

 KALAMAZOO  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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



*JESUS MAFA (1973) is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings were selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.*

“...A gust of wind happened to whistle down the chimney at that point, making the dying embers burst into flame, and Jesus said being born again was like that. It wasn't something you did. The wind did it. The Spirit did it. It was something that happened, for God's sake...

...Later on, when Jesus was dead, Nicodemus went along with Joseph of Arimathea to pay his last respects at the tomb in broad daylight. It was a crazy thing to do, what with the witch-hunt that was going on, but he decided it was more than worth it.

When he heard the next day that some of the disciples had seen Jesus alive again, he wept like a newborn child.”

*-from Peculiar Treasures by Frederick Buechner*

MAY 30, 2021

TRINITY 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!  
And now 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

“La Foi, Op. 95, No.1 (The Faith)”

Georg Goltermann  
Taylor Crow, cello; Cindy Hunter, piano

### \* OPENING RESPONSES

Christ of the comfortable,  
you call us from our security and sameness,  
down that unknown path  
which leads to God's heart:

**with trust, we place  
our hands in yours, and follow.**

Companion of our sleepless nights,  
you beckon us  
out of the shadows of our fears,  
calling us to bring our doubts  
and questioning hearts along:

**with humility, we listen  
to those answers we do not  
expect, or even understand.**

Word which creates out of nothingness,  
you fill us with life where we see only emptiness;  
you keep your promises:

**may your grace transform us  
into faithful disciples.**

### \* DOXOLOGY

*Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives. Taught to be strong, we push away your arms of comfort. Seeing how the wealthy and selfish are idolized, we want to inherit their hearts.

Have mercy, God who turns stragglers into saints, when we follow the wrong people, listen to words we shouldn't. For it is those who make peace, who know your hope. It is those whose hearts are in rhythm with yours, who seem the most vulnerable. It is those who care more for others than themselves, who have learned the soul behind the words of the Teacher, who would guide us to your living waters.

*Silence is kept*

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

#437

*(Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.)*

You are the Lord, giver of mercy.  
You are the Christ, giver of mercy.  
You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

**Keeper of our souls, be with us;  
Watcher of our days, lead us;  
Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The same Spirit who inspired prophets and apostles gives us courage, in a broken and fearful world, to work with others for God's justice, freedom, and peace.

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

*Please stand and share signs of Christ's peace with others, remaining in your place of worship.*

## GLORIA

*(Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.)*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest!)

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia! (Glory, glory, alleluia, alleluia!)

## THE WORD

### MOMENT FOR YOUNG WORSHIPERS

*Children should remain with their families in the pews.*

### ANTHEM

“For Everyone Born”

arr. Tom Trenney

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.  
And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free!  
And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song.  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.  
And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God of Grace, you create and order life in the wisdom of your Word. You sustain life in the vitality of your Spirit. Open our hearts and minds for fresh inspiration, that with our lives we may serve in the way of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 29 and John 3:1-17

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

“Born Anew”

## HYMN

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

*(Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.)*

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters,  
newborn creatures from your womb.  
Number them among your people;  
raised like Christ from death and tomb.  
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;  
compass them with love and light.  
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,  
holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture;  
by your milk may we be fed.  
Let us join your feast, partaking  
cup of blessing, living bread.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps,  
free from sin and all its snares,  
one with Christ in living, dying;  
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives we worship, praise!  
We, your people, stand before you,  
Water-washed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer.  
Recreate us; God, transform!

## 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.

### PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. ... Eternal God of love,  
**in your grace, hear our prayer.**

**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, forever. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### \* HYMN

“Sing Glory To The Name of God ”

*Please refrain from singing. As your heart may be moved, please hum while meditating on the words.*

Sing glory to the name of God,  
whose holy splendor shines abroad.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Enthroned above the crashing waves,  
the God of grace and glory saves.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is full of might:  
resounding thunder, flashing light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
The wilderness cannot contain  
the echoes of the great refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is wild and free,  
a whirl in holy mystery.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
A secret wrapped in smoke and fire  
still chanted by the temple choir:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May God forever be our peace;  
may hymns of glory never cease:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let all the faithful people come;  
sing praise to God, the three in one:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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

#### POSTLUDE

Variations on the Doxology

Denis Bedard

- I. Introduction
- II. Theme
- III. Toccata
- IX. Chorale

## PARTICIPANTS

### **Worship Leaders**

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

### **Music**

Cindy Hunter, Director of Music, piano  
Michael Montgomery, Organist  
April Shandor, soprano  
Taylor Crow, ‘cello

### **Sound**

Sound Team members

## UPDATE FROM SESSION ON CHURCH OPERATION

At our meeting on Wednesday, May 26, Session discussed at length current realities and future possibilities for phasing into resumed activities for our church. We listened to varying perspectives and experiences representing as widely as possible individuals in our congregation and our community. We considered scientific guidelines from the CDC and other sources, including consultation at our meeting with the leading public health official for Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. We have tried to be informed, sensitive, wise, and responsible, respecting the broad diversity of freedoms and limitations, comforts and passions that persist among us. We discerned the following way forward, appealing for Grace to reign among and through us all, as we sought to guide our decision.

As we move into the next phase of reopening in worship on Sunday, June 13, we urge everyone to recognize and respect differing comfort levels, and be sensitive to needs of others. June 13 was chosen as the date to change, given the perceived insufficient time to communicate and coordinate by this Sunday, May 30; and because worship on Sunday, June 6 will include and center on many children and youth, not all of whom have had opportunity to be vaccinated. As we strive as much as possible to be inclusive of all, we are grateful for your understanding and cooperation. Until June 13 we will continue to operate as we have with masks and distancing protocols.

### **As of Sunday, June 13 in worship:**

1. If you feel at all ill or compromised, please stay at home and avail yourself of our livestream.
2. If you are not fully vaccinated, masks remain mandated at all times when in our church.
3. If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask.
4. Cushions (and thus, seating) will remain on every other pew through the month of June.
5. When choosing a pew and relating at other times, please respect personal space. Remember that not everyone is at the same level of comfort in group settings.
6. We will resume congregational singing and collecting the offering.
7. We will continue to refrain from serving coffee and refreshments.
8. Prior registration for worship will no longer be necessary.

Respecting individual choice, please honor that others may choose to still wear masks while singing, entering and leaving, or at all times as comfort dictates.

### **As of Monday, June 7, general church operation will be as follows:**

1. If you feel at all ill or compromised, please stay at home and arrange business by phone, email or other virtual communication.
2. Please, particularly, respect the comfort level of church staff. If they ask you to keep distance and/or wear masks, honor that request.
3. If you are not fully vaccinated, masks remain mandated at all times when in our church.
4. If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask.
5. The church building will be open for general business 9 am – 1 pm Monday through Friday, and for other meetings and appointments as coordinated. Operational hours may expand as resumed staffing makes it possible. If you want to be sure to connect, as ever, you may want to call ahead.
6. If you are planning a meeting at church, please contact Ann Johnson to coordinate the calendar.
7. Custodial staff presence in the building for evening meetings will be discretionary, as long as another staff person present assumes responsibility for opening and closing.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BUILDING HOURS UPDATE

The FPC building is open by appointment from 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Email and voicemail are the best ways to reach staff members who may still be working from home.

### “HOW TO RIGHT RACISM: COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANITY AND THE JOURNEY TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE”

by Jemar Tisby

Racism is pervasive today, but many people want to see that changed. How do we effectively confront racial injustice? Jeremy Tisby provides specific, actionable steps that enable us to be part of the solution, rejecting passivity and becoming active participants in the struggle for human dignity.

This 10-session video series and discussion will be offered at two different times;

1. Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study. This study began on Thursday, May 20. We gather in Room 314 at 9:30. Our study discussion begins at 9:45.
2. Sunday mornings at 11:15 in Room 314 on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

Tables and chairs are set up to observe social distancing. Drinks are not served, so please bring your own coffee or water.

### 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.”

—Former President Barack Obama

**Wednesday noon prayer services** continue! Please sign in when you arrive through the West Transept or Gathering Place door.

### CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

We want to celebrate with all of our 2021 graduates —high school, college, graduate school, and trade school! Did you or your child or grandchild who has connections to FPC graduate this year? Send an email to Pastor Chrissy with their name, where they are graduating from, and what their plans are for whatever is next. **On June 6 we will celebrate and recognize our graduates in Worship!**

### KALAMAZOO BUILDING BLOCKS **Building Blocks Opportunities for June: Families, Small Groups, Just Sanctuary, etc.**

Building Blocks will be hosting **two Service Saturdays: June 19 and 26**. They would greatly appreciate church volunteers! Some of the projects that they will be working on include weeding, mulching, and planting in community gardens, porch safety projects and renovations, and possibly other minor home repairs and installations. Volunteers typically work from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.. Building Blocks hosts a lunch for volunteers and residents. Volunteers also get T-shirts (with our church logo)! If there is a significant number of volunteers we may be able to work on multiple projects at once. Here is the volunteer application link that anyone can use to sign up and select work dates.

<https://tinyurl.com/ya436p8a>

### PRAYER PARTNERS

Please join us! We are reading and sharing our thoughts and prayers based on the book, “Jesus Calling”. We would love to have you join us. We meet once a month, the first Sunday of the month, in Room 301. Our next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 6.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES:

*An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation* focuses on Bible stories that celebrate water, plants, food, and animals. It is designed to draw families into conversation with Biblical stories that relate to these elements of God's creation. Each lesson highlights a particular Biblical story and provides opportunities to focus on hearing and reflecting on the story with open-ended questions, creating meaningful art, sharing in an interactive activity based on the story, and providing an opportunity to share God's love.

Each week's lesson will be available in the emailed announcements and in printed form in the Children's Praise Packs folders at in-person Worship. Each unit will include an in-person family event with crafts, activities, and a chance to engage in the lessons together!

### NURTURING PRAYER IN TWO PARTS

Prayer is the beating heart of faith, flowing in relationship. Loving God. Loving neighbors. Here's a way to tend your prayer pulse. Seth Weeldreyer will lead these workshops, collaborating virtually with Kirk of the Hills. We'll begin in the sanctuary at 12:15 on both Sundays, June 13 and 27.

June 13 *Prayer in Public: from Panic to Peace*

When asked to offer a blessing at a gathering or through social media we might feel panic! Or at least we yearn for inspiration. PLEASE, GOD! I don't know how to speak! (Jeremiah 1:6-8) How can we step up with a sense of peace? "Here I am; work through me by your word." (Luke 1:38) Beyond praying emojis, come explore together basics of offering a prayer or blessing – something anyone can do!

June 27 *Prayer Personalities and Possibilities*

There's no single right way to pray! Practices, patterns, resources work differently for each of us. Words and art. Reading / listening to others or sitting in silence. Poetry. Music. Praying the news. With others or alone. Daily, weekly, monthly, annually. Come ... explore wide horizons of possibility for relating with the Divine. Find ways to receive wisdom, revelation, eyes of our hearts enlightened in God's glory (Ephesians 1:17-19). Go in prayer to empower our purpose, joy, and peace in living faith.

### CELEBRATE THE VISION: PICNIC IN THE PARK

CtV will host an **Ice Cream Social on the First Wednesday of the month**. This Wednesday we will initiate our monthly Ice Cream Social, which will include ice cream sundaes provided and served by Al and Michelle Andrews. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, watermelon, and drinks are also provided. We serve the meals from our South St. entrance at 5:15. Thank you to **Dana Underwood** for providing and serving desserts this week.

### BINGO!

Rickman House is still on Covid lockdown and not all residents have been vaccinated. To offset the isolation, they will start hosting Bingo and music *outdoors* (they have a small park where Sarkozy's used to be). Bingo is the biggest thing that the residents miss; they are thinking of a mid-June starting date. If you are interested in volunteering your musical talent or time to assist the residents with one of their favorite events please contact please contact Mike Boersma at [mike.boersma@gmail.com](mailto:mike.boersma@gmail.com)

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The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203  
Dr. Patricia Stromsta, Director of Outreach, x204  
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth and Families  
Ann Ross, Health Ministry Coordinator, x211  
Cindy Hunter, Director of Music  
Michael Montgomery, Organist  
Ann Johnson, Office Administrator, x205  
Anna Barnhart, Communications Coordinator, x209  
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206  
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**UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.**

**June 6**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Chrissy Westbury**  
1 Samuel 8:4-11, Psalm 138

**June 20**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
2 Corinthians 5:14-20; Mark 4:35-41

**June 13**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Mark 4:26-34

**June 27**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer**  
Psalm 30; Mark 5:21-43

*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.*