

**June 21, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

Summer Worship Series:

*A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves*  
Week Three: Connecting With God

**WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

*Summer's Time*

*Rollins*

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Matthew 10:29-31)**

One: Jesus says that not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

**All: And tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.**

One: God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

**All: We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!**

**\*GATHERING SONG #657**

*Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness*

*Glendon*

*(refrain)*

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

*(verse 1)*

***God unites the scattered people, gathers those who wandered far, heals the hurt and broken spirits, tending every wound and scar.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 2)*

***Such is God's great power and wisdom, none can calculate or tell; keen is God to ground the wicked and with humble folk to dwell.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 3)*

***God with clouds the sky has curtained, thus ensuring rain shall fall; earth, responding, grows to order food for creatures great and small.***

*(refrain)*

*(verse 4)*

***God's discernment never favors strength or speed to lift or move; God delights in those who worship, trusting in God's steadfast love.***

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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

One: Before the Holy Word of God is read and proclaimed, let us prepare our hearts through the confession of our individual and collective sins:

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God who gathers in and sends out, you call to us, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory, but we allow others to silence our praise. We**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**imprison ourselves with doubt or shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free us to serve. Help us be your faithful disciples.**

*(Time of Silence)*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Risen with Christ, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed.

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

### **\*SONG OF RESPONSE #471**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer* *Hear My Prayer*  
*(verse 1)*

***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.***

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### **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this road of discipleship. Walk alongside us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALM READING**

*Philippians 4:4-9*

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

One: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**All: And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

One: Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**All: Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Shine Through Me* *Chapman*  
*Soloist: Nancy Sullivan*

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Mark 6:30-47*

<sup>30</sup> The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup> He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup> And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. <sup>33</sup> Now

\*Please stand as you are able.

many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. <sup>35</sup> When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; <sup>36</sup> send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' <sup>37</sup> But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' <sup>39</sup> Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And all ate and were filled; <sup>43</sup> and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men. <sup>45</sup> Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>47</sup> When evening came, the boat was out on the lake, and he was alone on the land.

## **THE MESSAGE**

*"Connecting With God"*

*Rev. Dr. John Wahl*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **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**

*Summer Song*

*Kenny G*

### **\*DOXOLOGY #471**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer  
(verse 2)*

*Hear My Prayer*

***The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God. The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.***

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### **\*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.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*SENDING SONG #450**

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Slane*

*(verse 1)*

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

*(verse 2)*

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.***

*(verse 3)*

***Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.***

*(verse 4)*

***High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Chandler*

*Hughes*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Summer Worship Series** - Week Three: Connecting With God

**Questions to Ponder/Discuss:**

- What prayer or spiritual practices have you tried in the past? How did they work for you?
- Have you ever had a powerful vision, dream, feeling, or moment that defies explanation? How did it feel?
- What would you be willing to do to feel a closer connection with God?

**Spiritual Practice:**

Light a candle and take some deep breaths. This week, we are simply going to take time every day to be in the Presence of God. You can imagine this as a golden light surrounding and filling you. Or you can imagine God wrapping you in Their arms and holding you. Relax and breathe into this for five to ten minutes, or longer if it feels okay.

**CFPCC Food Bank Needs**

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



**Healthy cereals (except Cheerios), anything for grilling season (ground meat, chicken, steaks, vegetables, etc.), milk, eggs, 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.

## Outdoor Chapel Worship / Remembering the Manse

This spring, we made the difficult decision that the Church Manse building – which had been a part of this property for more than a century – had to be razed. While the cleared space awaits its next purpose, we want to remember and celebrate the ways that the Manse was part of the living history of this congregation and community.

Come and join us on **Sunday, June 28**, for worship in the beautiful outdoor chapel and to share / listen to stories about the many iterations of the Manse. We, also, welcome any photos that you may have to share.

If the weather does not allow us to be outside that day, worship will be in Fellowship Hall.

## Faith Garden

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 are below:

### **Summer Garden Workdays**

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

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 on Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:**

**July 12**

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

## Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

**Friday, July 17** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

**Saturday, July 18** (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or [passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com](mailto:passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com).

## Wednesday Dinner and Entertainment

Join friends from Valley and beyond on **Wednesday evening, July 15**, for some food, drinks, and fun. The owners of Sharon James have agreed to donate ten percent of all sales (if you mention code VPC2026) back to the church. Enjoy the covered patio and performers (featuring comedy from Sean Bulanda) for open-mic night. Reservations are recommended but not required.

Sharon James Cellars  
11303 Kinsman Road  
Newbury, OH 44065  
440-739-4065

## 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 or purchase via **Zelle**:



### **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345**

17560 Chillicothe Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
Phone: (440) 543-1071  
Email: [valleypc@netlink.net](mailto:valleypc@netlink.net)

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

Heart of Valley Preschool  
Heidi Cregar, Director  
Phone: (440) 708-2572  
Email: [hovcp@netlink.net](mailto:hovcp@netlink.net)

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan  
Liturgist: Don Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman  
Greeter: Glenna Pool