

August 16, 2026
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship Series:
A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves
Week Eleven: Do Not Judge

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Prayer

Mark Davis

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #306**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
(verse 1)

Dennis

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of
kindred minds is like to that above.***

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Blessed is the one, holy, and living God.

All: Glory to God forever and ever.

One: There is one Body and one Spirit;

All: There is one hope in God's call to us;

One: One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

All: One God, Creator of all.

***GATHERING SONG**

God of Wonders
(verse 1)

Lord of all creation, of water, earth, and sky
The heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the Lord on high.
(refrain)

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth. Lord of heaven and earth.
(verse 2)

Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light
And as I stumble through the darkness, I will call your name by night.
(refrain)

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth. Lord of heaven and earth.
(Bridge)

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth (x3)

*Please stand as you are able.

(refrain)

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy

You are holy, holy

Precious Lord, reveal your heart to me

Father hold me, hold me

The universe declares your majesty

You are holy, holy

Holy, holy.

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth (x5)

Text by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong / ©2000 Admin by EMI CMG Publishing / CCL #11043756

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Created in God's image to live in communion with our maker, we have been appointed as caretakers to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors. Yet, we often neglect our task. Remembering who we are lead us to confess our sin and yearn for God's forgiveness:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from the Anglican Church of Canada)

All: Lord of all the universe, through your incarnation in Christ you identified with the created order and proclaimed your love for the world. Yet, we live in the illusion that humankind is separate and alone. Assist us, through your Son, to respect and cherish the earth and all its creatures. Join us in communion with all the inhabitants of the universe, through Jesus our Redeemer.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from the Anglican Church of South Africa)

One: Lord God, gather up the pieces so that nothing is lost, alerting us to our carelessness and teaching us to share from the abundance in our midst. In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #447** *We Are Forgiven*

We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Lord, move our hearts to be generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy, that we may share the abundant and eternal life you offer. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 24

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

All: For he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

One: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

One: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

All: Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*How Can I Keep from Singing? American Folk Tune,
arr. by Richard Walters*

Performed by: Beth Krause & Marilyn Rodenhausen

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 17:1-4*

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone by whom they come! ² It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³ Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. ⁴ And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, "I repent", you must forgive.'

THE MESSAGE

"Forgiveness"

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

Sketch

*Robert Schumann,
arr. by Steven Scott*

*DOXOLOGY #716

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
(verse 2)*

Beach Spring

***Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of
Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and freedom, races***

**Please stand as you are able.*

***joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily labor, lest
we strive for self alone. Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.***

Text by Robert L. Edwards / ©1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society of America (admin. Hope Publishing Co.)
Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #445** *God, How Can We Forgive* *Leoni*
(verse 1)

***God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn? How can we rise
and start anew, our trust reborn? When human loving fails and every
hope is gone, your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.***

(verse 2)

***When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow, how can you
still release our guilt, the debt we owe? The ocean depth of grace
surpasses all our needs. A priest who shares our human pain, Christ
intercedes.***

(verse 3)

***Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin, when you, while
knowing all our past, forgive again? No more we play the judge, for by
your grace we live. As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.***

Text by Ruth Duck / ©1996 The Pilgrim Press / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful* *Tom Birchwood*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Eleven: Forgiveness

Questions to Discuss/Ponder:

- How have you understood the notion of forgiveness in the past? Was it helpful?
- What do you think of the idea that you must feel your feelings fully before you try to forgive?
- How does the definition of forgiveness (that another person's actions have nothing to do with you but are all about them) help or not help?

Spiritual Practice:

Each day this week, we are going to pick a person or situation that causes us resentment, anger, hurt, or pain. Start with the easy ones, something that you know is kind of silly, like irritation when driving. Close your eyes and take some deep breaths. Play the scene out completely and say, "their actions have nothing to do with me". Each day choose another person or situation and note what feelings or clarity might arise from this practice.

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.

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 Workday

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. — August 26

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.

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.:
September 13, 27**

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, September 25 (1 – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, September 26 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

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

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

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: Lois Urban

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Amy & Bill Belew