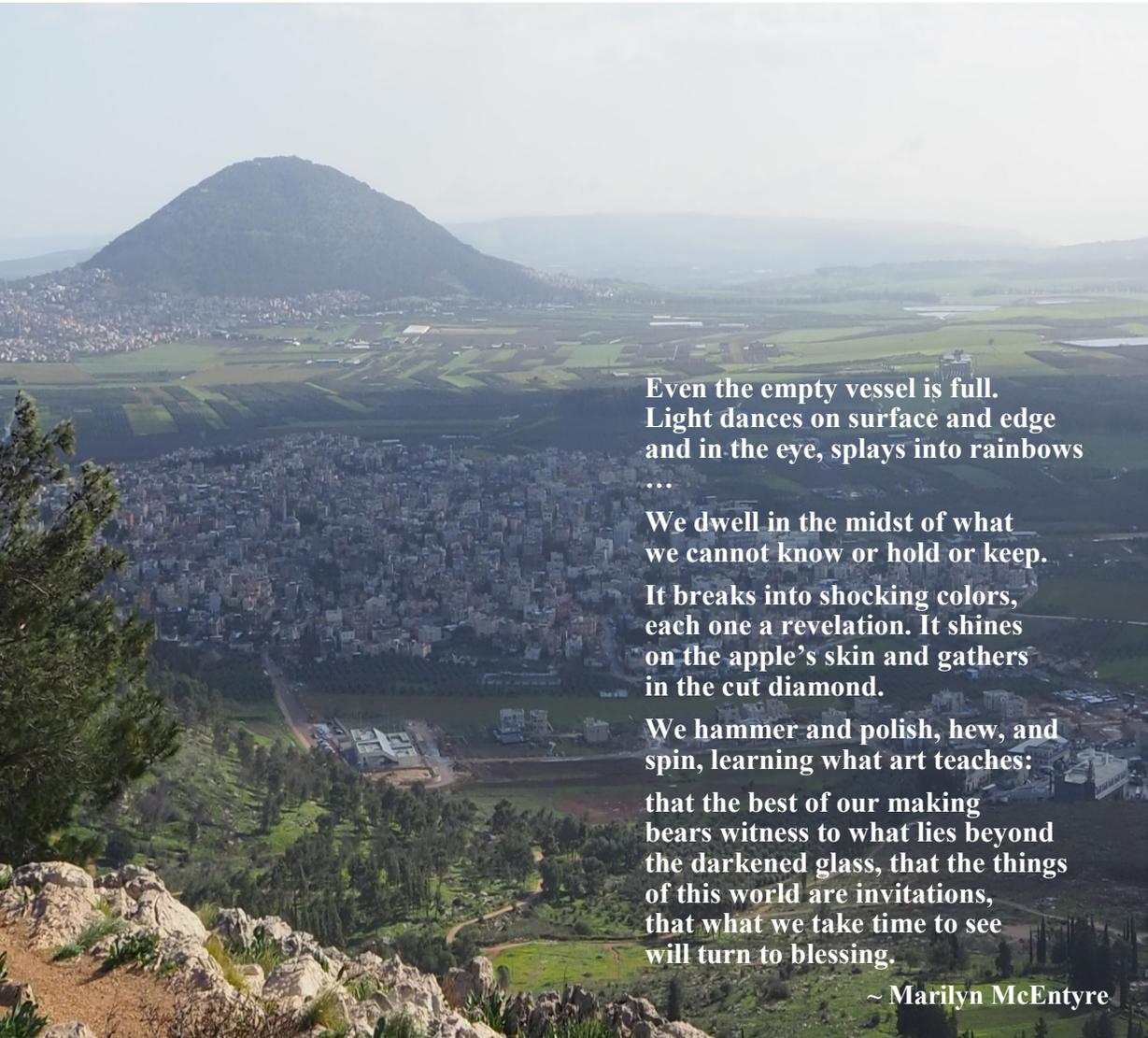


 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Even the empty vessel is full.
Light dances on surface and edge
and in the eye, plays into rainbows

...

We dwell in the midst of what
we cannot know or hold or keep.

It breaks into shocking colors,
each one a revelation. It shines
on the apple's skin and gathers
in the cut diamond.

We hammer and polish, hew, and
spin, learning what art teaches:
that the best of our making
bears witness to what lies beyond
the darkened glass, that the things
of this world are invitations,
that what we take time to see
will turn to blessing.

~ Marilyn McEntyre

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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

* 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

God calls us from many places and experiences to be here together for a little while.
We come on journeys of our own to this sanctuary where journeys meet.
Startle us again, Wondrous God, with your revelation, your vision for life in Christ.
**As Jesus' face shone, help us share your glory. Transfigure us with perfect love,
then send us to radiate your light of salvation along our journey in the world.**

* HYMN

“O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

#189

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all life, when we veil the light of your love, do not leave us in darkness.
**Our little words cannot express the magnificence of your grace and mercy.
Yet, in the space of our humble hearts, come close to renew us.**
God of all life, grant us your forgiveness
for careless thought and selfish motivation, empty talk and hurtful accusations.
God of all life, grant us your forgiveness
for wasteful ignorance and hateful action, spiteful conflict and harm to creation.
**Saving God, pierce clouds of our fault and complicity, scatter shadows from how
we fall short of your vision for life, until the love of Christ shines in all we say and do.**
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, and forgiving. In sovereign love, God raised Jesus, breaking the power of sin, redeeming all creation. Rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from God’s love in our Lord Jesus Christ!
God’s Spirit sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbors. The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles gives us courage in our broken world!
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve God in daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. Watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, 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

**Eternal God, by your radiant Spirit in hallowed stories and current inspiration,
enlighten who we are, inspire how we see, empower who we can be.
By your light may we see light, in your truth find freedom, and through your purpose
live into peace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

FIRST READING Luke 9:28-36
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“Arise, Shine!”

Daniel Moe

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick darkness the people.
But the Lord will arise upon you,
And his glory will be seen upon you.

And the nations shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Shine! Arise!

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 3:17-4:6

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

Glorious!

“... seeing the glory of the Lord ... transformed into the same image ...”
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

* HYMN

“Christ Be Our Light”

#314

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

O Christ, intensify your grace within us as we journey in living faith. Look with compassion through our eyes. Pursue your peace through our words. Fulfill your purpose through our hands and resources. So may the glorious light of your salvation radiate from this sanctuary, into our city, and throughout all creation.

* 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 “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory” #190

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

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Meredith Alspach

Acolyte

David Johnson

Reader

David Rozelle

Greeters

Carole Cupps

Sam Cupps

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Adult Choir

Michael Palmer, Director

Autumn, Organist

** *The picture on the cover is of Mount Tabor, traditionally believed to be Jesus’ Mount of Transfiguration, in the Galilee region of Israel. (Picture by Seth Weeldreyer.)*

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 their 3rd floor classroom immediately following Worship. The nursery is open for all children under age three.

YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Youth Group for grades 7-12 will meet at 2:00 pm today at the Center Stage Theater in Comstock to see *Sister Act*. Masks are required for all!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Next Sunday, March 6

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

Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers in the nursery.

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

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

On Saturday, March 5, the Young Adult/College group will be meeting here at FPC for dinner and game night. We hope to see you!

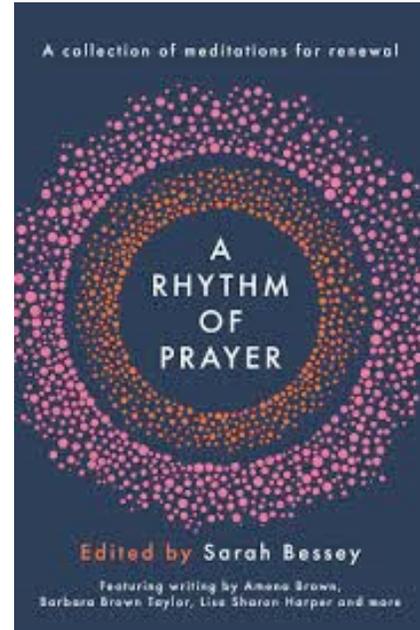
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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."



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*. Bell writes: "I have developed an affection for poems that Jesus knew and quoted which, for reasons of their bleakness as well as their grandeur, have blessed the most unsuspecting of people. ... If God is God, and Scripture is deep, we should not expect the intellect to be the only conduit to understanding. ... I now believe emotion, experience, and imagination are also tools by which we can discover a relationship between our lives and biblical texts." 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 29	Chapters 9 – 11
March 8	Chapters 4 – 5	April 5	Chapters 12 – 14
March 22	Chapters 6 – 8	April 12	Chapters 15 – 17

You can find the book at Amazon. Please contact Seth if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STITCHERS GROUP

The Stitchers Group is ready to start meeting again! Beginning on March 1, they will meet monthly on the first Tuesday, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the sewing room. All crafters are welcome to join!

W.O.W

Wednesday, March 2

This small group meets monthly at members' homes at 7:00 on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Each month we take a word with us to reflect on all month long. When we gather, each of us brings something that word brought up for us during the month. It might be scripture, a poem, a story, a piece of art or music – anything to help us reflect on where God spoke to us through that word during the month. We welcome new members! Contact Sue Caulfield or Chrissy Westbury for more information.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Prayer partners will be meeting on Sunday, March 6, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 301.

MARTHA CIRCLE

Wednesday, March 9

Martha Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9. All women are invited to join us for fellowship and study. Our study of the women in the family tree of Jesus continues with Rahab - the woman who hid the Israeli spies in Jericho, thereby saving her family and becoming a part of Jesus' lineage.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: AT ONE WITH THE ATONEMENT

Thursdays, beginning March 10, 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 314/315

Sundays, beginning March 13, after Worship, in Room 300

Salvation is a blessing, but it can be overwhelming to try to figure out – what happened on the cross? What does that mean for my life, for the world? Each lesson explores a different theology of atonement on the cross. The aim is not to find the one right theology and pick apart the others, but to explore different ideas Christians have had over time. Each lesson includes scripture verses that support the different understandings of the cross. This class will be led by the Rev. Chrissy Westbury.

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 Tomorrow, February 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Thoughtful Readers will meet in Room 300 to discuss *The Best We Could Do* by Thi Bui. All are welcome.



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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM "JUST SANCTUARY"

“You must return to your God;
maintain love and justice and wait for
your God always.”

- Hosea 12:6

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thanks, Pat Stromsta, for providing the soup and dessert for Celebrate the Vision this week!

CELEBRATE THE VISION VOLUNTEER COOKS NEEDED!

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

Mereditha@fpckzoo.org

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.

DEACONS UPDATE - A REMINDER ABOUT NOISY COINS:

The loose change you drop in the Sunday offering plate is deposited into the Deacons' 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!

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED

The Youth Mission Team is in need of items and services for their Silent Auction. Do you have a business with something to donate? Sports tickets you won't use? A vacation rental with a weekend availability? The creativity to assemble a fun gift basket? If so, contact Meredith!

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 **Nancy Johnson** 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.

Brad and Kristen Allen
Robert and Miriam Bauserman
Larry Braak
Marion Palmer
Robert, Jeanne, Ian, and Amelia Case
Gary and Donita DeBruin
Michelle Denny
JoAnne Dunlop
Cynthia Feucht
Tomas and Suzanne Forsch
Margaret Hajek
Jay and Diane Heckler
Robert Leasure

David, Robyn, Benjamin, and Zachary Lewis
Jim, Karen, Henry, Peter, and Elizabeth Lewis
Mark and Judith Johnson Loehrke
John and Diane Marsom
Matt, Michelle, Jack, and Lila Molitor
John and Nan Munn
Chris and Carrie Palmer
Nancy Raklovits
Jamie, Jalynn, Jakob, Jana Marie, and Jack Schnur
James and Sally Pitt Van Buren
Marshall Rutz
Timothy and Sharon Lenderink

TENTATIVE WEEKLY CALENDAR

OFFICE HOURS

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

Today, 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*

Monday, February 28

- 12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 314/315*
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room*
- 7:00 p.m. Thoughtful Readers, *Room 300*

Tuesday, March 1

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, *Archives*
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
- 12:00 p.m. Living with the Psalms, *Library*
- 1:00 p.m. Stitches, *Sewing Room*

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday)

- 12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
- 5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Outside the Front Entrance*
- 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Evening Service, *Sanctuary*
- 7:45 p.m. Wisdom in One Word (WOW), *Dining Room*

Thursday, March 3

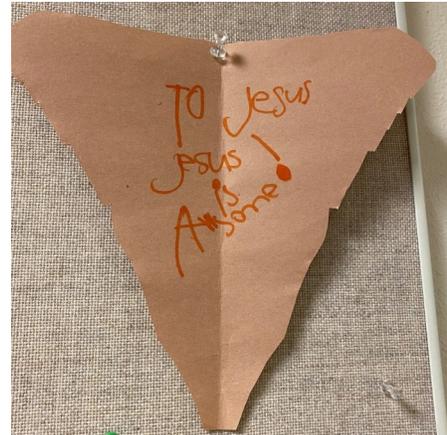
- 9:00 a.m. Library Work Time, *Library*
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 301*
- 12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 314/315*
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Room 116*
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*

Saturday, March 5

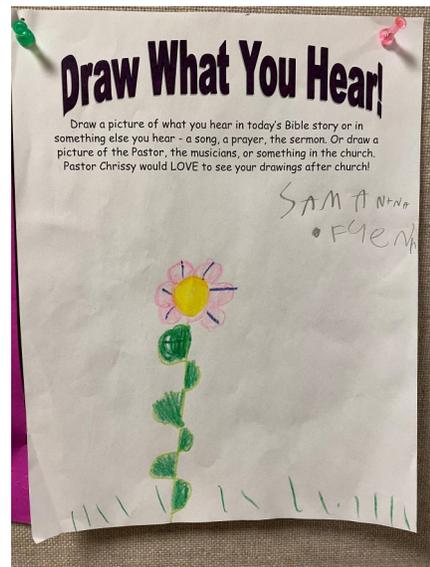
- 6:00 p.m. Young Adult Group, *FPC Kalamazoo*

Sunday, March 6 (Communion Served)

- 8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Partners, *Room 301*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, *Sanctuary*
- 4:00 p.m. 4-6th Grade Youth Group, *Kalamazoo FPC*
- 5:00 p.m. 7-12th Grade Youth Group, *Kalamazoo FPC*



Some art from our kids in the various Youth Groups!



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

www.kzoofirstpres.org
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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

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Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
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amber.nettleton@gmail.com
ucmrking@yahoo.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

March 2

Ash Wednesday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

*There will be both a noon and a 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

March 20

Third Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

*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.*