

 KALAMAZOO  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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



“The ultimate weakness of evil is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate.... Returning violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## 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.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.  
Let us worship God.

### PRELUDE

“Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major”

J. S. Bach

### \* DOXOLOGY (tune #607)

**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

Come in, you who seek to trust in God!  
**We want to follow Jesus.**  
Come in, sit down, lay your worries aside.  
**We want to trust in Jesus.**  
Come in! Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!  
**We want to love like Jesus!**  
Come in! Shout for joy and clap your hands!  
**This is the day that God has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

### \* HYMN

“How Lovely, Lord”

#402

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that it is sometimes hard to love the people around us; to care  
as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good fortune without  
feeling envious. We act out of our own self-interest— putting our needs and desires  
ahead of the needs of others— hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely.  
We are baffled by the idea that we should love our enemies - pray for their well-being,  
act in their best interests, and leave thoughts of vengeance behind. Forgive us. Teach us  
that we are connected. That our well-being is dependent on the well-being of others.  
Teach us to love as you love.**

*Prayer continues in silence.*

KYRIE “Restore in Us, O God” #434  
**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE from *A Brief Statement of Faith*  
Jesus proclaimed God’s reign: preaching, teaching, healing, eating with outcasts,  
and forgiving. Loving us still, like a mother who will not forsake a nursing child,  
and like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God redeems us and  
all creation.  
**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from God’s love in Jesus Christ!**  
In a broken world, trust in God. The Holy Spirit rules our faith and life in Christ,  
engages us through the Word, and gives us courage to pray without ceasing as we  
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, respecting  
personal need for distance and levels of comfort.*

\* GLORIA #583  
**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!**

## THE WORD

### MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

CHILDREN’S BLESSING “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” #547  
**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing; you are my own.”**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us.  
Help us to be inspired to walk in love— in our hearing, in our speaking, in our  
believing, and in our living. Amen**

FIRST READING Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

“Ubi Caritas”

Ola Gjeilo

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.  
Timeamus et ememus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincere.  
Amen.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart, love one another.  
Amen.

SECOND READING

Luke 6:27-38

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

Wait...Even Them?

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”  
(Luke 6:27-28)

\* HYMN

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

#753

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.

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE “Give Thanks, O Christian People”

#644 v.3

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,  
who live each day believing in God’s eternal word.  
To share Christ’s love in living, to witness with each deed,  
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of love beyond measure, we bring these gifts to you along with our gratitude – the only possible response to the grace you give so freely. May these tokens be transformed into vehicles of your love in this world. May we share our time, our talents, and our resources with the same spirit of abundant love you showed us through Jesus. Amen.

\* PRAYER 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

“Though I May Speak”

#693

\* BENEDICTION (*Our congregational response is “Alleluia! Amen!”*)

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

## PARTICIPANTS

**Worship Leaders**

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Meredith Alspach

**Acolyte**

TBD

**Reader**

TBD

**Greeters**

Craig Misner

Diane Misner

**Sound**

Sound Team members

**Music**

Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music

Autumn, organist

Adult Choir

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COVID UPDATE

Throughout the pandemic, the Health Ministries Committee and the Session of FPC have encouraged careful monitoring of the science, following the guidelines set forth by the experts at the Center for Disease Control. The CDC has strongly recommended that people in areas where there is Substantial or High Spread of the Covid-19 virus and its variants - regardless of vaccination status - wear masks when gathering indoors with people outside their household. For this reason, we are requiring that all people who enter the church building mask up, as long as Kalamazoo County remains in the Substantial Spread area. Let's do our part to protect one another and stop this thing before it gets out of hand again!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

We invite all school-age children to join us for Sunday School after the Moment with Young Worshipers. Parents, please pick up your children from the 3rd floor classroom immediately following Worship. The nursery is also open for all children under age three.

### HOLISTIC HEALTH ONLINE CLASS TODAY

The Health Ministry team at FPC is sponsoring an Education and Outreach Effort through a virtual class/small group meeting. Our objective is to meet once a month (every third Sunday at 6:00 p.m.) in a virtual format to discuss promoting holistic health (physical, mental, and spiritual well-being). The general format of the class will be to log in (a Zoom link) and listen to a group speaker for a few minutes, then take some time to share and pose questions, talk about what is happening in the community and in our lives, and to maintain connection to support our well-being. Class registration is open to all.

Our February topic will be *Compassion*, which is scheduled for today at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom link. Register by emailing Laura Ford ([Lauraford57@att.net](mailto:Lauraford57@att.net)) to receive the Zoom link invitation.

### YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Youth Group for grades 7-12 will meet here from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. to help with the Chili Cook-off. Afterwards, they will gather as a group.

Our new multi-church 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group also meets from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. here at FPC! *Masks are required for all!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, March 6**

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, after Worship, in the Sanctuary. Please join us for a celebration of our church life, as we share the successes and joys of the year.

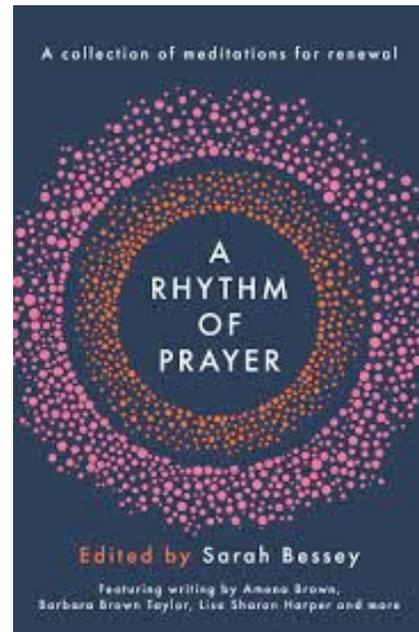
In years past, we have shared a potluck meal. We will hope to return to that valued time together next year.

### A RHYTHM OF PRAYER: NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CLASS

**Thursdays, through March 3, 9:30 a.m.  
Room 301**

Human beings are created to live in fellowship with God! Prayer is conversation with God. When you feel a desire to pray, it's God who is stirring up that desire in you and inviting you into a conversation. Please bring a notebook or prayer journal to record your thoughts and prayers. Pat Stromsta will lead this class.

In this four-week class, we'll study prayer that is found in Scripture, experience new forms of prayer, and read selections of the book, *A Rhythm of Prayer*, edited by Sarah Bessey. Sarah writes, "It is my hope that you'll borrow language from these prayers and be reminded that you are held — always, fully, completely — in the Love of God."



### SAY MORE? ADULT ED CLASS

**Today, after Worship, in Room 301**

"Say More?" is an opportunity to gather and reflect on the scripture passages shared in Worship and in the sermon – to ask questions and delve a little deeper into the scriptures we read each week. Contact Pastor Chrissy if you wish to have more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

- ◆ There are several endowments that have been established at First Presbyterian Church, with portions designated to be utilized for scholarships and/or grants.
- ◆ You are considered eligible to apply for a scholarship if you or your family have been active in the spiritual and community life of FPC Kalamazoo.
- ◆ Individuals who are expecting to continue their education beyond high school OR those who are already students beyond the high school level, may apply .

**Scholarship applications are due March 15.**

### THOUGHTFUL READERS

**Monday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m.**

Thoughtful Readers will meet next week in Room 300 to discuss *The Best We Could Do* by Thi But.

### LIVING WITH THE PSALMS

**Tuesdays, March 1 – April 12**

**Noon, meeting in the Library**

Pastor Seth Weeldreyer will lead reflection on John Bell's book *Living with the Psalms*. Along with a six-week outline in the back of the book for sampling the Psalms in daily prayer, here's a schedule for our discussion:

March 1	Preface – Chapter 3
March 8	Chapters 4 – 5
March 15	No meeting
March 22	Chapters 6 – 8
March 29	Chapters 9 – 11
April 5	Chapters 12 – 14
April 12	Chapters 15 – 17

You can find the book at Amazon. Please contact Seth with any questions.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM "JUST SANCTUARY"

"There are two principles of justice: not to harm anybody, and to serve society's welfare."

- Cicero

### CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thanks to the Richland Church for providing the soup and dessert for Celebrate the Vision this week!

### CTV VOLUNTEER

#### COOKS NEEDED!

Can you help make soup or dessert for CtV? For more information or to sign up, contact Meredith.

**[Mereditha@fpckzoo.org](mailto:Mereditha@fpckzoo.org)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FPC'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF IS TODAY!

We have two options for participating in our hybrid Cook-off this year. Following Worship today, you are welcome to visit the socially-distanced tables in the dining room, and choose your Chili-to-Go. Curbside pick-up will be available for anyone worshipping from home. Instructions for how to vote for your favorite chili will be included with your to-go box. We may be socially distanced, but the competition will be close!

All proceeds from the Cook-off support our "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. The suggested donation is \$5 per person. May the best chili win!

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THE GREEN PRESBYTERIANS

"We are now adding CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere about ten times faster than in the Great Dying (a mass extinction 65 million years ago), and about a hundred times faster than in human history before industrialization. Our atmosphere now contains about 1/3 more carbon than in the last 800,000 years (possibly in the last 15 million years). Of the about 1,600 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels emitted in the 260 years after 1757, more than half was emitted in the 30 years after 1987."

- *The Uninhabitable Earth*, David Wallace-Wells, 2019, pp.3-4

### NEW EMAILS AND WEBSITE

Last week we launched our new staff emails. They are much shorter and easier to remember than the old ones. All of the new emails are listed on the back of this bulletin. All emails sent to the old email addresses will be forwarded to the new address, so don't worry if you accidentally send an email to the old address; we will still get it!

The new website will be launched in the next week or so. Until then, the old website will not be getting updated. To see the most recent church news and events, use our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/asanctuaryinthecity>

### COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Beginning March 1, our Communications Coordinator, Hannah, will be moving and working entirely remotely. This means that you will no longer be able to call her at the church, but you can still contact her via email. If you have any questions, contact her.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EDISON NEEDS

There is a great need for tissues for the students at Edison during winter. There is also a need for smaller-sized girls' leggings and boys' sweatpants. This will help to cover the "accidents" that happen in kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. Items can be dropped off in the bin in the back foyer labeled "Edison". Thanks so much.

### DEACON'S UPDATE - A REMINDER ABOUT NOISY COINS:

The loose change you drop in the Sunday offering plate is deposited into the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. This account is used only on the advisement of clergy, to assist any congregant with an immediate financial need. Disbursements are always kept confidential. Let the jingle-jangle of your noisy coins work in generosity and joy for the assistance and love of your church family! Thank you!

### DEACONS' 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 for **Carol Parfitt** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives. Next week, in the same way, we'll pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Mark, Sharon, Maxwell, Molly, and Jake Longman  
Krista Matthews, Katrina Jackson, and Dean Jackson  
W. Craig and Diane Misner  
Richard and Karen Nellums  
William, Shelley and Jason Rylander  
Paul and Donna Schonveld  
David and Sandra Standish  
Richard and James Steele  
Joe, Susan, Nicholas, and Grace Agostinelli  
Bruce and Kathleen Houtman  
Amy, Kenneth, Megan, and Elizabeth Bell  
Franklin Davidson

Michael Bova  
Nancy Colburn  
Kathy and Don Cooney  
Ellen Dykhuis  
Carol Eddy  
Richard and Julie Hakken  
Marilyn Jauch  
Barbara Kafil  
Neil Stuit  
Laurie Tupper  
Philip Ward

## TENTATIVE WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Today, Sunday, February 20

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 9:00 a.m. Congregational Life Meeting, *Archives*
- 9:00 a.m. Chili Cook-Off set-up, *Dining Room*
- 9:45 a.m. Childcare, *Third Floor*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 a.m. Church School, *Third Floor*
- 11:15 a.m. "Say More?", Adult Ed, *Room 301*
- 11:15 a.m. Chili Cook-Off, *Dining Room*
- 4:00 p.m. 4-6th Grade Youth Group, *Third Floor Kzoo FPC*
- 6:00 p.m. Holistic Health Class, *Zoom*

### Monday, February 21

- 9:00 a.m. Collections Counting, *Room 207*
- 12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 314/315*
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room, Room 102*
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Deacons, *Room 314/315*

### Tuesday, February 22

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, *Archives*
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
- 12:00 p.m. Sermon on the Mount, *Library*

### Wednesday, February 23

- 9:00 a.m. *Presbyter* Folding/Mailing, *Dining Room*
- 12:00 p.m. Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
- 6:00 p.m. Session, *Zoom*

### Thursday, February 24

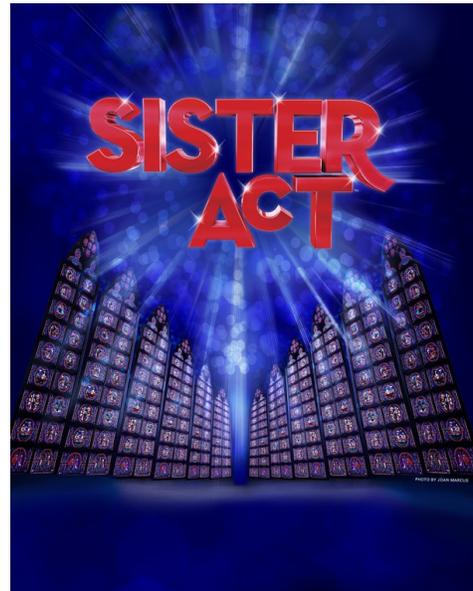
- 9:00 a.m. Library Preparation Time, *Library*
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 301*
- 12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 315*
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Room 116*
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*

### Sunday, February 27

- 9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Room 300*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 2:00 p.m. 7-12th Grade Youth Group, *Center Stage Theater*

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Pastor Chrissy will be performing in *Sister Act* this week. All are welcome to buy tickets and watch!

February 25 - 7:00 p.m.  
February 26 - 2:00 p.m.  
February 26 - 7:00 p.m.  
February 27 - 2:00 p.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO**  
**321 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007**

**www.kzoofirstpres.org**  
**Telephone: (269) 344-0119**

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor, x202  
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203  
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth and Families, x208  
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206  
Hannah Foreman, Communications Coordinator, x209  
Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music  
Autumn, Organist  
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213  
Custodians

Library  
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate  
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Parish Associate  
The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, Parish Associate and United Campus Ministry Pastor

**facebook.com/asanctuaryinthecity**  
**Fax: (269) 344-4645**

sethw@fpckzoo.org  
chrissyw@fpckzoo.org  
mereditha@fpckzoo.org  
louiset@fpckzoo.org  
hannahf@fpckzoo.org  
michaelp@fpckzoo.org  
autumn@fpckzoo.org  
shawns@fpckzoo.org  
Randy Randt  
Logan McCafferty  
library@fpckzoo.org  
Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush  
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding  
elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu  
amber.nettleton@gmail.com  
ucmrking@yahoo.com

**UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.**

**February 27**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
Luke 9:28-36; 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:6

**March 2**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
*There will be both a noon and 7:00 p.m.  
service today (no 10 a.m. service).*

**March 6**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**March 13**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**The Rev Kathleen Robertson King**  
Isaiah 58:1-12, Luke 13:31-35

*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.*