



**Community of Faith  
Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, September 10, 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: Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of God's transforming love.

**P: We praise God for God's presence with us!**

L: Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

**P: We thank God for God's mercy toward us.**

L: Come, let us praise and worship God who is always with us.

**P: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places.**

Let us pray: **Lord of mercy and light, you have called us out of the darkness of our lives into the light of your love. Your love encourages and sustains us always. We praise and thank you for all the blessings we have received throughout our lives. Amen.**

**+Hymn**    *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken #81*

**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**

**Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways — we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry "Where are you, O Lord?" We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence. (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

**God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Turn our feet from evil paths, our hands from dishonorable deeds, our minds to your wisdom, and our hearts to your grace. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**    **Romans 13:8-14**    <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Hymn**    *Seek Ye First #175*

**Gospel Reading**    **Matthew 18:15-20**    <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

#### 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**    *Help Us Accept Each Other #754*

### **+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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

## Contact

Pastor:  
Rev. Sharon Carter  
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## Scriptures for Sunday, Sept. 17

Exodus 14:19–31  
Psalm 114 or  
Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21  
Romans 14:1–12  
Matthew 18:21–35

## 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.

## Cornerstone Mission

We'll 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 6:45 pm.

## 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!

## Work Day at the Refugee House

There will be a work day at the refugee house on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 9 am. All are welcome to help.