

God
LOVES A
cheerful
GIVER.

2 corinthians 9:7



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 5, 2023

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Stewardship Moment

Michael Lilly

Prelude

Max Jackson

O for a Closer Walk with God

(Rosalie Bonighton)

Call to Worship

Jane Justice

Leader: With all that we are, we gather to worship the Lord our God.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Leader: We gather to remember the gracious providence of God and to celebrate His generosity.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all our iniquity and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy as long as we live.

Leader: We gather to receive God's gift for us, and to renew our vows to Him.

People: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

All: Not to us, O Lord, but to Your name we give glory for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness! Amen.

† **Hymn of Praise**

#35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
gladly for aye we adore Him.

† **Call of Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, You who hold us so gently, teach us the art of letting go of anything that keeps us from Your embrace. We grab and clutch things that are often only a passing fad. We go after success and recognition as if they will fill our deepest longings. We saddle relationships with unrealistic and unfair expectations. Loving God, lead us to a deeper sense of gratitude, a growing sense of trust in Your ability to provide. Teach us what treasures will last until heaven. Show us the blessings of giving with joy, loving without conditions, sharing from our abundance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#439 (2,3)

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** ✠

Children's Message

Lisa Stevens

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 9:1–2, 6–7 (NRSV)

Now it is not necessary for me to write you about the ministry to the saints, ²for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year, and your zeal has stirred

(continued next page)

up most of them. ⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Psalm 100

#385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell.
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God; indeed,
without our aid He did us make;
we are His folk; He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise;
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood
and shall from age to age endure.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Mark 4:30–32 (NRSV)

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

The Promise in Sowing

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

Hymn of Response

#712 (1, 3)

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we, today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop, and home, of mind and heart and hand.

In gratitude and humble trust, we bring our best today,
to serve Your cause and share Your love with all along life's way.

O God who gave Yourself to us in Jesus Christ Your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering—Backpack Ministry

† **Doxology**

All praise to God the Father; all praise to God the Son.
All praise to God the Spirit; Eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne.
And honor, pow'r and glory ascribe to God alone!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Be Present at Our Table Lord

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Be present at our table Lord; be here and everywhere adored.
Thy people bless, and grant that we may dwell in Paradise with
Thee.

✦ **THE LORD'S SUPPER** ✦

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right...Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and
sing Your eternal praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

...With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great
joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery
of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit.... Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

...As we continue to live as Your disciples, hear us as we pray as You taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#733

We All are One in Mission

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Voluntary No. 26 in G Major

(Paul Page)

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Geri Willis*

Liturgist: *Jane Justice*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 85

General Offering: \$949.00

Building Rent: \$150.00

Operation Christmas Child: \$50.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$27.00

Thanksgiving Baskets: \$50.00

Online Giving: \$153.00

Total Offering: \$1,379.00

TEXT FPCAKEY TO 73256 TO GIVE USING YOUR MOBILE DEVICE.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, November 5

Sunday Morning Study, 9:18 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.

Crafternoon Party: 12:15 p.m.

Monday, November 6

Horizons Bible Study, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8

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

Sanctuary Open for Prayer, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

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

Thursday, November 9

Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am. | Paper Angels, 1 p.m.



Prayer Bracelets for Erik Adkins and Unit

There are red, white, and blue prayer bracelets in the Narthex for anyone who would like to join us as we pray for Erik and his unit during their deployment!

Collecting Donations for Thanksgiving Baskets

We are again receiving donations for the Ashland Youth Services Center Thanksgiving Baskets. The deadline is **November 12**. This is a wonderful outreach to many in our area who are struggling to make ends meet. We had an overflowing of items last year. We helped feed dozens of families throughout the Ashland Schools in our area. You may drop off your donations here at FPC during office hours, Monday – Thursday or Sundays. Thank you for your giving spirit!

Items needed:

Instant Mashed Potatoes	Gravy	Stuffing
Biscuit or Roll Mix	Cranberry Sauce	Canned Green Beans
Cream of Mushroom Soup	Crispy Onion Straws	Canned Sweet Potatoes
Brown Sugar	Marshmallows	Pecans
Canned Corn	Pumpkin Pie Filling	Canned Milk
Coffee and Tea	Hot Cocoa Mix	Clothes Baskets

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for providing a lot of joy in the lives of children around the world with your OCC shoebox! Please return your box(es) to the church by **November 12**. If you can provide \$10 for the shipping cost per box; we would be grateful. If unable to provide the money, please bring your box and we will make sure shipping is covered. Thank you for your generosity!

Baptism Sunday

We will observe Baptism Sunday during worship on **November 19**. Please be in prayer for those being baptized and be ready to support them in their faith journey.

Thanksgiving & Stewardship Commitment Dinner

We will gather **Sunday, November 19**, in the Bethesda Community Hall following morning worship for a time of thanksgiving for our Stewardship Emphasis success! The Church is providing turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and drinks. We are being asked to provide salads, sides, and desserts. We hope to see you as we celebrate together God's blessings in our congregation.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending November 2, 2023

Deployment of Erik Adkins and Unit

Barry Barbour & Bonnie Pettijohn

Kyle Call (Pastor Bill & Nanette)

David Eby

Family of Martha Gesling

Tim Shepard (Bonnie Pettijohn's son)

Israel/Middle East Conflict

Week ending October 26, 2023

Michelle Brown (online request)

Dr. Joe Bill Frazier (Kelly Hanni)

Week ending October 19, 2023

Raechel Chambers

Jerry Hall (Geri Willis' brother)

Mike Hall (Geri Willis' brother)

Judge Lew Nicholls (Charlie & Jan Holbrook's friend)

Bob Poore (Kingsbrook, #225)

Jim Wiseman

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Gretchen Dillon, Annie & Bob Miller, Derek Payne

Morning Pointe: Carolyn Graber

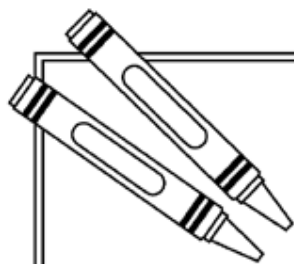
Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, Dayton, OH, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

Sanctuary Open for Prayer



Continuing through November on Wednesday evenings from **5:30 –8 p.m.**, our sanctuary will be available for you to come and meditate, reflect on God's love and/or pray. Volunteers will let you in at the door at the top of the front steps. If you would like to volunteer as a host, see Heather Shay or sign-up in the Narthex.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Just for **KIDS**

A Special Song of Thanks

Use the music code to find the words for this familiar song of thanks.

CODE:

A ≡	E	I	O	U
B	F	L <	P	V
C	G	M ^	R	W #
D	H	N	S	X ?
			T	Y

Challenge: What do we commonly call this song?

The

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

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*

2024	2025	2026
<i>Lee McCloud</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>
<i>J.T. Norris</i>	<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>
<i>Cathy Wilson*</i>	<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>
		*2nd term of service

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: TBD	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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Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.