

February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Van Denman Thompson

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #743

O God, You Are My God

Step by Step

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you. I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways. And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

By David Strasser (Beaker) / ©1991 by BMG Songs, Inc. / CCL #11043756

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 112)**

One: People of God, praise the Lord!

All: Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.

One: We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed.

All: We are God's very own, called together here this day.

One: Let us sing. Let us pray.

All: Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

***GATHERING SONG #612** *We Praise You, O God*

Kremser

(verse 1)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

(verse 2)

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; through trial and tempest our guide you have been. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

(verse 3)

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: The more we know God's holiness, the more we sense our distance from our creator. The more we seek justice and faithful living, the more we understand our complicity in systems that oppress. With humble hearts, let us confess our brokenness, our selfishness, and our sin:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that this life of faith is sometimes harder than we expected. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what

*Please stand as you are able.

others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. Someday, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo often works better for us, at least, right now.

Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we act by faith no matter how high the cost.

(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me Glory to God
(verse 1)*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Text Traditional liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile / ©Paul M. Vasile, 2008 / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***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.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, the words we read are ancient but true. On this day, may we hear them anew. Grant us hearts to discern your Spirit within them, and grant us courage to follow them in our lives this day. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 40:1-5

One: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

All: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

One: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

All: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

One: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you.

All: Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall

Miller

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 3)

“I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and all will know my name. Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”

(verse 4)

“I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live! Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.”

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***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Create in Me a Clean Heart O God

Hopkins

***FINAL BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

Gerhard Krapf

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



**Any cleaning supplies or anything you would like to donate.
There will be a cleaning supply distribution on February 13th.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

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 Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
February 8 & 22**

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

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!

**The next meeting will be:
Tuesday, February 10**

Our study this 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.

Mid-week Lunch Group – February 10



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 (February 10, March 10, April 14, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Community Meal

Tuesday, February 17



Community Meal

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: Stuffed creole chicken, cheese grits, steamed veggies, frosted cake

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 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 February 17th.

See the February Valley Voice or the Church website for the links to sign up to volunteer and for the meal.

Mardi Gras / Shrove Tuesday Party

Tuesday, February 17, 5–6:30 p.m.



Mardi Gras, which literally means “Fat Tuesday,” is typically called Shrove Tuesday in English churches because on that day, traditionally, people were shroven (i.e., had their confessions heard) in preparation for the beginning of Lent.

We are looking to make our community meal a festive, all-ages, in-person gathering. Come for a celebration in Fellowship Hall where, in addition to the dinner, there will be music, beads, costumes, crafts, photo booth, and king cakes.

The King Cake is an Epiphany Cake, with the “Kings” being the Magi—the “three Kings.” So, Mardi Gras is really an extended Epiphany, and the themes of the season are the same as that of Epiphany itself: the Light of Christ shining on all kinds of people (the Magi being the first Gentiles to worship the Christ Child), and the Light growing stronger and stronger as more and more kinds of people come to worship Christ. It’s, also, about our taking the Light of Christ out into the world and sharing it with others.

Come and be with us as we celebrate Christ’s Light and transition into the Lenten Season.

Ash Wednesday – February 18

February 18

Marking the start of Lenten Season, Ash Wednesday is a day for prayer and penitence, to remember that: *From the earth we were formed, and to the earth we shall return; ashes to ashes and dust to dust.*

The imposition of ashes is a traditional sign of preparation for the Season of Lent. Also, many often make Lenten resolutions: a habit, substance, or practice to give up (or take up) during the season as a sign of preparing oneself for the coming Resurrection of our Lord.

On Ash Wednesday, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer and meditation, and the imposition of ashes will be available from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



<u>VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</u> <u>www.valleypresbychurch.org</u> 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: Amy Belew		Organist: John Kautzman Greeter: Janet Graham