

# July 12, 2026

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship Series:

*A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves*  
Week Six: Facing What Is Within

### WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*Pastoral Prelude on Dominus Regit Me* Henry Kihlken

#### \*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 119:105-11)

One: All who walk in shadow, come into the light!

**All: God's Word lights the way for us.**

One: God has promised to abide with us.

**All: So let us commit to walk in God's ways.**

One: All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God.

**All: God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may!**

#### \*GATHERING SONG #442

*Just as I Am, without One Plea* Woodworth  
(verse 1)

***Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

(verse 2)

***Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

(verse 3)

***Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

(verse 4)

***Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come; I come!***

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God does not promise us a life without struggle or hardship; yet how often do we make what is already difficult even more so? But, in God's grace, the sorrows we inflict upon ourselves cannot last forever; so, let us unburden ourselves, confessing the ways in which we struggle against God that we may receive that grace anew:

#### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Gracious God, you created this world and called it good, and out of it you have called a chosen people to abide with you and to bear witness to your reality. Yet we, who are beloved by you, often find ourselves making peace with what does not give peace. Meet us in our weakness; turn our unwilling eyes upon our unruly hearts.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**Draw us away from love of power, tolerance of injustice, and ignorance of suffering. Lead us, instead, towards what is fearfully and wonderfully made, so that we may inspire hope, offer forgiveness, and love our neighbors through faithful living, according to the way of Jesus Christ.**

*(Time of Silence)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Romans 8:1-3)**

One: “For those who are in Christ, there is no condemnation; for by Christ’s death and resurrection, God has done what the law and works of human righteousness alone could not: breathed new life through the Holy Spirit into the world, turning it upside down.” Believe this scandalous, joyous good news: through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new life.

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

**SONG OF RESPONSE #698**

*Take, O Take Me as I Am*                      *Take Me as I Am*  
**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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**UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**All: Holy Creator, the earth is yours, and all that is in it. Now grant us hearts open to your grace, eyes open to your wonders, and ears open to your Holy Word. Let your Holy Spirit dwell with us, that we may be renewed in our commitment to the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM READING**    *Psalms 46*

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

One: Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**All: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

One: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**All: The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

One: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**All: Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

One: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

**All: ‘Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.’**

One: The Lord of hosts is with us;

**All: The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Glorious Is Thy Name*  
 Performed by: Ron Cechner

*Arr. by Tom Fettke*

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**THE MESSAGE**

*“Facing What Is Within”*

*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** *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness* George Lachenauer

**\*DOXOLOGY #709** *God, We Honor You* *Abundant Blessings*  
**God, we honor you. God, we trust in you. God, we worship and adore you. Take what we bring, offered to you. Teach us to show your abundant blessings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.**

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**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION****\*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.**

**\*SENDING SONG #302**

*When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace* *O Waly Waly*  
*(verse 1)*

***When hands reach out and fingers trace the beauty of a loved one’s face, we thank you, God, that love relies on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.***

\*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 2)

**When fingers spell and signs express our prayer and praise and thankfulness, we thank you, God, that hands can sing; you bless the silent songs we bring.**

(verse 3)

**When broken bodies will not mend, we thank you, God, for Christ our friend. In him, our healing can begin: he welcomes all the wounded in.**

(verse 4)

**And when the ways we learn and grow are not the ways that others know, we thank you, God, that we have learned your love's a gift, and never earned.**

(verse 5)

**Your Spirit gives us differing ways to serve you well and offer praise. When all are joined as one, we'll be your able, strong community**

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## \*BLESSING

## POSTLUDE

*Arise, O True Disciples*

*Brian Glycannon*

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Summer Worship Series

Week Six: Facing What Is Within

#### **Questions to Ponder/Discuss:**

- Do you have personality quirks or parts of yourself that bother you or you wish you could change?
- What?
- What would happen if you had compassion for yourself instead of judging yourself?
- What would happen if you saw the personality quirks or behaviors that most bother you in other people as cries for love?

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Each day, pick a habit, thought, or personality quirk you don't like about yourself and write to it. You can begin with, "dear impatience. What do you want me to know? Why are you here?" And then, like our previous exercise, let it answer honestly. You might get new insight into ways it thinks it's protecting you. End with gratitude towards it.

### CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



**Any meat or fresh fruits 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.

## 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

## Mid-week Lunch Group – July 14



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 (July 14, August 11, September 8, 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.

July 15, 29

## Wednesday Dinner and Entertainment

Join friends from Valley and beyond on **Wednesday evening, July 15**, 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

## 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).

## Outdoor Chapel Worship

**Sunday, July 19**



Come and join us on Sunday, July 19, 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.

## 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**

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Greeter: Glenna Pool