

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

MAY 3, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Photo of Norwich Cathedral, 2024 by Pastor Chrissy

"Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where
saints and children tell
How hearts learn
to forgive

Built of hopes and
dreams and visions
Rock of faith and
vault of grace
Here the love of Christ
shall end divisions
All are welcome,
all are welcome
All are welcome
in this place."

Marty Haugen

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

Morning Hymn

Flor Peeters

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 on Psalm 31:1-5,23-24

We gather together to worship God,
our Rock and our Redeemer, the one in whom we find refuge.
You are our rock and our fortress, O God;
Into your hands we place our lives.
Love the Lord, all you his saints.
The Lord preserves the faithful
Be strong, and let your heart take courage.
While we are waiting, Lord, come.

*HYMN 394 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation Westminster Abbey

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. 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

Loving God, as we open our hearts and minds to you, shape us as your faithful people. Help us desire what you promise and love you what you command in life with others. Amid all the blessings, challenges, and changes of our world, center our hearts in your true joy, that we may share the power of resurrection, in the name of Christ. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus

Gabriel Faure, trad. text

Ave verum corpus,
Natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum, immolatum
In cruce pro homine.
Cuius latus perforatum
Unda fluxit cum sanguine:
Esto nobis prægustatum
In mortis examine.

*Here we greet the true body,
Child of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, as a sacrifice
On the cross for all humanity.
From whose pierced side
Flowed water mixed with blood:
May this meal be a foretaste of that joy
Which awaits us after death.*

O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,
O Iesu, fili Mariae.
Miserere mei. Amen.

*O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary*

*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 our rock and our foundation, you have set us on solid ground in Christ.
Receive these gifts and use them to build up your church, strengthening what is good,
restoring what is broken, and laying a foundation of love that endures. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...we join our hearts and voices with the faithful throughout earth, in heaven,
and of every time and place who sing to the glory of your name:

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.

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.**

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) taking 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 MUSIC

Aria on "Rise, O Church"

David Cherwien

PRAYER OF RESPONSE WITH CHORAL AMEN

Faithful God, we thank you for meeting us at this table, not with judgment, but with blessing, not with scarcity, but with grace. You have fed us with mercy. Now send us out with courage. Strengthen us to live what we have received: to hunger for righteousness, to show mercy freely, to seek peace boldly, and to walk humbly with you in a world aching for hope. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 838

Standing on the Promises

Promises

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

‡MUSIC MINUTE: This short anthem was composed as a “liturgical sentence,” to be sung during Holy Communion in the Church of England. Notice how Vaughan Williams layers the voices of the choir, entering one by one, top to bottom, all moving downward. Perhaps this is meant to depict the pouring of wine into a cup, as we will soon see ourselves. At the next phrase (“blessed is the man that trusteth in him”), the soloist soars above the rest of the voices, reminding us that the Sacrament strengthens us to draw nearer to the Lord in prayer and daily living.

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Laurie Tupper
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

READER

Sally Pitt-Van Buren

ACOLYTE

TBD

MUSIC

The Choir
The Red Door Ringers
Mary Lou Boughton, soloist
Zoe Shanahan, soloist
Erika Mehring, soloist
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

GREETERS

Nancy Johnson (Lovell)
Dean & Kim Van Loo (South)

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM

Chris Honeysett
Jim Van Buren

COMMUNION SERVERS

Mike Boersma, Ginny Dell,
Karen Hassler, Rich Nellums,
Mark Ohrstrom, Phyllis Youse

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DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we can always provide one another the gift of intentional prayer. This week, we lift up PHYLLIS WILSON and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence. If you're in this group, stop by the Gathering Place after worship to say hello to your deacon. Next week, we will pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Susan Anthony	Michelle Greve	Vanessa Miller	Rollin Richman
Caitlin Brooks	Angie Jonas	Sargon Nazarians	Todd Richman
Karen Cooper	Doug Jonas	Ann Parfet	Jo Russell
Bob Cowell	Katie Long	Crystal Richman	Julie Shaw
Marcia Cowell			Kenneth Sparks

IN MEMORIAM

Please join us as we gather with love and gratitude to remember Louise and Norm McCallum, whose lives touched many hearts. The memorial service will be held Friday, May 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, with a reception to follow in the dining room. All are welcome as we share memories and give thanks for their lives.

If you are available to usher for this service, please contact Kelly at kellys@fpckzoo.org.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God in honor and memory of Ruth Moser, by her loving family.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY... ————— ” —————

Racism is not how you look; it's about how people assign meaning to how you look. - Robin D.G. Kelly

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

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in the Sanctuary for Worship. Sunday School will resume May 10.

ALL SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

We will be practicing Youth Sunday music at 9:30 a.m. on May 10. The music we are working on: "This Little Light of Mine" and "We Are Marching In the Light of God." All are welcome and we will learn the songs together! **Youth Sunday is May 17th.**

YOUTH GROUP & T.A.G.

Today at 1:45 p.m. (rain or shine), gather to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk (Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westledge). Wear good walking shoes!
We will not meet on May 10th.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NOODLING AT NOON WITH MEREDITH

We will begin with the introduction and first chapter of *If God Is Love, Don't Be A Jerk: Finding Faith that Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz on May 5. This book explores the bedrock ideas of our religion to help all of us take a good, honest look at how the beliefs we hold shape our relationship with God and our fellow humans - and to make sure that love has the last, loudest word. mereditha@fpckzoo.org.

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*. 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!

DEACON MEET & GREET

Want to meet your deacon? Your deacon is eager to meet you! Each week, the deacon highlighted in the bulletin will be near the name tags in the Gathering Place, ready to greet members of their parish. It's a simple, easy way to connect. So, grab your coffee and stop by to say hello!

THE GATHERING PLACE GOES GREEN

You'll notice some new items in the Gathering Place as we move toward composting and overall waste reduction. Gathering Grounds volunteers are happy to answer your questions as we all work on this transition. Thank you for supporting this effort!

JOIN THE EARTH CARE TEAM TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Special guest Quyen Edwards will present *Start Small: An Introduction to Native Plants*, sharing her experience creating climate-resilient native flower habitats. Room 301.

CROP HUNGER WALK IS TODAY!

The event begins at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church on Westnedge. Donations will also be collected in the Gathering Place after church TODAY. Twenty-five percent of everything collected will remain locally through Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

HEARTS-TO-HANDS CARD MINISTRY

The next crafting session will be Monday, May 11 from 1-3:00 p.m. Please join us!

CHORAL CONCERT

We look forward to the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir and Gold Standard Singers 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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following motions were adopted by Session on April 22, 2026:

- from the Outreach Committee to allocate \$400 plus transfer fees from the Ford Neff endowment to support Ghana seminarian Emmanuel Eliot Amedzi.
- from the Property and Maintenance Committee to approve a capital expenditure not to exceed \$330,649 for renovation of the Sanctuary lighting system.
- to elect Elders Sarah Johnson, Mary Lou Boughton, and Richard Nellums as commissioners to the June 9, 2026, Stated Presbytery Meeting at Muskegon First Presbyterian.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion**,
- 11:30 a.m. **Earth Care Guest**, #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.

MONDAY, MAY 4

- 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**
- 4:00 p.m. **Worship & Music Committee**, Library
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, MAY 5

- 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, MAY 6

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Taking Root**, Library
- 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 10:00 a.m. **OLLI**, Library
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Organ Practice**
- 1:00 p.m. **Comm. Committee**, #301
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**, Dining Room

THURSDAY, MAY 7

- 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. - 5:30 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 8

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

SATURDAY, MAY 9

- 1:00 p.m. **Memorial for Louise & Norm McCallum**, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. **Memorial Reception**, Dining Rm.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

- 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 grade



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
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 SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

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/Communion
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21

May 31
Trinity Sunday
The Rev Annamarie Groenenboom
Psalm 8:2; Matthew 28:16-20

*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.*