

September 8, 2024
16th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Teach Me How to Pray
The Mercy-Seat

James Southbridge
James Southbridge

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER CONCERNS AND REQUESTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #657**

Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness
(refrain)

Glendon

***Sing to God, with joy and gladness, hymns and psalms of gratitude; with
the voice of praise discover that to worship God is good.***

Text by John L. Bell / ©1993 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God
all my life long.**

One: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

All: Praise the Lord.

***OPENING SONG #714**

God of the Fertile Fields
(verse 1)

Italian Hymn

***God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned, that
all in every land be clothed and fed.***

(verse 2)

***We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care for people everywhere,
that all may live.***

(verse 3)

***As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign
grows. Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused, no humble task
refused your love bestows.***

(verse 4)

***God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one: we
pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.***

Text by Georgia Harkness / ©1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company) / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text by Brian Wren / ©1989 Hope Publishing Company / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: As beloved children of God, we are invited into the meaningful work of following faithfully after Jesus here, in this place. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, while we see as in a mirror dimly, your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom, and understanding. Open our eyes, that these words of Scripture may bear witness to your true Word: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

One: A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

All: The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all.

One: Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

All: Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

One: Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate,

All: For the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

*Please stand as you are able.

SPECIAL MUSIC*Blessings**Story & Sorenson**Women's Ensemble (in order by singer):**Tanya Fouts, Marilyn Rodenhause, Mary Ball, Sue Doughman, Lois Urban,
Beth Krause, Lillian Smyser, Brenda Wahl***SECOND SCRIPTURE READING***James 2:1-8*

My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.

SERMON*"Loving our Neighbor"**Rev. Dr. John Wahl***WITNESS****PRACTICING OUR FAITH****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*Grace and Peace to You**Ben Logan***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE LORD'S PRAYER*****SENDING SONG***Be Doers Of the Word Of God**Ellacombe**(verse 1)****Be doers of the word of God, not simply those who hear.******Be ones who look into God's word, obey, and persevere.******Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, too.******Put wrath aside; instead, be meek and let God work in you.****(verse 2)****Religion that is undefiled, religion that is pure******Will reach to help the orphaned child and welcome all the poor.******If people come here poorly dressed, to judge them is a sin.******The rich aren't better than the rest; God welcomes poor ones in.***

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 3)

**O Christ, you save us by God's grace from having to obey.
Then freed to love, we can embrace a life that seeks your way.
May we be doers of the word; may faith shine through our deeds;
and as we seek to trust in God, may ethics follow creeds.**

Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette / ©2003 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights Reserved / Used by Permission

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

An Epilogue of Praise

David Paxton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers today are given by the Worship Commission in celebration of our Church family, Harvest, and another year during which we have the opportunity to worship God and serve others, as hearers and doers of the Word.

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:

First and third Tuesdays of September — 6 – 7 p.m.
Second and fourth Wednesdays of September — 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 September:



Spaghetti sauce, pasta, SpaghettiOs, macaroni & cheese, chicken, ground beef, eggs, milk, bread, peanut butter, jelly, lunch meat, snacks, any lunch item, 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.

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

Sunday, September 8 — 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 22 — 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 13 — 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any worsted size-4 or bulky size-5 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked "yarn" in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

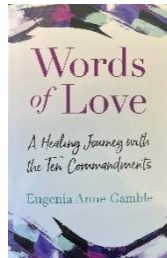
For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Sarah Circle – Tuesday, September 10

Sarah Circle will begin the 2024-2025 meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 10:30 a.m. in the church library.



This year's study is:
"Words of Love" by Eugenia Gamble

All are welcome for membership or just a visit.

Contact Glenna Pool with any questions.

Mid-week Lunch Group – September 11



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 (September 11, October 9, November 13, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Adult Choir Rehearsals



Valley's first Adult Choir Rehearsal will be on **Thursday, September 12th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**. Our first Sunday back with the congregation will be September 15th.

That evening, music will be available for you to pick up on the table located behind the privacy rail on the left side of the church. (Where we were storing the drums and keyboard, etc.) I felt it was time to rehearse in the space where we actually sing each Sunday and take the up and down the steps to the choir loft out of the process.

The Choir always needs new members so consider this your invitation to join a group of dedicated musicians who sing together, pray together, and praise the Lord together. Valley is blessed to have so much talent so make this your year to "SING A SONG, SING IT LOUD, AND SING IT STRONG!"



Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, September 13, 2024 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, September 14, 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.

Douge River School Gala

The Douge River Presbyterian School of Liberia is having its annual update and fundraiser. Valley has purchased a table for eight and invites you to come for good food, great silent auction items, and to learn more about the present and future of this amazing mission.

Sunday, September 15, 2024

5 – 8 p.m.

Banquet Center at St. Noel

35200 Chardon Road

Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

Please contact Pastor John or the church office, if you are interested in attending.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

17560 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023

Phone: (440) 543-1071

Email: valleypc@netlink.net

Rev. Dr. John Wahl, Pastor
Cell Phone: (216) 287-2405
Email: revjohnwahl@netlink.net

Heart of Valley Preschool

Heidi Cregar, Director

Phone: (440) 708-2572

Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Glenna Pool