

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

APRIL 26, 2026    FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Artist unknown (painting collected by a church member long ago)

How sweet is the shepherd's sweet lot!  
From the morn to the evening he strays;  
He shall follow his sheep all the day,  
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.

For he hears the lambs' innocent call,  
And he hears the ewes' tender reply;  
He is watchful while they are in peace,  
For they know when their shepherd is nigh.  
William Blake (1789)

# 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      Psalm 100  
Shout with joy to the Lord! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy! Know that the Lord is God!  
**God made us, and we belong to God. We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.**  
Enter the gates with thanksgiving; go into the courts with praise. Give thanks to God!  
**For the Lord is good. God's unfailing love continues forever, and God's faithfulness continues to each generation.**

\*HYMN 245      Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!      Llanfair

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Good Shepherd, you call us by name, yet we do not always listen. We follow voices that lead us away from you, and we hold tightly to what we have instead of living with open hands. We resist the life of community you invite us into, choosing comfort over compassion and scarcity over trust. Forgive us, we pray. Call us back, restore our souls, and lead us again in your ways of love and abundant life. Amen.**

*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 through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 204.*

*All children are invited to remain in worship as there is no Sunday School today.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Shepherding God, open our ears to your voice as we hear your Word.**

**Quiet the distractions within us and help us recognize your call.**

**Shape us by your truth, that we may follow you with trust. Amen.**

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

New Testament p.120

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 23

Antiphon from Psalm 42  
Setting by Palestrina

*In traditional Christian prayer, a psalm is often paired with an “antiphon.”  
This short verse, sung before and after the psalm’s recitation, is meant to enrich its interpretation,  
drawing from other passages of scripture.*

Ant: Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum... *Like the deer longs for flowing streams...*

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside still waters;  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
In the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
My whole life long.

Ant: Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum *Like the deer longs for flowing streams*  
Ita desiderat anima me ad te Dominum *So longs my soul for thee, O God*

SECOND READING

John 10:1-18

New Testament p.103

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

Listening for the Shepherd’s Voice

“...the sheep follow him because they know his voice.” John 10:4

\*HYMN 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

St. Columba

# 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      Selections from *Metamorphoses*      Benjamin Britten

\*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

**Generous God, you provide for us in every season.  
Receive these gifts and use them to nurture your people and extend  
your care into the world. Lead us to live with open hearts and  
faithful trust, following where you guide us. 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 22

God of the Sparrow

Roeder

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Dir ist Freude‡

J.S. Bach

‡MUSIC MINUTE: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is widely regarded as the greatest German composer of the Baroque period, with an extensive output of works for various instrumentation, both sacred and secular. His organ works have been studied and celebrated by organists for over two hundred years. “In dir ist Freude” (In Thee is Gladness) appears in Bach’s *Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book), a collection of short pieces based on Lutheran hymn tunes, called “chorales.” In this morning’s postlude, Bach focuses primarily on the first four notes of the chorale, decorating them with playful, cheerful counterpoint. Just like the hymn on which it is based, “In dir ist Freude” evokes a sense of jubilation and celebration.

## PARTICIPANTS

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Janet Lawing  
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

### READER

Paul Clements

### ACOLYTE

Deb Bender

### MUSIC

The Choir  
The Red Door Ringers  
Jayce Porter, flute  
Autumn, organist  
Michael Montgomery, director

### SOUND AND

### VIDEO TEAM

Kurt Grossman  
Bob Murray

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FROM JUST SANCTUARY... ————— ” —————

Why not go out on a limb? That’s where the fruit is.

-Mark Twain

## 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 KIM VAN LOO 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.

Richard Aldrich	Christopher Gleaton	Curtis Leibbrand	Joseph Sablan
Thomas Becker	Cindy Gleaton	Carolyn Maki	Benjamin Taylor
William Birch III	Nicholas Gleaton	Katherine Millar	Grace Tiffany
Mary Lou Boughton	Patrick Gleaton	Keenan Millar	Aaron Van Heest
Careen Bumpus	Jim Gleeson	Marysol Millar	Angela Van Heest
Franklin Davidson	Sharon Gleeson	Linda Parks	Astrid Westbury
Frank Demcovitz	Caroline Ham	Paul Parks	Daphne Westbury
Becky Demcovitz	Eva Hanka	Leah Pierce	Dirk Westbury
Juanita Erdos	Char Hansen	Luis Rodriguez	Ray Wicks
Celine Finjap	George Kremer	Lynn Russell	Louise Wright
Richard Finjap	Susan Kremer	Rick Russell	Andy Young
Anna Gleaton			

## IN MEMORIAM

We grieve the passing of Ruth M. Moser, while giving thanks for her devotion to numerous activities of our church during her 72 years of membership.

Please keep the Moser family in your thoughts and prayers.

*A private memorial service will be held by the family, followed by a reception in the FPC Choir Lounge on Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

### 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.*

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

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### NURSERY

The nursery is open each Sunday, starting fifteen minutes before worship, 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 no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for Worship. Sunday School will resume next week.

### YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

Sunday, May 3, these groups will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church (504 S. Westnedge) at 1:45 p.m. to do the CROP Hunger Walk together. This will take place rain or shine and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes.

We will not meet on May 10th as all the youth will be too busy celebrating moms!



## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

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### NOODLING AT NOON WITH MEREDITH

For Noodling on 4/28 the group will welcome a couple guests to discuss local solutions after wrapping up our read of *When We Walk By*. Starting Tuesday, May 5 we will begin reading *If God Is Love, Don't Be A Jerk: Finding Faith that Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz.

### 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](mailto: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!

## NARCAN TRAINING - CANCELLED

**Due to lack of interest, the previously advertised training has been cancelled.**

## WMU GRADUATE WIND QUINTET RECITAL

This recital marks the group's second featured performance of the year and will include a thoughtfully curated program of beloved classical selections alongside a more recent work, offering both familiarity and fresh musical perspective. Join us for an evening of engaging and expressive chamber music in the beautiful acoustics of our Sanctuary. **Jayce Porter, playing the Offertory Music today, is a member of this quintet!** Admission is free and open to the public.

## THE REPARATION INITIATIVE

The Justice League of Greater Kalamazoo invites you to join their inaugural presentation after worship **today in Room 301** (light meal provided). Come learn about this group and the reparation initiative. A second opportunity to hear this presentation will take place on May 3 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portage. Contact Allison Hammond or Wendy King with questions.

## 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. 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.

## CROP HUNGER WALK

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. on May 3rd at Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge. 25% of everything collected will remain locally through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which is an organization that was started by members of this church! You can donate through the FPC team at the crop walk website: [events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/kalamazoomi](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/kalamazoomi) Donations will also be collected in the Gathering Place after church on May 3.

## CHORAL CONCERT

We look forward to the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir and Gold Standard Singers from Lincoln, Nebraska performing in our sanctuary May 11 at 7 p.m.! 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 this eclectic program! Admission is free with free-will offering.

# Happy Birthday

**MAY 1**

Emily Curtis  
Peg Hajek

**MAY 2**

Ian Case  
Estella Graziano  
Peggy Warlick

**MAY 3**

Nicholas Agostinelli  
Anna Clements  
Robin Johnkoski

**MAY 4**

Michele R Fritz  
David Johnson

**MAY 6**

Connor Bigelow

**MAY 7**

Margo Clouse  
Claire Honeysett

**MAY 8**

Alexandra Arwady  
Anna Diamond  
Roland Prevost

**MAY 9**

Matthew Beaver  
Rowan Kortlandt  
Dean Van Loo

**MAY 10**

Anne Louise Coryell  
Barb DeVries

**MAY 11**

Macy Daniels  
Mary Elliott

**MAY 12**

Evan Breisach

**MAY 13**

David Standish Sr.

**MAY 14**

Lem Ala-ambong  
Laureen Meeker  
Lila Molitor

**MAY 15**

Rob Padgett III

**MAY 16**

Brett Birch  
Elizabeth Lewis

**MAY 17**

Veronica Harik

**MAY 18**

Kendall Coon  
Sarah Cox  
Randy Eberts

**MAY 19**

Frank Demcovitz

**MAY 20**

Thomas Becker  
Eva Hanka  
Cecilee Jarrad  
James McGruder

**MAY 21**

Caitlinn Cochran  
Linda Dalrymple

**MAY 22**

Laura Ford  
Nancy Hamilton  
Aaron Van Heest

**MAY 23**

Susan Agostinelli  
Sue Grossman  
Thomas White

**MAY 24**

Martgift Atemandeh  
Jadyn Bradford  
Sue Caulfield  
Lisa Diamond  
Carol Eddy  
Ray Wicks

**MAY 25**

Noah Bell  
Odette Maguessille  
Marysol Millar  
Chris Palmer

**MAY 26**

Frank Atemandeh  
Chris Bol  
Kathy Campbell  
Nancy Harwood

**MAY 27**

Noah Akondi  
Connie Houts  
Gretchen Johnson

**MAY 28**

Renee Mulcrone  
Barbara Perl  
Phil Torrence  
Anais Totobesola  
Julie Tyler

**MAY 29**

Ken Freed  
Sharon Mattingly  
Luis Rodriguez  
Richard Stewart

**MAY 30**

Conner Diamond  
Susan Hanselman  
Amy Hirt  
Jeffrey King  
Molly Longman

**MAY 31**

Kurt Droppers  
Karen Jarrad  
Donna Schonveld

# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## 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
- 6:00 p.m. **Reparation Initiative**, #301

## MONDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute (R.I.)**, 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
- 7:30 p.m. **WMU Quintet Recital**,  
Sanctuary

## TUESDAY, APRIL 28

- 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 29

- 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 30

- 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, MAY 1

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Ruth Moser Memorial Reception**, Choir Lounge

## SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion**, Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. **Earth Care Guest Speaker**, #301
- 2:00 p.m. **CROP Hunger Walk**, Trinity  
Lutheran Church (Westnedge)
- 3:00 p.m. **KCC Concert**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship**,  
8882 W Q Ave.

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)

<b>Meredith Alspach</b> , Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	<b>mereditha@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Autumn</b> , Organist, x214	<b>autumn@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Logan McCafferty</b> , Custodian	<b>loganm@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Michael Montgomery</b> , Director of Music, x220	<b>michaelm@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Dawn Reitano</b> , Communications Coordinator, x209	<b>dawnr@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Kelly Short</b> , Operations Coordinator, x205	<b>kellys@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Shawn Smith</b> , Building Superintendent, x213	<b>shawns@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>Louise Taylor</b> , Financial Coordinator, x206	<b>louiset@fpckzoo.org</b>
<b>The Reverend Chrissy Westbury</b> , Associate Pastor, x204	<b>chrissyw@fpckzoo.org</b>

**South Lobby Receptionists, x221:** Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry, Bob Brush,  
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding  
**Custodians:** Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt   **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

## UPCOMING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

**May 3**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter/Communion**  
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury  
Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10

**May 10**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury  
Acts 1:6-14; John 14:15-21

**May 17**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Youth Sunday  
⚙️⚙️

**May 24**  
**Day of Pentecost**  
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury  
Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21

*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.*