



Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @10:45am

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

10:45am

January 18, 2026

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### GATHERING

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

#### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**--Fugue in F Major--John Sheeles

**Introit**--His Name Is Wonderful

Chancel Choir

#### **Call to Worship**--

*Come, let us return to the Lord,*

***for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us***

*For the Lord desires mercy and not sacrifice,*

***the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.***

**Opening Hymn\*\*140**--Great is Thy Faithfulness

#### **Invocation**--

**Everlasting God, you gave us the faith of Christ for a light to our feet amid the darkness of this world. Have pity on all who, by doubting or denying it, are gone astray from the path of safety. Bring home the truth to their hearts, and grant them to receive it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

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

**Scripture Reading**--Hosea 6:1-6

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

**God's Word for Young Disciples**--(congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward)

**Anthem**--Resting-Grassi

Chancel Choir; Greg Fiocca, cello

**Scripture Reading\*\***--Matthew 9:9-12

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

**Sermon**--"What Does the Lord Require of You? Love Mercy"

Pastor Jon Priebe

**RESPONSE**

*The People respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response\*\*121**--*There's a Wideness In God's Mercy*

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory**--*After a Dream*-Gabriel Fauré (arr. Pablo Casais)

Greg Fiocca, cello

**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.***

**Prayers 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\*\*384**--*Love Divine, All Love Excelling*

**What Does the Lord Require of You?**

**Benediction**

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the Lord re - quire of  
you? Jus - tice, kind - ness, and walk hum-bly with your God.

**Postlude--The Awakening**-Edward Broughton

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

**Music--One License A-731491**

**\*\*indicates please stand as you are able**

### **Clergy & Staff**

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister  
Howard Pippin, Associate Minister  
Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus  
Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director of Music & Worship  
Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist  
Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries  
Jennifer Brooks, Director of Weekday Christian Preschool  
Office Staff: Christy Meyers-Receptionist, Nancy Yeager-Finance, Kim Kerr-Membership, Sarah Neri-Publishing

### **Contact Information**

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## HYMN LYRICS

### Opening 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

### 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

### #121 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good!  
There is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.

3 For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

4 If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word;  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

### Closing Hymn

#384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
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.

## CHURCH NOTES 1-18-26

**Family Promise:** Our Family Promise food cupboards are becoming bare. We are very low on beef and/or chicken ramen noodles (not those in cups) and Velveeta mac and cheese (not those in cups) or any similar brand. Donations can be put in the *Family Promise* donation bin by the library. Thank you very much for supporting our families with children who are homeless and temporarily living in the Glendora House in Akron where they are working to become sustainably independent.

**Women's Bible Study/Wednesdays:** All ladies are invited for the bible study "Luke in the Land," by Kristi McLelland. We'll take a look at the places Jesus walked and taught in during his ministry. The cost of the book is \$25.00. The study will begin on Wednesday, February 11 @10:00am in the church library. The deadline for registration is January 28, please call or stop by the church office to sign-up.

**Arts Series Concerts:** Mark your calendars! Our next Arts Series Concert will be *Trio Levain*, January 31 @4pm. The concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected benefitting the Arts Series Concerts.

**Good Neighbors:** Good Neighbor's Wishlist for January: deodorant, dish soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, baby wipes, men's gloves, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned fruit, coffee and tea, mac n' cheese, salad dressing, peanut butter, jelly. Any items can be brought in to the bins by the church library.

**Family Movie Night:** We're teaming up with Weekday Christian Preschool for a family movie night in Wesley Hall on Friday, January 30 @6:00pm. Bring a water bottle, we'll provide popcorn. Please RSVP at the Welcome Center or office, so we know how much popcorn we need.

**Work Camp '26:** Mark your calendars for *Work Camp* June 7-13 at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. Teens and adults who are willing to do service through hard work are encouraged to sign-up. Any questions can be directed to Jack Steele 330-697-8344.

# FODDER

## Chesed

Hosea 6:8 – what does it mean that God desires mercy more than sacrifice?

vs. 4 – mercy like “a morning cloud” reacts emotionally, but disappears quickly

## Love Mercy

chesed adds faithfulness to compassion and mercy; steadfast love

Loving mercy (chesed) is making Biblical our way of life

Questions for Reflection: What pressures do you feel in today’s world that encourage reaction and outrage rather than patience to find understanding? What would it look like to resist or avoid those pressures?

Questions for Discussion: What habits or pressures in American life make loyal, enduring mercy difficult to sustain?

Memory Verse: Hosea 6:6 – “For I desire chesed and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Readings for this Week: Matthew 9:9-13, Leviticus 19:1-18, Matthew 5:21-26



**WANTED  
FOR**

Small groups, Soloists, Dancers, Instrumentalists, ETC.

Epworth Pasta Dinner + **Talent Show February 21, 2026**

*This is open to the entire church community!  
Contact Marie Willis-Guarneri if interested.*



Mark Your Calendars!

*Family  
Movie Night*

**Friday January 30 @6:00pm in Wesley Hall  
Invite your friends and family!  
Please bring a water bottle.  
We'll provide popcorn.**

APOLLO'S *fire*  
BAROQUE ORCHESTRA  
jeannette sorrell



**WINTER SPARKS from Bach & Vivaldi**

Thursday, January 29, @7:30pm

Here, @First UMC

This is a ticketed event.

Visit <https://apollosfire.org> to purchase tickets

**Scout Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday, February 8  
8:00am-12:30pm  
in Wesley Hall**



# PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

*In our community:*

We lift up florists and botanists.

*In our greater world:*

We pray for peace.

*Our sympathy & Prayers:*

The family of member Rose Ann Youngkin upon her death on 1/8, the family of Dwight Konic who passed on 12/28, and the family of member Herbert Weiser on his death on 12/29.

*From our Congregation:*

Scott Adie  
Bob Ahonen  
Joanne Ames  
Debbie Amundsen  
Rick Amundsen  
Dorothy Bates  
Suzanne Callahan  
Melanie Chaney  
Ron Dickerhoof Jr.  
Gabe & Rima Elissa  
Mary Griest  
Kim Haftl  
Kathleen Hess

Tom Jackson  
Vince Meeker  
Raquel Mehalik  
Becky Pecko  
Barb Pells  
Robbie Robinson  
Holly Ross  
Kathi Sawyer  
Jim Ward Jr.  
Mike Yeager  
Peg Yeager