

**Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
Brunch Church
Sunday, April 30, 2023**

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#
Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

Gathering

Listen!

There is hope to be found here.

Listen!

God calls you by name here.

Listen!

There is love that abides here.

This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

God is speaking.

Let us worship.

Amen.*

Hymn | *For the Beauty of the Earth #14*

Confession

Loving God,

I walk down memory lane because I know that I will run into you there—tucked between memories of sunny days, love found, and love lost.

I wish that I could hold onto you the way my muscles hold memory, making you my next step, my next breath, my constant thought. However, I forget. I forget you all the time, and instead I hold onto you like breath, constantly taking you in as a survival tool, and breathing you out far too fast.

Thus, I pray, slow me down. Forgive me for all the times I rush right past you, failing to turn my eyes or my heart to your presence in my life. And if you could, just for today, guide my feet like muscle memory. For I would cherish such a feeling. Amen.* (Time for silent reflection.)

** Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God. Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved!

I am loved!

I am held in grace!

I am held in grace!

I belong to God.

I belong to God. Amen.*

Sung Response | *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the living Lord; alleluia, alleluia, give praise to God's name.

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

We want to know you God as well as we know our best friends, soul friends, the way you know us, fully and completely. You will be in the words we are about to hear and the discussions we are about to have—let us find you there. Amen.

Scripture Reading | Acts 2: 42-47 ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responding to the Scripture/ Conversation

Invitation to Generosity

You give us so much and we are so grateful God, so out of gratitude to you we want to give something back, something that will bring hope to our neighbors near and far. Whether we give online or through the offering plate, through our time or our talents, we give from the bottom of our hearts. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People + the Lord's Prayer

Loving God-

This week more people were charged with hate crimes.

This week more people skipped meals because the food ran out.

This week more people wrote off those that don't look like them out of hatred alone.

And this week more people joined hospice, and more hearts hurt for them.

Loving God, this week, like every week, pain and suffering surged uncontrollably from every corner of the world.

And yet I stand here and wonder if you painted the horizon so that we might have a dream of places to go. And I wonder if you wove the stars together so that we might have something to wish upon.

And I stand here and wonder if you filled the streams with pure fresh water so that we could physically experience what being clean feels like.

Creator God, we sometimes want to give up on you, but as I stand here I know you never give up on us. I don't know why you drew the horizon, why you gave us the gift of stars, or why you still love us, but I know you do.

So God, when hospice calls and the refrigerator is empty and the news cycle is filled with more bigotry, please point us to the horizon. For if we see it, maybe we will remember that you want us to move. Point us to the stars, so that we remember you have a different wish for our lives. Point us to the water, so that we remember that you call us away from the evil of this world and cleanse our hearts. And point us to your Son, who loved like we've never seen before*; and who gave us this prayer: ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Hymn | Farewell, Good Friends! #540 (3x)

Blessing

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 30, 2023

Contact

Pastor:

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Scriptures for

Sunday, May 7

Acts 7:55–60

Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy

Ruth Roeber

The McDermott family

Johanna Willis

The Kleier family

Jean Jennings' family

Emilee Walden

Kelly Montana

Lynda Jaeger

Ron Carlin

Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in-person services at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists are needed to help lead worship. Please sign up on the sheet located on the welcome table. Thank you!

Session Meeting

Session will meet on Thursday, May 11 at 6:45 pm.

Sandwich Thursday

We'll be providing sandwiches to Cornerstone on Thursday, May 4. Please bring any prepared sandwiches to the church by May 4.

Cornerstone Meals

We will also be serving meals to Cornerstone in May. Meals will be prepared on Monday, May 15 and served on Tuesday, May 16. All are welcome to join!