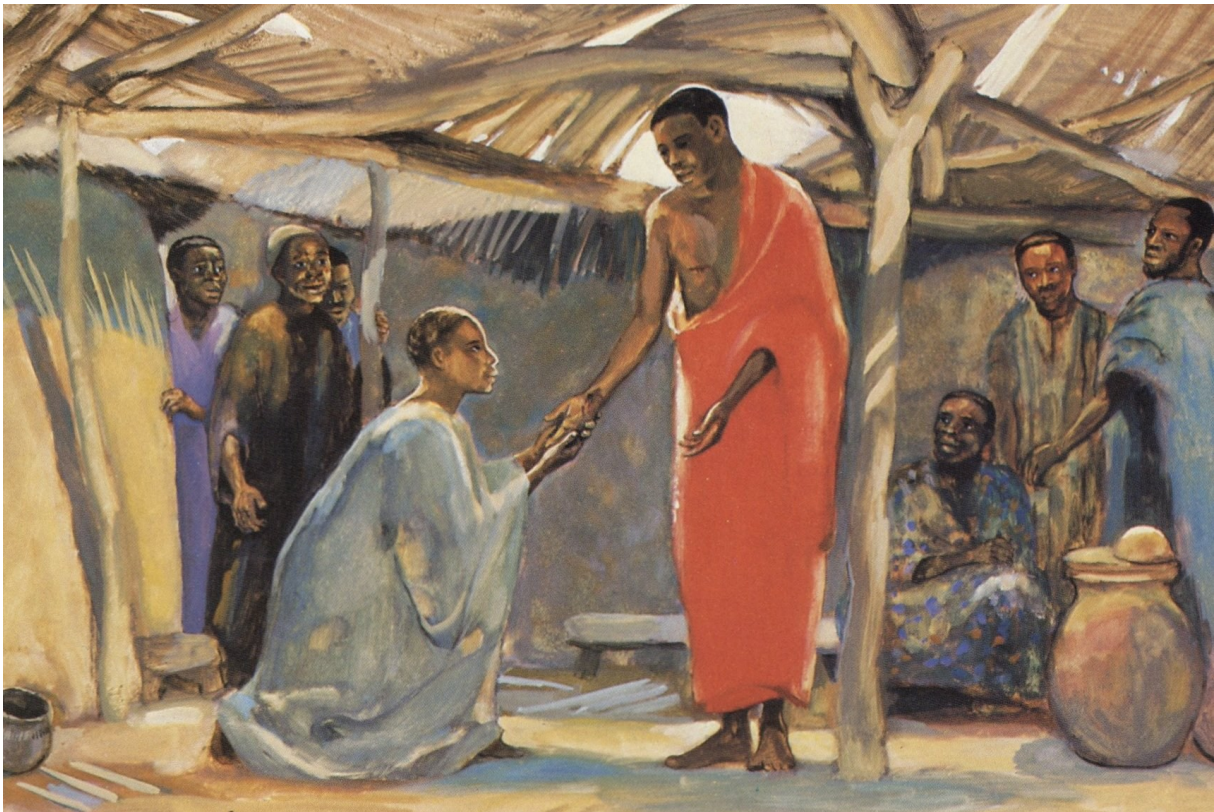


 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"

APRIL 12, 2026 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Jesus appears to Thomas

JESUS MAFA, 1973

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament reading from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. To see this and other prints in the series, please visit the hallway leading to the church offices, just past our library.

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

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

Come, all who have known fear behind locked doors
Christ stands among us and says, "Peace be with you."
Come, all who have glimpsed grace in unexpected places
We will tell of God's works with our whole hearts.
Come, all who carry questions and doubts
God's mercy meets us here.

*HYMN 251 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia Mfurahini, Haleluya

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, you meet us in the midst of our lives, in our fear, in our doubt, in our longing for peace and still, we struggle to trust your presence. We confess that we lock the doors of our hearts, holding back parts of ourselves from you and from one another. We cling to certainty when you invite us into mystery. We demand proof when you offer us relationship. Forgive us, O God. Speak your peace into our anxious hearts. Open us to the possibility that you are already here, alive among us, calling us by name. Renew us in your mercy, and lead us into the fullness of life you promise.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 447 We Are Forgiven

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

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 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

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

Living Christ, you stood among your disciples and opened their minds to your presence. By your Spirit, make these ancient words alive within us, that we might see you more clearly, love you more deeply, and follow you more faithfully. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 111

Old Testament p.562

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM	Dona Nobis Pacem‡	Traditional arr. Jackie Stilger
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Dona Nobis Pacem	<i>Grant us peace</i>
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SECOND READING	John 20:19-31	New Testament p.115
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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	Peace Be With You
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*HYMN 247	Now the Green Blade Rises	Noël Nouvelet
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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	Muhona	Cedrick Howoseb sung in the Otjiiherero language of Namibia
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Hem, yelelei Mba zu vera omuhona	<i>Amen, alleluia I love you, Lord</i>
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Okuhepa Ndjambi munatjari kutja uetu tjin di	<i>Let your name Ever be praised</i>
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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 717	For the Life That You Have Given	Pleading Savior
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**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous and faithful God, we give you thanks for the many ways your works are revealed among us, in daily bread, in acts of kindness, in lives restored. Receive these gifts, and receive us as well. Take what we offer — our resources, our time, our very selves — and use them to bear witness to your enduring love. May our lives proclaim what our lips confess: that Christ is alive, that mercy endures, and that your love holds all things together. In gratitude and hope, 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 (INSERT)

I Serve a Risen Savior (He Lives)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‡MUSIC MINUTE: This charming round, sometimes attributed to Mozart, is thought to have originated in sixteenth century Germany. Its familiar text (drawn from the Mass) and singable melodies led to its being passed down orally from generation to generation. This method of transmission, called Oral Tradition, predates written language and it was by this personal method that all music was taught until about 1500 BC. This arrangement was prepared by Jackie Stilger, Director of Music across the park at First United Methodist Church, for our VOICES UNITED Concert in 2024.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Jihyun Oh
 Rev. Chrissy Westbury
 Meredith Alspach

READER

Tina Egan

ACOLYTE

Darrah Dorman

MUSIC

The Choir
 The Red Door Ringers
 Rick VanEnk, percussion
 Autumn, organist
 Michael Montgomery, director

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SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Bob Murray
 Dirk Westbury

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 DONNA SCHONVELD 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.

Joe Agostinelli	Bruce Houtman	Karen Nellums	David Standish Sr.
Susan Agostinelli	Kathleen Houtman	Richard Nellums	Judy Swisher
Ed Artman	Marilyn Jauch	Lester Roberts-Riggle	Gabriel Takuh
Joyce Artman	Mark Longman	Michael Roberts-Riggle	Laurie Tupper
Joanne Baker	Sharon Longman	Shelley Rylander	Philip Ward
Nancy Colburn	Betty Mbangwana	William Rylander	Mari Wielopolski
Ellen Dykhuis	Diane Misner	Sandy Sinotte	Rick Wielopolski
Carol Eddy	Craig Misner	Sandra Standish	Gary Zandt
Julie Hakken			Pamela Zandt
Rick Hakken			



*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.*

WELCOME REVEREND JIHYUN OH

Today after worship...

12:00 p.m. Lunch in the Dining Room

1:30 p.m. Keynote Address
“Living as Resurrection People in a Death-Dealing World”
Followed by a reception in the Gathering Place

FROM JUST SANCTUARY... ————— ” —————

What is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.
Proverbs 21:3

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 in the Youth Room from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Come start your day with friendly faces. You'll find us at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 Tuesday mornings. Returning and new faces are always welcome.

NOODLING AT NOON WITH MEREDITH

Our Tuesday group discussion on *When We Walk By*, a book by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes, will cover Chapters 10 and 11 this week. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith.

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. Our April book is *The Little Liar*, by Mitch Albom.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

In the last several years we have experienced stress and change, but there is hope. There is a way that leads to joy and resilience. The way is by connecting to the One who sustains us in times of anxiety and confusion, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will begin each class in contemplative prayer and base our reading of the Scripture on the book *Sacred Space*. You will also be invited to a 40-Day Gratitude Challenge which includes practical practices.

Join us in Room 306 at 9:30 for coffee, 9:45 for prayer and study. Pat Stromsta facilitates this group. For more information, contact pat.stromsta@gmail.com

FROM THE EARTH CARE TEAM

First Presbyterian Church has received a letter of Congratulations for our 10+ years of recertification as an Earth Care Congregation!

As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" people as they move toward sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns of the PC(USA)'s Hunger Program writes,

"The steps your congregation has taken to care for God's earth are inspiring."



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT

Please note that Session has approved moving our April 26 worship service from the morning to 5:00 p.m. because the Kalamazoo Marathon will be held downtown that day.

NARCAN TRAINING

April 27, 1-3 p.m. in the Gathering Place

Join us for a presentation by COPE's Network founder Nancy King on the subjects of substance use, addiction, harm reduction, and overdose prevention, as well as how to respond to an overdose with or without Narcan. All participants will receive a Narcan kit and training on how to use it.

To RSVP for this important presentation, contact Meredith by 4/23.

START SMALL: AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE PLANTS

The Earth Care Team is excited to announce a special guest visit from Quyen Edwards!



Quyen will share her experience transforming a public library space into a beautiful, climate-resilient native flower habitat that welcomes pollinators and reduces mowing. Drawing on her expertise, she will help participants learn how to get started on their own native plant journey.

Quyen is a librarian at the Portage District Library, President of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones, and co-owner of a native plant nursery. Please join the Earth Care Team following Worship on Sunday, May 3rd at 11:30 in room 301.

CROP HUNGER WALK

The annual Crop Hunger Walk is taking place on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm. #CROPHungerwalk
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/home>

HOPE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



You're warmly invited to be part of something special in our Hope Garden this season! We're looking for volunteers to help plant and tend the garden as we grow fresh food for our community. This is a wonderful way to spend time together, enjoy the outdoors, and support a meaningful ministry. The projected start date is mid-May, depending on the weather. We gather at 9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Hope Garden at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan). For more information or to get involved, please contact Beth Dyer at mrs.robert.dyer@gmail.com. We'd love to have you join us!

CHORAL CONCERT - MAY 11

We look forward to the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir and Gold Standard Singers from Lincoln, Nebraska performing in our sanctuary next month!

They'll share compelling music that encourages us to be a light in the darkness of our world and to reach out in love. Come enjoy an eclectic program by composers Rollo Dillworth, Shawn Kirchner, Melanie DeMore, Susan LaBarr, Jonathan Dove, and André Thomas, conducted by Tom Trenney and accompanied by Anne Wilson at the piano and organ. Free admission with free-will offering.



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? The sign-up sheet is available on the Narthex bulletin board. Once you sign up, please be sure to contact dawnr@fpckzoo.org with details for a corresponding announcement. Note, flowers need to be brought to service on Sundays or delivered by Noon the Friday before.

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!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- 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 grades
- 12:00 p.m. **Luncheon with Guest Speaker**, Dining Room
- 1:30 p.m. **Keynote address by Rev. Oh**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**, FPC Youth Room

MONDAY, APRIL 13

- 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute (R.I.)**, Dining Rm/#308
- 11:30 a.m. **IPNC Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 12:00 p.m. **Downtown Walking Group**, Lovell St. Entrance
- 1:00 p.m. **Card Ministry**, Crafting Room
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

- 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 Rouh**, Third Floor
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **PEO Chapter-CN**, #301

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- 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**, Dining Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

- 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.
- 6:30 p.m. **Faith Formation Committee**, Sunday School Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee**, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- 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 grades
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Chapel Worship Service**, 8882 W Q Ave
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **T.A.G. / Youth Group**, FPC Youth Room

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

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 IN THE SANCTUARY

April 19, 10 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter
Orlando Totobesola
Luke 24:13-35

April 26, 5 p.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-18

May 3, 10 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter - Communion
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 7:55-60; John 14:1-14

May 10, 10 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21

*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.*