

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.... so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 10:10, 15:11)

"Joy isn't just an emotion—it's a way of knowing.... It confirms what we know and believe most deeply about who God is and who we are created to be. And it reminds us that we were loved into being, that we are accompanied and watched over on our journeys, that all our sufferings in this life will melt into unimaginable delight when we "arrive where we started."

~ Marilyn McEntyre

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

FIFTH 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

"Raindrop Prelude"

Chopin

* 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

Jesus calls us here to meet him as through song and word and prayer we affirm
God's loving presence where people live and care.

Jesus call us to tell his holy, human story until all hear: God holds each person dear.

Jesus calls us to his table, sacred space, where on earth as in heaven, we feast in grace.

**Jesus calls us to one another—hearts of friend and stranger, hands of age and youth,
different though we seem in race, wealth, or gender, sharing a faithful search for truth.**

* HYMN

"God Is Here!"

#409

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we pause to see honestly how we nurture abundant life, flourishing in your
grace, or not. We confess times when we lack humility and understanding, sensitivity
and generosity. We confess times when we're too eager to be better than others and too
rushed to care, when we're too tired to bother, too lazy to really listen, too quick to act
selfishly, rather than moved by loving service. As Jesus did with water, transform us
by your miracle of mercy and love, that we may nurture your fullness of joy and peace.**

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. In sovereign love, God redeems us and all creation. The Spirit feeds us with the bread of life and cup of salvation, freeing us to accept ourselves and love neighbors.

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 gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, strive to serve Christ in daily tasks, in a broken world, the Spirit gives us courage to live holy and joyful lives 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

**Holy Spirit of Life, open our hearts and minds to receive good news passed on to us.
As we hear a word of grace, fill us with knowledge and inspiration. So may we grow in hope and faithful service, becoming your love for others, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

"Take Me to the Water"

arr. Alice Parker

Take me to the water to be baptized.
Wade in the water and be baptized.
Rest beside the water, restore my soul.
Drink the living water and never thirst.
Take me to the water to be baptized.

SECOND READING

John 2:1-11

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

Savoring Holy Flavor

“I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received ...
by the grace of God I am what I am ...” (1 Corinthians 15:3, 10)

* HYMN

“We Come as Guests Invited”

#504

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

“You Will Be Found”

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

* 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.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER (*continuing to pray in unison*)

**Generous God, at the wedding feast in Cana, when it seemed there wasn’t enough,
Jesus gladdened guests by providing abundantly, filled to the brim and flowing over.
In that Spirit we offer our gifts with grateful hearts. Bless them in your service,
that we may provide for needs, nurture faith, and multiply the common good. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! . . .

The Lord be with you,

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you, dear God ... Gratefully we join our hearts and voices with your faithful throughout earth, in heaven, and of every time and place who sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS (# 569)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us ... in joyful service of the One who taught all who would follow him to live and to pray together:

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.

COMMUNION

To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the ministers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten-free). Then pick up your cup and return to your seat. Upon receiving the Sacrament, you may wish to respond by saying, "Amen". If you prefer to remain seated and receive the elements, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you in your pew.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Creation"

JJ Treadway

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Loving Christ, you have put your life into our hearts and hands. Now we put our lives in yours; take us, reshape us and our world in your love. Expect much from us and empower many through us, as we reveal your glory, that others may believe. Amen.

THE SENDING

* HYMN

"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

#248

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

POSTLUDE

“Rush of the Wind”

JJ Treadway

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

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

Acolyte

Joanne Dunlop

Reader

Susan Caulfield

Greeters

Jim Weeldreyer
Sue Weeldreyer

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music
JJ Treadway, accompanist
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!

YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Our new multi-church 4th, 5th, and 6th grade group meets TODAY from 4:00-5:00 p.m. here at FPC. Youth Group for grades 7-12 will also meet tonight at 5:00. Masks are required for all!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

This week the children will stay in Worship to be a part of Communion Sunday, and families are welcome to sit in the Prayground area. The nursery will be open for any children under age three.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Tuesdays, January 18 – February 22 at noon, meeting in the Library

Due to unforeseen difficulty acquiring the previous book, Pastor Seth Weeldreyer has altered plans for our next group reflection. We will explore Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, centering on Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. You can find this book through your favorite local bookstore or at Amazon. Levine writes: "The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples, and to the others who first heard them? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?" Here's a schedule for our discussion:

February 8 Chapter 4: Our Father
February 15 Chapter 5: Finding Your Treasure
February 22 Chapter 6: Living into the Kingdom

We will return to John Bell's book, *Living with the Psalms*, for the season of Lent. Pastor Seth will order copies of the book for anyone interested. Let him know if you'd like one!

ADULT CLASS: "SAY MORE?"

Today in Room 301 after Worship

We will be trying out a new adult class after Worship. "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 for more information.

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

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 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."

We meet at 9:30 for coffee in room 301. We will open with prayer at 9:45.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9. We meet for fellowship and study, and to support one another in our lives as Christian women.

In January we began the study of “What My Grandmother Taught Me”, and learned about the importance of family ties in Biblical times. In February we will dig into the story of Tamar, the first woman listed in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus.

Tamar is a powerless but resourceful outsider who finds a way to teach Judah, the family patriarch, a strong lesson, resulting in the continuation of the family line that leads to David and Jesus.

You are invited to join us for an interesting discussion!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THE GREEN PRESBYTERIANS

“The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives.”

- Native American saying

NEW ORGANIST!

Hey, everyone! My name is Autumn; I'm an organist, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to serve this congregation! I've been playing organ for almost five years, professionally for over two years. Currently, I'm playing at First Baptist Church right across the park. I have a deep love for music of all kinds, which I'm delighted to bring to this church. Aside from music, I enjoy playing video games, hanging out with friends, and spending time with my two cats, Bean and Weena. I can't wait to meet you all!

NOW HIRING:

AN OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

We are currently looking for someone to fill our Operations Coordinator position. This person will take over many of what were Ann Johnson’s responsibilities.

Check the church website or Facebook page for full job details and instructions for applying.

You may also turn in a résumé and reference list to Paster Seth or Liz Hamilton.

Seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Liz.hamilton@kellogg.com

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 may apply who are expecting to continue their education beyond high school OR those who are already students beyond the high school level.

Scholarship applications are due March 15.

FPC'S ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF IS FEBRUARY 20!

We have two options for participating in our hybrid Cook-off this year. Following Worship on February 20, 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. Tickets will be available for purchase on February 13, as well as on the day of the competition. May the best chili win!

DID YOU PICK UP YOUR NEW NAME BADGE?

Since December, many of you have picked up your new name badges and have been wearing them at services. Thank you! If you have not yet picked up yours, you will find it in the Gathering Place on the racks on the desk near the South Street entrance. Then, you can either keep your badge with you or you can store it on the rack when you aren't wearing it. The Congregational Life Committee hopes these new name badges make it easier for everyone to get to know one another better!

CTV VOLUNTEER COOKS NEEDED!

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

WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER

... continues! Gather in our Sanctuary for a midweek time to center and ponder on our scripture for the week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thanks to Nancy Johnson for providing the soup and dessert for Celebrate the Vision this week!

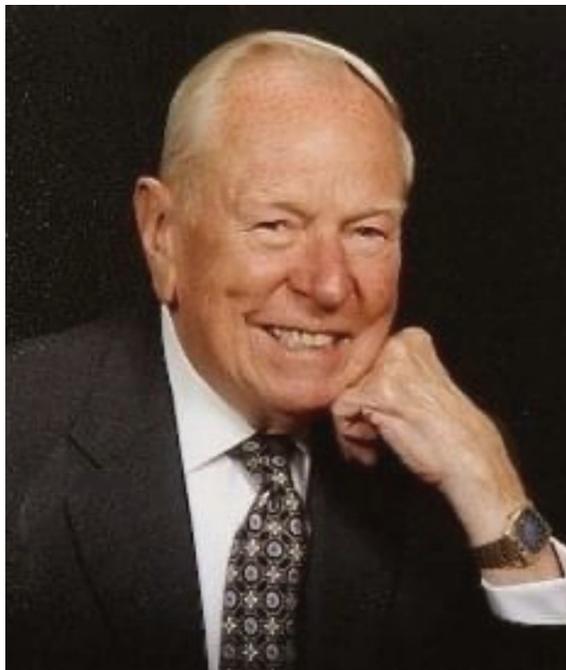
SOME STAFF OUT OF TOWN THIS WEEK

This upcoming week, several staff members will be out of town. If you need to contact any of them, please do so by email.

Chrissy will be out of town from February 9 to 11 (Tuesday to Thursday).

Meredith will be out of town from February 7 to 13 (Monday to Sunday).

Michael Palmer will be out of town on Thursday, February 10. Both handbell and adult choir rehearsals will take place at the normal scheduled times. Joey Gotschall will be leading both rehearsals. While Michael will be back in town on the following Sunday (February 13), Joey will also be leading the 9:00 a.m. choir rehearsal, as well as directing during Worship.



SAVE
THE
DATE

Thomas
Kasdorf
CELEBRATION
of LIFE

April 3, 2022 3pm
Chenery Auditorium
Kalamazoo, Michigan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DROP-IN CHILD CARE— VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Kalamazoo Drop-In Child Care Center provides free, part-time child care for income eligible families in the Kalamazoo area. They are in need of volunteers who enjoy working with children aged six weeks through 5 years old.

If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact their Volunteer Coordinator, Beth Walters, at **269-382-3640**.

Drop-in Child Care Center

First Congregational Church

345 W. Michigan Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Phone: 269-382-3640

Email: info@kdccc.org

SPIRITUALITY IN A TIME OF GREAT DIVIDE— FREE ONLINE EVENT

What would happen if we could look past our differences as people and instead focus on the inherent commonality we all share as spiritual beings, part of one humankind?

The world around us seems focused on amplifying the existing fractures in society, highlighting messages of division and conflict over those of peace and unity. So in this environment, how can we as individuals make a difference? Can spirituality help us foster that peace and unity? How can we stop talking over each other and start listening to those we disagree with? How can we create unified and inclusive communities that can work for the benefit of us all?

Come join a different kind of conversation – one that welcomes every perspective in a search for the truths that unite us all – as we discuss the spiritual perspective offered by the Bahá'í Teachings on how we as individuals can make a difference in a divided world. Join us for a lively discussion as we explore the role of spirituality in healing the divisions present in our society and working for the progress of all.

This event is free and open to all, regardless of background or belief. Donations will not be accepted.

To sign up and get the link, go to the link below.

<https://www.meetup.com/kalamazoo-spirituality-meetup-group/events/283475408>

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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, x205
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206
Hannah Foreman, Communications Coordinator, x209
Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodians

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.

February 13

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

February 20

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Genesis 45:3-11; Luke 6:27-38

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).*

*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.*