

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Sept. 6, 2026
15th Sunday After Pentecost



Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. — Romans 13:8

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Todd German – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Communion: Cathy German & Todd German – Tech: John Current & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *Open Our Eyes with Be Thou My Vision* arr. by Hayes

Welcome — Breathe in and stop! Listen to the Sacred around you. – Rev. Sandy Garcia, Pastor

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Let us praise God together in the assembly of the faithful.

God has called us by name and gathered us into community.

We are rooted in grace and joined together in Christ.

Here we learn again what it means to love one another.

Here Christ welcomes us, forms us, and makes us one.

Come, let us worship God.

Let us rejoice in the One who holds us together.

***Opening Hymn** — #663 “Awake My Soul, and with the Sun”

***Call to Confession** —

Christ calls us to love one another, yet we know how easily impatience, pride, misunderstanding, and hurt can strain relationships. Trusting in the grace of the One who never stops loving us, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession** —

Gracious God, you have created us for relationship and called us to love one another. Yet too often we choose being right over being reconciled, speaking over listening, and protecting ourselves over making room for another. Forgive us when we fail to see Christ in our neighbor. Root us again in your grace. Teach us the

patient, courageous work of love, and shape us into a community where mercy is practiced, truth is spoken with love, and all may know they belong. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news: God's grace is greater than our failures, and God's love does not let us go. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and given another chance to love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Assurance #581 "Gloria Patri"

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

God of grace, you gather us as your people and speak your Word among us. Open our hearts to hear what you are saying. Root your Word deeply within us, that we may grow in love for you and for one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm Reading — Psalm 149:1-5

p.982

1 Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

4 For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Rom. 13:8-14

p.1756

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Rooted in Relationship – Rev. Sandy Garcia

***Affirmation of Faith:** *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ, our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ, God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ, God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God

and neighbor as Jesus did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

***Hymn of Response — #472 “Kum ba Yah”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

God of grace, you have gathered us into a community where none of us walks alone.

We pray for your church. Teach us to love one another not only when it is easy, but also when love requires patience, honesty, forgiveness, and courage.

We pray for our community and our neighbors. Draw us toward those who are lonely, overlooked, or longing for a place to belong.

We pray for our world, especially places divided by violence, fear, injustice, and hatred. Where relationships have been broken, make a way toward peace.

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, anxious, weary, or carrying burdens known only to you.

(Time for spoken or silent prayers.)

Faithful God, receive these prayers and those we carry silently. Root us deeply in your grace and teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

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 debts, as we forgive

our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. You created us for relationship—with you, with one another, and with all creation. When we wandered, you called us home. When relationships were broken, you worked toward reconciliation. When we forgot who we were, you reminded us that we belong to you. Through prophets and teachers, saints and ordinary people, you continued calling your people to justice, mercy, faithfulness, and love. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the saints of every time and place and with all creation, singing:

#566 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy are you, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord. In him, your love came among us in flesh and blood. Jesus welcomed the

stranger, ate with those others rejected, touched those others avoided, forgave sinners, challenged divisions, and gathered unlikely people around the same table. He showed us that love is more than a feeling. Love draws near. Love listens. Love forgives. Love seeks justice. Love makes room. And when we failed to love, Christ loved us still. Therefore, we remember his life, his death, his resurrection, and his promise to be with us always. And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#557 “Christ Has Died, Christ is Risen”

Gracious Holy Spirit, come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup. Make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world. Where relationships are strained, give us patience. Where wounds remain, bring healing. Where misunderstanding divides us, teach us to listen. Where loneliness takes root, make us a community of belonging. At this table, remind us again that we do not belong to Christ alone—we belong to one another. Root us deeply in grace, that together we may grow into the people you are calling us to become. Until that day when people from every nation, every language, every place and every generation are gathered at your heavenly table, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

#558 “Amen.”

Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

For every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes again.

Family in Christ, this is the Lord’s Table. Here we are reminded that Christ has made room for us, and Christ calls us to make room for one another.

Our Savior invites all who trust in him, and all who seek him, to come and share in this feast of grace.

Come, not because you have earned a place, but because Christ has made a place for you.

Come, for all is ready.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us at this table with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Here you have reminded us that we belong to Christ and that in Christ we belong to one another. Having

received your grace, send us into the world to practice the love we have received. Give us courage to listen, grace to forgive, patience when relationships are difficult, and hearts willing to make room for others. Root us in your grace and grow us together in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Call to Offering

“We will be collection a special offering this week. Offerings placed in the plate that are not in an envelope will go to those affected by the recent flooding, the rest will be received as they are normal.”

God has given us grace freely and abundantly. In gratitude, let us offer our gifts, our lives, and ourselves for Christ’s work and the good of our neighbors.

Offertory — *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. by Raney

*Doxology — #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication —

Let us pray: Generous God, everything we have comes from you. Receive these gifts and use them to strengthen your church, serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ. Root us in generosity and grow us together in grace. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn — #722 “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude — *Foundation* arr. by Barrett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Highlands Clean Up: Our community neighbors will be cleaning up the Hamilton park on September 12th. Everyone is invited to join Sandy and our neighbors, start time to be announced soon.

Sunday School Kick-off & Cookout: We are celebrating our new year of Christian Education during the service on September 13th. After the service we'll be adding to the festivities with hotdogs (provided). Members are invited to bring sides and desserts to share.

First day of Sunday School Classes: The first day of our classes will be on Sunday, September 20th. Here is an abridged list of what's being offered:

Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cindy Bowers

We will be using a new curriculum starting with a study of the parables of the Bible.

Youth Group – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Tammy Menkes

Fellowship and studies cover a wide series of lessons following the lectionary, familiarizing ourselves with the Bible, and projects like “Remembrance Boxes.”

Children’s Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cathy German

We'll be using the Presbyterian curriculum call “Welcome All” as a starting point. The class will also include crafts, memory verses, a charity project, and a time for music (each Sunday at 9:50 AM).

Thursdays at 2:30 PM – Led by Peggy Mahoney

A weekly study and discussion on, “Praying the Names of God.” The class is open to everyone.

New Women’s Evening Bible Study – A monthly with a rotating leaders and location.

Hospitality and fellowship as we come together for a variety of individual studies. These rotating locations (member’s homes) and that evening’s study will be provided by its host.

Lenten study – Stay tuned for more information as we approach the season.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for guidance and peace for the family of Jonathon.
- Continued recovery for Patricia.
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Peace and courage for Skip Calvin's upcoming heart procedure.
- Guidance for Tammy and her doctors.
- Patience for Pam and direction for her doctors.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Comfort for Bruce as his health journey continues.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.
- Strength and protection for those living in fear and uncertainty.

Birthdays

Judi Eckler-Queen - September 7

Brian Geist - September 7

Douglas Haller - September 7

Rachel Lilly - September 8

Lauren Widmann - September 8

Anniversaries

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Worship Volunteers for September 13, 2026

Lay Leader – Tom Monnier

Children's Message – Holly Bouthot

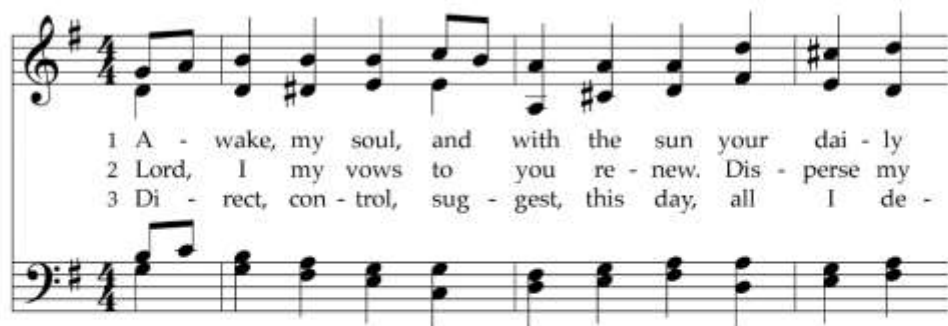
Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, Grace Hochstetler

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

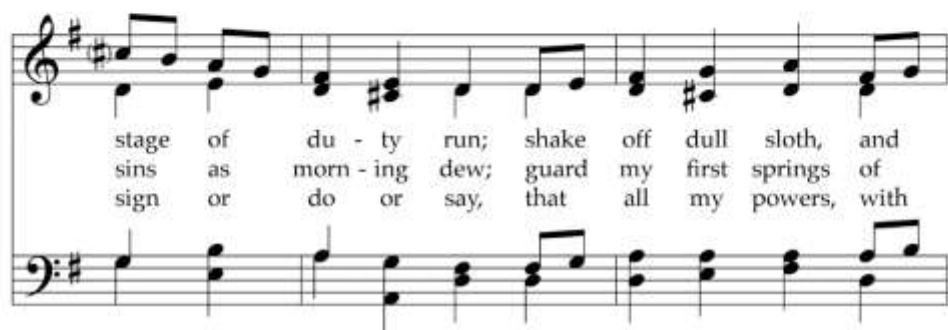
Counters – Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf

CELEBRATING TIME

663 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun your dai - ly
2 Lord, I my vows to you re - new. Dis - perse my
3 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all I de -



stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
sign or do or say, that all my powers, with



joy - ful rise to pay your morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
thought and will, and with your - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in your sole glo - ry may u - nite.

These three stanzas (of the original fifteen) convey the essence of the morning hymn that was paired with "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (no. 675) in the daily devotions of the boys at Winchester College. This tune was later composed especially for these words.

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, alt.

MUSIC: François Hippolyte Barthélémon, 1785; harm. *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*, 1917

MORNING HYMN
LM

PRAYER

472

Kum ba Yah

1 *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba
 2 Some - one's cry - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's
 3 Some - one's sing - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's
 4 Some - one's pray - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's

yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord,
 cry - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's cry - ing, Lord,
 sing - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's sing - ing, Lord,
 pray - ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some - one's pray - ing, Lord,

kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

*Come by here

This African American spiritual, first recorded in the 1920s, seems to have originated somewhere in the southern United States. It enjoyed renewed popularity during the folk revival of the 1960s and became a standard campfire song, eventually traveling throughout the world.

TEXT and MUSIC: African American spiritual

KUM BA YAH
 B.B.B.5

772

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1976
 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1770
 Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

TRURO
LM