

August 9, 2026

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

Jesus Loves Me

David Paxton

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #288

Spirit of the Living God

Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

By Daniel Iverson / ©1935, renewed 1963 Birdwing Music (admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) / CCL #11043756

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on 1 Kings 11-13)

One: Upon Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God,

All: Not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.

One: Holy God, quiet our minds and our hearts, rid us of distraction,

All: So we can hear you and know you among us.

*GATHERING SONG #410

God Is Calling through the Whisper
(verse 1)

W Żłobie Leży

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs, through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise. Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder: God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

(verse 2)

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers, through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair. Place of hurt or face of needling; strident cry or silent pleading: God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

(verse 3)

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts, through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts. Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing: God is calling—and we hear? God is calling—and we hear!

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: We return to God through confession. Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You know our exhaustion, our cynicism, our sense of defeat. We are quick to lose perspective and exaggerate critique. But you lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. We confess the ways we are tempted to give up on the path of righteousness. We pray for your forgiveness.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 43:1)

One: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #71

Surely, It is God Who Saves Me
(refrain)

First Song

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

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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: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Romans 2:1-4*

Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. ² You say, 'We know that God's judgement on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' ³ Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God? ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

SPECIAL MUSIC

The River *Garth Brooks & Victoria Shaw*
Performed by: Ron Cechner

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:32-38

³² 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to

*Please stand as you are able.

sinner, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

THE MESSAGE

"Do Not Judge"

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

Legend

Robert J. Powell

*DOXOLOGY #716

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
(verse 1)*

Beach Spring

***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and
endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross,
grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering
up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.***

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG #372

*O for a World
(verse 1)*

Azmon

***O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways, where love is
lived and all is done with justice and with praise.***

(verse 2)

***O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is
spoken, children spared, equality achieved.***

(verse 3)

***We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens
us to unity and gives our vision voice.***

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*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Awake, My Soul

Lani Smith

**Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Worship Series

Week Ten: Do Not Judge

Questions to Discuss/Ponder:

- When have you felt unfairly judged by someone?
- What are some moments in your life when you behaved in ways you do not feel represents the fullness of who you are?
- Have you ever changed your mind about someone after learning more about their life?
- What do you think it would feel like if you could use discernment instead of judgement for everything you encountered?

Spiritual Practice:

This is a fun practice! Each day, take a person or situation that bothers you. Now write down what you think of the other person in the worst case scenario. Exaggerate! (Ex: They are the dumbest person ever in the world and have no redeeming qualities!) Once you have gotten it all out, look at the statements and consider whether they are true. You might even laugh at yourself!

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



Community Meal

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: Dusty Timmons

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Beverly Wahl