



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

September 3, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Joe Utterback

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship (responsive)

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

**All: Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered.**

* **Hymn #23** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* Pleading Savior

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, for those times this past week when we have forgotten to thank you, forgive us. For those times when we have taken for granted you or those whom we encounter, forgive us.

For those times when we impose our will over yours and others in the mistaken belief that we are the center of the universe, forgive us. For these and other shortcomings, forgive and restore us. This we pray in the name of your Son who died and rose again for us. Amen

* 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!

* Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15

Scripture

Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon

“Excuses, Excuses!”

Rev. McNulty

*** Hymn #726**

Will You Come and Follow Me
Verses 1, 2, & 5

Kelvingrove

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Savior, Redeemer of My Soul

Rob Gardner

Tara Downie, soprano with Suzanne Edwards, flute

*** Doxology**

Hymnal #606

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

*** Hymn #460**

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Bread of Life

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

* **Hymn #515**

I Come with Joy
Verses 4 & 5

Dove of Peace

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

America, the Beautiful

Rex Koury

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Edward McNulty, Guest Pastor; Marty Hensler, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Organist/Pianist; Tara Downie, Soloist/Song Leader; Suzanne Edwards, Flutist; Dave Jenkins, Sound Technician; Mary Brehm, Barista.

The deacons have placed a white carnation on the chancel rail in loving memory of **Al Karchner**, who died on August 29.

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

Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

Announcements

Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets in the Youth Room at 10:00 a.m. beginning on September 12. We will be exploring the book "Sabbath as Resistance" (Saying NO to the Culture of Now). Books are available in the church office or pick one up at Bible Study. If you have any questions, call the church office or contact Barb Nein at barbara.nein@yahoo.com.

M&M (Men & More) Monthly Outing: Everyone is invited to join this group for dinner and fellowship at Wildwood Golf Club, 601 Aberdeen Dr. on **Tuesday, September 12**. Fellowship begins approximately at 5:00 and we usually order dinner around 5:30. We hope to see you there.

Prayer Group: Please join us for Prayer Group on Wednesday, September 5, at 1:00 p.m. in the Memorial Room.

Music Ministry

Music has the remarkable ability to uplift our spirits, create a sense of unity, and connect us to the divine. This is why we make music together. We begin this Wednesday, September 6, with our first *Sanctuary Choir* rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. *Please join us.*

The *Renaissance Ringers* will begin rehearsing next Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry

Nursery Care is available for infants and children up to 5 years old, located next to Room 110. Two childcare workers, Monique Watkins and Ingrid Cuadra, provide exceptional care for which we are grateful.

Sunday School (children ages 6-12) is offered most Sundays* in the Godly Play Room following the Passing of the Peace at which time leaders will escort children to Sunday School. When worship concludes, parents/guardians will need to come to the Godly Play Room to pick up their child(ren). (*Note: This month, Sunday School will meet on 9/10, 9/17, and 9/24. We especially want to include children and youth in special worship celebrations such as Communion, etc.)