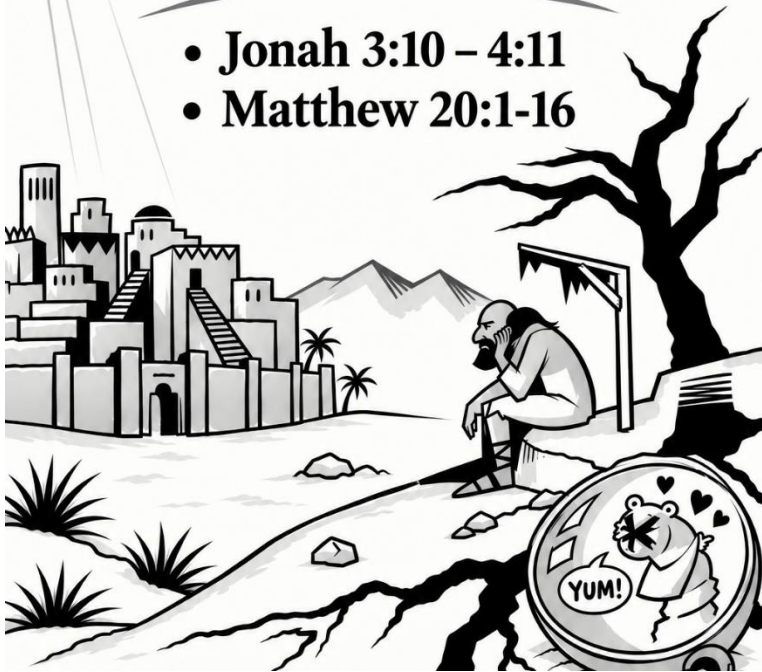


When Grace Seems Unfair

- Jonah 3:10 – 4:11
- Matthew 20:1-16



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost | Poage Landing Days

September 20, 2026

9:30 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Ryan Whitman

Prelude

Max Jackson

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

Anne Davis

† **Call to Worship**

Mary Brown

L: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

P: God's greatness is unsearchable.

L: From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.

**A: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love.**

† **Hymn of Praise**

#36

For the Fruit of All Creation

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,

silent growth while we are sleeping,

future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,

for the truths that still confound us,

most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, when we follow the path of Jonah and allow our
anger and frustration to cut us off from others, you sit next to us

and call us back to your way of mercy, love and redemption. It is one thing to accept these gifts for ourselves; it is another to extend them to those who frustrate us. Forgive us for our anger, resentment, and desire to hoard. We lay these impulses at your feet and ask that you create a new heart within us, one modeled after your steadfast love and generosity. Help us to see the world in new ways. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#439 (2,3)

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

God forgives all your transgressions, all diseases gently heals;
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.

Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;
like the pity of a father has the Lord's compassion been.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 3:10-4:11 (NRSV)

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.



⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 145

#42

Your Faithfulness, O Lord, Is Sure

Your faithfulness, O Lord, is sure
in all Your words, Your gracious deeds;
You gently lift all burdened souls
and well provide for all our needs.

The eyes of all are fixed on You;
by You their wants are all supplied;
Your open hand is bountiful
and every soul is satisfied.

Lord, You are just in all Your ways,
and kind in everything You do;
forever near You stand to hear
and help all those who call on You.

My mouth shall speak Your praise, O Lord;
my soul shall bless Your holy name;
let all things living join the song
of praise, from age to age the same.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 20:1–16 (NRSV)

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them,

‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ! P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Ryan Whitman

When Grace Seems Unfair

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

† **Hymn of Response**

#175

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.

Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Allelu, alleluia!

† Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' 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 into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick 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.

Pastoral Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: Peacemaking

† 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.

† Prayer of Dedication

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

† Hymn of Sending

#839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

Postlude

If You Will Only Let God Guide You

Johann G Walther

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Jan Holbrook*

Liturgist: *Mary Brown*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 75

General Offering: \$1,861.00

5 Cents a Meal Hunger Program: \$51.05

CARes: \$100.00

Organ Repair Fund: \$25.00

Online Offering: \$849.00

Total Offering: \$2,886.05

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

↪SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m. cancelled

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m. cancelled

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m. (on break, will resume 9/27)

Morning Worship, 9:30 a.m.

The Chosen Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

↪TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Tai Chi, 5 p.m.

Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

↪WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bell Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

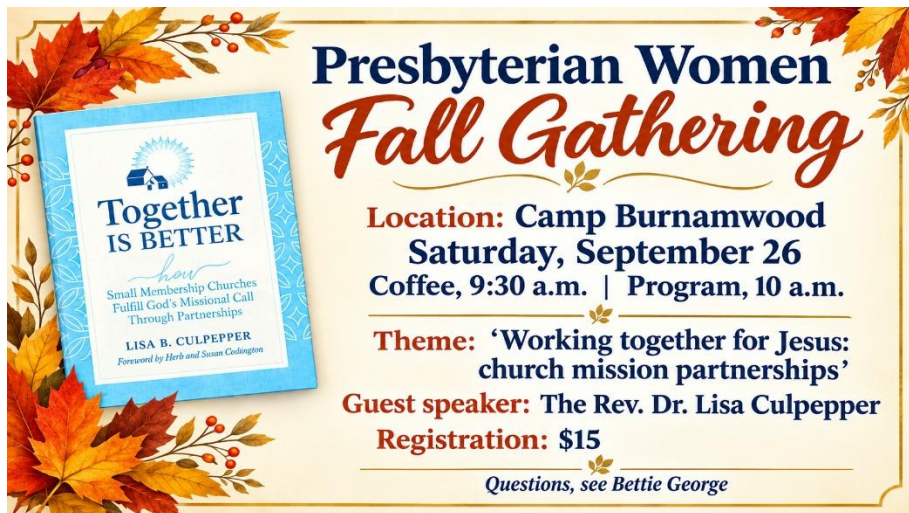
↪THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.

➡ **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

Tai Chi, 11 a.m.

Presbyterian Woman Fall Gathering/Camp Burnamwood, 9:30 a.m.

A poster for the Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering. It features a book titled "Together IS BETTER" by Lisa B. Culpepper, with a subtitle "how Small Membership Churches Fulfill God's Missional Call Through Partnerships". The book is surrounded by autumn leaves. The main title "Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering" is in a large, stylized font. Below it, the location and date are listed: "Location: Camp Burnamwood Saturday, September 26". The time for coffee and the program is "Coffee, 9:30 a.m. | Program, 10 a.m.". The theme is "Theme: 'Working together for Jesus: church mission partnerships'". The guest speaker is "Guest speaker: The Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper". The registration fee is "Registration: \$15". At the bottom, it says "Questions, see Bettie George".

Together IS BETTER
how
Small Membership Churches
Fulfill God's Missional Call
Through Partnerships
LISA B. CULPEPPER
Foreword by Herb and Susan Cologian

**Presbyterian Women
Fall Gathering**

Location: Camp Burnamwood
Saturday, September 26
Coffee, 9:30 a.m. | Program, 10 a.m.

Theme: 'Working together for Jesus:
church mission partnerships'

Guest speaker: The Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper
Registration: \$15

Questions, see Bettie George

A colorful poster for Sunday School. It features a sun in the top left corner. The text "Calling all children and youth to join Sunday School" is in a large, playful font. Below it, it says "beginning Sunday, Sept. 27 at 9:45 a.m.". In the bottom left, there is an illustration of an open book with a cross above it. In the bottom right, there are four stylized figures of children in blue, orange, green, and purple, with their arms raised. The background is white with a yellow brushstroke behind the date and time.

**Calling all
children and youth
to join
Sunday School**

**beginning
Sunday, Sept. 27
at 9:45 a.m.**

Contemplative Prayer

Sunday School Class

9:30 a.m.

Begins

Sunday, September 27

See Kathleen Filkins for questions.

New Sunday School Class To Begin

"Be still and know that I am God." *Psalm 46:10*

When were you last quiet and still in God's Presence? Our world is busy, full of multiple distractions. Join us **Sunday, September 27 at 9:30 a.m.** to take time to sit quietly with the intent to be with the Holy One. Meditative music, led by Todd Wilson. The class will continue through November 15. The first session will introduce participants to the ancient practice of Contemplative Prayer. This practice was first recorded during the last part of the 14th century, an age of pandemic. It was shared widely and ecumenically during the 1970's by Fr. Thomas Keating in Snowmass, CO. There will be a time for private and corporate prayer. We will meet the first Sunday in the 2nd floor parlor near the choir room. Please see Kathleen Filkins for any questions.



Birthday Celebration for Max

Please join us on **Sunday, September 27** as we celebrate the birthday of our own Max Jackson. There will be a reception immediately following Morning Worship in the Narthex. A basket will be available for cards

and/or other expressions of appreciation.

You Are Invited!



Sunflower Seeds Tri-State Aid for Ukraine

The Missions Ministry Team invites you to a light luncheon following worship on **September 27**. President John Yeager will give a presentation and video about the organization. For additional information, see Donna Jones or visit: sunflowerseedstristate.com.



Pulpit Supply:

Sept. 27: | Rev.
Deanna Bradley

October 4: | Rev.
Jerry Utz

October 11: | Rev.
Jimm Smedley

October 18: | Patrick
Hall

October 25: | Rev.
Jerry Utz

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending September 19

Kena Broomall/Surgery Nov. 3 (Kelly & Mark Hanni's daughter)
Jacob Mollette (Glen & Christy Thomas' son)

Week ending September 12

Carolyn Burton (Melissa Rigsby)

Week ending September 5

Darlene Garris (Kay Ferguson's niece)
Jason Garris (Kay Ferguson's great nephew)
Mike Hall (Geri Willis' brother)
Family of Libby LaFon (Kelly Hanni)
Don Lilly
Cara Martin (Jennifer Johnson)
Family of Jane Elizabeth Zwick (Ryan Whitman)

Ongoing:

<i>Christina Akers</i> (Heather Whitman's sister-in-law)	<i>Nancy Payne</i>
<i>Bill Gesling</i>	<i>Bonnie Pettijohn</i>
<i>Charlie Holbrook</i>	<i>Tim Shepard</i>
<i>Angie Lewis</i>	<i>Jan Winans</i>
<i>Chris Payne</i>	<i>Ann Wiseman</i>
<i>Derek Payne</i>	

Boyd Nursing and Rehabilitation: Kenny McGill, Sr.

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: Betty Jean Phipps

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins);
Lieutenant Katie Brown (US Army, granddaughter of Mike Whitman); Christian Brown (US Air Force, grandson of Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Lieutenant Colonel Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

STAFF

Minister: *Vacant*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Jan Holbrook*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2027	2028	2029
<i>Jimmy Hall</i>	<i>Teresa Cassity</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook *</i>
<i>Lee McCloud *</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni *</i>	<i>Mike Lilly</i>
<i>J.T. Norris *</i>	<i>Donna Jones</i>	<i>Ellen Sharp</i>
*2nd term of service		

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Teresa Cassity</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Donna Jones</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Jan Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Mitch Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Mike Lilly</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



P.O. Box 1 | 1600 Winchester Avenue | Ashland, Kentucky 41101
office@fpcaky.org | www.fpcaky.org | 606.324.4122