

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

APRIL 19, 2026 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

Lied

Louis Vierne

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

This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
God meets us on the everyday roads of real life.
Even when we don't see it, Christ is present, alive, and moving among us.
So come as you are, bringing your whole self.
Let our hearts be open, our spirits expectant, and let us worship God together.

*HYMN 15

All Creatures of Our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the journey, we confess that we often walk as though we are alone. We become weighed down by grief, confused by what we cannot understand, and slow to recognize your presence beside us. You speak, and still we miss your voice; you reveal yourself, and still we do not see. Open our eyes, O God, and soften our hearts. Meet us on this road, and turn us again toward the promise of new life.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 447

We Are Forgiveness

**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 204.

Sunday School is available for youth in grades PreK—5th.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Risen Christ, walk with us as your word is read and proclaimed,
opening the Scriptures to us so that our hearts may burn within us and our lives
be transformed by your presence and your truth. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 34:1-10

Old Testament p.508

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

This is the Day

John Rutter
text taken from various Psalms

This is the day,
The day which the Lord hath made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

O praise the Lord of heav'n: praise him in the height.
Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars and light.
Let them praise the Name of the Lord.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee:
To keep thee in all thy ways.

The Lord himself is thy keeper,
The Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
Yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in:
From this time forth for evermore.
He shall defend thee under his wings.

Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart;
And put thou thy trust in the Lord.

SECOND READING

Luke 24:13-35

New Testament p.90

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

The risen Christ meets us in our doubt, opens our hearts,
and sends us back to one another transformed.

*HYMN 250

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Promise

THE THANKSGIVING

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Today we ordain and install Roland Prevost as a Ruling Elder

Do we, the members of the church, accept ... the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree ... serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

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 “Höchster, was ich habe” from Cantata 39‡

J.S. Bach

Höchster, was ich habe, Ist nur deine Gabe. Wenn vor deinem Angesicht Ich schon mit dem meinen Dankbar wollt erscheinen, Willt du doch kein Opfer nicht.	<i>Most High, all that I have, are but gifts from you. If I, before your Presence, Should bring my belongings, Hoping to appear thankful, Still, you would desire no offering.</i>
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*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 717 For the Life That You Have Given Pleading Savior

**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

**God of abundance, you meet us on the road and at the table, revealing your grace in ordinary moments, and so we offer these gifts in gratitude for all the ways you have been present to us. Use what we offer to open eyes, kindle hearts, and make your love known in the world, through Jesus Christ who walks with us still.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

**Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth
as in heaven.**

**Give us today
our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us,**

**Save us from the time
of trial,
and deliver us
from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever.
For ever,
and ever.**

**Our Father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

THE SENDING

*HYMN 252

Day of Arising

Sung to alt tune Bunesan
(Morning Has Broken)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sortie in E-flat

Louis Lefébure-Wély

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Cantata 39, called *Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot* (“Break for the Hungry Your Bread”), was written in 1726 for the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. At that time, Protestants experiencing religious persecution were fleeing Habsburg-controlled areas. Leipzig was a major commercial center, and while initially welcoming large numbers of these refugees, attitudes eventually soured after the economic strain this caused. Some think Bach composed this cantata in response to these misgivings. Today’s offertory anthem, the first movement of the cantata’s second part, was sung immediately after the Sunday sermon. It expands upon an earlier text from part one: “His gifts are the touchstone by which He makes known that for the poor, He has distributed what is necessary. It is His, all that we have; the Lord gives only the use. Mercy shown to one’s neighbors can reach the heart of God more surely than anything else.”

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Orlando Totobesola
Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Meredith Alspach

READER

Mark Loehrke

ACOLYTE

Tina Egan

MUSIC

The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Zoe Shanahan, soloist
Rick Van Enk, cantor
Joanne DeWit, piano
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETER

Joyce Artman, South Street

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Bob Murray
Jim Van Buren

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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 RICK TAYLOR 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.

Steve Breisach	Laura Ford	Warren Misner II	Carolyn Stults
Margo Clouse	Dianne Hollenbeck	Allison Myers	David Stults
Stan Clouse	Kevin Hollenbeck	Jennifer Newman	Ellen Stults
David Dell	Bill Hubbard	John Petro	Nancy Thiele
Ginny Dell	Mackenzie Hunter	Joyce Petro	Sue Troff
Guy Dennehy	Matthew Johnson	Norma Smith	Ailih Weeldreyer
Sandra Dennehy	Ken Kirton	Jim Stephenson	Gabriel Weeldreyer
Heidi Egloff	Marlena Kirton	Andrew Stults	Helen Yonan

IN MEMORIAM

In honor of Mary Brooks, a memorial will be held this Friday, April 24 here at the church.

Visitors are welcome starting at 9:30 a.m.

The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and be followed by a reception.

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.

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!



Mark Your Calendars:
YOUTH SUNDAY
May 17!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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 12 and 13 this week. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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. Coffee is served at 9:30, the class begins at 9:45. Pat Stromsta facilitates this class in Room 306. For more information, contact pat.stromsta@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Join us weekly at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 a.m. New faces always welcome!

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. We hope to see you on the 27th!

HEARTS-TO-HANDS CARD MINISTRY

Cards are on display in the Gathering Place today before and after worship. Cards for all Occasions, including Graduation, will be available by donation.

Thank you for sending Easter cards to family, friends and neighbors! The donations received were passed on to One Great Hour of Sharing. The next crafting session will be Monday, May 11 from 1-3:00 p.m. Please join us!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT

Please note that session approved moving our April 26 worship from the morning to 5 p.m. as it is the day of the Kalamazoo Marathon downtown.

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 the 23rd.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY - APRIL 22

On Earth Day, the PC(USA) affirms that as people of faith, we have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of the earth, working to reverse damage done to God's creation.

Easy ways to start:

- Watch the guided nature tour "Gifts of the Land" (YouTube)
- Get inspired by a *Faithful Resilience* Film (creationjustice.org)
- Attend the Westminster Art Festival, April 25 - June 12 (westminsterartfestival.org)
- Join the Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk (crophungerwalk.org)
- Become a Hope Garden volunteer (contact mrs.robert.dyer@gmail.com)
- Hear about how you can personally build climate resilience at a KVCC presentation on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. (hopeforcreation.net)
- Screen an environmental film such as *Chasing Coral* (Netflix) or *Paris to Pittsburg* (National Geographic Channel)



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 Painted Lady Greenhouse. Please join the Earth Care Team following Worship on Sunday, May 3 at 11:30 in Room 301.

CROP HUNGER WALK - MAY 3 AT 2 PM

Have you ever been hungry? Have you ever been unable to obtain food to satisfy that hunger?

In the U.S., nearly 43 million people don't have enough to eat. **YOU CAN HELP!!**

Support the annual CROP HUNGER WALK starting at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (504 S Westnedge). You can donate through the First Presbyterian Church team at the crop walk website: events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/kalamazoomi

Donations will also be collected in the Gathering Place after church on April 19 and May 3.

25% of everything collected will remain locally through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which is an organization that was started by members of this church! **HUNGER IS PREVENTABLE!**

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.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY... ————— ” —————

Racist ideas love believers, not thinkers. - Ibram X Kendi

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!



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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, APRIL 20

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

- 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 Rouh**, Third Floor
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal Pipe Band**, Dining Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

- 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
- 6:30 p.m. **Session Meeting**, #306

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

- 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. **Organ Practice**
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

- 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 9:30 a.m. **Visitation for Mary Brooks**, FPC
- 10:30 a.m. **Memorial Service - Mary Brooks**, reception to follow

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

- 4:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **T.A.G. / Youth Group**,
FPC Youth Room
- 5:00 p.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

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



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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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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 26, 5 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-18

May 10, 10 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 1:6-14; John 14:15-21

May 3, 10 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Communion

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10

May 17, 10 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday

*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.*