

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

APRIL 5, 2026 — EASTER SUNDAY



Art by Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber

As the risen Christ appeared among the disciples with a blessing of peace, we share a holy greeting: 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, (v2)

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

Children: You are loved!

Congregation: **You are loved!**

All children are welcome to stay in worship today as there is no Sunday School.

Infants & children up through age 3 are invited to our nursery, Room 208.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

You reveal your glory, God, in raising Jesus and setting our hearts aflame with hope.

Help us to know your presence among us—in scripture we read and bread we break.

So may our lives be filled with the joy of resurrection, as we worship you in all we do.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Matthew 28:1-10

New Testament, p.33

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Muhona

Cedrick Howoseb

sung in the Otjiherero language of Namibia

Hem, yelelei

Amen, alleluia

Mba zu vera omuhona

I love you, Lord

Okuhepa Ndjambi

Let your name

munatjari kutja uetu tjin di

Ever be praised

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-48

New Testament, p.129

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 Does it Mean?

“Then Peter began to speak to them...” (Acts 10:34)

*HYMN 249

Because You Live, O Christ

Vruechten

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 “The Trumpet Shall Sound” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

text from 1 Corinthians 15

Behold, I tell you a mystery:
We shall not all sleep,
But we shall all be changed
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
At the last trumpet

The trumpet shall sound
And the dead shall be raised incorruptible
And we shall be changed

*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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(continuing to pray in unison)*

**Holy God, we come bringing our gifts and our alleluias.
May they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ,
the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and
help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy
name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Why have we gathered here?

We come because we have been called to live out a story.

What story shall we live?

The story of saving love.

Where did this story begin?

It was whispered before time began, it was sung in the melody of Creation.

...Hear the storytellers of all ages whisper with us.

SANCTUS 572

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of
Pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry: Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

So tell me the story of this night, of this table.

**The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it.**

Tell me what he said and did.

**This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this and remember me.**

Tell me what he said and did.

**In the same way, he took the cup and said,
This is a new covenant, my very life-blood poured out for you.
Drink it and remember me.**

This is our common story...what is our prayer on this day?

**Shower us with your Spirit, here and now, so this common meal becomes a
life-giving celebration. May our eating and drinking this day bind us to Christ,
and to one another. May we know that you live in us and that we live in you.**

Living God, this is our prayer, in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

COMMUNION

*To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the servers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten free). Then each person may choose **a**) to share intinction by dipping the bread into the common cup, or **b**) to take a small juice cup from the tray. Upon receiving the Sacrament, you may wish to respond by saying, "Amen". If you prefer to remain seated and receive the elements, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you in your pew.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart†

Rene Clausen
text from Song of Songs

Set me as a seal upon your heart
As a seal upon your arm
For love is strong as death

Many waters cannot quench love
Neither can the floods drown it

PRAYER OF RESPONSE WITH CHORAL AMEN

**We praise you for the reminders of your creative word
in what we taste, see, smell, and touch. As we have taken this bread and wine,
we accept the promise that your coming realm is being revealed
and we offer our lives to be a place where its love is made real. Amen.**

THE SENDING

*HYMN 246 Christ Is Alive! Truro

BENEDICTION

Our congregational response is “Alleluia Amen!”

POSTLUDE Final from *Symphony no.6* Louis Vierne

‡MUSIC MINUTE: In the ancient Middle East, seals functioned similarly to signatures. Made in the form of either a stamp or small cylinder, one’s seal was impressed into clay, leaving behind an identifiable sign. Seals were important symbols of identity, family, and authority, often worn on a chain (upon the heart) or at the wrist (upon the arm). The deep longing for closeness expressed in today’s anthem is also illustrated musically: all voices enter on a single note, gradually opening into lush harmonies and suspensions; “impressions” perhaps. Similarly, the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion can be understood as impressions of God’s love and longing for us.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS
The Rev. Dr. Liz Candido
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

READER
William Case-Blanchard

ACOLYTE
Brian Nederveld

MUSIC
The Choir
James VanBennekom, trumpet
Noah Miller, trumpet
Erin Emery-Dumas, horn
Scott Dumas, trombone
Rick Van Enk, percussion
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS
Joyce Artman, South Street
Char Hansen, Lovell Street

SOUND & VIDEO
Kurt Grossman
Bob Murray

COMMUNION
SERVERS
Jennie Barry
Victoria Coleman
Paul Minert
Brian Nederveld
Mark Ohrstrom
Rick Wielopolski

EASTER FLOWERS

THE EASTER FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY ARE GIVEN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD BY MEMBERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

IN MEMORY OF **Garrett Boersma** by Laura, Michael, Mark & Jake Boersma

IN MEMORY OF **John Denton** by Robert & Belinda Bullard

IN MEMORY OF **Our Mothers, Margaret & Maxine**, by Victoria & Mason Coleman

IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents, Bob & Edith Rasmussen, Wally & Jenny Cook**

by Grace Cook & Mark Cook

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Raymond and Alta Dell**, parents of David Dell

by David & Ginny Dell

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Virginia Stecker, mother of Ginny Dell** by Ginny & David Dell

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Norm & Louise McCallum** by Ginny & David Dell

IN MEMORY OF **Linda Lou Crafts** by The Freeland Family

IN MEMORY OF **Craig L. Freeland** by The Freeland Family

IN MEMORY OF **Harold & Anne Carlyle** by Catherine & Joe Gibson

IN MEMORY OF **Jim & Alexis Gibson** by Joe & Catherine Gibson

IN MEMORY OF **Don Gilmer** by Tom & Diana Gilmer

IN MEMORY OF **Catherine VandeBunte** by Tom & Diana Gilmer

IN MEMORY OF **Austin Scott** by Michelle Greve

IN MEMORY OF **John Houts** by Connie Houts

IN MEMORY OF **Bob's Parents, Gurney & Vivian Klesert** by Bob & Nancy Klesert

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF (CONTINUED)

IN MEMORY OF **Nancy's Parents, Manford & Gertrude Dalrymple** by Bob & Nancy Klesert

IN MEMORY OF **Gary Elfring** by Janet Lawing

IN MEMORY OF **Basil K. J. Leong** by The Leong Family

IN MEMORY OF **Ruth Lubbers** by Bruce & Mark Lubbers

IN MEMORY OF **Dean and Lois Nederveld** by Brian Nederveld & Roland Prevost

IN MEMORY OF **Ronald & Marie Prevost** by Roland Prevost & Brian Nederveld

IN MEMORY OF **Dean and Lois Nederveld** by Brian Nederveld & Roland Prevost

IN MEMORY OF **Ronald & Marie Prevost** by Roland Prevost & Brian Nederveld

IN MEMORY OF **Sue Johnson** by Rich & Karen Nellums

IN MEMORY OF **Louise McCallum** by Rich & Karen Nellums

IN MEMORY OF **Nancy S. Owen** by Tom Owen

IN MEMORY OF **My Sister Mary & My Parents, Bob & Edith** by John Rasmussen

IN MEMORY OF **Our Parents** by Paul & Donna Schonveld

IN MEMORY OF **Marilyn Ufkes** by John Ufkes

IN MEMORY OF **Betty L. Van Der Slik** by Ron Van Der Slik

IN MEMORY OF **John & Esther Kroon** by Mari & Rick Wielopolski

IN MEMORY OF **Bruno & Stella Wielopolski** by Rick & Mari Wielopolski

IN MEMORY OF **John D. Vermeulen** by Kay C. Vermeulen

IN MEMORY OF **Raoul Yochim** by JoAnn Yochim

IN MEMORY OF **Rosemary Hatfield** by JoAnn Yochim

IN MEMORY OF **Sally Bristol** by Your Friends from Church

IN MEMORY OF **Aaron Andrew Zandt** by Pamela & Gary Zandt

IN MEMORY OF **Roger & Phyllis Jacox, Ralph & Carroll Zandt** by Pamela & Gary Zandt



GIVEN IN HONOR OF

- IN HONOR OF **Our Parents & Grandparents** by The Robert Bullard Family
- IN HONOR OF **Our Grandchildren, Molly Jane & Keegan James** by Heather & Jamie Cloetingh
- IN HONOR OF **The Congregational Life Committee and staff**, with gratitude for their stellar planning, decorating, and execution of our recent luncheons by David & Ginny Dell.
- IN HONOR OF **Our Staff**, for faithfully keeping things moving—with gracious hearts and smiles—during our pastoral transition by David and Ginny Dell.
- IN HONOR OF **The Meloche Family** by Marty & Linda Meloche
- IN HONOR OF **The Pokorney Family** by Linda & Marty Meloche
- IN HONOR OF **Pastor Seth Weeldreyer** by Brenda Noel
- IN HONOR OF **My Children, Cheryl Ronk, Jennifer Sigmond & T. Edward Owen** by Tom Owen
- IN HONOR OF **Our Children & Grandchildren** by Donna & Paul Schonveld
- IN HONOR OF **Jenna & Wes Todd** by Janet & Wes Todd
- IN HONOR OF **Janet & Mark Todd** by Janet & Wes Todd



AS WE DEPART TO SHARE THE LIGHT OF THE RISEN CHRIST, WE INVITE THOSE WHO PROVIDED FLOWERS TO TAKE THEIR PLANTS HOME, CARRYING A LIVING REMINDER OF THIS MORNING'S BEAUTY INTO THE WORLD.

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 SANNY NUTTER 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.

Jean Appel, Bonnie Ayotte, Joan Colgren, Kim Cummings, Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox, Evelyn Garner, Sharon Hartwigsen, Ralph Jarl, Marion Palmer

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 no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in the sanctuary for worship. Sunday School will resume April 12.

YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

These groups are for all middle and high school students. We are not meeting today and will also skip next week. We meet again April 12th, meeting at the church from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are offering a confirmation class for all 8th-12th grade students, starting April 12th and running for 4 weeks. The group will meet at 4 p.m. each week. If your student is interested in participating, please let Meredith know as soon as possible. mereditha@fpckzoo.org

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 group discussion on *When We Walk By*, a book by Kevin Adler and Donald Burnes, will resume on April 7 with Chapters 8 and 9. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Starting April 9: *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 read Scripture and explore the stories of men and women in the Bible who modeled resilience, joy and found their identity in Christ.

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

CONNECTIONS

Our next gathering will be April 12 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 302. We meet to join and support members of our church, our community, our world and each other. Please contact pat.stromsta@gmail.com if you have any questions. We hope that you will consider joining us.

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.

PINE ISLAND WORSHIP

There is no evening service at the Pine Island Chapel today. Please join us for the next Sunday evening service at 5 p.m. on April 19. 8882 W Q Ave, Mattawan

MEMORIAL SERVICE USHER NEEDED

Mary Brooks — Friday, **April 24** at 10:30 a.m. (**1 usher needed**, visitation at 9:30 am, reception in the Gathering Place). Ushers arrive 45 minutes early to welcome guests, distribute bulletins, and assist with seating. To help, please contact kellys@fpckzoo.org. Thank you!

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We are seeking friendly, reliable people to serve as reception desk greeters. Responsibilities include answering phones, welcoming visitors, opening doors when appropriate, and helping maintain a safe, orderly flow in the building. Our greatest need is for on-call substitutes who can fill in as needed, including occasional services or special events. This is a paid, part-time position (volunteers are also welcome). Training will be provided. To learn more or express interest, please contact Kelly at 269-344-0119, ext. 205 or kellys@fpckzoo.org.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS

Cards for many occasions, made lovingly by our crafters, are available in the Gathering Place anytime! Donations received through Easter Sunday will be passed along to 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.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The annual Crop Hunger Walk is taking place on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm. #CROPHungerWalk



IN MEMORIAM

We grieve the passing of Eleanor H. Pinkham, while giving thanks for her 65 years of fellowship as an active church member. Please keep the Pinkham family in your thoughts and prayers.

Memorial details will be shared when they become available.

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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following motions were adopted by Session on March 25, 2026:

- + to approve a distribution of \$1,500 from Ford Neff as a grant to support OutFront Kalamazoo's youth program.
- + to approve a Position Description for an Interim Pastor.
- + to approve a salary range of \$80,000 –\$100,000 for an Interim Pastor.
- + to install 2 Narcan boxes outside of the church, at no cost to the church.
- + to approve changing the time of worship on April 26, 2026 to 5:00 in the evening due to the Kalamazoo Marathon.

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.

NOISY COINS

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!

SPECIAL GUEST

THE REVEREND JIHYUN OH

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

10:00 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE & SERMON
“PEACE BE WITH YOU”

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

The Rev. Jihyun Oh is the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the Interim United Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

She was elected and installed at the 226th General Assembly in July 2024. Oh is only the second woman to serve in the denomination’s highest office, and the first woman and the first Korean American elected to lead the PC(USA) in its more than 300-year history in the United States.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- 7:00 a.m. **Sunrise Service at Pine Island Chapel**, 8882 W Q Ave
- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary

MONDAY, APRIL 6

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- 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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- 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 Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Outreach Committee Meeting**, Archives

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- 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.
- 6:00 p.m. **Property & Maintenance Committee**, Library
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- 10:00 a.m. **Jerre James Memorial**, reception following

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. **Connections**, #302
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School**, PreK-5th grades
- 11:15 a.m. **Luncheon with Guest Speaker**, Dining Room
- 1:30 p.m. **Guest Speaker: Rev. Oh**, Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 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, 10 A.M.

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

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

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

*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.*