

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in honor of loved ones, given by Kim and Fred Yoak.

The rose on the altar this morning is in honor of the birth of Jackson Robert Lawrence
the grandson of Tom & Barb DiTirro, and son of Tessa DiTirro & Matt Lawrence.

Music—One License A-731491

**Please stand as you are able.

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

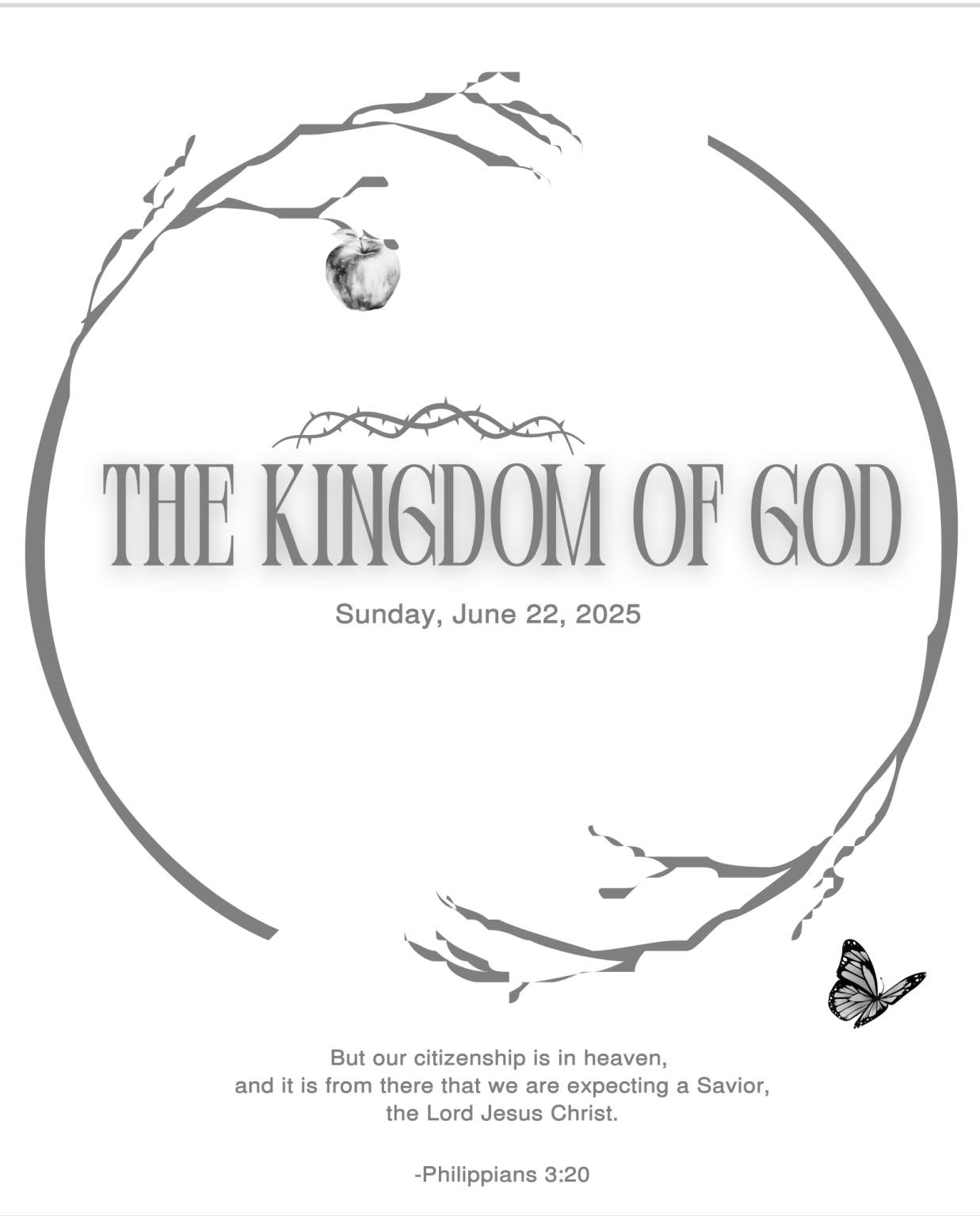
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

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THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Sunday, June 22, 2025

But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Philippians 3:20

Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

June 22, 2025

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude—*Blessed Jesus at Thy Word* (Hymn 596)—J.S. Bach

Call to Worship—from Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments are summed up in this word: "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself."

Let us worship God who has loved us with this complete love.

Opening Hymn 384**—*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Invocation (please be seated)—

Come, divine Interpreter, bring my eyes thy book to read, ears the mystic words to hear, words which did from thee proceed, words that endless bless impart, kept in an obedient heart. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading—Matthew 5:17-20, 38-48

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

Anthem—*Great Is Thy Glory*—Kim Yoak

Summer Choir

God's Word for Young Disciples

Sermon—"Perfect Love"

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The People of God respond to the Word.

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

Discipleship Moment

Offertory—*The Gift of Love*—Emma Lou Diemer

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 549**—*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Benediction—*Shalom to You* (Hymn 666)

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude—*Trumpet Voluntary in D*—John Stanley

OPENING HYMN

Hymn #384, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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 given 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.

BENEDICTION

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #549, Where Charity and Love Prevail

1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear
true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind
and strength now love Christ in return.
3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.
4. Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.
5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.
6. Love can exclude no race or creed,
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Maker is the same.

CHURCH NOTES 6-22-25

Church Fest: We hope you'll join us for *Ecumenical Church Fest* NEXT Sunday, June 29 at the downtown CF Amphitheater. Worship begins at 10am (Pastor Pippin, preaching) and food trucks and activities will be from 11-1pm. *Please note there will NOT be worship in the building that Sunday.* If you have mobility issues and need a ride down to the event we will run a shuttle here in the turn-around on 3rd St., beginning at 9:15am.

VBS Registration: Our July 1 registration deadline is quickly approaching! VBS is July 14-18 from 9:00am-noon for ages 3 (by 9/30) through 6th grade. The cost is \$15. Registration for Extreme is full. You can still register for regular VBS via the QR code.

Register



VBS Volunteer Training: *We need more help for VBS. See Donna for more information on what positions need filled.* Mandatory training for all volunteers will be Wednesday, July 2 @12:30 or 6:30pm, or Sunday, July 6, directly after worship. Anyone who needs *Safe Sanctuaries* recertification will be notified by Donna Curfman. Those trainings will take place after VBS trainings. Please mark your calendars.

VBS Transportation Help: We could use a couple of drivers with vans for a few excursions during VBS week for *Extreme* trips. If you can help please contact Donna. dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com, 923-5241 x 213

BBWR (Brass Bands of the Western Reserve): BBWR will have a patriotic concert here @FUMC on Sunday, July 6 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Blessing Box: We could use some items for the Blessing Box. Shelf stable meals that are heat and-eat, and cans with pull-tab openings are helpful. Granola bars, ramen noodles, and boxed mac-n-cheese are great additions as well. Thank you!

Did you know?: When you put your loose change in the offering plate you are supporting Open M food ministry, Soup's On lunches, and Family Promise housing.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

In our community:

We lift up physical therapists and assistants.

In our greater world:

We pray for peace.

Our Deepest Sympathy & Prayers:

To the family of Jerry Pecko,
who passed away on June 7,
Mark Blaser, who passed away on May 29.

From our Congregation:

Scott Adie	Ann Nieman
Bob Ahonen	Robbie Robinson
Joanne Ames	Holly Ross
Debbie Amundsen	Kathi Sawyer
Mary Ellen Atwood	Todd Schneider
Dorothy Bates	Fritz Sterling
Larry Behrman	Kathy Walker
Suzanne Callahan	Jim Yates
Rosalie Goshen	Mike Yeager
Mary Griest	Peg Yeager
Jeff Iula	Rose Ann Youngkin
Dwight Konic	
Raquel Mehalik	

Teleios

vs. 48 – Is Jesus telling us we must live flawlessly to be pleasing to God?

teleios – not flawless, but rather “complete” or spiritually “mature”

Christian Perfection

Romans 13:10 – Paul echoes Jesus’ own teachings; “Love fulfills the law.”

“(Perfection) is love excluding sin; love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul.”

– John Wesley, “The Character of a Methodist”

Questions for Reflection: Am I growing in love of God and neighbor? How do I know? What fruit do I see?

Questions for Discussion: When might doing the right thing be unloving toward others? Have you ever been faced with a dilemma between following the rules and love of God or love of neighbor?

Memory Verse: **Romans 13:8** – “Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Readings for this Week: Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 6:1-13