



OCTOBER 18, 2026
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Denarius of Augustus, Emperor of Rome from Rome.
Ruler: Augustus, Emperor of Rome (63 B.C.–A.D. 14, ruled 27 B.C.–A.D. 14)

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

Choral in G major Op. 49 No.3

Alex Guilmant

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** adapted from Psalm 90

God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Be with us again, here and now.

Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed
the earth and the world.

God is always with us; before work and play, before priority and distraction.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Nicaea

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we have not always lived rightly.

You call us into relationship and we turn away.

You mark us as your own and we deny you.

You call us to reconciliation and we hold grudges.

Our hearts are stubborn and our minds set upon the wrong things.

Turn us back toward you. Soften and reorient us.

Help us to see the beauty of your creation and our role in it.

Remind us that we are bearers of your image and your beloved children.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE 467

Give Us Light, v 4,5

Jyothi Dho

Save us now; save us now; save us now, O Lord.**Give us grace; give us grace; give us grace, O Lord.****ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE**

Believe the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thanks be to God!.

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 583**

Glory to God

Gloria

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!****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.**Sunday School is available for children in preK-5th grades.***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible
and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day.**

Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture.**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.****FIRST READING**

Exodus 33:17-23

Old Testament p.80

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!**ANTHEM**

God Be in My Head

Andrew Carter

God be in my head and in my understanding, God be in my eyes and in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in my speaking, God be in my heart and in my thinking.

God be at mine end and at my departing.

SECOND READING

Matthew 22:15-22

New Testament p.24

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

All the Things We Don't Know

“...and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen...”

***HYMN**

Is it Lawful to Pay Taxes

Beach Spring

By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

"Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar's rule?"

So some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool.

Saying "no" would be sedition; saying "yes" would be a sin.

Jesus changed the conversation, calling them to look within.

"Find a tax coin in your treasure; see the image that it bears.

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (Give to rulers what is theirs.)"

Yet he pressed on with his message; "Give to God what is God's own."

We who bear our Maker's image worship God and God alone.

Lord of all, in every nation, may your word be understood —

That we have an obligation to support the common good.

May our taxes, all together, fund our working hand in hand

So that life will be made better for all people in this land.

Still, we also hear your teaching: "Give to God what God is due."

May no ruler — overreaching — try to take the place of you.

May we listen to your message, may we honor what is yours;

May we, living in your image, seek your kingdom that endures.

THE THANKSGIVING

TIDINGS OF THE CHURCH AND PSA

We give thanks to God and live our 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

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE 647** Give Thanks *(no repeats)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Holy One, we respond to your grace with joy,
and we lift up these tithes and offerings.**

**May these gifts be used to build up your church and witness to your holy name.
Accomplish your purposes, we pray, through this offering and through our lives,
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 652**

A Grateful Heart

Rockingham

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in A flat

Charles Joseph Frost

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders
Rev. Dr. Liz Hakken Candido
Mari Wielopolski
Meredith Alspach

Reader
Rich Aldrich

Acolyte
Karen Conner

Music
FPC Choir
Bill Cessna, organist
Hal Hobson-Morse, director

Sound & Video Team
Kurt Grossman
Bob Murray

Greeters
Joyce Artman (South)
Janet Todd (Lovell)

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IN MEMORIAM

Beloved church member Carol Schreiner (12/6/38 – 10/11/26) passed away on October 11. Although her memorial has been held, we continue to give thanks for Carol's life and her memory among us, and to hold her family in our prayers.

DEACON'S PRAYERS

As a community of faith, we offer one another the gift of intentional prayer through our weekly rotation of deacons and parish groups. We uplift in prayer JOANNE DEWIT and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence. If you are in this group, stop by the Gathering Place near the name tags after worship to say hello to your deacon.

Brad Allen
Kristen Allen
Cari Anderson
Matt Bates
Jan Carpenter
Jamie Cloetingh
Heather Cloetingh
Amy Coon
Grady Coon
Donita DeBruin
Gary DeBruin
Sarah DeRusha

Dan Dowswell
Jennifer Fiore
John Fiore
Diana Gilmer
Thomas Gilmer
Nancy Hamilton
Sandra Hintz
Connie Houts
David Johnson
Judy Johnson
Craig Kortlandt
Heather Kortlandt

Mark Loehrke
Barbara Perl
Andrew Roberts
Jack Schnur
Jakob Schnur
Jamie Schnur
Jana Marie Schnur
Morgan Schut
Shari Schut
Donald Swetay Sr.
Charri Withrow

TODAY

Butter Braids

Today is the last day to place your orders. See Meredith in the Gathering Place after worship. Payment is due at the time of ordering. Proceeds support the West Virginia Mission Trip. Please be prepared to pick up your frozen pastries right after worship on Sunday, November 8.

Cards on Display

Hearts-to-Hands Card Ministry will have cards on display in the Gathering Place today until 11:30 a.m. Cards for many occasions are available on a donation basis. We hope you will use these handmade messages to spread God's love.

Koinonia – Fellowship in Jesus Christ

Koinonia meets tonight for a simple meal at 5:00 followed by a 5:30 worship at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave). We will have a conversation on John 15:9-12. "Remain in my love... I have told you these things so that you will be filled with joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" Who doesn't need to be reminded of God's love and promise of joy. Please join us. This offering is facilitated by Pat Stromsta.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Confirmation

Sunday, November 1 there will be a confirmation retreat held at the Pine Island Chapel for all high school youth. For more information, or to register your high school student, please contact Meredith (mereditha@fpckzoo.org).

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

Sunday School is available for all PreK – 5th grade students. Please pick your children up immediately after worship: PreK–1st grade, Room 208; 2nd–5th, Rooms 304/305

Youth Group/T.A.G.

Join us today in the church Youth Room from 5:30-7:00 p.m. All middle and high school youth are welcome. Next Sunday, October 25 is the Halloween Party from 5:30-7:00 p.m. All participants are invited to dress up and there will be costume prizes!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

NEW – “In-Betweeners”

Designed for adults who are established in their careers but have not yet reached the empty-nest stage, the In-Betweeners will hold their first gathering at the Pine Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave) on October 24, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for s’mores and conversation.

Childcare supervision will be provided. For more information, please contact Meredith.

Morning Men’s Fellowship

Join us weekly, on Tuesdays, at Panera Bread on West Main at 7:30 a.m. New faces are always welcome as we share connection and create community!

Noodling at Noon with Meredith

This week we will discuss Chapters 9 and 10 of *The Way of Befriending* by Parfait Bassale. We will then have one week left of this book before starting *Jesus and John Wayne* on November 3. Everyone is welcome to join us – Tuesdays in the Library!

Thoughtful Readers

All are welcome to join this book club. We meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in room 300. This month we will discuss *The Lion Women of Tehran*, by Marjan Kamali. Our November book is *The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald* by John U. Bacon.

Taking Root

Are you a 20-something looking to connect with your peers in a meaningful way? Taking Root has a new project beginning on November 1 and we would love for you to be a part of it! Please reach out to Meredith (mereditha@fpckzoo.org) for details.

Women's Bible Study

This group will not meet on the 22nd as Chrissy is leading a pilgrimage. Join us on the 29th at 9:30 a.m. in room 306 when we will continue our study regarding the Apostle Paul.

From Just Sanctuary...

Theodore Roosevelt said, “Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music at FPC

Church Choir is open to anyone in high school and older. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Choir room, with a break for treats and fellowship. The choir also meets for a warm-up rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:30 a.m.

The Red Door Ringers, our handbell choir, rehearses in the Bell Room on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Red Door Ringers will perform in worship at least once a month.

No prior experience is required to participate in either choir, and you are welcome to come and try it out. If you have questions, please contact our Music Director, Hal Hobson-Morse (halhm@fpckzoo.org).

Pine Island Chapel Update

We hope to see you at Koinonia this evening!

Planning ahead: the November 1st Taizé service will not be held because of scheduling conflicts with other church events; On the third Sunday in November, at Koinonia, we will host a Thanksgiving dinner for those who may not be able to be with family and friends, or who just like turkey and dressing.

CTV: Red Door Dinner

Thanks to those who stepped up this month to fill the calendar with volunteers and our guests with nourishment. If you are available to help with a Wednesday in December, please check the calendar outside of Meredith's office. Thanks in advance. We cannot do this important ministry without you!

Office Update

Pastor Chrissy will be out of the office through October 28. If a pastoral need arises while she is away, please call the church office. We are here to help and will connect you with a member of the pastoral care team. If you'd like to follow along with the Mystics Pilgrimage Pastor Chrissy is leading, there are copies of the devotional on the table near Chrissy's office.

Bible Collection: A Night of Hope & 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.

Name Tags

Wearing your name tag at church may seem like a small thing, but it can have a substantial impact on everyone's comfort. Name tags help bridge generations, support inclusivity, and make volunteers and leaders more approachable. If you need a new name tag, please reach out to Kelly in the office. Thank you for always making people feel loved at FPC!

Stewardship Fun Fact!

Each week until we reach our 2027 Pledge Goal of \$610,000, the Stewardship Committee will be sharing a “Stewardship Fun Fact!” – a little-known number from our lives together at FPC! Keep an eye on the progress board in the Gathering Place for how we’re doing, and get those pledges in. They help us to set the budget for the coming year.



The Red Door Dinner on Wednesday nights serves over 4000 meals over the course of the year, along with connecting our guests with necessary resources and offering a space of peace and fellowship each week. We are the only feeding ministry in town who never shut down during the Covid pandemic (we just shifted outside, even during the winter!)

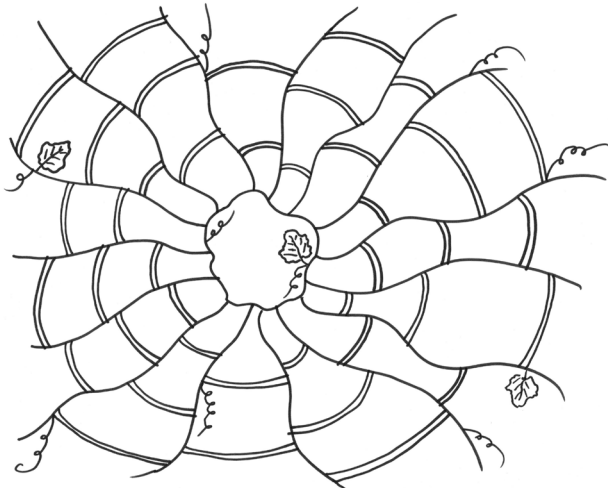
Hearing Assistance

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.

FROM PRAYING IN **COLOR**

“Praying in Color is versatile and adaptable to all kinds of prayer and meditation. No artistic skill or prayer expertise is necessary. Whether you are a skilled artist or just a doodler, like the author, you only need a playful willingness to put pen and color to paper and an openness to God’s mysterious presence in your prayer time.”

Doodle Prayer Template: “Pumpkin Gratitude” by author Sybil MacBeth



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up**, Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. **Cards on Display**,
Gathering Place
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School, PreK-5th gr.**
- 5:00 p.m. **Koinonia**, Pine Island Chapel
(8882 W Q Ave)
- 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

- 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. **Walking Grp**, Lovell Entrance
- 4:30 p.m. **Stewardship Committee
Meeting**, Archives
- 6:00 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh**, #300
- 7:00 p.m. **Scouts**, Dining Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 7:30 a.m. **Men's Fellowship**, Panera
Bread, West Main Street
- 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**
- 12:00 p.m. **Noodling**, Library
- 3:00 p.m. **Congregational Life
Committee Meeting**, Library
- 5:30 p.m. **Orchestra Rouh**, #300
- 6:00 p.m. **Kal. Pipe Band**, Dining Room
- 6:45 p.m. **Kalamazoo Male Chorus**,
Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. **R.I.**, Dining Rm/#308
- 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, OCTOBER 22

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. **Organ Rehearsal**, Sanctuary
- 1:45 p.m. **PEO- EZ**, Library
- 4:30 p.m. **Food Addicts**, #314/315
- 5:30 p.m. **Kal. Lit. Council**, Dining Rm
- 5:30 p.m. **Red Door Ringers**, Bell Room
- 7:00 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**, Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

- 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. **In-Betweeners**, Pine
Island Chapel (8882 W Q Ave)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 9:00 a.m. **Choir Warm-up**, Choir Room
- 9:45 a.m. **Child Care/Nursery**, #211
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship**, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School, PreK-5th gr.**
- 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. **T.A.G./Youth Group**

OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M.–3 P.M.
MONDAY – THURSDAY

KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

fpckzoo.org

Facebook.com/ASanctuaryInTheCity

269.344.0119

CHURCH STAFF (in alphabetical order)

Meredith Alspach , Director of Youth, Families, Outreach, x208	mereditha@fpckzoo.org
Bill Cessna , Organist, x214	billc@fpckzoo.org
Hal Hobson-Morse , Director of Music, x223	halhm@fpckzoo.org
Logan McCafferty , Custodian	loganm@fpckzoo.org
Dawn Reitano , Communications Coordinator, x209	dawnr@fpckzoo.org
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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, Sandy Sinotte

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

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship Services

October 25

Reformation Sunday

The Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom
Matthew 22:34-46; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

November 8

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Joshua 24:1-15

November 1

All Saint's Sunday/Communion

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Revelation 7:8-17

November 15

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

TBA
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Psalm 123

*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.*

1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Descant

4 Ho - - - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a descant in the soprano line, followed by four-part vocal harmony. The lyrics are: '4 Ho - - - ly,' for the descant, and four verses of the hymn below. The bass line provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines.

ho - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

The second system continues the musical score. It begins with a descant in the soprano line, followed by four-part vocal harmony. The lyrics are: 'ho - - - ly,' for the descant, and the continuation of the hymn below. The bass line continues with harmonic support.

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

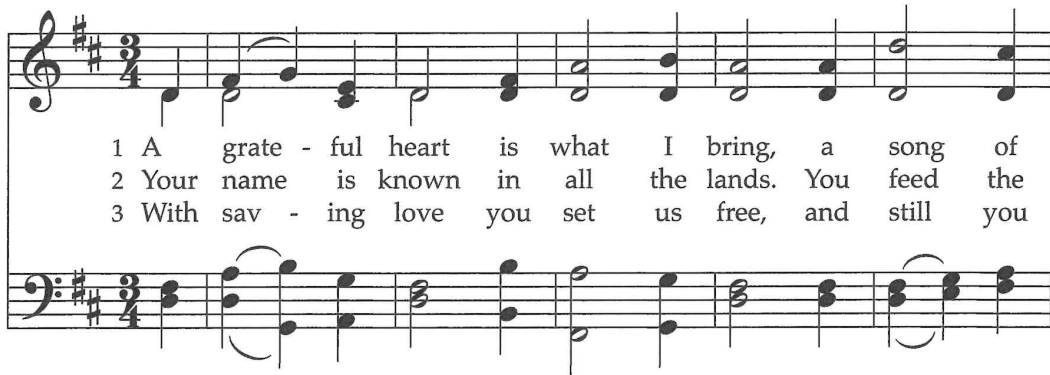
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)



1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you



praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can



lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - joice.
works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.
com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.