

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

5th Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Blessing of the Cancer Patient Pillows

Prelude

Winchester Bells

Song of Joy

Arnold Sherman

† Call to Worship

Heather Whitman

L: We gather together in praise and worship of our faithful God, because our help and hope rests always in Him.

P: We bring our praises and thankful responses to our saving God.

L: Blessed be the Lord our God, who is our security and home, and whose mercy and grace free us from all that traps us.

P: Blessings, reverent honor and glory be to the Lord our God.

L: We come together to praise and worship our all-powerful God, because we are confident of God's generous care over us.

P: Our eternal trust is in the name of the Lord our God, who is our Maker, our Savior, and our timeless home.

All: In You, O Lord, is our hope and trust; now and always! Amen.

† Hymn of Praise

#363

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains, He took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints to their eternal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Lord God, You who bring new opportunities to our lives, we confess that often we do not want to look forward in hope but remain strongly oriented to the past. Help us to learn how to look forward with confidence and hope. Help us, too, Lord, to look to all our new opportunities as moments of holy encounter in You. In the name of the risen Christ, Jesus our Lord, Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#245 (3)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Rejoice, Good Christians

Melchior Vulpus

Rejoice ye Christians, raise the strain; the Crucified is risen.

The soldier guard was all in vain; the Lord hath burst His prison.

O mighty conqueror in the strife, Thine enemies be scattered.

Thy springing forth from death to life the gates of hell hath shattered. Seal, napkin, earthquake, moon by night bear witness

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with the angels bright, to Jesus' resurrection. O risen Lord, for sinners slain upon the tree of scorning. Shall man alone from praise refrain upon that happy morning when all thy works, the blowing mead, the soaring lark, the growing seed, proclaim Thy resurrection.

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3–9 (NRSV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Psalm 121 (tune: St. Anne)

#45

I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes

I to the hills will lift my eyes; from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone, who heaven and earth has made.

God will not let your foot be moved; your guardian never sleeps;
God's watchful and unslumbering care protects and safely keeps.

Your faithful keeper is the Lord, your shelter and your shade.
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night, you shall not be afraid.

From evil God will keep you safe, provide for all you need.
Your going out, your coming in, God will forever lead.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** John 3:5-17 (NRSV)

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the One who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

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

Sermon

Life-Giving Words from an Empty Tomb – HOPE!

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#353

My Hope is Built

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

† **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 | Lord's Prayer

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: Clean Start

† **Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me Thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

Postlude

Voluntary No.8 in G

Paul Page

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Geri Willis*

Liturgist: *Heather Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 86

General Offering: \$1,381.27

Backpack Ministry: \$270.00

Building Rent: \$150.00

Organ Repair: \$70.00

Youth/Earth Care: \$25.00

Online Offering: \$450.00

Total Offering: \$2,346.27

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

➡ SUNDAY, MAY 18

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Congregational Meeting, Noon

Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.

➡ MONDAY, MAY 19

Sew Blessed, 6 p.m.

➡ TUESDAY, MAY 20

Finance Ministry Team, 5:30 p.m.

➡ WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

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

Zumba Class, 5 p.m.

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

➡ THURSDAY, MAY 22

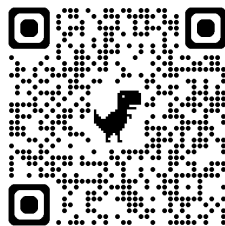
Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.

➡ SATURDAY, MAY 24

Zumba Class, 9:30 a.m.

Earth Care T-Shirts

To support our Earth Care efforts, we are offering First Presbyterian Church Earth Care tee shirts for order. If you'd like to purchase one, you can find order forms located on the table in the narthex. For an even quicker option, simply scan the QR code. **Today is the last day to order shirts.**



Zumba Classes Offered



Wednesdays - 5–6 p.m.

(Beginning Wednesday, May 21)

Saturdays: 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Karen Coburn | Questions, see Bettie George

Baby Bottle Blessings

Baby bottles are currently available in the narthex for those who wish to contribute to the *Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center*. We invite you to take a bottle and fill it at your convenience with coins, cash, or a check. The filled baby bottles are due back by Father's Day (June 15). Thank you!

Important Announcement!



Beginning on **Sunday, July 6**, the church will start airing worship services live only on the church YouTube page. We will no longer be live streaming to Facebook. Please subscribe

to the church YouTube channel by going to **youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianAshlandKY**.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending May 15, 2025

Jerry Hall (Geri Willis' brother)

Steve Murray (online request)

Week ending May 8, 2025

Christina Columber (Greg & Geri Willis)

Family of Ernie Pitt (Charlie Holbrook's friend)

Week ending May 1, 2025

Family of Yohana Calvert

Aaron Lewis (Dave & Judy Eby's friend)

Family of Freddy Whelan (Pastor Bill)

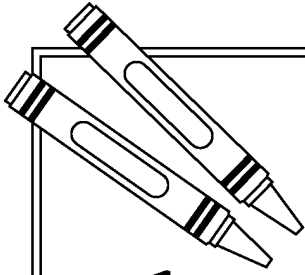
Ann Wiseman

Ongoing: Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Lee Hall; Charlie Holbrook; Kenny McGill; Bob Miller; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: Carolyn Graber

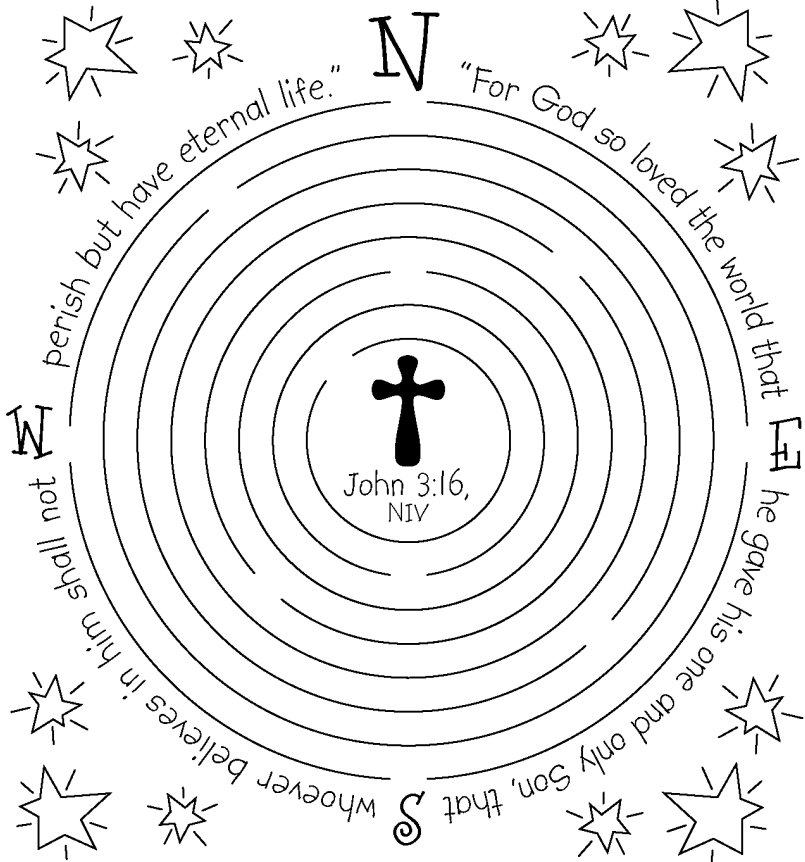
Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)



Just for KIDS

For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.



STAFF

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

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
*2nd term of service		

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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