



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church Sunday, August 27, 2023

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

Regular type, leader reads; **Bold type, all read**

Welcome and Announcements Lighting of the Christ Candle Centering Music

+Call to Worship

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

P: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

L: O praise the Lord with me,

P: let us exalt God's name together.

Let us pray: **God of all glory, on this first day you began creation, bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ to new life for us. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. Amen.**

+Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* #39

Call to Confession

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life's end. Although we struggle to fulfill those baptismal vows, God's faithful love endures forever. Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.

(time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Hope does not us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me v1* #582

*Glory to God whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit whose love has lifted me, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be.*

Special Music

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace. Amen.

Scripture Reading **Romans 12:1-8** I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Hymn *We are One in the Spirit* #300

Gospel Reading **Matthew 16:13-20** ¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love. Amen.

Sung Response *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful #654*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying: Hear our prayer.

That churches of all traditions may discover their unity in God and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live and work in this community in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

And for those prayers we offer to you in our worship today... we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer. (pause for silent prayer.)**

Gracious God, we gratefully pray these things to you, and we also pray the prayer that Christ taught us: ***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.***

Going Into the World

+Hymn *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (3x) #747*

+Blessing

As God's own people, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you. May God, Christ and the Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 27, 2023

Contact

Pastor:
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Scriptures for Sunday, September 3

Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ruth Roeber
The McDermott family
Johanna Willis
The Kleier family
Jean Jennings' family
Emille 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!

Treasurer Position Opening

The COF session is looking for a new Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is required by the Book of Order, and entails working with our accounting firm to pay bills, manage pledges and offerings, and report to session and the congregation regarding the finances of the congregation. Training will be provided. For further questions or a job description, please contact Rev. Sharon.

People Working Cooperatively

On Sunday, Sept. 3, we'll have guests from People Working Cooperatively (PWC) visit to share about their mission and to present them with one of our \$10,000 grants. Please join us to welcome them and hear about another way our grants are making a difference to the community!

Cornerstone Mission

We'll deliver sandwiches to Cornerstone on Thursday, Sept. 7. We'll also prepare dinner for Cornerstone on Monday, Sept. 18 and serve meals on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 10 to dissolve the call between COF and Rev. Sharon as of Sept. 30, 2023

Session Meeting

Session meets at the church on Thursday, Sept. 14 at 6:45pm.

Farewell Party for Rev. Sharon

On Sunday, Sept. 17, there will be a farewell party for Rev. Sharon after church. The church will provide food by Harmon's Barbecue. Everyone is invited to celebrate Rev. Sharon's ministry with COF!