



AUGUST 16, 2026
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Laura M. Green

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

Petit Offertoire

Cesar Franck

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

To know the warmth of love,
To have the assurance that someone cares,
To be confident of our worth,
To be bold to love in return,
To be washed over with grace,
To be accepted as we are: this is to know a bit of God.

*HYMN 26

Earth and All Stars!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer.
We know we do not always live as we ought:
We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves.
We know we dim your light within us with our pride,
our self-righteousness, and our need for control.
We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again
you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light.
Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 577

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Trust in Jesus who proclaimed God's reign: preaching, teaching, healing, forgiving, and calling us to believe the gospel. God raised Jesus, breaking sin's power, redeeming all creation. Loving us still, God frees us to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.

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 a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, to hear voices of people long silenced, and 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 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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 211.

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit! As the Scriptures are read and the Word proclaimed, bear witness to the truth in our hearts and minds, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:1-15

Old Testament p.42

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**ANTHEM**

I Need You to Survive†

David Frazier
arr. Rollo Dilworth

I need you; you need me. We're all a part of God's body.
Stand with me, agree with me [that] we're all a part of God's body.
It is His will that ev'ry need be supplied.
You are important to me. I need you to survive.

I pray for you; you pray for me
I love you. I need you to survive
I won't harm you with words from my mouth.
I love you; I need you to survive.

It is His will that ev'ry need be supplied
You are important to me. I need you to survive.

SECOND READING

Matthew 15:1-28

New Testament p.16

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**

Room for One More?

***HYMN 74**

When God Restored Our Common Life

Resignation

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

Aria

Paul Manz

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE 701** Lord, Prepare Me (sung twice) Sanctuary
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God, all that we have comes from your hand. You bless us not so we can cling tightly, but so we can live freely and faithfully.

Receive these gifts and our whole selves.

Use what we offer, our money, our time, our compassion, our courage, to bring good news to the poor, comfort to those who mourn, and justice that looks like mercy in action. Teach us to walk humbly, love deeply, and give generously.

We offer all this in gratitude and hope. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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 79**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Temple of Peace

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in C

Carlos Seixas

‡**MUSIC MINUTE:** This morning’s anthem might be the most well-known gospel song of this century. It was first released in a recording by Hezekiah Walker in 2002 but was initially composed as a response to the events of 9/11. Its simple, mostly unison melody drives home the point of the text: We are one, all of us, in Christ Jesus. We are called to help one another. We, in truth, need one another. This recalls what we hear today from the Old Testament about the reunion of Joseph with his long-estranged brothers. There’s a beautiful ambiguity in the title also. How does your heart hear the words “I need you to survive”? Is it “I need you in order to survive myself” or perhaps “I need you to survive, to get through this pain you’re experiencing.” Or perhaps it’s both.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Meredith Alspach
Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Reader
Kathy Jennings

Sound & Video Team
Kurt Grossman
Mark Ohrstrom

Acolyte
Hillary Cloetingh

Music
Summer Choir
Helen Rathburn, flute
Bill Cessna, organist
Michael Montgomery,
director

Greeters
Jim & Sally DeBruyn
(Lovell)

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FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

The flowers on the Chancel are given in gratitude to God by Laura Boersma
in loving memory of her husband, Garrett, for the life they shared.

FROM JUST SANCTUARY...

“Until the great mass of people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other’s welfare, social justice can never be attainable.” — Helen Keller

DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we can always provide one another with the gift of intentional prayer. This week, we uplift in prayer DONNA SCHONVELD and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence.

Joe Agostinelli	Kathleen Houtman	Sandy Sinotte
Susan Agostinelli	Marilyn Jauch	Sandra Standish
Ed Artman	Mark Longman	David Standish Sr.
Joyce Artman	Sharon Longman	Judy Swisher
Joanne Baker	Betty Mbangwana	Gabriel Takuh
Nancy Colburn	Diane Misner	Laurie Tupper
Ellen Dykhuis	Karen Nellums	Philip Ward
Carol Eddy	Richard Nellums	Mari Wielopolski
Julie Hakken	Lester Roberts-Riggle	Rick Wielopolski
Rick Hakken	Michael Roberts-Riggle	Gary Zandt
Bruce Houtman	Shelley Rylander	Pamela Zandt
	William Rylander	

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nursery

The nursery is open each Sunday, starting fifteen minutes before worship, for children age 3 and under (Room 211). Parents will be given a pager in the event they need to be reached during worship. Please pick your child up immediately following worship.

Sunday School

Classes for PreK—5th grade students will resume in September.

Youth Group & T.A.G.

These groups for all middle and high school students will kick off in the fall. Stay tuned!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

Noodling will pick up again in September. The next book will be announced soon!

Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship

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

Women's Bible Study Summer Plans

Ruth Minert is hosting this group at her home on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. this summer. We will be using *Portals of Prayer* throughout August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Orientation Today

Have you been visiting FPC and would like to learn more? Join Pastor Chrissy and members of the Congregational Life Committee after worship in **Room 314** for a New Member Orientation. Meet others, learn about FPC and the PC(USA), and ask questions in a relaxed setting. Attending is not a commitment—just an opportunity to explore. To RSVP or learn about other membership options, contact Pastor Chrissy at chrissyw@fpckzoo.org.

Thank you for your support!

A huge thank you to all who made the mission trip possible! The meals, snacks, and supplies were so appreciated, and we carried you all with us in our week of service. We were also so thrilled to install the free little library outside the Colcord church with loads of books for the community. You are loved!



Stop by the Gathering Place to see Maddie's finished painting, begun during worship last week!

Cookie Decorating Night

Thursday, August 20 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the Dining Room

Decorate “Back to School” cookies with us! Supplies will be provided, and all are welcome. Bring the whole family for a fun evening of decorating, laughter, and treats to take home. Please register so we have enough:



Sunday School & Nursery Volunteer Meeting

All current and prospective Sunday School and nursery volunteers are invited to a meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, August 23. Returning volunteers will receive orientation for the coming year, and anyone interested in learning more about serving is welcome to attend. Contact Meredith Alspach with questions.

Thank you, Michael!

In honor of Michael Montgomery and his contribution to the life of our congregation, the Worship and Music Committee invites you to add to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. As Michael begins life within the Monastery of the Holy Cross, he may bring almost nothing with him. Michael suggested that any funds we gather in his honor should support the good work our church is able to do for our neighbors in need through donations to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. Contributions should be sent to the church or in the offering plate with a notation indicating that it is for the Pastors' Discretionary Fund.

Still available – a chance to help with CTV: Red Door Dinner

Help share welcome, compassion, and food with our neighbors at our Wednesday night meal. Nervous about cooking? We have recipes, tools, and support to help—and you do not have to do the dishes! There are many available weeks on the calendar outside Meredith's office, so grab a few of your favorite people and sign up for this simple and rewarding way to serve. Thank you for helping make this ministry possible!

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: NATCHEZ

August 30, 6 p.m., in the Dining Room

Join the Just Sanctuary team for a screening of the award-winning 2025 documentary *NATCHEZ*. Equal parts amusing and moving, this film captures an unsettling clash between history and memory in a small Mississippi town. Antebellum homes draw visitors to Natchez, Mississippi, but not everyone agrees with the stories being told. As tour guides, homeowners, and activists navigate competing histories, the town confronts the tension between preservation and truth, offering a glimpse into a Southern community wrestling with race, memory, and identity.

Koinonia at Pine Island Chapel

Koinonia (fellowship in Jesus Christ) will meet on August 23 at **5:15** (note the new time) with a potluck supper. From 6:00 - 6:30 we will sing praises, study scripture and pray. Pat Stromsta is the facilitator.

Name Tags

Wearing your name tag may seem like a small gesture, but it helps make FPC feel even more welcoming. Name tags make it easier for new members, visitors, and long-time members to learn one another's names, start conversations, and feel connected across generations. They also help volunteers and leaders be more approachable and support the inclusive, caring community we strive to be. If you need a new name tag, please contact Kelly in the office. Thank you for helping everyone feel known, welcomed, and loved at FPC!

Summer Choir

Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room, this pick-up group prepares simple anthems for worship each week. No sign-up, no weeknight rehearsal, no long-term commitment, and no previous experience needed. Everyone middle school-age and up is welcome. For more information, contact Michael Montgomery (michaelm@fpckzoo.org).



Bible Collection: A Night of Hope and Healing

We are collecting **new and gently used Bibles** to support an upcoming Night of Hope & Healing in Battle Creek. If you have a Bible you would like to donate, please place it in the collection box in the Gathering Place. Donations will be accepted **through November 1**.

Noisy Coins

Thank you for bringing your loose change for the offering. All loose coins go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund which exists to help church members with emergency needs.

Hearing Assistance

The sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop system. Use your T-coil-enabled hearing aid or borrow loop-compatible headphones from the sound booth.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

- 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Cards on Display**,
Gathering Place
- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. **New Members Orientation**,
#314/315

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **Recovery Institute**
(**R.I.**), Dining Room/#308
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 12:00 p.m. **Walking Group**, Lovell St.
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Comm.**, Archives
- 6:30 p.m. **Deacons Meeting**, #306
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee**
Meeting, Archives
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

- 7:30 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Panera
Bread on West Main
- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**, Archives
- 12:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life Comm.**
Meeting, Library

OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M.–3 P.M.
MONDAY – THURSDAY
CLOSED FRIDAY - SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 10:30 a.m. **OLLI**, #306
- 12:00 p.m. **Prayer Service**, Sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. **CTV: Red Door Dinner**,
Dining Room

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. **Library Work**
- 12:00 p.m. **AA**, #300
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 6:00 p.m. **Cookie Decorating Night**,
Dining Room
- 6:30 p.m. **Personnel Comm.**, Archives

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

- 2:00 p.m. **Memorial – David Rozelle**
- 3:00 p.m.–5:30 pm. **Rozelle Reception**,
Dining Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 9:00 a.m. **Summer Choir Rehearsal**,
Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. **Volunteer Meeting**
- 5:15 p.m. **Koinonia**, Pine Island Chapel
(8882 W Q Ave)

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

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Church Staff (in alphabetical order)

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Dawn Reitano, Communications Coordinator, x209

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Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213

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Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206

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The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x204

chrissyw@fpckzoo.org

South Lobby Receptionists, x221: Kailynn Bachman, Jennie Barry,
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding

Custodians: Logan McCafferty, Randy Randt **Library:** library@fpckzoo.org

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship Services

August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Exodus 1:8-22; Exodus 2:1-10

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14

August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King

September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Psalm 103:1-13; Matthew 18:21-35

*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.*

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
 4 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Lord a new song! Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing

snow - storm!
 cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song! God has done
 work - ers!
 mem - bers!

mar - vel - ous things. We too sing prais - es with a new song!

When God Restored Our Common Life (Psalm 126)

74

1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -
 2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing
 3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -

ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
 soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
 pressed. May those who long for what is right with

wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a shock of joy swept
 fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who
 jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who

o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the
 gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The
 mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may

seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
 seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.

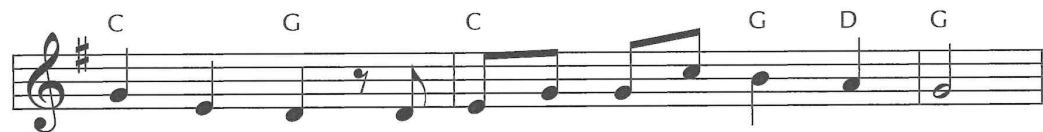
79 Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



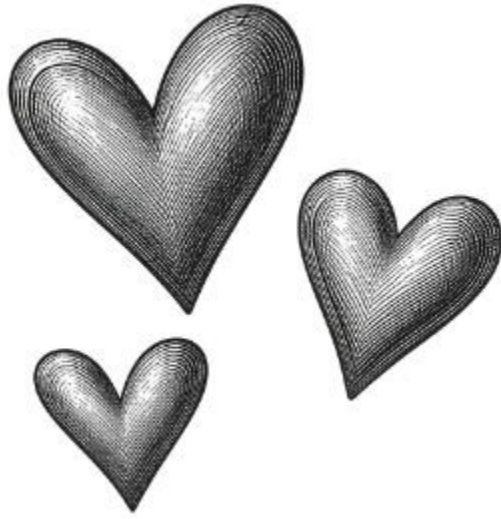
the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.



**YOU ARE
LOVED**



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