

**September 7, 2025**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**PRELUDES (A Time for Quiet Meditation)**

*An Offering  
With This Bread and Wine*

*James Southbridge  
Paul Taylor*

**WELCOME**

**WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #507**

*Come to the Table of Grace  
(verse 2)*

*Table of Grace*

***Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace. This is God's  
table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of love.***

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**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: O Lord, you search us and know us.

**All: We praise you, O God, our maker.**

One: You are the potter, we are the clay.

**All: We are the work of your hands.**

One: Welcomed here, invited to the Table.

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #769**

*For Everyone Born  
(verse 1)*

*For Everyone Born*

***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,  
(refrain)***

***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!  
(verse 3)***

***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,  
(refrain)  
(verse 5)***

***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,  
(refrain)***

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\*Please stand as you are able.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION (adapted from Hebrews 4)**

One: Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us, then, with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need:

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we confess that we have not turned away from the pathway of sin. We make plans that we cannot complete and promises that we will not fulfill. We follow bad advice and make light of those who do good. We are rigid in our thinking and lack depth in our feelings. Forgive us, God of grace. Refresh and renew our hearts so that we may seek your will and do all the good we can; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*(Time of Silence)*

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON (adapted from Isaiah 43)**

One: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #507**

*Come to the Table of Grace  
(verse 1)*

*Table of Grace*

***Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.***

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: In Christ we discover a peace that surpasses all human understanding. Let us share that same peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And, also, with you.**

## **WORD**

### **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

*I Timothy 1:12-16*

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying

\*Please stand as you are able.

is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Glorious Is Thy Name*  
*Performed by: Ron Cechner*

*Tom Fettke*

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Luke 15:1-10*

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> 'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

### **THE MESSAGE**

*"Seeking the Lost"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

**UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from *The Confession of Belhar*)**  
**We believe in the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints, called from the entire human family. We believe that God is the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. We believe that God – in a world of injustice and enmity – is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged.**

## **WITNESS**

### **CALL TO OFFERING / BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS**

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

### **OFFERTORY**

*Blowin' In the Wind*  
*Performed by: Ron Cechner*

*Bob Dylan*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### SONG OF PREPARATION #507

*Come to the Table of Grace  
(verse 5)*

*Table of Grace*

***Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy. This is God's table;  
it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of joy.***

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And, also, with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: Blessed are you, O Lord our God. You created us in your own image and filled us with your Spirit of life. You gave us intellect and reason, passions and free will. You have watched us create and destroy, build and tear down. Still you shape us to fulfill your purposes. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voice with the universal church and the great cloud of witnesses, saying",

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior. Jesus calls us to take up the cross, knowing the cost of discipleship yet trusting in your saving love. He sends us to look in the shadows and corners, to seek and save the lost, to welcome and celebrate when they are found. Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon this bread and cup; make us one body in Jesus Christ our Lord. Teach us to live as sisters and brothers, welcoming one another as equals and serving each other with love. Through Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

### UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of grace, thank you for welcoming us at this Table and feeding us with Christ's presence. Fill us with the power of your Spirit and send us to those places in our world that need the good news of your redeeming love. Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #27**

*Sacred the Body  
(verse 1)*

*Tenderness*

***Sacred the body God has created, temple of Spirit that dwells deep  
inside. Cherish each person; nurture relation. Treat flesh as holy, that  
love may abide.***

*(verse 2)*

***Bodies are varied, made in all sizes, pale, full of color; both fragile and  
strong. Holy the difference, gift of the Maker, so let us honor each story  
and song.***

*(verse 3)*

***Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries. Love does not batter,  
neglect, or abuse. Love touches gently, never coercing. Love leaves the  
other with power to choose.***

*(verse 4)*

***Holy of holies, God ever loving, make us your temples; in-dwell all we do.  
May we be careful, tender and caring, so may our bodies give honor to you.***

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**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare and Processional*

*Robert Lau*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2025 Year-long Bible Study**

**Every Day for Everyone  
365 Devotions from Genesis to Revelation**

This collection of reflections encompasses the entirety of the Bible - taking you on a journey from the beginnings of creation and humanity's journey with God in Genesis through the history of Israel to the life of Jesus and the birth of the church in the New Testament.

Each daily devotion includes:

- Scripture reference (usually not more than one chapter);
- A one-page, thoughtful commentary on that day's passage;
- A prayer echoing the Scripture and reflection from that day.

Join Pastor John on a 2025 journey through the Bible; group times for discussion will be planned throughout the year. Books are available through the church office for \$17.

### **Every Day for Everyone – Daily Bible Study discussion**

Those participating in the Every Day for Everyone Daily Bible Study (and anyone else interested) are invited to gather for questions and discussion.

Group Discussion Time

**Sunday, September 7 & 21**

5:00 p.m. in the Church Library

## **CFPCC Food Bank Needs**

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**Any cleaning supplies, paper products, condiments, 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 Sundays, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:  
September 7 & 21**

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 have 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 bulky size-5 or 6 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

## **Mid-week Lunch Group – September 9**



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (September 9, October 14, November 11, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

## **Sarah Circle 2025-26**

We'd love to have you join us!

**The first meeting will be:  
Tuesday, September 9**

Our study for the upcoming year is:

***PCUSA: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ***

Meet September — May the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Books are available and cost \$14.00. To order a book or for more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail [gpool205@yahoo.com](mailto:gpool205@yahoo.com).

## Valley Adult Choir

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### ***WHY SING IN THE CHOIR YOU MIGHT ASK?***

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**Maybe you feel you are not up to the task!**

**WELL.....**



Just think of the fellowship, the music, and the time that will be spent with others, as we learn each musical line. The congregation's appreciation, the new CHAIRS that were bought, and, of course, singing together in the church choir LOFT!!!

SO....Maybe this will be the year when you will decide to join us; and then you, too, will discover how wonderful it is to sing with each other.

**Rehearsal: 9/11/25 at 7 p.m.**

**Valley Sanctuary**

See You Then!!!

## Community Meal

**Tuesday, September 16**



The community-wide dinner is offered at no charge for anyone who is hungry, who is feeling stretched, or who might need to be reminded that they are loved.

**Menu: Chicken alfredo, pasta, salad, bread, dessert**

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m.; and distributing / delivering from 4-5:30 p.m. In addition, if you would like to bake a cake (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on September 16th.

See the September Valley Voice, weekly e-mail, or the Church website for the links to sign up to volunteer and for the meal.

## **Donations – Credit Card or Zelle**

Credit card donations can be accepted on-line at the Valley Presbyterian Website below or through *Zelle*. Check with your financial institution to see if they offer *Zelle*. Call the office with any questions.

On-line donations: <http://valleypresbychurch.org>  
(Can only be used for donations.)

*Zelle* donations:



### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**[www.valleypresbychurch.org](http://www.valleypresbychurch.org)**

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

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