

August 30, 2026

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship Series:
A Curriculum of Love: Deepening our Love for God, our Neighbors, and Ourselves
Week Thirteen: Serving Others

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

What a Wonderful World

Armstrong

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #175

Seek Ye First

Lafferty

(verse 1)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

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*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

All: Seek God in the sanctuary.

One: Seek God in the burning bush.

All: Seek God in the burning heart.

One: The Lord is here! This place is holy!

All: We are standing on holy ground.

*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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*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Sin casts us out into the cold, but the warmth of God's forgiveness welcomes us back. Trusting in God's steadfast mercy, let us confess our sins to God:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious God, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy, or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears, excuses, and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. We ask this in Jesus' name.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news! New life rises from the ashes. In Christ, your sins are dead, and you are alive to all that is good. In Christ, we are made whole; in Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #175** *Seek Ye First*
(verse 2)

Lafferty

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!

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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: Divine Light, shine on these words that are read so that they speak to us today. And illumine our hearts that we might know how to respond. Amen.

RESPONSIVE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13:1-2, 6

One: Let mutual love continue.

All: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

One: So we can say with confidence,

All: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

SPECIAL MUSIC

Crowded Table *Hemby, McKenna, Carlile*

Performed by: Sue Doughman, Tanya Fouts, Marilyn Rodenhausen, Mary Ball, Lillian Smyser, Lois Urban, Marilyn Bulanda, Bernice Denham, Beth Krause, Brenda Wahl (in order by Soprano I, Soprano II, and Alto)

*Please stand as you are able.

² Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. ³ In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. ⁵ One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ ⁷ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ ⁸ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ ⁹ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

***DOXOLOGY #658** *God Is So Good* *God Is So Good*
 (verse 1)

(verse 2)

(verse 3)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be
restored:***

(refrain)

(verse 2)

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk
with each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread
the news that God is in our land:***

*Please stand as you are able.

(refrain)

(verse 3)

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work
with each other; we will work side by side, and we'll guard human
dignity and save human pride:***

(refrain)

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***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Traditional Spiritual)

Arr. by Joel Rainey

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Thirteen: Serving Others

Questions to Ponder/Discuss:

- Consider a time when you tried to give help to someone who didn't ask. How did it go?
- When do you think the desire to ease suffering becomes just about making yourself feel good? How do you know the difference?

Spiritual Practice:

Each morning, journal or pray the following: "God, where would you have me go? What would you have me do? What would you want me to say and to whom?" If you are writing, allow the pen to write freely without thinking too much about it. If you are praying, sit in silence and allow the messages to come however they do.

Good Futures – I-Spy Community Assessment

Valley members are invited to assist the Good Futures Initiative Team by participating in an I-Spy activity. This tool is about gaining a deeper understanding of the wider community in which our congregation is located. All that is required of you is to take a 30-minute walk around your neighborhood (or some of the places beyond work and home that you regularly visit) and take note of what you see; and to engage in three short conversations with locals that you encounter in those locations. All the materials you will need to complete this activity will be available when you sign up at the Church (or by contacting the Church office) beginning Sunday, August 30.

On Sunday, September 27, we invite all participants to a 30–45-minute community conversation, beginning at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, where we will share what we have seen and heard.

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.

Sarah Circle 2026-27

We'd love to have you join us!

**The first meeting for 2026-27 will be:
Tuesday, September 8**

Our study this year:

***United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other —
Paul's First Letter to Corinthians***

Meet September – May the second Tuesday of each month, 10:30 a.m. – noon, in the Church Library. For more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

Mid-week Lunch Group – September 8



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 (September 8, October 13, November 10, 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 Workday

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. — September 9 & 23

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!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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**

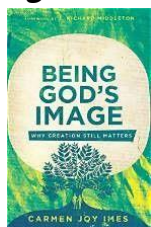
This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. 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

Book Study – *Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters* by Dr. Carmen Joy Imes



I was recently introduced to the deep theological insights and scholarship of the author during my study leave seminar at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Michigan. Her book is insightful, but easy-to-read, and includes suggested scripture readings and discussion questions for each chapter. Weekly sessions will last 60-75 minutes and include an accompanying video from The Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/all>.

Eleven weekly sessions - Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (beginning Sept. 21) or Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (beginning Sept. 23) in the Church Library. Sign up by contacting the office or at Church beginning Sunday, August 30. Books will be available in the Church office for \$15.

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 “Donations” in the header. 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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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Mary Ball