

***OPENING SONG #408** *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit Sweet, Sweet Spirit*
(verse 1)

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

(refrain)

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place

(verse 2)

There are blessings you cannot receive till you know him in his fullness and believe; you're the one to profit when you say, "I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

(refrain)

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God's Spirit has gathered us for worship. Let us confess our sins and return to God:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly but our fear keeps us from following your call. Forgive our lack of courage. Embolden us to dream big and trust the Spirit to fill us and use us. Help us be Christ's church without hesitation. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us to usher in your coming kingdom. Amen.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, let us be Christ to everyone we meet. Peace be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

With clear minds and focused hearts, may we hear the words of Scripture today, and be receptive to the way in which God speaks to us through these words. In God's Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? ² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart; ³ who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors; ⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; ⁵ who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SPECIAL READING

An Irish Blessing
Read by: Ruth Gurd

Traditional

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

SERMON

“The Least of These”

Pastor Judith Campbell

WITNESS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

Andante in B Minor

Johann Krieger

PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SENDING SONG #69** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* *Here I Am (Schutte)*
(verse 1)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

(verse 2)

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

(verse 3)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

In the Courts of Praise

Colin Curtis

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers today are given by Janet & Larry Graham in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Faith Garden

We believe that it is a good thing to spend time in God's creation, and to be faithful stewards of the good gifts that God provides.

All the produce raised in the Valley Faith Garden is donated to the food pantry at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.

You are invited to come and spend time in and around the Faith Garden – weeding, planting, picking, or just sitting for a rest – at these times (from May – September):

First and third Tuesdays of each month – 6-7 p.m.

Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month – 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center in July for BBQ bundles that are being distributed at the end of July:



Ground meat, hot dogs, buns, mustard, ketchup, barbecue sauce, chips, charcoal, or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

Knitting For Others



Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group. We will be knitting special items like prayer shawls, blankets, and other helpful and comforting items for our members and people in our community.

The group will meet (come when your schedule allows):

July

Tuesday, July 30 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

August

Sunday, August 11 — 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20 — 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Caring for God's Creation

Friday, August 9

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (lunch included)

Cost is \$5 per child / \$10 per family per session

Children age 3 - entering 5th grade

God created an amazing world, and - as God's children - we have been called to care for it.

Join youth and adult volunteers from Valley as we learn about the mysteries and science of our natural world; and how we can participate in nurturing and healing the earth and all its creatures.

Activities will include music, movement, science lessons, working in the garden, service projects, and bible story time.

Register on the church website, through the July/August Valley Voice, or call the church office.

Faith & Love: Building Up Our Community with Fellowship, Meals, and Acts of Kindness

Coinciding with each of our **Caring for God's Creation** events for children is a meal for all ages featuring a speaker from the community who will share their expertise, along with a related activity. We would love for you to join us at our **Table Together Meals**. **Although it is not necessary, if you know you're coming, please sign up at the address below or via the newsletter, weekly email, church website:**

Friday, August 9 - Table Together Dinner - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

God's plan needs all of us

Guest Speaker: To be announced

Bloom where you are planted

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/bCahwwBNGWBe6BCG8>

Mid-week Lunch Group



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Wednesday of each month (August 14, September 11, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, August 16, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, August 17, 2024 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Dusty Timmons

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Mary Ball