

First Presbyterian Church of Grove City

10:00 am
September 6th, 2026



“To Know Christ and Make Him Known”



We Gather to Praise Our God

**Please rise in body or spirit*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be always with you,

People: And also with you!

PRELUDE

Gather Us In (Hymn #401)

Marty Haugen/arr. John Behnke

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #399

God Welcomes All (sung twice)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

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CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come together

P: to listen for God.

L: We come together

P: to remember what Jesus taught.

L: We come together

P: to be filled with God's love.

L: We come together

P: to learn what is good.

L: We come together

P: to worship the God with us, who created us, loves us, and welcomes us.

All: Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN #401

Here In This Place (Gather Us In)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(unison)

God of grace, you are always helping us
to grow through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we think
we are finished growing or that growth
looks more like power than love. Forgive us.
Remind us we need you to continue to grow.
Help us to practice being more loving, more kind,
and more welcoming, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.
P: In Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed into God's loving arms,
and given the chance to try again. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE #582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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We Hear God's Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

Following Children's Time, preschool-aged children will meet their Sunday School teachers at the back of the sanctuary. All other children will remain in worship.

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:1,12-24

L: The word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God.

We Respond in Thanksgiving and Dedication

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Duet on: *For Everyone Born*

(for text, see Hymn #769)

Sarah Mulvany and Margie Romine, sopranos

*DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*COMMUNION HYMN #526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Why do we first give praise and thanks at this table?

P: We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.

L: Together we say what we remember

**P: We remember Christ's death; we proclaim Christ's resurrection;
we wait for Christ to come again in glory.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*All are welcome to participate in the sacrament. You will be served in your seats by church leaders.
You may eat and drink as you are served. The wine is unfermented grape juice.
Gluten-free bread is in the glass dish.*

We Depart to Share Good News

*SENDING HYMN #203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*RESPONSE #399

God Welcomes All

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

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POSTLUDE *Here in This Place (Hymn #401)* Marty Haugen/arr. John Behnke

The flowers in the sanctuary are provided to the Glory of God by
Bart & Susan Starner, in memory of those lost on 9/11.

Are you new here? Or new-ish?

Do we have your correct contact info?

Please sign the green visitor card in the pew and place it
in the offering plate or scan the code:

We would love to meet you!



News & Announcements



From the Office

In observance of Labor Day, the office will be CLOSED on September 7th.



Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

Today, Barbara Parker, RN, from LifeCare Alliance will offer free blood pressure screenings during Fellowship Time.



Diaper Drive

Our youth invite you to donate diapers (sizes 1, 2, or 3) to be shared with neighbors who come to our monthly brown bag lunch. Diapers are expensive, and lack of diapers can cause health complications for babies. Please be generous!



Men's Fellowship Returns

Men's Fellowship resumes Saturday, September 12, at 7:30 a.m. Join us as we begin studying *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh and Sean McDowell, an accessible exploration of the evidence for Jesus' life, identity, and resurrection. All are welcome.



From the Music Director

Adult Choir is beginning on September 10 at 6:30 pm. We have positions open in all voice sections - soprano, alto, tenor or bass. It is not necessary to be able to read music, but must have a willingness to learn to read. One great way to do that is to join a beginning Handbell Choir. **Handbells Choir will begin on September 13 from 9-9:25 AM.** If you are interested in helping make a joyful noise to the Lord, talk to Chris after the services on August 30 or September 6. Many hands (voices) help make this happen. If you are looking for a short commitment of time, join us for any of the following time periods: Fall, Advent/Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, or Easter Sundays. Contact Chris Dederer at his cell phone: 708-642-2741.



Make New Friends and Keep the Old!

If you would like to be part of a small group, now is the time to sign up! Groups will meet monthly for about an hour, starting in September. Each gathering will include a short Bible study and time for fellowship and getting better acquainted. One gathering is already established: Third Wednesday of each month, 2:00-3:00 pm. You can sign up for this time, or you can sign up and indicate that you prefer "evening" or "weekend" and you will be connected with a group. Sign up on the FPCGC app or in the narthex!





Don't throw that away!

You can recycle your bulletin (and other clean paper, glass, plastic) in the blue bin in the back of the sanctuary. And on your way to coffee in the Fellowship Center, you can drop off pop tabs (to benefit Ronald McDonald House), ink cartridges (to benefit cancer patient programs), eyeglasses (to be distributed to those in need).



Live Streaming Reminder

We're thrilled to continue to offer online worship for those who cannot join us in person. As we continue to improve our technology, we encourage you to utilize YouTube to view our service. Compared to Facebook, YouTube is a more stable and accessible platform, and we are finding there are fewer issues with viewing the stream there. Please check the app, website, or the link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@FPC-GC-Ohio/live>



Christian Nationalism FAQ (From PC(USA))

Recently a church leader said, "we keep hearing about Christian nationalism, but I don't even know what it is!" Fair enough! It's important to know the difference between patriotism and nationalism and why nationalism is dangerous. Check out a helpful one-page FAQ that starts with "What is Christian Nationalism?" Print copies are in the narthex. A longer read is the statement recently adopted by the General Assembly, the most representative body in our denomination, including the biblical and theological reasons nationalism is not consistent with our faith. Check with the office if you would like a copy of this document.



Lunch Together

Join other church members and friends for lunch on Wednesdays at 12pm. No RSVP required. See to the right for each week's location. Questions? Call Ken Simeral (cell 740-317-9476).

September 9th: Bob Evans (Georgesville)

September 16th: IHOP

September 23rd: Sunny Street Café

September 30th: Planks

October 7th: Olive Garden

October 14th: Fiesta Mariachi (Georgesville)

October 21st: 3 Brothers

Leading Worship Today

Pastor:

Rev. Wendy McCormick

Liturgist

Barbara Mogren

Ushers:

PW Faith Circle

Technology:

Kirk Bohanan, Hannah Stewart, Benson Tabi

Worship Music:

Chris Dederer, Director of Music

This Week's Scripture Readings

Luke 14:15-24 (NRSVue)

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

15 One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" **16** Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. **17** At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' **18** But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' **19** Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' **20** Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' **21** So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' **22** And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' **23** Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. **24** For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "



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