

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God .

Anthem Lyrics—*Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone*—Mark Miller

You Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace. The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood, his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

Music: One License A-731491

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Dean Wagner, Director of Music/Organist

Tim Zuschin, Assistant Chancel Choir Director

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of *Weekday Christian Preschool*

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm

infofumccf@gmail.com

www.firstchurchcf.com



Sunday Worship Service and Live-streaming at 10:45 am.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:45 am

September 22, 2024

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*Fantasy Prelude on Amazing Grace*—Charles Callahan

Introit—*Come Let Us Sing*—Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship

Our sufferings produce endurance and hope,

And hope does not disappoint us,

Because God's love has been poured into our hearts,

Through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Opening Hymn 158** —*Come, Christians Join to Sing*

Invocation

God, like a baker, you bring the leaven which causes our hopes to rise. With your strong and gentle hands, you shape our lives. Warm us now with your love, and take our common lives and touch them with your grace, that we may nourish hope among humanity. We pray trusting in your name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading—*Psalm 9:1, 9-11*

Gloria Patri—*Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

God's Word for Young Disciples

Anthem—*Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone*—James Koerts

Epworth Choir
Lilah Wagner, soloist

Scripture Reading—1 Samuel 17;37-50

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon—“*Thrive: Whole Hearts in a Defensive World*”

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

Hymn of Response 408** —*The Gift of Love*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*Grace*—Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

Doxology**

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 the People/The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn 378** —*Amazing Grace*

Benediction—*May the Lord Watch Over You*—Ruth Elaine Schram

Postlude —*Trumpet Processional* —William Rowan

**Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Hymn 158, Come, Christians Join to Sing

1. Come Christians join to sing

Alleluia amen

Loud praise to Christ our King

Alleluia amen

Let all with heart and voice

Before His throne rejoice

Praise is His gracious choice

Alleluia amen

2. Come lift your hearts on high

Alleluia amen

Let praises fill the sky

Alleluia amen

He is our Guide and Friend

To us He'll condescend

His love shall never end

Alleluia amen

3. Praise yet our Lord again

Alleluia amen

Life shall not end the strain

Alleluia amen

On heaven's blissful shore

His goodness we'll adore

Singing forevermore

Alleluia amen

GLORIA PATRI

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn 408, The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,

and have the gift to all inspire,

and have not love, my words are vain,

as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2. Though I may give all I possess,

and striving so my love profess,

but not be giv'n by love within,

the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,

our spirits long to be made whole.

Let inward love guide every deed;

by this we worship and are freed.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn 378, Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

CHURCH NOTES

Acts of Grace: women's circle will meet TOMORROW (Sept. 23) @7:00pm in the Parlor. Please Join us! You may contact Linda Demeter 740-334-9290 with any questions.

Grief Recovery: will meet on Wednesday, September 25 @11:00am in the Library.

M&M Youth Fundraiser: It's time for the annual youth fundraiser which helps defer the cost of outreach programs and regular events throughout the year. To participate: 1. take a tube of M&M's, 2. enjoy the contents!, 3. place your donation to the youth program in the tube, 4. label with your name 5. return it to the church by October 8.

Phone Visitation Ministry: We are looking for folks to help make phone calls to help check in on our members who are unable to come to church services on a regular basis. We're not asking for in person visitations (unless you want to), just a quick, regularly scheduled chat to help those members continue to feel connected to this congregation. If you're interested in helping with this ministry please contact Pastor Howard Pippin. fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com or 330-923-5241 x217

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! : Mark your calendars....Please join Pastor Jon and Pastor Pippin in the Narthex on October 13 anytime between 9:30-10:30am, or after the 10:45am service for donuts, and to thank them for all they do for FUMC. We are looking forward to seeing you then!

Wesley Group Outing: For kids 4th-6th grade. Join us for our October outing to Kingsway Pumpkin Farm on October 13 from noon-5:00pm. Bring a sack lunch and spending money (if you wish). Questions? RSVP to Katie Priebe 330-819-1165.

Strength or Bluster?

vs. 4-5 – Goliath seems to be the ultimate infantry warrior

vs. 41 – then why does he need someone to carry his shield?

vs. 43 – truth be told, Goliath is easily offended, angry and defensive

When I Am Weak

vs. 40 – David allows himself to be seen by all as he picks up the stones

vs. 39, 45 - He is confident in God and honest about his weakness

2 Cor. 12:9 – God's power is made complete in our weakness

Questions for Reflection: Eugene Peterson's The Message translates Paul's "thorn in the flesh" as a "gift of a handicap." What is it in your life that is a gift, because it reminds you of your need for God? A physical handicap? A struggle with addiction that causes you to be always on your guard to avoid temptation? A tendency toward depression or anxiety? How could God show himself to be strong in this weakness?

Question for Discussion: Thomas Edison is quoted as saying, "I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work." In what ways could failure be considered an advantage? Is there room for failure in the church?

Memory Verse: 2 Cor. 12:9 - "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Readings for this Week: 2 Corinthians 12:1-11, Exodus 18:13-27, Matthew 20:20-28

PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathy & Scott Adie	Delores Marefka
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Joanne Ames	Becky Petty
Debbie Amundsen	Sandi Robinson
Mary Ellen Atwood	Kathi Sawyer
Dorothy Bates	Karen Taucher
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Kelly Toppin
Sally Brown	Rose Ann Youngkin
Jim Evans	
Mary Griest	
Jim Henes	
Jeff Iula	
Dwight Konic	
Kristopher Lewis	

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS

The family of member, Ken Tunstall, who passed away on Sept. 10