It Only Takes a Spark

Stewardship 2027

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE HEART OF ASHLAND

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost | Stewardship Emphasis

November 8, 2026 10:50 a.m.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome *Mike Lilly*

Stewardship Moment *Andrew Jones*

Prelude *Max Jackson*

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty
John Behnke

† **Call to Worship**

L: Loving Christ, you are our gentle Shepherd.
P: We are your people; we long to know your will and to live in your way.
L: Keep us safe and secure in your compassionate hands.
P: Lead us, gentle Shepherd, lead us into new paths of love and service.
L: As you lead and guide us, touch our hearts and minds in this worship time,
P: So that our spirits may be refreshed and our lives filled with joy and praise.

† **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**

Creating God, in love you moved over the waters of chaos and separated sea from dry land. And yet, we cling tightly to rigid boundaries of our own making. You claim us in the waters of baptism and declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. But too often we deny that call, conforming ourselves to the whims of culture. At Pentecost, you released your wild and transforming spirit to flow through church and world. But we want to tame that wildness, channeling your spirit through banks of ordered safety. Transform us, we pray. Soften the unyielding edges of our hearts. Loosen our grip on "the way it's always been" and prepare us for the joy of "the way it still can be," through Jesus Christ. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response** #435 (1)

<u>There's a Wideness In God's Mercy</u>

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea. There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Children's Message ***Blessing of Operation Christmas Child Boxes***

(The children will collect coins for the 5 Cents a Meal Hunger Program following the children's message. Thank you for your contribution to this important ministry.)

Anthem *Chancel Choir*

<u>Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers</u>

Arr. K Lee Scott

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arriving and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near; Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.

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The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand. The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore; Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see. The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free.

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Joshua 24:1–15 (NRSV) *Carli Weston*

24 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. **3** Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, **4** and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. **5** Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. **6** When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. **7** When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. **8** Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. **9** Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, **10** but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. **11** When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against

you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. **12** I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. **13** I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant. **14** "Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. **15** Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

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

Psalm 78:1–7 *Congregation*

A Psalm of God's Guidance

"Give ear, my people, to my Law," thus did the Lord command;
"My words, though cast in parable, your hearts can understand.
To tell your children of my might is all that I demand!"

Each passing generation sings the wonders of the Lord,
That those who follow in their steps may be of one accord.
To keep God's Law above all else and hold God yet adored.

How marvelous the Lord preserved our kindred in distress;
The sea a path did yield, and springs did feed the wilderness.
No less are we today the heirs of truth and righteousness.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:1–13 (NRSV)

Rev. Jennifer Johnson

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

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6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to
the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for
you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some
for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the
bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him
into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later
the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to
us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'
13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor
the hour.

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

Sermon

Choose This Day

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

† **Hymn of Response** #357

The Days Are Surely Coming

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.

† **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 (sins)

Offering Acknowledgement *Special Offering: Organ Repair Fund*

† **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** #546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

Postlude

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Johann G Walther

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Donna Jones* | Liturgist: *Mike Lilly*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 85
General Offering: $3,397.00
Backpack Ministry: $65.00
Operation Christmas Child Boxes Postage: $50.00
Online Offering: $1,267.00
Total Offering: $4,779.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

→ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.
Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.
Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.
Contemplative Prayer, 9:30 a.m. (final session)
Children and Youth: 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.
The Chosen "Holy Night" movie, 5 p.m.

→ MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
Ministry Teams meeting, 5:30 p.m.

→ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Tai Chi, 5 p.m.

→ WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans
Bell Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

→ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m. | Horizon's Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.



CHRISTMAS WITH

THE CHOSEN

"HOLY NIGHT"

Join us this evening at 5 p.m.

upstairs in the church theater.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers

We need volunteers to ring the bells for the Salvation Army. There are 30-minute time slots. If you would like to volunteer, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or see Donna Jones.

SATURDAY, NOVERNBER 21
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
IN FRONT OF JCP





Thanksgiving & Stewardship Commitment Dinner

Sunday, November 22

Following morning worship
Bethesda Community Hall

Celebrate God's blessings and our stewardship campaign!

The church will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, desserts, and drinks.

Please bring a side dish or salad.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 22
7 p.m.
at the Salvation Army

Family Advent Kick-Off

Please join us on
Sunday, November 29,
following morning worship in the Bethesda Hall for a Family time of
CHRISTmas FUN!!

We will make Family Advent crafts, and Christmas Bingo.

A pizza lunch will be provided.

Please contact Kelly Hanni, 606.923.7826, with any questions.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending November 5

Brittany Bentine (Ann Wiseman's granddaughter)
Kena Broomall (Kelly & Mark Hanni's daughter)
Mary Brown (Mike Whitman's daughter)
FPC Pastor Search
Fractured family relationship (anonymous)
Family of Jan Winans (she passed away Nov. 3)

Week ending October 29

Ted Hall (David Murphy)
Jacob Mollette (Glen & Christy Thomas' son)

Week ending October 22

Mike Hall (Geri Willis' brother)
Roger Hall

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); Ashland's National Guard Battalion 201 deployed in May 2026 to the Middle East; 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.

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