



# First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio  
[www.fpcmiddletown.com](http://www.fpcmiddletown.com)

**August 29, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Prelude**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Phil DeGreg Trio

## **Call to Worship**

God invites us to live in the Spirit.

**We open our souls to God's care.**

God calls us to have loving hearts and faith-filled lives.

**We open ourselves to God's gifts.**

God summons us to be known by our faith.

**We open our lives to God's claim.**

God calls us to live our faith.

**We open our gifts to God's design for them.**

God offers us every gift of grace.

**We will worship, give thanks, and live so that  
we show God's grace all around us.**

**Hymn 408**

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Sweet, Sweet Spirit

## **Prayer of Confession**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen!

**Circle Time**

Lisa Kaufer

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
James 1:17-27

**Sermon**

Michael Isaacs

**Affirmation of Faith**

from a Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

We trust in Jesus Christ,

fully human, fully God

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and live holy and joyful lives.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death

can separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (unison)**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Phil DeGreg Trio



# *Our Life Together...*

**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Janet Scott, pianist, organist; Phil DeGreg Trio; Lara Moon, Song Leader/Worship Assistant; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician; Mary Brehm, Barista.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

## *Announcements*

### **COVID-19 Updates from June 22 Session Meeting**

Session continues to work diligently to be safe, responsible, and faithful to God and neighbor. After discussion, reflection, and prayer, here are the recent updates for our COVID-19 response.

- The nursery and Sunday school will resume in September. We will be hiring a second nursery attendant to provide consistent staffing and diligence about safety protocols.
- The Welcome Team will be resuming their ministry of greeting on Sunday mornings. Would you like to participate in this way? If so, let Sandy know in the office.
- Fellowship Hour will remain outside, but will move inside in the event of rain.
- Masks remain encouraged and social distancing remains in place in the sanctuary.
- Session also discussed a helpful reflection from a church leader in another setting about the pace of ministry at this time; it is titled *Hitting the Ground Running?* Read it here: <https://mministry.org/hitting-the-ground-running>

Session appreciates everyone's diligence and patience.

**Pre-K Readiness:** We still have openings for our Pre-K program this fall! Help us fill them by spreading the word.

**Resuming In-Person Nursery Care and Sunday School:** In September, we look forward to sharing a warm welcome for children and families as they are ready to return in-person to the Nursery and Sunday School. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Lisa Kaufer.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume on **September 14** at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We will begin with a study of James.

**Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** will be the first Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the choir room. Singers welcome!

### *Prayer list*

Please submit any prayer requests for today's service to Michael before the worship service begins, the submitted requests will be included here next week.

### *Contribute from your device*

Use this QR code for the online giving portal. You do not need to create an account for a one-time contribution.

