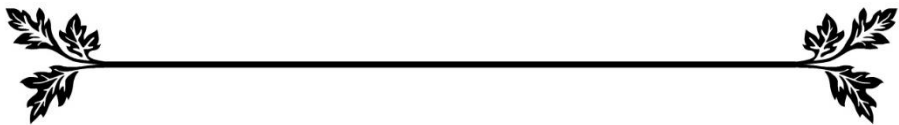



FOR WHERE
two or three
GATHER
IN MY NAME
I am with them.
MATTHEW 18:20



First Presbyterian Church of Defiance

September 10, 2023 ~ Ordinary Time

501 Washington Ave.

Defiance, OH 43512

419-782-2781

www.1presby.com

***Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Defiance.
As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence,
respecting those who are preparing for worship.***

GATHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stay for coffee hour & celebrate our new program year.

Monday: PW&F at noon: \$5 catered lunch

Wed: Church Dinner- WeKirk & Youth begin to meet. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Donation of \$5 per person or \$15 per family helps us meet the cost of the meal.

Next Sunday: Plan to stay on for a discussion “What’s next?” with the pastor & session.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP ~ (from PSALM 149)**

L: Holy God we praise your name

P: Everlasting is your reign!

L: Fill the heavens with sweet accord:

P: Holy, holy is the Lord!

L: Lo, from morning to setting sun,

P: Through the church the song goes on

L: Hallelujah, sing to God!

***HYMN ~ 394**

CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might move closer to the people you want us to be. Hear our silent prayers...

SILENT CONFESSION

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***THE PEACE**

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Please share signs of peace with one another.

***HYMN ~ 582 GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME**

HEAR

WeKIRK WORD

CELEBRATING WEKIRK AND YOUTH GROUP

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 18:15-35

SERMON

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS...

RESPOND

HYMN ~ 445

GOD, HOW CAN WE FORGIVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING NOTE

Thank you for your gifts to the church. We continue to receive our offering at the doors to the chapel.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take our hearts, our hands, our gifts, Holy God. Mold us, shape us, send us so that we might be your body in the world you so love. Amen.

SCATTER TO SERVE

***HYMN ~ 203**

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

PLEASE PRAY FOR ~ Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sheron Lee, Wilma Sponsler, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Foyle & Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Bill Kerr (Norm Wasson), Nancy Black, Jacob Black, Ann & Floyd Culver, Karen Barber, Daryl (Jennifer Bates' father), Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Nick Mannering, Vern Kindinger, Alan Heinrichs (Wasson cousin), Chuck White (Bob Hanna), Susie Price's family at the death of her sister-in-law. Craig Richards (injury).