

We move through heights of autumn glory to Thanksgiving and then winter soon to come. And in church we move through celebrating Reign of Christ Sunday—God's grace filling all creation, into Advent. Then we start again at the beginning, telling the story of God in Christ, longing for him to come among us. It's a season to anticipate gatherings we cherish with family and friends. It's our sacred season to watch, wait, then celebrate Holy Love manifest in an infant born to a young mother—vulnerable, in questionable condition, under Herod's shadow of threat. You see, beyond good ideas about morality or community, our central claim of faith is that relationship with the Divine became real, tangible, experiential in human life. Incarnation.

Of course, it's a story about Jesus. And as we tell it, sing it, gift it, it's really about us—a promise we live to fulfill. Holy Love made real, tangible, experiential in our human relationships. Maybe this season will seem even more poignant as we gather after all the ways we've been vulnerable, in questionable conditions, under the shadowy threat of COVID. At least, I hope we are grateful, giving thanks for whatever simple goodness and real human connection we can share.

Truth is, the pandemic isn't quite behind us yet. We search the stats. We hear the stories. Consistent scientific forecasts project a positive trend through months to come ... assuming we continue wise decisions. It's been uplifting to witness the slow, steady return of many to in-person worship and other activities, including a good number of visitors. Still, there remain people among us who feel particularly vulnerable, anxious about infectious possibilities. That's real and to be respected. It's important to be cautious.

I remain grateful for adaptations we made through this COVID time, and the investment of human effort and technology that enable virtual connections for worship, meetings, classes, personal conversations. We will gladly continue to stream live on Sunday mornings. Some committees may meet by Zoom. People in whose hearts First Pres holds a place of fondness will be able to relate and receive nourishment in some way, however near or far away. Hallelujah!

And in this season especially, let's continue to respect the fact that it's simply not the same as tangible, visceral human relations. As we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus, may we all find ways to express Holy Love through our real presence, as we are able. Maybe it's a return to sharing worship in our sanctuary. Maybe it's a careful visit or offering a ride to someone who can't get out on their own. Maybe it's connecting again with some person or way of service that has lapsed in the past eighteen months. Amid and far beyond whatever we may purchase, as a special gift this Christmas, let's find ways to forge human relations in Holy Love. That's God's promise we receive and celebrate in Jesus Christ. From the beginning, and in the end, that's what our living faith is really all about.

Grace and peace to you,

Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer



*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.*

WORSHIP PLANS

WORSHIP OVERVIEW

Sunday Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

November 7

All Saint's Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 21:1-6a
Holy Communion

November 14

25th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Mark 12:38-44

November 21

Reign of Christ Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Deuteronomy 8:7-18. Revelation 22:1-7, 16-17, 20-21

November 28

First Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Liz Hakken Candido
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Genesis 17:15-22; Romans 8:18-25

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Zephaniah 3:14-20, 1 John 4:7-21

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

December 24

Christmas Eve

The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Readings to be determined

December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
Luke 2:21-40; Colossians 3:12-17
Carol Singing



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

VESPERS SERVICE

This traditional service of lessons and carols will be held on Sunday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will also be live-streamed. You are invited to experience the wonder and beauty of the Advent service through scripture readings, Christmas carols, and special music provided by congregation, Adult Choir, brass quartet, soloists, organ, and handbells.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICE

December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Come experience the wonder of this Holy Night and share in the story of Christ's birth with our children and youth. Through song, scripture, and story, we will celebrate Christ's birth!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICE

On Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m., we will share in our traditional service of Candlelight Communion.

With the Sanctuary adorned in holiday greens, and with candelabra lining the aisles and the front of the chancel, we will sense Holy Love coming into our lives. Along with prayers, carols, scripture readings, and a sermon, we will share Holy Communion on this special night. Bells will peal to herald the birth of Jesus. We will conclude our worship service by singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Special music will be provided by the Adult Choir, String Quartet, and Handbell Choir.

CHRISTMAS EVE CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

For those who may wish to worship toward midnight Christmas Eve / Christmas Day, we will offer a more contemplative service at 11:00 p.m. The spirit of the service will be less formal, more intimate. This service will also include communion and candlelight. Come share sacred space and time as we observe this holy night together.

ADULT EDUCATION AND CLASSES

FPC offers a number of educational and fellowship opportunities for adults! Find a time that works for you or a connection you want to make, and reach out. We'd love to have you join us! If there is a small group for education or fellowship that you would like to start, reach out to Pastor Chrissy. She's happy to help support new ideas!

	Usual Location	Contact	Time
Sunday			
Prayer Partners	Room 301	Pat Stromsta	Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 9:00 a.m.
Reading Aloud	Zoom	Kim Cummings	Contact Kim for more information
New Members' Class	Room 314/315	Pastor Chrissy	Nov. 7, 11:30-1:30 Lunch and Child Care Provided
Advent Service of Comfort and Hope (Healing Service)	East Transept (Sanctuary)	Health Ministries Committee	Dec. 5, immediately after Worship
Pausing on the Road to Bethlehem: Advent Study	Room 301	Pastor Chrissy	Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 after Worship
Monday			
Thoughtful Readers	Room 300	Bev Murray and Donna Schonveld	Nov. 22 - <i>The Nickel Boys</i> by Colson Whitehead
Tuesday			
Men's Fellowship	Archives	Bill Sorenson	7:00 a.m. every Tuesday
Tuesday Noon Study (Currently reading <i>Call it Grace</i> by Serene Jones)	Library	Seth Weeldreyer	12 noon, through Nov. 16
Small Group Study (Currently reading <i>Flunking Sainthood</i> by Jana Riess)	Various locations	Sue Caulfield or Chrissy Westbury	Nov. 2 and Dec. 7 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday			
Noon Prayer Service	Sanctuary	Seth Weeldreyer	Every Wednesday at noon.
Martha Circle	Gathering Place	Elaine Johns	Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 3:00 p.m.
Celebrate the Vision	South Street Entrance	Pat Stromsta	Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday			
Women's Bible Study	Room 314	Pat Stromsta	Philippians (Nov. 4, 11) Advent (beginning Nov. 18) Thursdays at 9:30

BIBLE AND BOOK STUDY CLASSES

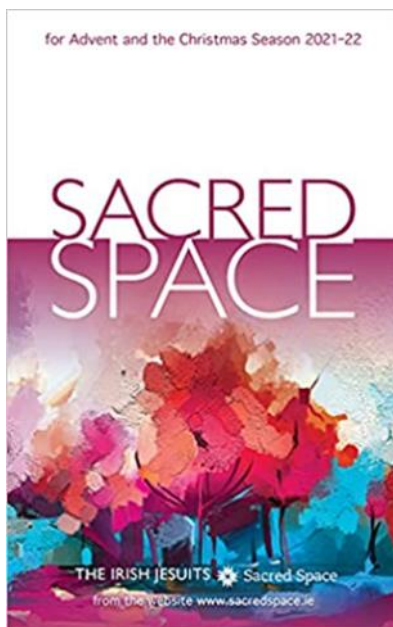
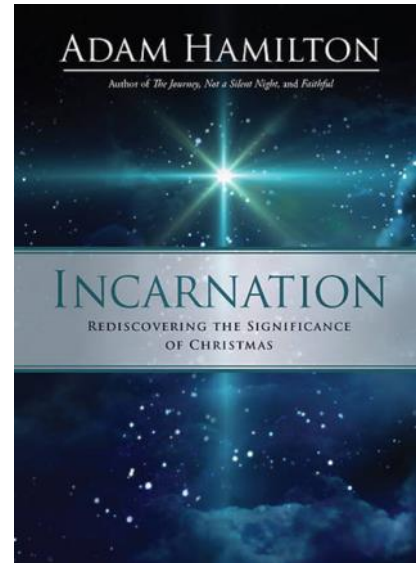
INCARNATION:

NEW 4-WEEK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT

This Advent season you are invited to come together to remember what's important. Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives in *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by Adam Hamilton.

In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

Incarnation is a four-week Bible study, facilitated by Pat Stromsta, that includes a DVD with short teaching videos featuring author Adam Hamilton. We will meet on Thursdays (11/18, 12/2, 12/9 and 12/16) at 9:30 in Room 314 for coffee. Our study begins at 9:45.



PRAYER PARTNERS:

SACRED SPACE FOR ADVENT AND THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Prayer Partners will meet on December 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Prayer Partners this Advent Season as we prepare for the birth of Jesus with *Sacred Space for Advent and the Christmas Season 2021-22*. This booklet includes a daily Scripture reading and points of reflection, as well as a weekly topic enhanced by six steps of prayer and reflection. With its small size and meaningful message, *Sacred Space for Advent and the Christmas Season* is a simple way to build a richer relationship with God and embrace the Advent season as a sacred space.

Prayer Partners meets on the first Sunday of the month in Room 301 to pray for the Church, our community, our nation, the world, and one other. All are welcome.

FINDING JOY: A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS **Thursdays, Oct. 21-Nov. 11**

Join Pastor Chrissy and the Women's Bible Study as we delve into Paul's letter to the church in Philippi - a letter full of joy and gratitude, written from a prison at a dark moment in Paul's life. We'll spend a week on each of the four chapters of this short letter and also delve a little into what Paul had to say more broadly - and how the church has interpreted his letters, historically. We will be reading from the Bible. Bibles will be provided if you do not have one.



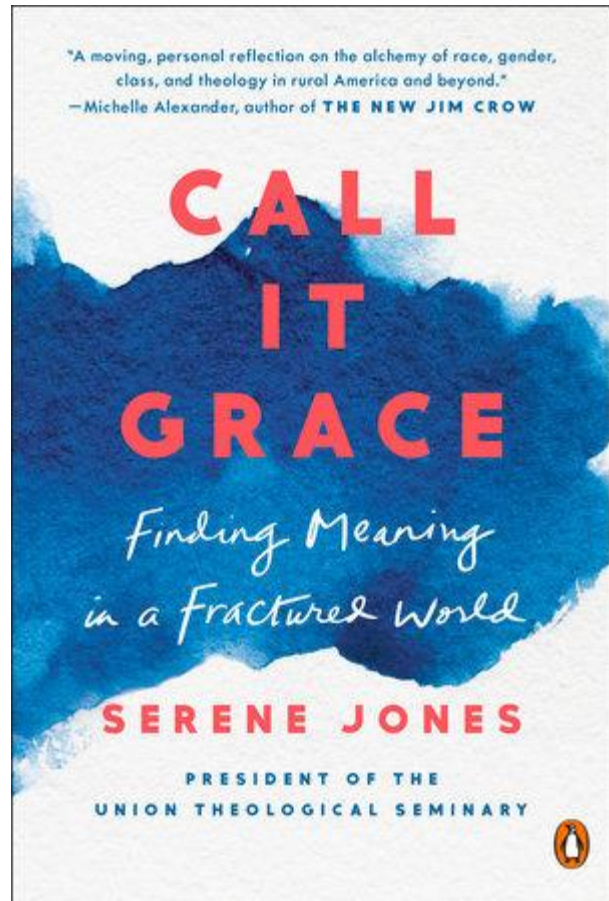
BIBLE AND BOOK STUDY CLASSES, CONTINUED

CALL IT GRACE

“In my own life, the most astonishing moments come when grace—that imponderable gift of God—breaks through the surface of life and shines its light on all that is. There is no bigger, more dramatic story than this.” That’s how Serene Jones begins her book, *Call It Grace*. Grace. Imponderable? Hard to define? Jones offers stories from her life to illustrate grace. Pastor Seth Weeldreyer invites us to ponder our life stories alongside hers to inspire living faith ... in grace. We’ll meet Tuesdays at noon in the church library. Serene Jones’ book is available from any source you happen to support. Join Pastor Seth for the last two sessions of this class.

November 2 Chapters 10 and 11

November 9 Chapters 12 and 13



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle is a group of women growing together in Christian faith, and all women are invited to join us! Our gatherings usually include Bible study, conversation, and fellowship at 3:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. However, on November 10, instead of studying together, we are planning on working together to prepare soup and sandwiches for Celebrate the Vision. We will meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 p.m. and be ready to serve at 5:00 p.m.

On December 8, we will hold our annual Christmas gathering, and on January 12, we will begin the Bible Study "What My Grandmothers Taught Me". In this study, we will learn about the women mentioned in Mathew's genealogy of Jesus, consider why Mathew included these particular women, and imagine what hearing their stories might have taught Jesus.

The women of Martha Circle are always happy to welcome new participants. For more information, please contact Elaine Johns at 269-808-7109 or emjohns513@aol.com

CELEBRATE THE VISION

We will celebrate by serving a holiday meal for Thanksgiving on November 24 and for Christmas on December 22. Additional information can be found in the weekly bulletin.

COMMITTEE NEWS

HEALTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The holidays can be a time of celebration and joy, and can also be a time of anxiety and grief. Sometimes we think we shouldn't feel sad at the holiday season, and we struggle with those feelings.

Please join us for a Service of Comfort and Hope on December 5. This is a reflective time to acknowledge all the feelings that may arise at this time of the year. We will gather in the East Transept after Worship.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you.

Simply.... **THANK YOU !!!**

This has been a challenging, amazing, uplifting, and COVID-defying year of shining the light of God's love on our community. Through the generosity of the members of this congregation, we have discovered new ways and locations to worship, juggled the complexities of ever-shifting COVID guidelines, continued our support of local ministries, such as Celebrate the Vision, the Edison Project, Ministry with Community, and more, and remained steadfast in our commitment to maintain employment for our staff through these difficult times.

As we go to press for the November/December *Presbyter*, I don't yet know how we will stand after Pledge Dedication Sunday on October 31, but I heartily recommend that you jump in with both feet (if you haven't already) to help us to re-confirm our commitment to the community, to our programs, and our staffing that serves so many, near and far. As a sneak preview, I offer the partially-solved **2022 Pledge Puzzle** on the next page, with the hope that you will join us in serving meals, teaching children (and adults), caring for our buildings, praying for our community, and one other, and all the other ways that we connect as a congregation. I also urge you to consider prayerfully the financial requirements of the wide breadth of programs that the church supports. We are concerned with the effect inflation is having on our quite modestly paid staff, and are hoping to have a broader base of financial funding this year to support them. Specifically, we are hoping more of you will choose to pledge, so that we know what to expect in the coming year.

Pledge Dedication may be on October 31, but Gratitude (and Stewardship), are really a year-round response to the amazing gifts that God has heaped upon us, through no merit of our own. Please let us know how you'd like to join in to help be the light of God's love in the community and the world.

You can fill out a Pledge Card and drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the office, email **louise.taylor@kalamazoofirstpres.org**, or call her at (269) 344-0119.

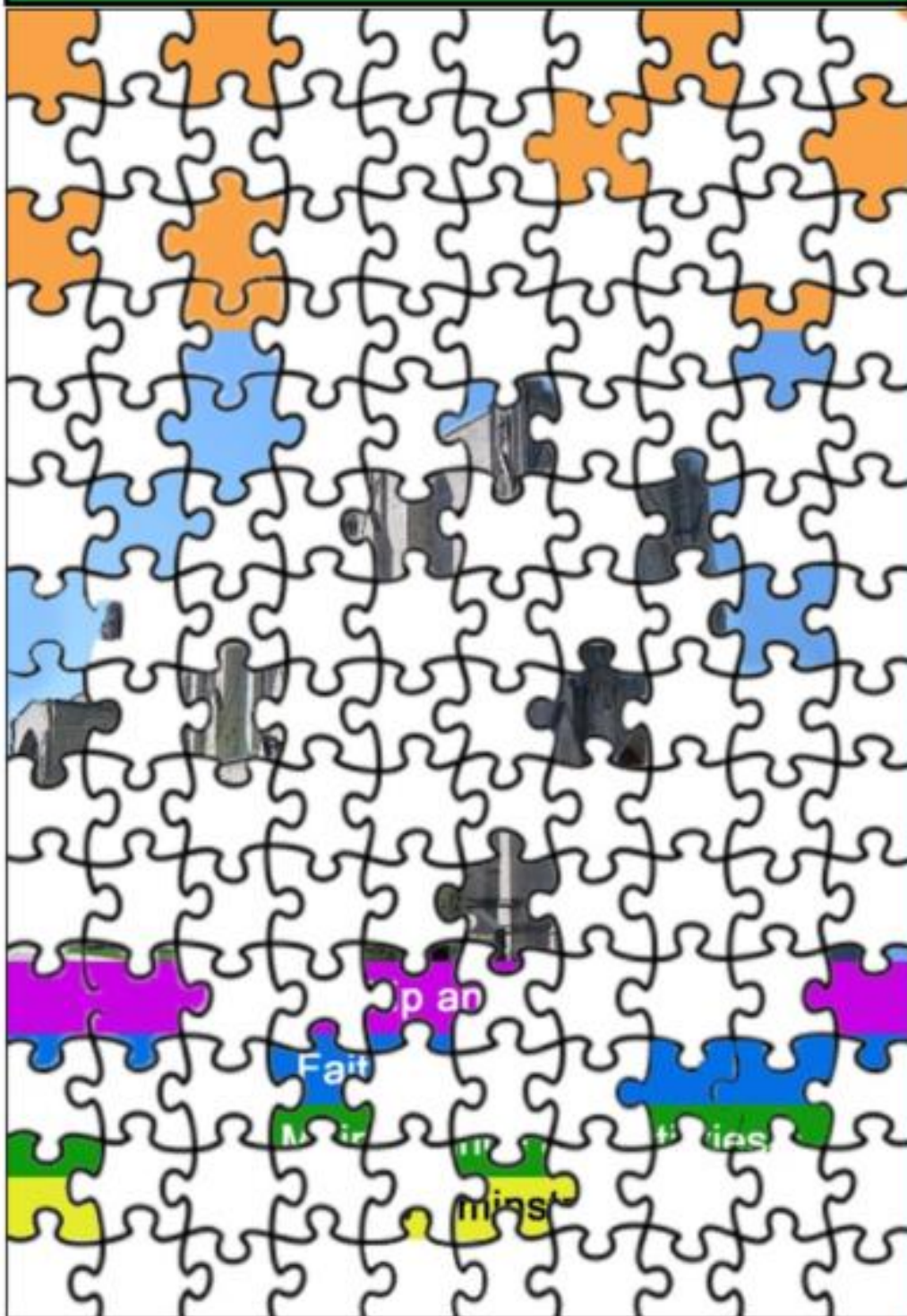
With that, I conclude by saying, "Thank you".

And again, **THANK YOU !!!**

We hope that by early November all of the following puzzle is revealed, but for now, you have the hint below of the beauty to come soon!

In peace,
Richard Coryell
Moderator - Stewardship Committee

2022 Kalamazoo First Presbyterian
Stewardship / Time / Talent Campaign
Update: 55 Pledges so far!!! (Goal = 231)



We're
starting
to make
progress!!
Send in
your
pledges to
reveal all
the good
works and
blessings
that God
gives us !!

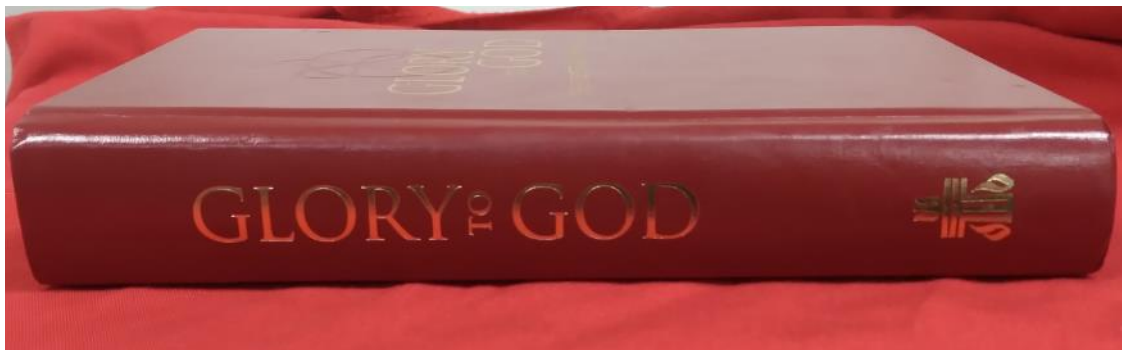
MUSICAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

HANDBELL AND ADULT CHOIR ARE BACK!

Both handbell and adult choir practices are back. Handbell choir meets at 5:30 every Thursday. Handbell choir will run indefinitely. Wearing masks in the building is required until further notice.

Adult choir meets from 7-9:00, on Thursdays, also. This schedule for adult choir practice will run until December 23. A new schedule may be put in place after that. All adult choir members must wear masks while singing.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Hunter at cindyhunter704@gmail.com



KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

First Presbyterian Church is again partnering with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra to present a series of free community classical concerts. The first program this season will feature the KSO Artists in Residence String Quartet and Oboist on Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m. The casual, family-friendly concert will include:

Haydn – String Quartet “The Joke” in Eb Major, Op. 33, No. 2

Mozart – Oboe Quartet in F Major, K. 370

INTERMISSION

Price – String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor

- Gabe Renteria-Elyea, oboe
- Julia Neckermann, violin
- Lisa Williams, violin
- Nicholas Jeffery, viola
- Igor Cetkovic, cello



Following the program you are invited to meet the performers and have conversation in the Gathering Place. This is one of many ways that our congregation connects with our community, and it is a special opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience music and fellowship in our beautiful Sanctuary in the City. You are invited to bring friends! Just a reminder that masks are required in the building. Save the dates for future concerts: February 1 and April 19, at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE 2021

December 12 - After the Vespers Service

The Congregational Life Committee will again host Christmas Chocolate this year. Come to the Gathering Place after Vespers and pick up your box of delicious Christmas cookies and a “hot chocolate kit” to take home and enjoy!

We are again putting out the call for our expert FPC bakers to drop off cookies on Saturday, December 11 between 3:00 and 4:00 at the Lovell Street entrance, so we can package them and have them ready to distribute on Sunday.



SCOUT TROOP 205 WREATH SALE

Pre-sales of Christmas wreaths, and continuing until the beginning of December. Wreaths and garlands will be available for pickup or delivery starting on November 20. The Troop plans to sell them at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 21, and Sunday, December 5 —from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The sales will take place either in the Gathering Place or in the parking lot. This will be determined as the dates get closer. Check the church’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/asanctuaryinthecity>) and the weekly bulletins as the date approaches.

If you would like to purchase a wreath from Troop 205, please contact Kelly Downey. (kelly@4kzoo.com or 269-532-2847)

YOUTH & FAMILIES

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is meeting in-person this fall for all middle and high school students!

All meeting dates are subject to change as we keep safety and health of all at the forefront of our planning. The most up-to-date information will be sent to parents directly via email.

To be added to the Youth Group email list, contact Meredith.

November 7 – **High School only** - @ Richland, 5-7pm

November 14 – NO Youth Group

November 21 – **Middle School only** -

@ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

November 28 – NO Youth Group

December 5 – Christmas Party @ Richland, 5-7pm

December 12 - January 2 – NO Youth Group

January 9 – Fun night, location TBD, 5-7pm

January 16 – **Middle School only** - @ FPC Kzoo, 5-7pm

January 23 – **High School only** - @ Richland, 5-7pm



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is happening in-person for preschool - 5th grade

- ❖ Nursery will be open for children ages 2 and under
- ❖ Preschool class for ages 3 and 4 in room 208
- ❖ Kindergarten-5th grade will meet on the 3rd floor



Do you want to hang out with some of the coolest people in church?

We are looking for more Sunday School and nursery helpers as well as volunteers to provide dinner for the youth on Sunday evenings.

Have you seen the new **PRAYGROUND?**

In the spirit of welcoming *all* in our church and in worship, we have created a designated space with our littlest members in mind. Stop by the Prayground to see all the ways the children are invited to express their faith and join in worship.



CHURCH CALENDAR

The calendars below were last updated on October 19. Please note that the events may change, and that other events may be added or canceled. To see the most recent calendar updates, check out the calendar page on the church website: kzoofirstpres.org

Monday, November 1

7:30pm – Comm. Committee

Tuesday, November 2

11:00am - Staff Meeting

12:00pm - "Call it Grace"

6:30pm - Small Group Study

Wednesday, November 3

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

Thursday, November 4

9:30am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

8:00pm – Con. Life Meeting

Sunday, November 7

Communion Served

10:00am - Church Service

11:30am - New Members and Inquirer's Class

Tuesday, November 9

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

12:00pm - "Call it Grace"

6:00pm - Stewardship Meeting

7:00pm - KSO Chamber Recital

7:00pm - Worship and Music Meeting

Wednesday, November 10

12:00pm - Prayer Service

3:00pm - Martha Circle

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

6:00pm - Personnel Meeting

7:00pm - Outreach Meeting

Thursday, November 11

9:30am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

6:00pm - Property &

Maintenance Meeting

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Sunday, November 14

10:00am - Church Service

6:00pm - Health Ministry

Monday, November 15

7:00pm - Congregational

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, November 16

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 17

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

7:00pm - Finance Meeting

Thursday, November 18

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Sunday, November 21

Communion Served

9:00am - Scout Wreath Sales

10:00am - Church Service

Tuesday, November 23

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 24

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

6:30pm - Session

Thursday, November 25

Building Closed

Friday, November 26

Building Closed

Sunday, November 28

10:00am - Church Service

11:15am - Advent Bible Study

Tuesday, November 30

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 1

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

Thursday, December 2

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Sunday, December 5

9:00am - Scout Wreath Sales

9:00am - Prayer Partners

10:00am - Church Service

11:15am - Advent Bible Study

11:15am - Healing Service

Monday, December 6

6:30pm - Congregational Life

Tuesday, December 7

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

6:30pm - Small Group Study

Wednesday, December 8

12:00pm - Prayer Service

3:00pm - Martha Circle

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

6:00pm - Personnel Meeting

7:00pm - Outreach Meeting

Thursday, December 9

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

6:00pm - Property &

Maintenance Meeting

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Sunday, December 12

10:00am - Church Service

11:00am - Healing Service

11:15am - Advent Bible Study

6:00pm - Advent Vespers

6:00pm - Health Ministry

7:15pm - Christmas Chocolate

Tuesday, December 14

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

6:00pm - Stewardship Meeting

7:00pm - Worship and Music Meeting

Wednesday, December 15

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

7:00pm - Finance Meeting

Thursday, December 16

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Sunday, December 19

10:00am - Church Service

11:15am - Advent Bible Study

Monday, December 20

7:00pm - Congregational

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 21

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 22

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

Thursday, December 23

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

5:30pm - Handbell Practice

7:00pm - Adult Choir Practice

Friday, December 24

Communion Served

Saturday, December 25

Building Closed

Sunday, December 26

10:00am - Church Service

Tuesday, December 28

7:00am - Men's Fellowship

11:00am - Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 29

12:00pm - Prayer Service

5:30pm - Celebrate the Vision

6:30pm - Session

Thursday, December 30

9:45am - Women's Bible Study

12:00pm - Offices Close

Friday, December 31

Building Closed

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PINE ISLAND BUILDING UPDATE

We are getting VERY close to having the funds needed to start discussing the final plan for the building project located at the Pine Island campus. Our target goal in fundraising is \$300,000 and we currently celebrate receiving contributions in excess of \$240,000. Many of you have viewed the renderings of the building and property that are located at both entries. This space can be utilized in unlimited ways, such as weddings, family gatherings, youth gatherings, optional worship experiences, etc. Creativity has no limits!

We continue to need additional contributions for both the building and, after that amount is obtained, for interior finishing. Our hope is that by early 2022, construction details can be finalized and ground-breaking can occur by spring/summer of 2022. Thanks to all who have contributed and will contribute, and to all who have kept in prayer this vision to expand our ministry.

MESSAGE FROM GHANA

Below is an excerpt from a letter from Josh Heikkila, our Mission co-worker in West Africa.

“In today’s world, we often talk of the need to listen to diverse voices—‘the danger of a single story,’ as Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has phrased it. This is without a doubt true, because listening to diverse voices greatly enriches us, not only on the level of faith, but also simply as human beings. But diverse voices can have different perspectives from our own, which can even be in profound disagreement with our own deeply held beliefs. Whether we like it or not, we still have to listen to these voices and respect them. Being dismissive of them only repeats the mistakes of the past.”

CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATES

The church website has been undergoing some heavy construction lately. Be sure to check it out to appreciate all of the hard work that has been put into it. Below are some of the highlights:

- Updated sermons page with new sermons uploaded every Monday.
- Updated staff page, including our newest staff members, staff bios, and pictures.
- Public church calendar showing scheduled classes, meetings, and events.

Go to **kalamazoofirstpres.org** to see it for yourself!

If there is anything you think should be added to the website or the church calendar, contact our Communications Coordinator, Hannah Foreman at **hannah.foreman@kalamazoofirstpres.org**.

NEW CUSTODIAN

As of October, we have finally hired a new custodian. Meet the newest member of the First Presbyterian Church staff, Logan McCafferty!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mary Lou Boughton Sue Cole Mark Ohrstrom Joseph Sablan	2 Dianne Hollenbeck Ellen Stults	3 Kelsey Oliver Jim Stephenson	4 Thomas Forsch Beth Jarl Annie Leong Mark Loehrke JoAnn Yochim	5 John Petro	6 Jocelyn Hodgman Mary Poel Seth Weeldreyer
7 Al Garcia Betty Mbangwaba Sandra Standish	8	9 Mirabda Howard James Steffy	10 Martin Baker Bridin Clements	11	12	13 Carol Hutton Michas Mechling Heather Misner Mary Lou Todd
14 Jay Heckler Bruce Rigg Donald Swetay	15 Miriam Bauserman Warren Misner	16 Alan Griffin Gabriel Weeldreyer Dirk Westbury Louise Wright	17 Joe Agostinelli Ann Parfet	18 Andrew Arwady Belinda Drok Ailih Weeldreyer	19 Victoria Coleman Dean Panse Jean Scott James Stefl	20 Kari Cook Sandra Dennehy Michael Ward
21 Grace Cook Luke Fouty Dorothy Larkin Joanne Russell David Warren	22 Mackenzie Hunter Greg Leder Ann Ridge	23 Preston Meeker	24 David Fenton Barbara Graham-Palmer Marlena Kirton	25 Chuck Thiele	26	27
28 RJ Davis Susan Kremer Vic Onweller Sheliah Tramel	29 Dylan Davis Dianne Eberts Karen Nellums	30 Jamie Cloetingh Terri Hunter				

December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Rosemary Coryell Andrew Hamilton Avery Long Michelle Warren	3 Janet Gladstone Nathan Murray	4 Martin Meloche Jeff Rose
5 Sairi Elliott	6 Donita DeBruin Elizabeth Novak Carol Schreiner	7 Alan Andrews Mark Longman Albert Newman	8 Kevin King Noel Ocen-Gorgone Clery Ortiz Thomas Glimmer Ann Ross	9 Laura Fouty Swayer Miedema Barbara Rider	10 John Cooper	11 Ann Johnson Nancy Thiele
12 Erin Gladstone Marti Straatmeyer	13	14	15 Martin Obed	16 Jackson Fiore Douglas Veech	17 Stuart Deming Julie Health Andrew Stults	18 Mike Hammond Fred Sammons Jill Wilson
19 Danielle Harik	20 Kevin Shaffer	21 Janet Lawing Krista Matthews Shelley Rylander	22 Michael Boersma Ted Cook John Marsom Lynn Russell	23 Denis Freed Rick Russell	24 Hunter Fisk Timothy Lenderink Donald Meldrum	25 Tiffany Hubbard
26 Mira Graziano Steve Pifer	27 Ruth Michelhaugh John Robbins II Kenneth Sparks	28 Jack Molitor Shawn Smith Jackie Stults Toni Tyler	29 Alan Chase	30 Owen Fritz Allison Hammond	31 Elizabeth Bruce	

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

SESSION

Clerk of Session:
Allison Hammond

CLASS OF 2021

Heather Cloetingh
Liz Hamilton
Elaine Johns
Sue Johnson
Brian Nederveld
Scott Wilson
Chris Bol

CLASS OF 2022

Jill Barnum
Bob Brush
Richard Coryell
Ellen Dykhuis
Kathy Jennings
Don Meldrum
Laura Ford
Heather Misner

CLASS OF 2023

Susan Agostinelli
Kathy Cooney
Craig Kortlandt
Oliver Takuh
Deb Taylor
Janet Todd

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please consult the FPC church directory to be sure your contact information is correct! If your information needs to be updated, please contact Ann Johnson at **344-0119 Ext 205.**

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Smyser was born on September 15, 1943, and joined FPC on February 10, 1974. Mary died on September 4, 2021.

PASTORAL CARE AND HOSPITAL VISITATION

An important part of our ministry at First Presbyterian Church is to provide pastoral care, including hospital visits. When a church member is admitted, hospitals are no longer allowed to notify the home church. We depend on members to call the church when a family member is hospitalized or needs a pastoral call.

Pastoral care is provided by the pastors, retired ministers from the congregation, and also by parish associates. Every attempt is made to visit hospital patients on a regular basis, even on weekends.

Those doing hospital calling would appreciate knowing when any member needs a visit or special attention. Please call the church office, **344-0119.**

If your call is an emergency and you are unable to reach a person at this number, please call Pastor Seth.

CONGREGATIONAL DEACONS

CLASS OF 2021

Mike Boersma
Aedín Clements
Martha Flynn
Karen Nellums
Jo Russell
Joyce Lander
Gary DeBruin
Donita DeBruin

CLASS OF 2022

Evelyn Garner
Wendy King
Louise McCallum
Carol Parfitt
Deb Weurding
JoAnn Yochim

CLASS OF 2023

Jan Carpenter
Hillary Cloetingh
Paul Minert
Suzanne Weeldreyer
Diane White
Jim Young

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ASSOCIATES

Parish Associate:

The Reverend Liz Candido, ecandido@kzoo.edu

United Campus Ministry Pastor and FPC Parish Associate:

The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, ucmkrking@yahoo.com

ASSISTANCE FOR WORSHIPPERS

Hearing Assistance Devices for worship services can be requested from any usher, or you may call the church office in advance.

Copies of **Large-Print Bulletins and Announcements** are available every Sunday morning. Ask one of the ushers for a copy.

If you would like to receive the **weekly e-mail announcements** about events in the life of FPC, please contact Ann Johnson at 344-0119 and ask that your e-mail address be added to the list.

Gluten-free bread is served at all communion services.

HOW CAN I JOIN THE EMAIL LIST?

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Go to the FPC website (kzoofirstpres.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page.
2. There is a short form to complete (email address; first name; last name).
3. When it is completed, just hit "subscribe" and your name will be added to our email list.

Emails containing announcements are generally sent on Thursday afternoons. If you haven't received it by Friday afternoon, please look in your "junk" and/or "spam" folder to see if it went there.

PRESBYTER

Our congregation plans to publish the *Presbyter* on a monthly basis, beginning in January 2022. We will still have a bi-monthly issue for the months of July/August and November/December. Reach out to Hannah Foreman at hannah.foreman@kalamazoofirstpres.org with questions.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline for Content</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
January	December 6	December 15
February	January 18	January 26
March	February 14	February 23
April	March 21	March 30

Many of our members receive the *Presbyter* newsletter via e-mail only, in order to help the church conserve paper and other resources. If you would like to have your name removed from the USPS mailing list, please contact Ann Johnson at ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org or 344-0119.

The *Presbyter* is also available for viewing on the FPC website:
<http://kzoofirstpres.org/publications/>



FPC

STAFF

(269) 344-0119

(telephone extensions are listed below)

Pastor

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

seth.weeldreyer@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 202

Associate Pastor

The Reverend Chrissy Westbury

chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 203

Director of Music

Cindy Hunter (269) 377-2478

cindy.hunter@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Associate for Youth and Families

Meredith Alspach

meredith.alspach@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Director of Outreach

Dr. Patricia Stromsta

pat.stromsta@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 204

Organist

Michael Montgomery

jared.montgomery@kalamazoofirstpres.org

Office Administrator

Ann Johnson

ann.johnson@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 205

Financial Coordinator

Louise Taylor

louise.taylor@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 206

Communications Coordinator

Hannah Foreman

hannah.foreman@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 209

Building Superintendent

Shawn Smith

shawn.smith@kalamazoofirstpres.org
Ext. 213

Custodians (Ext. 213):

Randy Randt

Logan McCafferty

South Lobby Receptionists (Ext. 221)

Bruce Birkel

Deb Weurding

Sandy Sinotte



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
321 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4708

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- PRESBYTER HIGHLIGHTS—**
- ♦ ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES
 - ♦ CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
 - ♦ NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
 - ♦ CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Telephone: (269) 344-0119 • Fax: (269) 344-4645 •
Website: www.kzoofirstpres.org

