

For I am  
*not ashamed*  
of the gospel,  
because it is the  
*power of God*  
that brings  
*salvation*  
to everyone who  
*believes.*

ROMANS 1:16, NIV



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter | Memorial Day Sunday

May 25, 2025

10:50 a.m.

## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

Prelude

*Max Jackson*

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here (two verses)

J S Bach

## † Call to Worship

*Heather Whitman*

L: God of the known and the unknown,

**P: we come into Your presence this morning with confidence  
that You will meet us here.**

L: Where there is sadness, bring joy;

**P: Where there is tiredness, bring refreshment;**

Leader: Where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.

**P: Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe haven for us, a home for  
holy words and songs and prayers as we devote ourselves to  
You.**

**All: In You, O Lord, unashamedly, we put our trust; now and  
always! Amen.**

## † Hymn of Praise

#336

### We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, was at our side; all glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, forgive us when we stray from Your path and succumb to the temptation of the moment. Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your path. Forgive us for failing to see every person as one of Your beloved children. Forgive us when we hold onto our anger and hurts, failing to forgive as You have forgiven us. Forgive us when we forget to live our lives in a way that shows that You are our God, and we are Your people. Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your path. In the name of Jesus, the One, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. 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*

Come Let With Our Lord Arise

Robert Powell

Come let us with our Lord arise, our Lord who made both earth and skies. Who died to save the world he made and rose triumphant from the dead; He rose, the Prince of life and peace, and stamped the day forever his. This is the day the Lord hath made, that all may see his love displayed. May feel his resurrection power and rise again to fall no more. Then let us render him his own with prayer approach his throne, With meekness hear the gospel word with thanks his dying love record, Our joyful hearts and voices raise and fill his courts with songs of praise.

## Prayer for Illumination

### The Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:8–17 (NRSV)

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. <sup>9</sup> For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of His Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened— <sup>12</sup> or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you, as I have among the rest of the gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish, <sup>15</sup> hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.,<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith, as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."

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

### Psalms 92

#682

#### It is Good to Sing your Praises

It is good to sing Your praises and to thank You, O Most High, showing forth Your loving kindness when the morning lights the sky.

It is good when night is falling of Your faithfulness to tell, while with sweet, melodious praises songs of adoration swell.

You have filled my heart with gladness  
through the works Your hands have wrought;  
You have made my life victorious;  
great Your works and deep Your thought.

You, O Lord, on high exalted, reign forevermore in might;  
all Your enemies shall perish, sin be banished from Your sight.

But the good shall live before You, planted in Your dwelling place,  
fruited trees and ever verdant, nourished by Your boundless grace.  
In His goodness to the righteous God His righteousness displays;  
God, my rock, my strength and refuge, just and true are all Your ways.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 9:18–27 (NRSV)

Once when Jesus<sup>1</sup> was praying alone, with only the disciples near Him, He asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” <sup>19</sup> They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.” <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.” <sup>21</sup> He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, <sup>22</sup> saying, “The Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.” <sup>23</sup> Then He said to them all, “If any wish to come after Me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what does it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves? <sup>26</sup> Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> Indeed, truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

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

**Sermon**

***Life-Giving Words from an Empty Tomb – Unashamed!***

✦ **We Respond to God’s Word** ✦

† **Hymn of Response**

#829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to thee,

thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;

O let me from this day be wholly thine!

→

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's tears away;  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

† **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: CARES*

† **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**

#815

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

Give to the winds thy fears;  
hope and be undismayed.

God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears;  
God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms  
God gently clears the way.

Wait patiently; so shall this night  
soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway  
to choose and to command.  
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,  
how wise, how strong God's hand!

Let us in life, in death,  
thy steadfast truth declare,  
and publish with our final breath  
thy love and guardian care.

**Postlude**

Suite Gothique

Leon Boellmann

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing as you are able.*

## SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Geri Willis* | Liturgist: *Heather Whitman*

## LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 71

General Offering: \$2,295.02

CAREs: \$50.00

Clean Start: \$20.00

Youth/Earth Care: \$60.00

Online Offering: \$2,425.00

**Total Offering: \$4,850.02**

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ➡ SUNDAY, MAY 25

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.



**Welcome Home Greg Weston! Reception, Noon**



**Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m./cancelled**

### ➡ MONDAY, MAY 26

Memorial Day, office closed

### ➡ TUESDAY, MAY 27

Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

### ➡ WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

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

Zumba Class, 5 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### ➡ SATURDAY, MAY 31

Zumba Class, 9:30 a.m.

## 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](https://youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianAshlandKY)**.



## **Children's End of Year Celebration**

You are invited to join in a celebration of our children's ministry, **Sunday, June 1**, following our worship service. We will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall for a luncheon and fellowship as we recognize the faithfulness of our kids and their hard work this past school year. Everyone is invited. We hope to see you then!

## **Class of 2025**



Next **Sunday, June 1**, during our morning worship service, we will be observing our graduating high school senior, Andrew Smithson. Andrew, the

son of Robert and Kim Smithson, is graduating from Boyd County High School. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with him as he prepares for his next chapter at Ashland Community Technical College. Please join us in acknowledging Andrew's achievement and offering our support for his future endeavors.

## **Let's Celebrate Our Pastor's Birthday!**

Pastor Bill's birthday is June 12. We will celebrate his birthday in the narthex immediately following morning worship on **Sunday, June 15**. A basket will be available for cards and/or other expressions of appreciation.



## **Festival of Trees 2025**

The Christian Education Ministry Team is planning to display a Christmas tree in the Paramount's annual Festival of Trees this year (2025). The theme of our tree will be "Earth Care." The ornaments will be made by our youth from recycled materials, and this is where we need your help. We would like to have these items donated: newspapers, puzzle pieces, old Christmas cards, empty thread spools, blue, green or white yarn, bottles of Elmer's glue, and one 6 ft white artificial Christmas tree by June 29. All contributions are greatly appreciated. We plan to start making these ornaments at Parent's Night Out (July 25). All are welcome to help. Thank you in advance for your help! Please see Jane Justice or Heather Shay if you have any questions.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### **Week ending May 22, 2025**

John Paul Barker (Hospice Care)  
Susan Martell  
Skip Saunders  
Storm Victims and their families

### **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)

**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

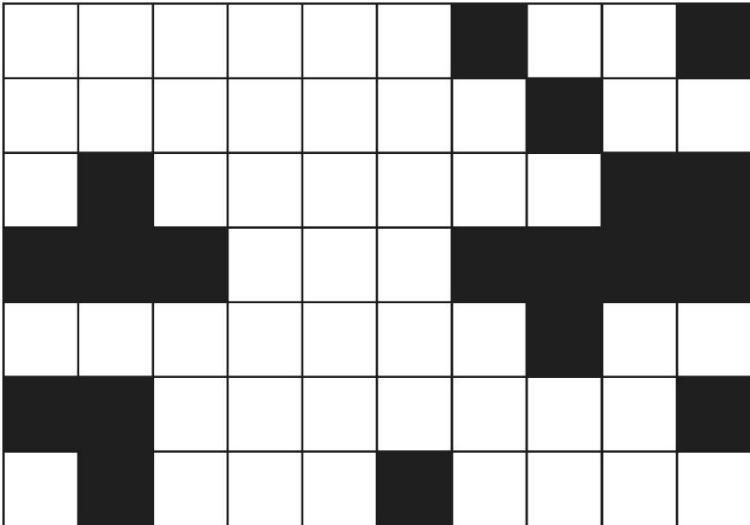
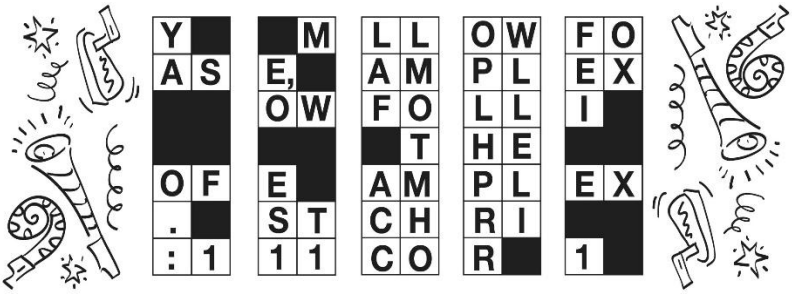
**Kingsbrook Care Center:** Barry Barbour

**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)

# Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.



Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

## 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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