

The Skylight

*You were the one for skylights. I opposed
Cutting into the seasoned tongue-and-groove
Of pitch pine. I liked it low and closed,
Its claustrophobic, nest-up-in-the-roof
Effect. I liked the snuff-dry feeling,
The perfect, trunk-lid fit of the old ceiling.
Under there, it was all hutch and hatch.
The blue slates kept the heat like
midnight thatch.
But when the slates came off, extravagant
Sky entered and held surprise wide open.
For days I felt like an inhabitant
Of that house where the man sick of the palsy
Was lowered through the roof,
had his sins forgiven,
Was healed, took up his bed and walked away.*

"The Skylight," by Seamus Heaney from Opened Ground (Farrar, Strauss & Giroux)

First Presbyterian Church of Defiance

September 17, 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

Session meeting: Tuesday Sept 26 at 7 pm

Pizza & Program: Wed. Sept 27, Pizza served beginning at 5:30 pm-
Program is Rich Reid and Leo Pech (pastor at Bryan) discussion next
Mexico adventure.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

God says, "Behold I am doing a new thing, can you not perceive it?"

God says, "I make a way in the wilderness, streams in the desert."

As we worship today, help us be open to your possibilities for us, O God!

***HYMN ~ 619**

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be

what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***THE PEACE**

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

P: And also, with you.

L: Please share Christ's peace with one another.

***HYMN ~ 582 GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME (1x)**

HEAR

WeKIRK

WORD CREATION

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 103 & ROMANS 14:7-9

HOMILY

BLESSING, PROMISE, COMMUNION

RESPOND

HYMN ~ 503

LORD, WE HAVE COME AT YOUR OWN INVITATION

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

We will continue to receive our offering at the entrance/ exits of the sanctuary.

On communion Sundays, 1/2 of the loose offering is received for the Deacons. We are still receiving the Pentecost offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time and our

possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P. We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

L: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION ~ *come forward. If you wish to be served, please alert someone and we will bring communion to you.*

WHAT'S NEXT

A CONVERSATION WITH THE SESSION

SCATTER TO SERVE

***HYMN ~ 822**

WHEN WE ARE LIVING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Please pray for ~ Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sheron Lee, Wilma Sponsler, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Bill Kerr (Norm Wasson), Nancy Black, Floyd Culver, Karen Barber, the family of Darrell Erford (Jennifer Bates' family) Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Nick Mannering, Vern Kindinger, Alan Heinrichs (Wasson cousin), the family of Jim Miller (Sandy Dunlap).