



**Community of Faith
Presbyterian Church
Sunday, September 3, 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: We are standing on holy ground.

P: All those who have gone before us have witnessed to the love of God.

L: We are challenged to be people of loving service

P: Lord, open our hearts and spirits to accept the call to serve you by helping others.

Let us pray: **From all our life's pathways, you have called us to this place, O Lord. Be with us as we listen for your word and seek your ways. Guide our steps and guard our lives that we may serve you more effectively in this broken world. Amen.**

+Hymn *Praise Ye the Lord, The Almighty #35*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you. It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. (time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ calls each of us into lives of service and hope. He equips us for these ministries and places us on the pathways of peace. Rejoice! You are called by God's Son and blessed by him.

We are blessed with compassion and forgiveness. 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 of grace and truth, bring us understanding of your way and through the stories we hear. Lead us by the example of those who came before to be your people in the world. Amen.

Scripture Reading **Romans 12:9-21** ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Hymn *Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said #718*

Gospel Reading **Matthew 16:21-28** ²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, holy, holy Lord— we praise you for your love: bringing order out of chaos, breathing life into dust, leading captives into freedom, calling wandering children home, giving bread to the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life....

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)

The whole world is full of God's glory (3x)

Holy is the Lord!

Thank you, Lord— we thank you for Jesus: Word made flesh, light of the world, living water, shepherd and gate, way and truth, bread of heaven, cup of salvation, resurrection, and life.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Spirit, come— come and live in us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people, one in the body, one in the blood; one with Christ, one in ministry, in this place, in every place; in this world, in the world to come. Come to us as we bring to you the prayers offered in our gathering today:

Come to us as we pray together the prayer Christ taught to his disciples, that has been passed down through the generations to 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.

Words of Institution

Take this bread and cup, O God— a feast of grace;

Take our hearts and lives— an offering of praise.

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Going Into the World

+Hymn *Together We Serve #767*

+Blessing

God has called you and placed trust in you. Go into this world, bearing the words of hope and healing. Reach out to others in compassion. For you are sent out to serve.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Contact

Pastor:
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Scriptures for Sunday, Sept. 10

Exodus 12:1–14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20

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 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!