

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given**

in honor of Leta Huntington Gramich’s birthday, given by her parents Bill & April Huntington

in memory of their parents, given by Bob & Sue Boltz

**Music**—One License A-731491

**CHURCH NOTES 7-13-25**

**Soup’s On:** Soup's On will continue in July serving bagged lunches at Good Neighbors in Cuyahoga Falls. We will prepare lunches from 8:30-9:30am on July 22 (a week late due to VBS). We then take lunches to Good Neighbors to hand out from 10:00-2:00pm. If you are interested in participating, contact Kim Kerr at [kkerrfallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:kkerrfallsumc@gmail.com) or 330-606-7736.

**Rubber Ducks:** Come watch the Akron RubberDucks take on the Bowie Baysox. This event is open to all Epworth youth and their families. The game is August 10 at 1:05pm. Tickets may be purchased via the QR code.



Rubber Ducks Tickets

Questions? Please contact Melinda Chase at 330-687-7231

**Supply Collection:** Good Neighbors’ Annual Back to School Supply Drive is underway. Any items that you donate can be brought in to the bins by the church library. Wish list: Thick or Thin Markers (10 packs), Glue Sticks, Black, Blue, or Red Pens (Bic 10 packs), Dry Erase Markers, College or Wide-Ruled Filler Paper, College or Wide-Ruled Composition Books.

**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](mailto:infofumccf@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchcf.com](http://www.firstchurchcf.com)



**THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Sunday, July 13, 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

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

July 13, 2025

### GATHERING

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

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**—*Deck Thyself My Soul with Gladness*—J.S. Bach

#### **Call to Worship**—

Sometimes it seems as though God is far away.

**There is so much trouble in the world.**

Come, let us turn to the Lord, whose very heart is compassion and hope.

**Let us be partners in caring for all who are in need. AMEN.**

**Opening Hymn 140\*\***—*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**Invocation** (please be seated)—

**Lord of justice and mercy, we come to you this day seeking your healing and reconciling love. Help us to be open to your word, your presence, your compassion. Clear our hearts of those things which block your will. Keep us focused on your enabling power so that we, having been healed, may more fully serve you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

### PROCLAMATION

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

**Scripture Reading**—Matthew 6:25-34

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

**Anthem**—*What God Ordains Is Always Good*—Dan Forrest

Summer Choir

**God's Word for Young Disciples**

**Sermon**—*"Seek First the Kingdom"*

Pastor Howard Pippin

### RESPONSE

*The People of God respond to the Word.*

**Hymn of Response 377\*\***—*It Is Well*

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory**—*When in the Hour of Utmost Need*—J.S. Bach

**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 102\*\***—*Now Thank We All Our God*

**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**—*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*—J.S. Bach

\*\*Please stand as you are able.

## OPENING HYMN

*Hymn #140, Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain.

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Hymn #377, It Is Well*

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:  
It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
(Refrain)

3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
(Refrain)

4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
even so, it is well with my soul.  
(Refrain)

## CLOSING HYMN

*Hymn #102, Now Thank We All Our God*

1. Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us still in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed;  
and free us from all ills,  
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns  
with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## 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.

# PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

## *In our community:*

We lift up the victims of the flooding in Texas.

## *In our greater world:*

We pray for peace.

## *Our Deepest Sympathy & Prayers:*

To the family of member, Marlene Mercurio,  
who passed away on 6/25.

## *From our Congregation:*

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