

 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Signpost atop the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Syria.
Photo by Rev. Chrissy Westbury

“Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
‘To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.
O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
They are all straight to one who understands
and right to those who find knowledge.
Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold;
for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare
with her.’ ”

Proverbs 8:1-11 (NRSV)

JULY 26, 2020

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

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

“Sonata in C Minor” from Op. 65 No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

I. Grave

II. Adagio

* DOXOLOGY (tune #607)

*(All are invited to meditate upon the words of praise. Watch Pastor Chrissy for some simple signs,
and join in as you are able so that we may raise our hands in praise, if not our voices.)*

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

(Romans 8:31-39)

Siblings of creation, since God is for us,

who is against us?

God, who sent Jesus, now gives us the Spirit in power!

The Holy One is in our midst:

equipping us for life in the service of Christ.

In Christ we are more than conquerors,

for nothing in creation can separate us from the love of God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

It is not our past which keeps us from God, for that is behind us. It is not our present, for God is with us on this day. And our future is held tight in God's hands. It is true - there is absolutely nothing which can separate us from God. Whatever sins we have committed, whatever places of brokenness in our world, God's grace pursues us relentlessly. Join me as we pray together, saying,

What can we say about our foolish lives, God of Love?

Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility.

We toss and turn at night, all those things over which we have no control keeping us wide awake, when we could turn them over to you.

**For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us,
God of Grace.**

(Prayer continues in silence.)

Friends, in Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. God calls us to new life, which takes place in community, in which we are brought to know that God loves and accepts us. We, therefore, are called to accept ourselves, and to love others. **With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus!**

In a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage, and empowers us to live holy and joyful lives as we work with others for 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.)

PEACE

“Peace of God Be with You”

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you.
Assalaamu lakum, salaam, salaam. Peace of God be with you.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG WORSHIPPERS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, teach us your way and lead us in your truth along the path of life. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your voice. In our hunger for you, nourish us today and strengthen us for service to Christ in all our days to come. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 119:129-136

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

1 Kings 3:1-12

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

“A Wise Dream and a Foolish King”

“Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind...able to discern between good and evil.”
1 Kings 3:9

* MUSICAL RESPONSE “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord”

Please take these moments to reflect silently on the music and the words of the hymn. How can we choose wisdom in these days? How can we reflect the mind, heart, and will of Christ in the choices we make?

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,
give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee

Take thou our hearts, O Christ, they are thine own;
come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;
help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;
use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to thee—time, talents, all;
we hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

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.

Please note: As we leave the Sanctuary, our offering may be left in plates located in the aisles.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Susan Caulfield
Dr. Patricia Stromsta
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury

Music

Cindy Hunter, Director of Music
Michael Montgomery, Organist

Sound

Sound Team members

Ushers

Betty Bennett, Dave Dell,
Andy Hamilton, Liz Hamilton,
Mike Hammond, Don McCloud

Have a prayer request?

Prayer chain email:
KFPCPrayer@gmail.com

WORSHIP UPDATE FROM SESSION

To date, our church has had two in-person services along with the virtual service.

Attendance had been between 40 and 60 people. There have been some comments, both positive and negative, regarding the safety of these services and this was discussed at a Session meeting July 19.

The session still feels comfortable continuing the in-person services, as long as all safeguards are adhered to. There has always been, however, the option to stop these services based on what's occurring in the community with COVID-19 infections. Session asked that the Health Ministry Committee study the issues and offer advice.

ONLINE GIVING:

Please go to <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Giving/firs321262>

Paper checks can still be sent to the church, 321 W. South St., Kalamazoo, MI, 49007.

See the video on different ways to give, at: <https://youtu.be/nr9EFJHyEW8>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTFUL READERS BOOK CLUB

The Thoughtful Readers Book Club will meet virtually tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.. We will be discussing the book, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, by Heather Morris. We will be discussing our book club's future plans, as well. Here is the link for the Zoom meeting...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89930446299pwd=OFNOUURsUIJDdGdIWWRQbU9mVlgwQT09>

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We are currently meeting in the backyard at the home of Connie Houts (2015 Wild Cherry Lane). We are studying the Psalms, using the book *The Psalms for Today*, by Beth LaNeel Tanner. Books are available for \$15.00 or copies of the lesson will be available at each class.

Coffee is served at 9:30 a.m. and our study begins at 9:45 a.m.. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one. If weather presents a problem, Pat will send out an email by 8:30 a.m., if class is canceled.

We look forward to seeing you as we practice social distancing and wearing our masks.

Pat Stromsta (pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thank you to **Bev Murray and her sister, Deb Long**, who provided cookies for our Celebrate the Vision sack lunches Wednesday evening. We pass out sack lunches from our South St. door on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 – 5:35. We request that volunteers sign up in advance as we are observing social distancing in the kitchen and in our service line.

Desserts are always needed (36 individual desserts are bagged each week) and can be brought to church 9–1 Monday–Thursday. or Wednesday. after 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Stromsta at pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org .

OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our church supports many outreach ministries in our community and beyond. Each month, we will feature one of these ministries so that we can not only be involved through our financial giving, but in our understanding of what these organizations do and how we can further support them. For the month of July, we will highlight the **Kalamazoo Drop-in Child Care Center** which is located in the basement of First Congregational Church on Michigan Avenue.

After being closed since the stay home/stay safe order on March 23, the Center opened on Monday, July 13. The KDCCC has worked hard to follow CDC and State guidelines to make the Center as safe as possible for the children. A reopening letter was sent to parents with information about their new policies and procedures, and can be found on their website at kdccc.org. Childcare is currently being provided Monday – Friday from 11:00 – 3:00. Call (269) 382-3640 with questions or concerns.

Members of First Presbyterian Church are invited to provide the following:

Disinfectant wipes
Diaper Wipes
100 % Apple Juice

A box for KDCCC can be found at our Lovell Street door with our Receptionist.

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

www.sanctuaryinthecity.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
Dr. Patricia Stromsta, Director of Outreach, x204
Ann Ross, Health Ministry Coordinator, x211
Cindy Hunter, Director of Music
Michael Montgomery, Organist
Ann Johnson, Office Administrator, x205
Anna Barnhart-Davis, Communications Coordinator, x209
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodians
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org
chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org
pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org
ann.ross@kalamazoofirstpres.org
cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org
jared.montgomery@kalamazoofirstpres.org
ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org
anna.barnhart@kalamazoofirstpres.org
louise.taylor@kalamazoofirstpres.org
shawn.smith@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Randy Randt
Nate Owens
Nik DeHaan
Bruce Birkel

The Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Candido, Parish Associate
The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, Parish Associate and United Campus Ministry Pastor
The Reverend Dr. David W. McShane, Pastor Emeritus

elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
ucmkrking@yahoo.com

UPCOMING WORSHIP

August 2

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Matthew 14:13-21; Romans 10:5-15
Holy Communion

August 9

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Matthew 14:22-33

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.