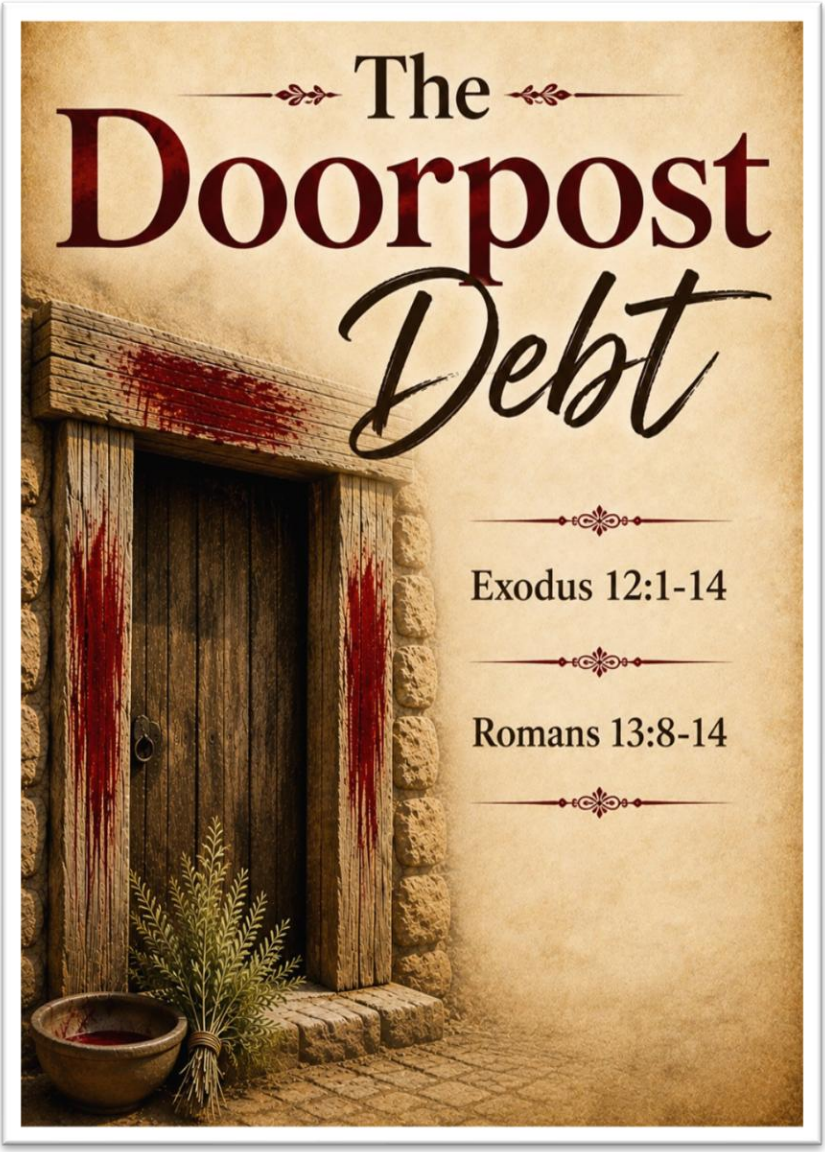


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THE HEART OF ASHLAND

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Holy Communion

September 6, 2026 10:50 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Max Jackson*

Prelude in G Major
Leon Boellmann

† **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 149) *Jimmy Hall*

L: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
P: We shall praise God's name in the assembly of the faithful.
L: Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
P: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; God adorns the humble with victory.
L: Let the faithful exult in glory.
P: Let us praise God.

† **Hymn of Praise** #662

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ, the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and Loving God, you desire good: good in the world and good in our lives. You have given us ways to know you and ways to know what your will is for us. But we confess that our wants and our desires cause us to turn away, to choose our own will and

our own way. We think it will lead us to where we want to be, but God, we know that your way is the way of life eternal. So we pray for your Holy Spirit to work within us, to guide and lead us, to help us bear fruit, to grow and cultivate in us the way of life. Come, Holy Spirit, come. 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

Children's Message

Anthem *Chancel Choir*

O Savior of the World

John Goss

O Savior of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hath redeemed us, save us and help us we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 (NRSV)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4** If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7** They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which

they eat it. [8] They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. [9] Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. [10] You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. [11] This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. [12] I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. [13] The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. [14] "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

Psalm 149 *Congregation*

Praise ye the Lord among His saints,
New songs of gladness sing;
Let Zion's children praise and bless their Maker and their King,
their Maker and their King.

Yea, let them praise His blessed Name with all abounding joy,
The sounding timbrel and the harp in songs of praise employ, in
songs of praise employ.

The Lord takes pleasure in His saints,
He is His people's strength,
And He will glorify the meek with victory at length,
with victory at length.

Ye saints, by day and night rejoice, exult and joyful stand,
Jehovah's praises in your mouth, His sword within your hand,
His sword within your hand.

This is the glorious judgment given:
His saints shall rule the earth;
Then bless the Lord, His glory tell, and celebrate His worth,
and celebrate His worth.

The New Testament Lesson: Romans 13:8-14 (NRSV)

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the
one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** The
commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not
murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any
other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall
love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a
neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.**11** Besides
this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment
for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we became believers; **12** the night is far gone; the
day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and
put on the armor of light; **13** let us walk decently as in the day,
not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and
licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, put
on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh,
to gratify its desires.

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

Sermon *Rev. Jennifer Johnson*

The Doorpost Debt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

† **Hymn of Response** #233

<u>The Day of Resurrection!</u>

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.

† **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** #606

<u>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</u>
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**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table *Rev. Jennifer Johnson*

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 of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of our lives even 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.

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People
(We will receive the bread and cup from our ushers. Eat the bread as an individual act of repentance and thanksgiving. Please retain the cup until all are served and we will take it together.)

Prayer After Communion

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

† **Hymn of Sending** #377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: *In Him, there is no darkness at all.*
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

Postlude

Voluntary No 8 in G Major
Paul Page

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Jan Holbrook* | Liturgist: *Jimmy Hall*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 78
General Offering: $730.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: $45.00
Tee Shirts: $20.00
Online Offering: $380.00
Total Offering: $1,175.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

➦SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m. (on break, will resume 9/13)
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.
Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m. (on break, will resume 9/27)
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m. | **Kara's Baby Sprinkle, Noon**

➦Monday, September 7
Labor Day, office closed

➦Tuesday, September 8
Tai Chi, 5 p.m.

September Pulpit Supply:
Sept. 13: *Rev. Jimm Smedley*
Sept. 20: *Ryan Whitman*
Sept. 27: *Rev. Deanna Bradley*

➦Wednesday, September 9
Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans
Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

➦Thursday, September 10
Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.| Horizons Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.

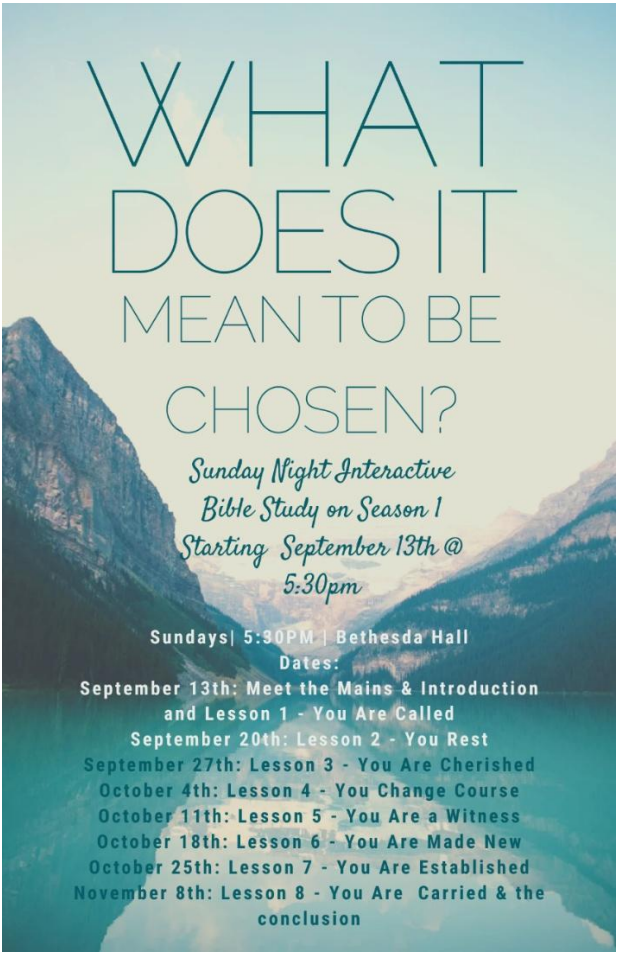
➦Saturday, September 12
Tai Chi, 11 a.m.

Calling all children and youth to join Sunday School beginning Sunday, Sept. 27 at 9:45 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child
***September*: wash cloths, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, fun band-aids, nail files**

Poage Landing Days Worship, Sunday, September 20
We will gather for worship in the sanctuary beginning at **9:30 a.m.** Please note that there will be no Sunday School on that Sunday. Ryan Whitman will fill the pulpit. Please keep Ryan in your prayers as he prepares to lead us in worship.

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering
Please find the details below for the upcoming Fall Gathering:
▶Location: Camp Burnamwood
▶ Date: **Saturday, September 26**, 2026
▶ Time: Coffee at 9:30 a.m. | Program begins at 10 a.m.
▶ Theme: "Working together for Jesus: church mission partnerships"
▶ Program Features: Guest speaker The Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper, author of *Together is Better: How Small Membership Churches Fulfill God's Mission Call Through Partnerships*. The program will include ideas for churches connecting with each other for mission projects, ecumenical connections, and more.
▶ Registration: $15 (Due by Wednesday, September 16)



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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending September 5

Kena Broomall/Surgery Nov. 3 (Kelly & Mark Hanni's daughter)
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)

Week ending August 27, 2026

Jacob Mollette (Glen & Christy Thomas' son)
Nancy Payne
Family of Steve Reliford (Kelly Hanni)

Week ending August 20, 2026

Tyler Reliford and family (Kelly Hanni)
Heather Shay

Ongoing:

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

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
Jimmy Hall	*Teresa Cassity*	*Jan Holbrook **
*Lee McCloud **	*Kelly Hanni **	*Mike Lilly*
*J.T. Norris **	*Donna Jones*	*Ellen Sharp*
*2nd term of service		

MINISTRY TEAMS

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

To visit the church website, scan the code below.

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