

First United Methodist Church Cuyahoga Falls



Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @10:45am

Welcome to Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026, 10:45am

GATHERING

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude--Prelude--Francis Edward Gladstone

Introit--Lead Me Lord

Combined Choirs

Call to Worship--

We come carrying the joys and sorrows of life, trusting God to meet us where we are.

Our souls long for God, and we place our hope in the Lord.

God draws near to us with compassion and love.

We worship the God who leads us toward hope.

Opening Hymn**103--Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Invocation (please be seated)--

Gracious God, meet us in this moment with Your presence and peace. For those carrying loss, bring comfort and strength. For those searching for hope, remind us that You are near. Open our hearts to hear Your voice calling us from sorrow toward new life. In the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we pray. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

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

Scripture Reading--Psalm 42:1-5

Gloria Patri (Hymn #70)--

***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.***

Anthem--Goin' Up a Yonder--arr. Martin Sirvatka

Epworth Choir

Wilbur Chase, Haidyn Bonds, Kennedie Ward, Lucy Benson, soloists

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

Scripture Reading--John 11:17-44

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

Sermon--"*Healing Through Our Losses*"

Pastor Howard Pippin

RESPONSE

The People respond to the Word

Hymn of Response **707--*Hymn of Promise*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory--*I Must Tell Jesus with Blessed Assurance*--arr. Mary McDonald

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.***

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 **377--*It Is Well with My Soul*

continued...

Benediction **666--Shalom to You

***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--Short Fantasy in A minor--Walker Baylor

**The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of our grandson, Matthew Kerr, by Fred & Janet Dodson
in loving memory of our son, Matthew Kerr, by Kim & Wade Kerr**

Music--One License A-731491

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

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister, fallsfirstjon@gmail.com
Howard Pippin, Associate Minister, fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com
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
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Prayer Requests/Pastoral Care

The fastest way to contact us is to call the church office. After hours voicemails come through to the church staff.

HYMN LYRICS

OPENING HYMN

#103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness
and love.

3. To all, life thou givest,
to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth
thee.

4. Thou reignest in glory;
thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#707 Hymn of Promise

1. In the bulb there is a flower
In the seed an apple tree
In cocoons a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me
From the past will come the future
What it holds a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning
In our time infinity
In our doubt there is believing
In our life eternity
In our death a resurrection
At the last a victory
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

CLOSING HYMN

#377 It Is Well with My Soul

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)

BENEDICTION

#666 Shalom to You

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.

NEXT STEPS

Healing Through Our Losses Psalm 42:1–5; John 11:17–44

God does not ask us to deny our grief; He meets us in our losses and leads us toward hope, presence, and new life.

Jesus Meets Us in Our Losses

God is not distant from your grief.

Jesus Calls Us Out of the Tomb

Jesus did not merely raise Lazarus from the dead. He called him out of the place where death had held him.

Healing Doesn't Mean Forgetting

Moving forward is not forgetting. Healing is not erasing.

There Is Still Hope - Hope in God

Biblical hope says: God is still present. God is still working. God is still faithful. God is not finished.

Reflection Question: Where in your life do you feel the heavy weight of sorrow today, and how might you welcome the comforting presence of Christ right into the center of your pain? In what ways can our faith family wrap our arms around those who hurt—without expecting them to quickly push past their sorrow—so they may gently encounter genuine promise in the Lord?

Memory Verse: Psalm 42:5b - Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help

Next Week: World Communion Sunday

CHURCH NOTES 9-27-26

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday. Join us at St. Luke's (2121 6th Street) for our Ecumenical service @10am. Childcare is available. There will be a fellowship time after worship. *There will NOT be a service here that day. Hope to see you there!*

M & M Fundraiser for Epworth Youth: Take a tube of M&M's to enjoy, fill the empty container with a check, cash, or coins, (checks made out to First UMC with M&M's in the memo) write your name on the label and return it to church by October 18. That's it! Your donations help to support Epworth youth events, missions, & youth sponsored outreach to the community. Thank you!

Epworth Youth: Today, September 27 is Bring a Friend Week! We'll start with a Nerf battle (BYO gear), followed by a special snack supper with the Swenson's food truck. All Epworth (& Wesley) youth + guests will receive 1 sandwich and 1 side, from the truck. Drinks will be provided in Asbury Hall. Please bring money for shakes, specialty drinks, and extras if you wish. Hope to see you, and a friend, at 4:00pm!

Toddler Time: Mondays from 9:15-10:30am, beginning October 5. Weekday Christian Preschool will once again be offering a FREE Toddler Time class for ages 18 months -2 years old with caregiver. Stories, songs, art, & more! Call Jennifer Brooks at 330-923-5243 to register.



The Art Series
AT FIRST CHURCH

EXHIBITION
OCTOBER 2-JANUARY 26, 2027
"Healing through the human experience"

We invite you to explore our Arts Series Concerts and Events. Please Scan the QR code or visit firstchurchcf.com/arts-series-2 for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



[Click here to view this week's prayer list.](#)

Join Us In Prayer