

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"



"Love doesn't just sit there
like a stone; it has to be
made, like bread, remade all
the time, made new."

- Ursula K. Le Guin

MARCH 13, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

“Just as I Am”

Susan Geschke

- * 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

from Isaiah 55

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in rich food.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and hills before you shall burst into song.

And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands!

* HYMN #314

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Christ, Be Our Light

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(from the Corrymeela community)

Courage comes from the heart, and we are always welcomed by you, O God, the heart of all being. We bear witness to our faith, knowing that we are called to live lives of courage, love, and reconciliation in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of each day. We bear witness, too, to our failures and our complicity in the fractures of our world. May we be courageous today. May we learn today. May we love today. Amen.

Prayer continues in silence.

KYRIE #423

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God”

Saraday

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

God is compassionate, and does not deal with us according to our sins, but casts them as far as from us as the East is from the West. Having learned from our own transgressions, and working to put our changed hearts into action, free of the mistakes of the past, we can begin again. Friends, we are forgiven. 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 #698

“Take, O Take Me as I am”

Iona

**Take, O take me as I Am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

CHILDREN'S BLESSING #547

“Go My Children, With My Blessings

Ar Hydy Nos

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Walking, 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

God of Grace, in the speaking of your Word, embrace and enliven our hearts, and inspire our hands to make your love concrete. Amen.

FIRST READING

Luke 13:31-35

New Testament, pg. 77

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

RESPONSE #654 “In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” Taizé Community
**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord. Acclaim God’s name.**
(Please sing three times)

SECOND READING Isaiah 58:1-14 Old Testament, pg. 688
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 Share Your Bread

* HYMN #767 “Together We Serve” San Anselmo

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 “Come to the Water” arr. Lynda Hassler

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.

Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?
And let all who seek, let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.

Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?
And let all who toil, let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
all who labor without rest.

How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?
And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.
Easy the load and light, come to the Lord

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #716 “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” Beach Spring

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Nourishing God, we come to you bearing gifts of currency, passion, devotion, and
service. We pray that all may be used to ease suffering and open up new possibilities.
We pray for the courage to think outside the box and radically live into Your hope.
Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

At the direction of the cantor, the congregation is invited to sing the Lord’s prayer.

**Our father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth
as in heaven**

**Give us today
our daily bread;
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us**

**Save us from the time
of trial,
and deliver us
from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory are yours, forever.
for ever,
and ever.**

**Our father
in heaven,
holy is your name.**

THE SENDING

* HYMN #734

“Hope of the World”

Donne Secours

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

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia in G-moll”

Johann Pachelbel

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

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

Acolyte

James Young

Reader

Robert Brush

Greeters

Grace Cook

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Adult Choir

Handbell Choir

Caitlin Brooks, Soloist

Joseph Sablan, Soloist

Michael Palmer, Director

Autumn, Organist

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God by Laurie Tupper, Judy Marvin, and Ron Marvin in memory of Marie and E.J. Tupper (our parents) and Jennie and Peter Joppe (our grandparents) March 15 wedding anniversaries.



Thomas Kasdorf
CELEBRATION
of LIFE
April 3, 2022 ~ 3pm
Chenery Aud. Kalamazoo

Link to reserve
1-10 free tickets:
<https://wmumusic.ludus.com/15994>

Link to Facebook
Livestream:
<https://fb.me/e/17whUv856>

Link to YouTube
Livestream:
<https://youtu.be/nkxJM D4-Gtw>

Masks & proof of
vaccination
required in person

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID UPDATE

Session and the Health Ministry Committee have closely followed CDC recommendations regarding pandemic restrictions for the past two years. Under recently revised metrics for community spread, Kalamazoo County is classified Medium, with guidelines as follows:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, consult a healthcare provider about your need to wear a mask, and other precautions .
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and get tested if you have symptoms.
- People with symptoms, a positive test, or known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should follow CDC guidelines for self-isolation.

Following these guidelines, Session no longer mandates mask wearing in our building. We urge doing so if any of the above considerations are true for you. Anyone is always welcome to wear a mask at any time—it remains a leading way to prevent infection. By consensus of participants, the choir will continue to wear masks while singing, as will people in the nursery and Sunday School. Please respect those whose circumstances may differ from your own.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

We invite all school-aged children to join us for Sunday School after the Moment with Young Worshippers. 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!

YOUTH GROUP TODAY

The 7-12th Grade Youth Group will meet at the Richland Church today from 5-7:00 p.m.

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER

The YOUTH MISSION team is selling BUTTER BRAIDS!!!! You can place your order with one of the youth or Meredith immediately following Worship, or sign up on the sheet outside Meredith's office. Thank you for your support of our youth.

Also, mark your calendars for the Youth Mission Silent Auction & Game Night on March 20 from 4-6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. Our youth mission expenses have increased dramatically (mainly driven by the high cost of rental vehicles) and we need your help to meet our funding goal! If you have an item or service to donate to our auction, please let Meredith know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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 if you have any questions.

HOLISTIC HEALTH PROMOTION CLASS

Sunday, March 20

Zoom, 6:00 p.m.

The Health Ministry team at First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an Education and Outreach Effort through a virtual class/ small group meeting. Our objective is to meet once a month in a virtual format to discuss promoting holistic health (physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing). 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 wellbeing.

Contact Laura Ford for a Zoom link: **Lauraford57@att.net**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!

- ◆ 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.

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thanks, Marcia Cowell and Martha Circle, for providing the soup and dessert for Celebrate the Vision this week!

SOME STAFF OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Seth will return on Wednesday, March 16.

Pastor Chrissy will be out of the office from Friday, March 25, to Thursday, March 31.

Meredith will be out of the office from March 26 to April 2.

CARD MINISTRY

Card Ministry will meet tomorrow, March 14, in the crafts room from 1-3:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER

... continues! Join us in the Sanctuary for worship!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM "JUST SANCTUARY"

"Freedom and justice cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it for others."

- Coretta Scott King

WANTED: BACKDOOR GREETERS

Looking for a way to get involved with the Church? We are seeking individuals who would be interested in scheduled or on-call assignments to staff the reception desk at the South entrance to the Church. For more information, contact J.A. Lewellen: jal@fpckzoo.org or call 269-344-0119, ext. 205.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: FULL TO THE BRIM: AN EXPANSIVE LENT © A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary (Year C) through Easter Sunday. As you journey through the devotional at your own pace, you will find scriptures, poems, art, reflections, and hymns that are filled with promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us. Printed Devotional Booklets will be available in the Narthex and the Gathering Place. If you'd like a digital version emailed to you, contact Pastor Chrissy.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: AT ONE WITH THE ATONEMENT **Thursdays, beginning March 10, at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 314/315, and 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.

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 **Evelyn Garner** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives.

James Mitchell
Patricia Mullen
Clery Ortiz
Susanne Rose
Jerre James
Ralph Jarl
Joan Keep
Kevin and Kathleen King
David and Janet Scarrow
Carol Schreiner
Carol Payne Smith

Jean Appel
Deborah Bender
Kim and Miriam Cummings
Linda Digby
Gail Fitzpatrick-Fox
Nancy Harwood
Cass Hough, Jr.
Mary Kittredge
Marilyn Lindbeck
I. Charles and Susan Madden

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, March 13

8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
9:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
9:20 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Balcony Loft*
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:15 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, *Room 301*
5:00 p.m. 7-12th Grade Youth Group, *FPC Richland*

Monday, March 14

12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 314/315*
1:00 p.m. Card Ministry, *Crafts Room*
7:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room/Room 102*

Tuesday, March 15

7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, *Archives*
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
6:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting, *Archives*
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, *Archives*

Wednesday, March 16

12:00 p.m. Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Outside*
6:00 p.m. Personnel Meeting, *Library*

Thursday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Library Opens, *Library*
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 301*
12:00 p.m. AA, *Room 314/315*
1:00 p.m. Library Closes, *Library*
5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Room 116*
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*

Sunday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
11:15 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, *Room 301*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group Game Night Fundraiser, *Dining Room*
6:00 p.m. Holistic Health Promotion Class, *ZOOM*



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

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

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

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
J.A. Lewellen, Operations Coordinator, x205
Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music
Autumn, Organist
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodians

sethw@fpckzoo.org
chrissyw@fpckzoo.org
mereditha@fpckzoo.org
louiset@fpckzoo.org
hannahf@fpckzoo.org
jal@fpckzoo.org
michaelp@fpckzoo.org
autumn@fpckzoo.org
shawns@fpckzoo.org

Library
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

Randy Randt
Logan McCafferty
library@fpckzoo.org
Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
amber.nettleton@gmail.com
ucmkrking@yahoo.com

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

March 20
Third Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

March 27
Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*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.*