

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

MAY 17, 2026
YOUTH SUNDAY



Painting by Maddie Alspach

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

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we are reminded of something simple but powerful —
Each of us carries light, and when we share our light - the world gets bright.
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

We gather as people of every age and story,
yet together we are one body in Christ.
We bring our questions, our hopes, and our voices,
trusting they matter here.
We recognize that God's call is not just for someday,
God's call is for this moment.
Let us worship the God who calls us to be the light.
Let us share our light together.

*HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Turn to bulletin pg.10

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, sometimes we hide what you've given us. We doubt our voices and stay silent when we could speak words of truth, kindness or courage. We hold back when we could shine, when we could help, when we could love more boldly. Forgive us for forgetting who we are. Remind us that our light matters — in all that we do, all that we are, and all that we hope to be. Help us to trust ourselves, and to trust you enough to believe that even now, your light shines through us.

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

Friends, hear the good news. God's light already shines in you.
You don't have to earn it, prove it, or grow into it. You already shine,
because you are already known and loved by God.

**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.**

In that love, and in gratitude to God, we strive to shine the light God has placed
within us. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to work
with others for justice, freedom 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.

There is no Sunday School today. All children are invited to stay in worship.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of light, as we turn to Your Word, help us be open — to new ideas,
new understanding, and to all the ways your spirit is moving among us.**

**When we wonder if our voices really matter or if we're ready to be who you call
us to be, help us trust that you speak through people of every age and every story.**

**Open our hearts to your reflection of love, so that we may then share that love
in your name. Amen.**

FIRST READING Psalm 27:1-5,11-14 Old Testament p.503
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM We Are Marching in the Light of God Siyahamba
South African song
We are marching in the light of God...
We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...

SECOND READING Matthew 5:14-16 New Testament p.4
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!

SENIOR SERMONS Rowan Kortlandt
Anna Gleaton
Miranda Fiore

*HYMN 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness Christ Be Our Light

THE THANKSGIVING

BLESSING OF THE SENIORS

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH AND PSA

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

Viola Sonata “Arpeggione”

Franz Schubert

*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

Gracious God, you have filled our hearts with gifts to share. Through your presence in us, may we use who we are and what we give to light the world with acts of generosity. May our gifts reflect your light. May our lives reflect your love. And may your hope shine through us all. Amen

PRAYERS 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 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I am Lord

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FROM JUST SANCTUARY... ————— ” —————

For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to BE it.
Amanda Gorman

PARTICIPANTS

WORSHIP LEADERS

Children and Youth
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

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MUSIC

The Choir
Miranda Fiore, viola
Autumn, organist
Michael Montgomery, director

SOUND AND

VIDEO TEAM
Dana Underwood
Dirk Westbury

GREETERS

Jim Van Buren and Sally Pitt-Van Buren (Lovell)
Joyce Artman (South)

DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we can always provide one another the gift of intentional prayer. This week, we lift up JAN CARPENTER 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.

Rosingh Amofa-Adarkwa	Chris Cross	JoAnne Dunlop	Tom Noland
Justine Azigi	Jack Cross	Tom Lamb	Ann Ridge
Miriam Bauserman	Laura Cross	Leonard H Marcilous	Mike Ruesink
Bob Bauserman	Kristin DeMello	Anna Miedema	Anais Totobesola
Carlos Becho	Stephen DeMello	Neal Miedema	Orlando Totobesola
Lyssa Becho	Stuart Deming	Wendy Miedema	John Ufkes
Betty Bennett	Joanne DeWit	Brenda Noel	Dean Van Loo
Sherrill Busboom	Rob DeWit	Carol Noland	Kim Van Loo
Bob Candido			Deborah Wiebeck



*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.*

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!



Anna Gleaton
is graduating from
Kalamazoo Central High
School. She will be attending
Western Michigan University
to double major in paper
engineering and dance.



Miranda Fiore
is graduating from Kalamazoo
Central High School and
Kalamazoo Area Math and
Science Center.
She will attend Michigan State
University - Lyman Briggs
College in the fall, majoring in
human biology.



Rowan Kortlandt
is graduating from Otsego
High School. Rowan will be
attending Michigan Tech in
the fall, majoring in
computer engineering

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 31.

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 to 7:00 p.m. We will not meet on May 24th.

VBS DAY CAMP

FPC and First United Methodist Church are excited to offer VBS Day Camp again this summer for rising kindergarten through rising 6th grade children. Camp is Monday, August 10 through Thursday, August 13 from 8:30am - 4:30pm at the Methodist Church and combines the foundations of VBS and the best parts of day camp to include arts and crafts, Bible stories, archery, climbing wall, water day, games and fellowship.

Thanks to the generous support of this church, VBS Day Camp is no cost for attendees. **Registration is required.** To sign up, use this link or contact Meredith (mereditha@fpckzoo.org).



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NOODLING AT NOON WITH MEREDITH

If God Is Love, Don't Be A Jerk: Finding Faith that Makes Us Better Humans by John Pavlovitz 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. This week we will discuss chapters 4 and 5. mereditha@fpckzoo.org

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We meet on Thursday mornings to **Practice the Presence of God, Read and Discuss Scripture** (from the Gospel of John) and explore ways to live with more **Gratitude**. Coffee is served at 9:30 and we begin our lesson with prayer at 9:45. We hope that you will join us. This class, facilitated by Pat Stromsta, will conclude on May 21st.

THOUGHTFUL READERS

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 26 (note the change), discussing *Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green. All are welcome to join this book club at 7 p.m. in Room 300.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

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

MISSION TRIP BOOK DRIVE

The West Virginia mission team will build a free Little Library outside Colcord Church for community use. The goal is to keep it stocked year-round. If you have any popular, relevant, and interesting books you are ready to re-home, please bring them in to Meredith's office.

CTV: RED DOOR DINNER OPENINGS

After many months of a full Wednesday night dinner cooking schedule, we finally have some openings! If you've just been waiting for a chance to make a meal, this is your moment! As a reminder, all food costs are reimbursed by the church, and meals can be made at your convenience in our beautiful commercial kitchen. For recipe ideas or more information, please contact Meredith. To sign-up, please see the calendar outside Meredith's office.

DEACON MEET & GREET

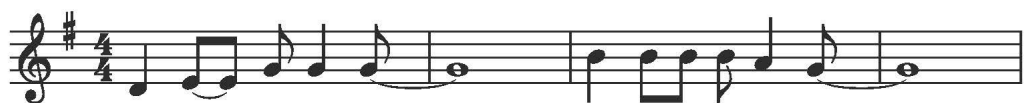
Each week, the deacon highlighted in the bulletin will be near the name tags in the Gathering Place, ready to greet members of their parish. It's a simple, easy way to connect, so stop by to say hello!

KOINONIA: A NEW SUMMER FELLOWSHIP OFFERING

Join us at Pine Island Chapel on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings (beginning June 14, 2026, through August) for *Koinonia* — a time of faith, fellowship and food. The gathering begins at 5:00 PM with a simple potluck supper (homemade soup and bread provided), followed at 6:00 PM by prayer and praise in the chapel, concluding by 6:30 PM. This offering supports our church's summer rhythm and provides a welcoming space for connection and shared spiritual life during this season of transition. Please note that this will replace the usual evening Pine Island Worship that normally occurs on the 1st and 3rd Sundays monthly as those will be paused for the summer.

REMEMBER TO WEAR RED FOR
PENTECOST
NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 24!

This Little Light of Mine



1. This lit-tle light of mine, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine! ___
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine! ___



This lit-tle light of mine, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine! ___
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine! ___



This lit-tle light of mine, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine, ___ let it shine, .
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, ___ I'm gon-na let it shine, ___ let it shine, .



___ let it shine, ___ let it shine! ___
 ___ let it shine, ___ let it shine! ___ TO VERSE 3 →



3. Hide it un - der a bush-el? No! I'm gon-na let it shine! ___



Hide it un - der a bush-el? No! I'm gon-na let it shine! .



___ Hide it un - der a bush-el? No! I'm gon-na let it shine, .



___ let it shine, ___ let it shine, ___ let it shine! ___ REPEAT VERSE 1

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 17

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. **Crescendo Recital**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **Pine Island Worship Service**,
Chapel - 8882 W Q Ave
- 5:30 p.m. **T.A.G. / Youth Group**, FPC

MONDAY, MAY 18

- 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**
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**
Meeting, Archives
- 5:30 p.m. **Personnel Committee Meeting**,
Library
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, #306
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, MAY 19

- 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**, Library

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- 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**

THURSDAY, MAY 21

- 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**
- 4:00 p.m. **Finance Committee**, Archives
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Gathering Pl.
- 6:35 p.m. **Faith Formation**, Sun School Rm
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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

SUNDAY, MAY 24

- Wear Red for Pentecost!*
- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #208
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship/Communion**, Sanctuary

**The building will be closed on
Monday, May 25
in honor of Memorial Day.**

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

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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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 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

June 7
Second Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 33:1-12; Matthew 9:9-26

June 14
Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Psalm 116:1-2,12-19

*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.*

**YOU ARE
LOVED**



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY: LIVING FAITH

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
 All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

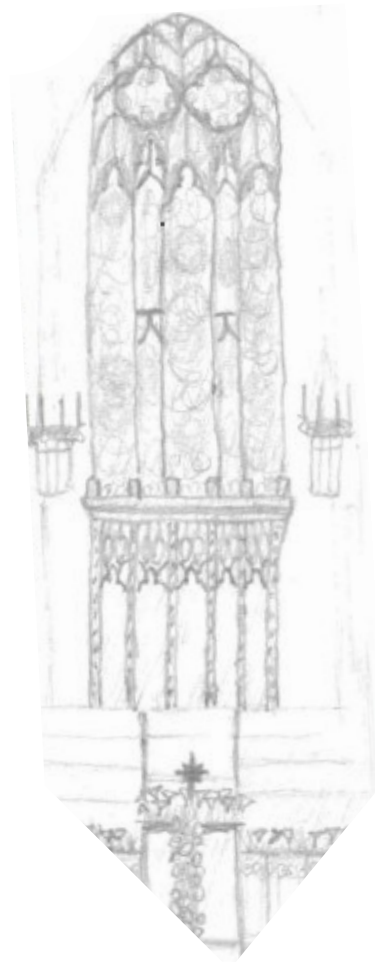
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Prayer Chain

Digital form on website,
Scroll down to "Prayer Chain".



Drawing by Zoe Shanahan