

August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Chapel in the Woods

Summer Worship Series:
A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves
Week Twelve: Speaking the Truth

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Fairest Lord Jesus

Richard Storrs Willis

***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**

One: Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

All: We are here and we are ready.

One: Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

All: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts, minds, and souls belong to you!

One: I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.

All: We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

***GATHERING SONG #2001 (STF)**

We Sing to You, O God
(verse 1)

Darwall's 148th

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth, let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O God, let songs be raised, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

(verse 2)

We wandered far from home out in a desert land, you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band. You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.

(verse 3)

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young, who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun. We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.

(verse 4)

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings, the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring. Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: You call out to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the noise of greed, selfishness, apathy, and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer, and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and Holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and calls to us, saying, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness. God loves us, heals and strengthens us, and calls me by name. Through Jesus we are made whole!

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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*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: Forgiven and set free, let us be reconciled with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: God of light, your wisdom speaks truth to us in love. We pray for you to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts so we may drink in all that you have for us to learn today. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE 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.

*Please stand as you are able.

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

Always There

Lyrics: Kaitlyn Bunch

Produced by: Proud Parkinson's Ninja Sean Bulanda

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:33-37

³³ 'Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, "You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord." ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

THE MESSAGE

"Speaking the Truth"

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

Nettleton

Timothy Shaw

***DOXOLOGY #205** *Live in Charity (sing twice)*

Ubi Caritas (Taizé)

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #693**

Though I May Speak

Gift of Love

(verse 1)

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

(verse 2)

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

(verse 3)

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

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*Please stand as you are able.

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

David Paxton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Twelve: Speaking the Truth

Questions to Discuss/Ponder:

- Growing up, how was speech used in your family? How did that shape you?
- What ways of speaking do you hear in the world that are the most destructive?
- Who do you know that uses their words in the best way possible? What makes that so?

Spiritual Practice:

At the end of each day, examine what was said to you as well as what you said to others. Write down anything that jumps out as kind, loving, helpful, or on the other hand, critical, rude, or cruel. Without judgment, notice the patterns and what makes something loving and another harmful. Ask God for help to speak courageously, kindly, and clearly.

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

Choir Starting for 2026-27



The Adult Choir will be starting rehearsals on September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary with our first Sunday participating in worship on September 13th. We practice in the front of the Sanctuary until 8:30. SO.....We are always looking for new members to join us and add their talents to our choir!!!!!!

Choir practices are unforgettable,
Harmonies are created,
Our fellowship is strong,
Individual talents are shared, and we
Rejoice through song to praise and worship our Lord!



**Choir Practice in Sanctuary
September 10th at 7:00 p.m.
COME!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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.

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.

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

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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Liturgist: Jerry Moreno

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Marilyn Bulanda