November 8, 2026
1st Sunday of Extended Advent – *"Uncertain Time"*

PRELUDE *(A Time for Quiet Meditation)*

Higher Ground *John Scriveyner*

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Caleb Huff, Diana Huff, Marilyn Rodenhausen*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #92

While We Are Waiting, Come *Waiting (Cason)*

(verse 1)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Text by Claire Cloninger / ©1986 Word Music, LLC / CCL #11043756

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather today.
All: It is time to worship!
One: We listen for God
All: It is time to hear!
One: We receive God's grace.
All: It is time to be loved!
One: We leave in peace.
All: It is time to serve others!
One: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

***GATHERING SONG #2128 (STF)**

Come and Find the Quiet Center *Beach Spring*

(verse 1)

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

(verse 2)

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

(verse 3)

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

By Shirley Erena Murray / Words ©1992 Hope Publishing Co. / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

*Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO CONFESSSION AND SILENT PRAYER

One: People of God, when we think that we have nowhere left to turn, we can always turn to God. Whether we feel frozen or are rushing with no time to rest, whether it feels like life is happening to us too quickly or like our lives will never change, God is with us. For God, there is always time for forgiveness. We trust God, and we confess our sins together:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Holy One, we have not stayed awake. We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors, in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet. We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us and assumed we were powerless to mend the breaches in our world. Sometimes, we even gave up on your mercy, justice, and love. God, speak tenderly to our anxious hearts. Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done. Amen.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: People of God, hear this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven. Forgiveness gives us the courage we need. Wherever we wait for God's time to come, we will witness wonders.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE** *Out of Time*
(refrain)

You come to us from just beyond, you call to us from out of time, you tear the heavens open wide, shining love across the starlit sky.

Text by Linnea K. Clark and Emily Trubey-Weller / © Barn Geese Worship 2023. All Rights Reserved / Used by Permission

***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.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 70*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! **2** Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire to hurt me. **3** Let those who say, 'Aha, Aha!' turn back because of their shame. **4** Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!' **5** But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

*Please stand as you are able.

CHORAL ANTHEM *You Are Mine* *Haas & Hayes*
Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING
Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were
wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the
wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of
them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, "Look!
Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." 7 Then all those bridesmaids got
up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of
your oil, for our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise replied, "No! there will not
be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for
yourselves." 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those
who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was
shut. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us."
12 But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." 13 Keep awake therefore,
for you know neither the day nor the hour.

THE MESSAGE *"Uncertain Time"* *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 *For This We Pray* *Tom Birchwood*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
*We give thanks together for God's gifts as we offer them back to God. After each prompt, please respond with the simple phrase: "**Thank you**."*
Loving God, for the time we have, we say…
For the gifts we offer, we say…
For the chance to help others, we say…
For the people whose lives will be made better because of these gifts, we say…
For the ways you are changing the world, we say…
We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG #362** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* *Llangloffan*

(verse 1)

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh. Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

(verse 2)

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand; arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

(verse 3)

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Peace Be Upon You* *Wilshire*

***POSTLUDE** *The Brightest Trumpet* *Gerald Peterson*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Extended Advent

What's an extended Advent observance?

In an extended Advent observance, the season of Advent is longer than the usual four weeks. A typical extended Advent season is seven weeks long, beginning on the Sunday after the congregation observes the feast of All Saints (in 2026, November 1).

Where does the idea of an extended Advent observance come from?

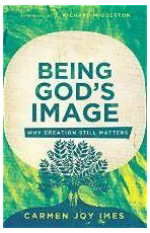
In the early centuries of church history, the length of Advent varied; sometimes it was three weeks, sometimes six or seven, sometimes forty days. The forty-day tradition intentionally positioned Advent as a corollary of the Lenten season. The longer Advent was sometimes called St. Martin's Lent because it began with St. Martin's feast day on November 11, forty-five days before Christmas.

Why have an extended Advent observance?

None of us are surprised when stores stock the shelves with Christmas decorations the moment Halloween is over or when carols play on the radio the day after Thanksgiving. Churches often face an uphill battle to keep the chrismon ornaments in their tissue paper and the Christmas carols out of the Advent bulletins. Playing the Advent Grinch is hardly conducive to our own spiritual welfare and not always the best pastoral approach: sometimes, people just need a little early Christmas joy.

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. (September 21 – December 7) in the Church Library. Books are 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.

Mission in Common – Presbytery Gathering

Saturday, November 7,
9 a.m. – noon, at
North Presbyterian Church

This gathering is part of Mission in Common, an ongoing conversation and learning community for people who care about local mission. Rooted in Pentecost, we will explore how God gathers people across differences; how mission moves beyond charity toward mutuality; and how every person is an equal member of the body of Christ. Together, we will consider practices that build Christian community within a mixed ecology of ministry.

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.

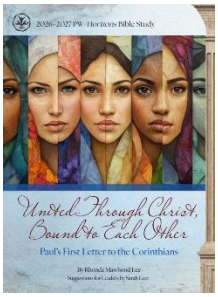


The group will meet on Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
November 8 & 22

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	Bev Keough
502-553-7255	330-888-5385

Sarah Circle 2026-27



We'd love to have you join us!
The next meeting for 2026-27 will be:

Tuesday, November 10

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 – November 10



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 (November 10, December 8, January 12, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:
Friday, November 13
(1 – 4 p.m.)
Saturday, November 14
(10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)
Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Angel Tree



Each Christmas season, Valley has an Angel Tree project. This year, we will be supporting Geauga County Family Services.

We are collecting gift cards. The suggested gift cards are Giant Eagle, Walmart, Aldi, Amazon. There will be a box for the gift cards in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 22. **Please return the gift cards by Sunday, December 13.**

Community Meal

Tuesday, November 24



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: Herbed chicken and broccoli, pasta, tossed salad, pumpkin spice cake

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 a pumpkin spice cake (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on November 24th.

See the November Valley Voice or Church website for the links to sign up for the meal and volunteering.

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

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
Organist: John Kautzman
Liturgist: Lois Urban
Greeter: Jeanne DeLaney