

August 2, 2026

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship Series:

A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves
Week Nine: Loving Your Neighbor

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

Let Us Break Bread Together

Susanna Keeney

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #507

Come to the Table of Grace
(verse 3)

Table of Grace

***Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love. 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 (Psalm 145:8-9, 14-18)

One: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: The Lord is good to all, and God's compassion is over all that God has made.

One: The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

All: The eyes of all look to you, God, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

One: The Lord is just in all God's ways, and kind in all God's doings.

All: The Lord is near to all who call on the Lord, to all who call on the Lord in truth.

*GATHERING SONG #515

I Come with Joy
(verse 1)

Dove of Peace

***I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus
to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.***

(verse 2)

***I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new
community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion
bread.***

(verse 3)

***As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The
love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and
strangers now are friends.***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: We engage in confession not because we believe we are bad people, but because we know there are areas of our lives that stand in need of God's

*Please stand as you are able.

healing touch. And God, who is ever more ready to forgive than we are to confess, will hear us with a loving ear, ready to heal any brokenness within us or between us...

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy God, you have shown yourself to us in Jesus Christ. Everything we need to know about you has been revealed: your goodness, mercy, and healing are on full display. But sometimes we do not see what is right before us. Sometimes we miss the miracle. We misinterpret you, and so we misunderstand the world. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to better love you and our neighbors. Restore to us the ability to see you as you reveal yourself. Renew within us the capacity to perceive your way in the world, for this life, and in the life that is to come. We pray it in Jesus' name:

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.

All: This comes from God, who reconciled us to God's self through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

One: Believe the promise of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF 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.

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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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy God, amidst the barrage of words that flood us daily, speak your eternal Word that offers life, and bless us in its hearing, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:6-13

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are

*Please stand as you are able.

my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Performed by: John Kautzman

David Gale

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ²⁶ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ ²⁷ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.’ ²⁸ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’

³⁰ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ ³⁷ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

THE MESSAGE

“Loving Your Neighbor”

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Declaration of Faith, 1977)

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God’s word and action in history, together with his people’s response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding and in faith we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe. Amen.

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

O Perfect Love

Robert W. Thygerson

*DOXOLOGY #710

We Lift Our Voices

Offering

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in service that our daily living may show our thanks and joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SENDING SONG #80

You Shall Go Out with Joy
(sing three times)

The Trees of the Field

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

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*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D

Martha Sobaje

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Nine: Loving Your Neighbor

Questions to Ponder/Discuss:

- What are some biases or prejudices you grew up seeing? How did you learn that they were wrong?
- What are some biases and prejudices you struggle with now?
- What are you afraid would happen if you loved everyone you met fully and completely? Do you think it's possible?

Spiritual Practice:

Choose seven different kinds of people you struggle to like or find value in. Each day, write their life story from their perspective. As Martin Luther says, explain their actions in the kindest way. If you were in their shoes, what would make you behave the way you see them behaving?

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.:
August 9**

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

Mid-week Lunch Group – August 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 Tuesday of each month (August 11, September 8, October 13, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

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.

August 12, 26

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, August 14 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Saturday, August 15 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

North Church Meal Ministry

North Presbyterian Church is a unique ministry opportunity. Sharing space downtown with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, at East 45th and Superior Avenue, North serves a population that is predominantly homeless or housing insecure.

Along with many other congregations in our local area, Valley supports its long-term mission partner, North Church, by preparing a lunch to serve after Sunday worship. This is an incredible opportunity to engage in a hands-on mission. We look to have 3-5 volunteers carpool from Valley to worship and serve lunch at North.

Meal Preparation

Saturday, August 15

9:30-11:00 a.m. in FH

Serving at North

Sunday, August 16

Meet to carpool at 10:00 a.m. – return by 2:00 p.m.

Community Meal

Tuesday, August 18



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: Pulled pork BBQ, coleslaw, cornbread, peach-berry cobbler

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 make peach-berry cobbler (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on August 18th.

See the August Valley Voice or the Church website for the links to sign up for the meal and volunteering.

Wednesday Dinner and Entertainment

Join friends from Valley and beyond on **Wednesday evening, August 19**, from 6-8:00 p.m., 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

Outdoor Chapel Worship

Sunday, August 23



Come and join us on Sunday, August 23, for worship in the beautiful outdoor chapel. If the weather does not allow us to be outside that day, worship will be in Fellowship Hall.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Any meat, fresh fruit / vegetables, milk, eggs, lunch meat, bread, 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 or purchase via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org
VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Sean Bulanda

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Donna Bush