

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



"Some days, doing 'the best we can' may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect on any front-and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else."

"There's a world of difference between insisting on someone's doing something and establishing an atmosphere in which that person can grow into wanting to do it."

"You are special." - Mr. Rogers

MARCH 20, 2022 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT / MR. ROGERS 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 #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

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood. A neighborly day in this beauty wood.
A beautiful day for a neighbor. A neighborly day for a beauty.
We all gather together, just as we are, from all different neighborhoods.
From all different neighborhoods, we gather together, in one spirit.
Let us make most of this beautiful day, beginning with Worship.
**For God calls us in one hope, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.
Let us worship God.**

- * HYMN #399 "God Welcomes All" Themba Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we live in an un-neighborly world, where we feed feelings of self-doubt and exclusion. At heart, we are all children, struggling to feel loved, to know that there is truly something of worth within each of us. We can sometimes act selfishly, blocking out the hurt and loneliness of others. We build walls and make excuses, neglecting the importance of quiet encouragement, of safe places, and loving mentors. Help us remember the ones who have been part of our lives, who have lifted us up and affirmed us in the most important ways. Help us grow to be those beloved mentors to others. Teach us to love without judgment.

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

Our God speaks through modern-day prophets and reminds us, “I hope that you'll remember, even when you're feeling blue, that it's you I like, it's you yourself: it's you; it's you I like.”

God’s kindness and love wash over us. God sees our true selves and all else falls away. We give thanks to you, God, and seek from this day on to make this world your neighborhood and to be loving neighbors to all.

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.**
(Sing this verse twice)

THE WORD

MOMENT WITH YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

CHILDREN’S BLESSING #547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Ar Hydy Nos

**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

God of grace, open our ears to hear your word. Open our eyes to see ourselves as you see us. Open our minds to welcome our neighbors. Open our hearts to love one another. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Old Testament, pg. 685-686

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

RESPONSE #544

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Taizé

**Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.
(Please sing three times)**

*With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.
Give thanks to the Lord. Acclaim God’s name.*

SECOND READING

Luke 13:1-9

New Testament, pg. 76

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

Just the Way You Are

*HYMN #506

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table!”

Copeland

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

John Rutter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my creator, and I thy true one;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul’s shelter, be thou my strong tower;
O raise thou me heavenward, great power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart:
O sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High king of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O ruler of all.
Still be thou my vision, O ruler of all.
O ruler of all.

*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

**Holy God, each one of us needs help sometime. And each of us gives help sometime.
Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring
to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way,
each one of us is a giver and a receiver. Bless the giving and receiving of these gifts,
and may they go to build your neighborhood, on earth as it is in heaven. 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

“Jesus, Teach Us to Be Neighbors”

Nettleton

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, living, loving side by side,
Hands for helping one another, arms of welcome open wide.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus teach us all to be
Children of the new creation, joined in true community.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, giving, serving those in need,
Making peace and doing justice, sharing faith in word and deed.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus teach us all to be
Children of the new creation, where we are one family.**

**Jesus, teach us to be neighbors, working, praying for the day
When the Lamb will be the Shepherd, when our tears are washed away.
Ever learning, ever growing, Jesus teach us all to be
Children of the new creation, singing praise in harmony.**

* BENEDICTION (*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

Sue Johnson

Greeter

Ruth Moser

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Adult Choir
Michael Palmer, Director
Autumn, Organist

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God
by Richard and Karen Nellums in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.

Bulletin cover photo of Mr. Rogers and children at FPC Kalamazoo, 1989, from Church Archives

Closing hymn: "Jesus Teach Us to be Neighbors" Text: David Gambrell, 2022
Music: Wil Smith, 2022 Text © 2022, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation
Music © 2022, Wil Smith

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-age children to join us for Sunday School after the Moment with Young Worshipers. The nursery is also open for all children under age three. This week is Mr. Rogers Day, so we invite all families at home to do something for your neighbor! Parents, please pick up your children from the 3rd floor classroom immediately following Worship.

CHILDREN'S NATURE PLAYScape GROUNDBREAKING

Tuesday March 22, 2022

12:00pm. – 12:45 pm.

302 Academy Street and Church Street, Kalamazoo

Celebrate the start of construction for what will be one of the country's largest natural playscapes in an urban core. Key partners in the development of the Children's Nature Playscape will be on hand to share information. Construction by Only Outdoor Living will begin in April, with an opening of Phase 1 planned for June, 2022.

BUTTER BRAIDS

This is the last week to buy BUTTER BRAIDS!!!! You can place your order with one of the youth or Meredith immediately following worship, on a sign-up outside Meredith's office! All orders and payment must be in my Sunday, March 20. Thank you for supporting our youth!

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 TODAY

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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Edith Rasmussen will be celebrating her 95th birthday next Sunday, March 27. Make sure to wish her well!

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has- or ever will have- something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression. "

- Mr. Rogers

SOME STAFF OUT OF THE OFFICE

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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM "JUST SANCTUARY"

"Justice grows out of recognition of ourselves in each other... that my liberty depends on you being free, too."

- Barack Obama

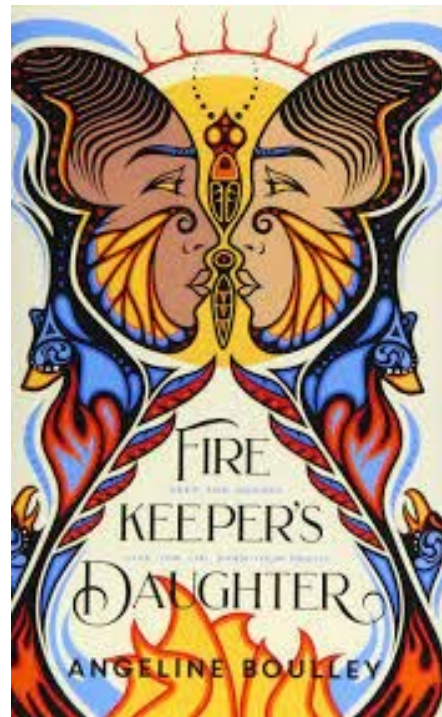
WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER

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

THOUGHTFUL READERS

**Monday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.
Room 300**

This month, the Thoughtful Readers will discuss *The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley.



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

William Barton Kelser
Jaunita Erdos
David and Jeanne Fenton
Evelyn Garner
Janet, William, Erin, and Anne Gladstone
Christopher, Cynthia, Patrick, Nicholas, and Anna Gleaton
Neal, Amy, Wendy, Anna, Clare Elise, and Sawyer Anthony Miedema
Caroline and Samantha Jean Anderson
Benjamin and Megan Taylor
Charri Withrow

Sue Grossman
Jane Hamilton
Miranda Howard
David, Beth, and Ellen Jarl
Ann Ridge
Jackie and Brian Stults
Gary and Pamela Zandt
Elizabeth Bennett
Phyllis Curtis
Stuart Deming



GAME NIGHT

& SILENT AUCTION

FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
4-6:00 PM
@ FPC KALAMAZOO

- GAMES FOR ALL AGES
- SILENT AUCTION
- DONATION BOARD
- CONCESSIONS
- FUN!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UKRAINE RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Many of us are horrified by what has been happening to the people of Ukraine. There are many organizations that are providing assistance. Some of them are listed below.

PCUSA Disaster Relief-International Refugee Programs:

- By phone: 800-872-3283 (Advise them that your donation is for Ukraine Relief)
- By mail: PCUSA, PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 (Note-Ukraine Relief)
- Online-PCUSA.org, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & World Mission
(Note: DR000156)

Here are other vital organization website links that also have “boots on the ground”:

- **Redcross.org**
- **SamaritansPurse.org** (Franklin Graham’s organization)
- **Directrelief.org**

OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great hour of Sharing supports three great programs: Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. The Self-Development of People (SDOP) receives 32% of funds raised. SDOP collaborates with low-income communities to overcome injustice and oppression. These projects focus on advocacy, skills development, immigration/refugee issues, and farming, among others. Currently, SDOP partners with ten national and 3 international organizations. Thank you for your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.



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 20

- 8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult 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*

Monday, March 21

- 12:00 p.m. A.A., *Room 314/315*
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Deacons, *Room 314/315*
- 7:00 p.m. Scouts, *Dining Room*

Tuesday, March 22

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, *Archives*
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
- 12:00 pm. Living with the Psalms, *Library*
- 12:00 p.m. Children's Nature Playscape, *203 Academy Street*

Wednesday, March 23

- 12:00 p.m. Prayer Service, *Sanctuary*
- 5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Outside*
- 6:30 p.m. Session, *Gathering Place*

Thursday, March 24

- 9:00 a.m. Library opens, *Library*
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 314/315*
- 12:00 p.m. A.A., *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 27

- 8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, *Room 301*



These items and more will be up for auction at the fundraiser!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO
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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
J.A. Lewellen, Operations Coordinator, x205
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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UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

March 27

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 10

Palm Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Luke 19:28-40; Philippians 2:1-11

April 3

Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Isaiah 43:14-21. Philippians 3:4b-13

April 14

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Service

*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.*