

September 13, 2026
16th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

A Morning Canticle

Gilbert M. Martin

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #544**

Bless the Lord (sing twice) Bless the Lord (Taizé)
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

All: We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

One: You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free...Serve one another humbly in love.

All: For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

***GATHERING SONG #19**

God of Great and God of Small
(verse 1)

God of Great
and Small

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all, God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

(verse 2)

God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny, God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

(verse 3)

God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found, God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

(verse 4)

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth, God of now and days before, God who reigns forever more, alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious and merciful God, we confess the sin that so easily pervades and surrounds us. We judge others by external categories rather than their internal character. We put too much trust in what can be seen around us and too little in you who dwell in unseen places. Forgive us when we do not listen for your voice - through your Word, in prayer, or within the faithful voices of others. Change us from within that we may serve our neighbor according to your will. To care for those who have been marginalized or treated unjustly, to be an agent of peace, to welcome others in your name. Forgive us, heal us, and set us free by the grace of Jesus our savior.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God, who is merciful and kind, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, hears the cries of all who plead for mercy. As an ordained servant of Jesus Christ I announce to you the good news of forgiveness and release to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame, that you might praise God and serve the world with glad and generous hearts. For freedom Christ has set you free.

All: Thanks be to God.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #471

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer
(verse 1)*

Hear My Prayer

***O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to 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: We ask you, dear God, to move within us as we hear your holy Word. Still our distractions and focus our minds to truly hear and receive what you would teach us, to the glory of your name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 67*

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
² that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
⁷ May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

*Please stand as you are able.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING*Matthew 15:21-28*

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

THE MESSAGE*The Rev. Mary Ellen Hoffman***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*Prelude on "Dundee"**Gordon Young****DOXOLOGY #710***We Lift Our Voices**Offering*

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION**SENDING SONG #312***Take Us As We Are, O God**Endless Feast**(verse 1)*

Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As once you chose to tell your love in human flesh and bone, so let our lives be used to make your saving purpose known.

(verse 2)

Bless us for your service, Lord; no power we devise will ever give us strength enough or make us truly wise, yet by your promise we can know the peace your grace supplies.

(verse 3)

Break us open to disclose how brokenness can heal, wherever broken loaves suffice to give a crowd a meal and graves break open to release new life from death's dread seal.

(verse 4)

Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least, until at length you call us all to your unending feast.

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***BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Dale Wood

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Preacher – Rev. Mary Ellen Hoffman



Valley is pleased to welcome Rev. Mary Ellen Hoffman to lead worship today. Mary Ellen recently retired from Claridon United Church of Christ, is a longtime Bainbridge resident, and a faithful volunteer at Pass-It-On.

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.

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

Wednesday at 10 a.m. — September 23

Choir Starting for 2026-27



The Adult Choir started rehearsals on September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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
Thursdays 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

Community Meal

Tuesday, September 15



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.

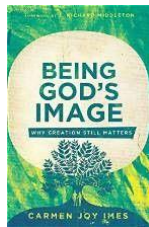
Menu: Chicken casserole, green beans, dinner rolls, apple crisp

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 bake apple crisp (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on September 15th.

See the September Valley Voice, Church website, or weekly e-mail for the links to sign up for the meal and volunteering.

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.

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.

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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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Sean Bulanda

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Heidi Cregar