

May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of Holy Communion

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

I Love to Tell the Story

Sarah Douglas

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 (based on Psalm 31:1-5, 14-15)**

One: Praise God, in whom we seek shelter and guidance!

All: Our God refuses to shame us. God's justice delivers us.

One: Our God listens to us. God rescues us from danger.

All: Our God renews our spirits. God is always faithful.

One: We trust our God.

All: Let us worship God, whom we call ours.

***GATHERING SONG #686**

God of Our Life

Sandon

(verse 1)

God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee. In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see. With each new day, when morning lifts the veil, we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

(verse 2)

God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide. Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be thou our guide. With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light, and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

(verse 3)

God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee. When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be. Be thou for us in life our daily bread, our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: We all fall short in seeking to do God's justice. When we confess our sins, we tell the truth and admit our agency and complicity in harming others. Together, let us pray:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, your grace and love extend to all people. We are called to forgive others, as you forgive us. Too often, however, we wield forgiveness like a weapon. We see others doing wrong and feel pride when we grant them grace. We become narrow in our quest for truth, and

*Please stand as you are able.

ignore the cries of others who hunger for your justice. Help us to seek forgiveness from those we have forced to beg us for mercy. Guide us to share both power and grace as we follow you.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear this good news: God raised Jesus and calls us to live out God's forgiveness by making sure there is room for all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #725**

O Jesus, I Have Promised
(verse 4)

Nyland

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be too. And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; now give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Because we have peace with God through Christ, let us share this peace together. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, is a source of refuge and guidance. Lead us, and inspire our hearts and souls as we engage the scriptures with our minds and spirits. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Psalm 119:11-18

One: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

One: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

All: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

One: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

All: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

One: Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.

All: Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

CHORAL ANTHEM

A Time For All Things

Wagner

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 5:1-11*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds

*Please stand as you are able.

from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' ⁵ Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

THE MESSAGE

"The Abundant Catch"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON CONFESSON OF FAITH (excerpted from portions of the Belhar Confession and updated with gender-expansive language)

We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe:

- **that God is revealed as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;**
- **that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged;**
- **that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**
- **that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly;**
- **that the church must, therefore, stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

CALL 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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

James Pethel

***DOXOLOGY #634**

*To God Be the Glory
(refrain)*

To God Be the Glory

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him
the glory: great things he has done!***

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CWS Blankets+



Valley will be participating in Church World Service Blankets+ program on **May 3, 10, and 17**. CWS Blankets+ is about sharing love through a simple gift of kindness. We can make a difference in the lives of people in need. Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex. Please make checks out to VPC with a note for "CWS Blankets". Thank you. In Christ, Missions

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!
**The last meeting for 2025-26 will be:
Tuesday, May 12**

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. For more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

Mid-week Lunch Group – May 12



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 (April 14, May 12, June 9, 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, May 15 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, May 16 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)
Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Faith Garden Clean-Up / Planting Day

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

In Valley's Faith Garden (located outside of the Church Library), we grow fresh produce to be donated to the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Food Bank. There are garden gloves and tools in the shed, or feel free to bring your own.

Summer Garden Workdays

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
June 3 and 17, July 1, 15, 29

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.:
May 17**

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 the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. We are currently making items for babies and young children. If you have any size-3 or 4 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

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Ground beef, chicken, eggs, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Spaghetti O's, snacks, or anything you would like to donate.

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.

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**:



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: Marilyn Rodenhausen

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Bernice Denham