

THE ANSWER TO
PASSIVITY
IS
PASSION

First Congregational Church of
Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Liturgy for the Celebration
of Worship**

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Liturgist: Dave Hawley

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

Greeting Liturgist

Prelude

"Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"- Potter/Behnke

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Introit

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship,
let us stand and greet one another in the
love of Christ.

* indicates: **please stand as you are able**

* Gathering Song ““Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first line of the song, with lyrics '1 En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.' The second staff contains the second line of the song, with lyrics 'To - day will be a joy - ful day; en-ter, re-joice, and come in.' Chord symbols are written above the notes: C, FM7, C, C7, FM7, Dm7, G7, and C.

*Call to Worship Liturgist

One: God calls us from lukewarm faith into lives alive with holy passion.

All: Awaken our hearts, O God, and set our spirits on fire.

One: Christ calls us to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

All: We will not hide our light or remain silent before injustice.

One: Come, let us worship the God who transforms apathy into courageous love.

All: With passionate hearts and willing hands, we will shine God's light in the world.

*Opening Hymn

"Renew Your Church" vs. 1-2 #462

COMMITMENT & RENEWAL

462 Renew Your Church

G D F# G D7 A G D F# G C G Am C

1 Re - new your church, our min - is - tries re - store: both to serve
 2 Teach us your Word, re - veal its truth di - vine, on our path
 3 Teach us to pray, for you are ev - er near, your still voice
 4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all,

G D G D F# G D7 A G D F# G C

and a - dore. Make us a - gain as salt through-out the land,
 let it shine; tell of your works, your might - y acts of grace,
 let us hear. Our souls are rest - less till they rest in you,
 hu - man-kind; break down old walls of prej - u - dice and hate,

G C G D G G B D7 A G

and as light from a stand. 'Mid som - ber shad - ows
 from each page show your face. As you have loved us,
 this the goal we pur - sue. Be - fore your pres - ence
 leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and

D7 A G D G G B G D D C

of the night, where greed and ha - treds spread their blight, O
 sent your Son, and our sal - va - tion now is won, O
 keep us still that we may find for us your will, and
 given your life to end hos - til - i - ty and strife, O

G B D A G D G Am C G D G

send us forth with power en - dued, help us, Lord, be re - newed.
 let our hearts with love be stirred, help us, Lord, know your Word.
 seek your guid - ance ev - ery day, teach us, Lord, how to pray.
 share your grace from heaven a - bove, teach us, Lord, how to love.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

God of fire and light, awaken us from comfortable faith and stir within us a holy passion for your world. Make us salt that brings life and light that refuses to hide. Kindle our courage, deepen our compassion, and move us from passive belief to active love, justice, mercy, and hope. Amen.

Anthem

"He Is the Everlasting God" — Martin

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message

Wendy Brown

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Intercessory Prayer w/ Lords Prayer (using debts/debtors)

L: God of passion,

All: awaken our hearts.

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lesson

First Lesson: Revelation 3:15-16

¹⁵ "I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

*Hymn of Preparation

"O Grant Us, God, a Little Space"

(words and music on the following pages)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-15

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

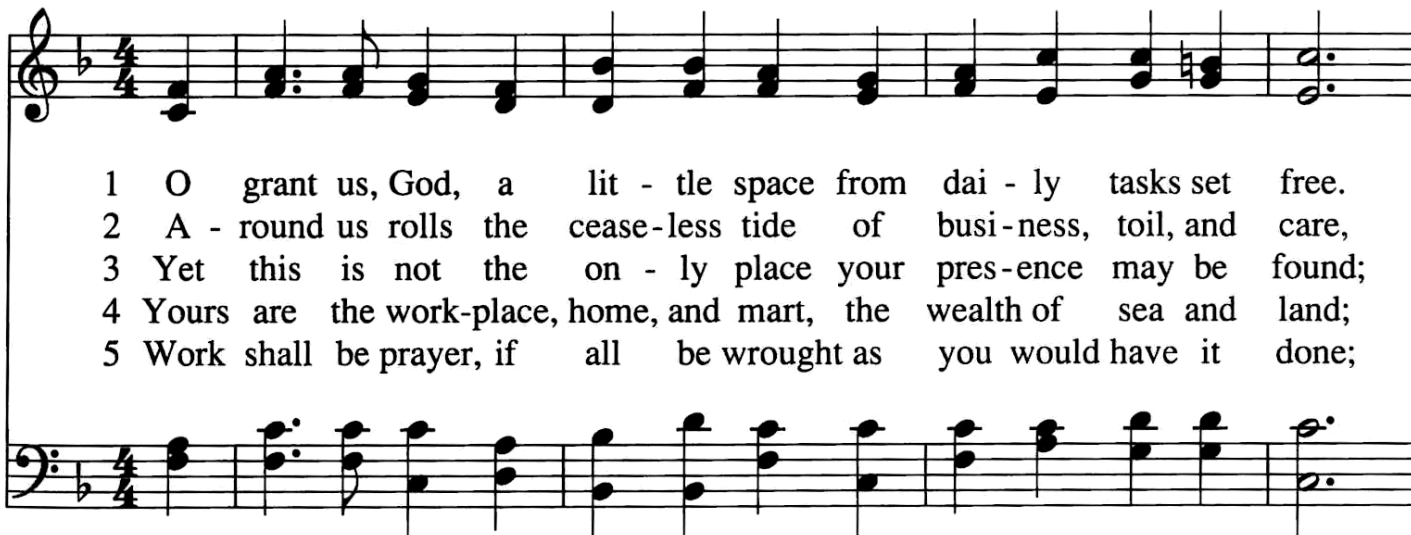
Sermon

"The Answer to Passivity is Passion"

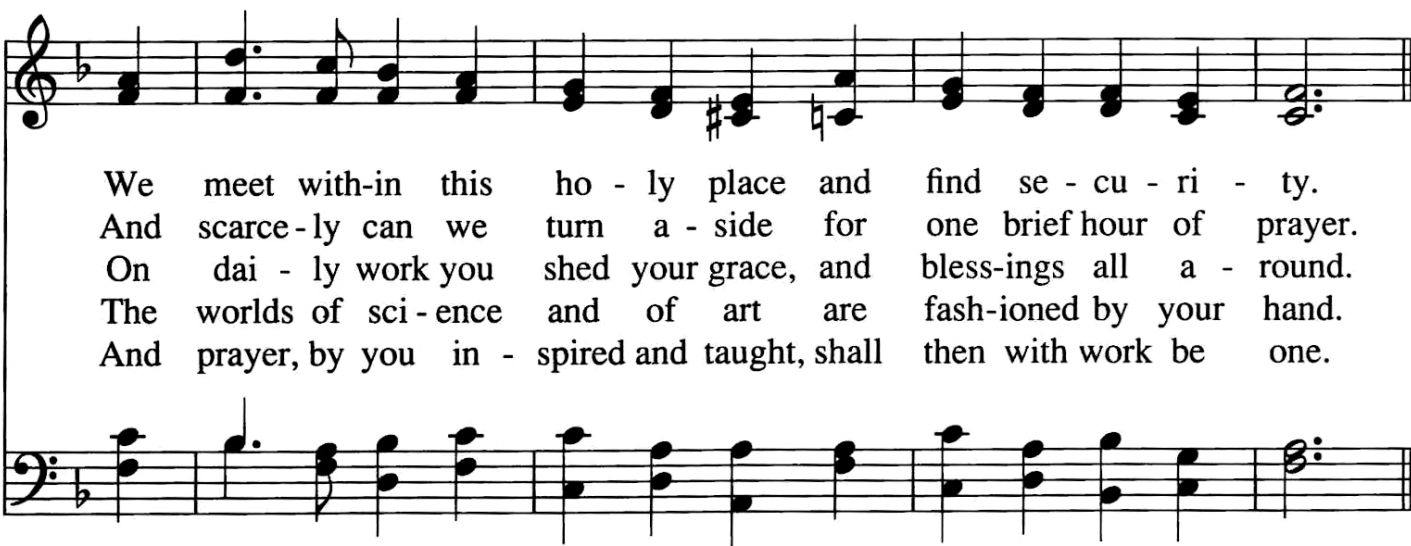
- Rev. Daniel J. Doty

O Grant Us, God, a Little Space

John Ellerton, 1870; alt.



1 O grant us, God, a lit - tle space from dai - ly tasks set free.
2 A - round us rolls the cease-less tide of busi-ness, toil, and care,
3 Yet this is not the on - ly place your pres-ence may be found;
4 Yours are the work-place, home, and mart, the wealth of sea and land;
5 Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought as you would have it done;



We meet with-in this ho - ly place and find se - cu - ri - ty.
And scarce-ly can we turn a - side for one brief hour of prayer.
On dai - ly work you shed your grace, and bless-ings all a - round.
The worlds of sci - ence and of art are fash-ioned by your hand.
And prayer, by you in - spired and taught, shall then with work be one.

John Ellerton's hymn, written for a noonday service in a city church, is one of the earliest to speak of science and art as part of God's creation. Thomas Este was a famous English printer and music publisher.

Tune: WINCHESTER OLD C.M.
Este's Whole Book of Psalms, 1592

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

GIVE ONLINE HERE



Offertory

"Little Prelude in G minor" - Taylor

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, receive these gifts as signs of our hope in your coming reign. May they strengthen weary hearts, bring healing where there is hurt, and extend compassion where there is judgment. Use us and these offerings to encourage one another, shine Christ's light, and share your love with the world. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

*Closing Hymn

"Renew Your Church" vs. 3-4 #462

(words and music on page 3)

*Benediction

*Congregation Response

**"Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love."**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Postlude

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" - Goss/Wyrtzen

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team: Vince Scovern, Anne Pertick, Megan Farnsworth
Liturgist: Dave Hawley
Ushers: Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Dan Thomas
Greeters: Joe and Tom Labay

* Welcome back Chancel Choir! We missed you over the summer months!

Today's altar flowers are provided by:

John and Fay James

"In Celebration of our 20th Wedding Anniversary"

Wendy Brown

*"In Celebration of Jack and Helen McKee's
59th Wedding Anniversary"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL BOOK STUDY

Wednesdays,
beginning September 9th
12:00 pm

This fall, we will begin a study of the book, "I'm Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To." The author, Lilian Daniel, a dear friend of Dan's, argues that it's time for Christians to stop apologizing and realize that how we talk about Christian community matters. Copies of the book are available for purchase from the church office for \$18.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays,
beginning September 9th
1:00 pm

The Fall 2026 Bible Study will continue a study of the Christian Scriptures in chronological order beginning September 9. We will study James, Colossians, and Hebrews. The study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the David Bacon Room. A reading list that will allow you to prepare for each class will be distributed on Sunday mornings beginning August 23rd. See you there!

FIRST SERVE

DAY OF SERVICE

Sunday,
September 13th
7:30 AM—1:00 PM

Join United Youth Ministries as we serve our neighbors in Akron through First Serve's Annual Day of Service. This year, we'll be giving new life to a preschool mural at the 915 North Main Project with a fresh coat of paint!

We'll meet at the church at 7:30 AM and carpool to the project. The day includes donuts, an interfaith sending service, hands-on service, and lunch provided by First Serve. Sign up with Ms. Anne! We're also looking for two adult volunteers to join us.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Sunday,
September 13th
4:30 pm

Roots and Wings is a fellowship group for parents or grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This is open to all children, but our activities will be geared for elementary-aged grandchildren. If your child wants to come and doesn't have a local grandparent, we can find an adoptive grandparent that would like to participate. The theme of our September meeting will be "School Days."

FALL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Saturday,
September 19th
9:00-10:30 am

On Saturday, September 19, in lieu of the Men's Prayer Breakfast, we will hold a Leadership Retreat from 9-10:30 AM. Come and enjoy a shared breakfast and fellowship time as we begin our time together. We will then discuss the needs for any new officers and board/committee members. We will also go over office procedures. This discussion will include issues such as meeting times/dates, minutes, turning in receipts, obtaining reimbursements, etc. While this is designed for our officers and board/committee chairs, anyone serving on a board/committee is invited to attend. Please RSVP to the church office by September 14.

STOP THE BLEED

—An Important,

Life-Saving Program

Thursday October 1,

12:00 pm

We are excited to welcome a speaker from the Cleveland Clinic to our October meeting for an important and potentially life-saving program called “**Stop the Bleed.**”

This hands-on course teaches the public three basic actions that can help save a life by stopping life-threatening bleeding following an everyday emergency or disaster. It is an excellent program that provides practical skills everyone can benefit from knowing.

We are opening this program to the entire congregation—**yes, men too!** Everyone is welcome.

A delicious **charcuterie box lunch will be provided by Women’s Fellowship. There is no charge.**

The presentation typically lasts about an hour. Depending on the number of participants, we may go an additional 10–15 minutes to allow plenty of time for questions and the hands-on portion of the training.

Registration is required to attend. **Deadline to register is September 27.**

We hope you’ll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn skills that could one day help you save a life!



STOP THE BLEED®

LEARN • PRACTICE • SAVE LIVES



JOIN US FOR A LIFE-SAVING TRAINING EVENT!

OCTOBER 1 AT 12 PM

SPEAKER FROM CLEVELAND CLINIC



APPLY
PRESSURE



USE A
TOURNIQUET



PACK
THE WOUND



Cleveland Clinic
**REAL SKILLS.
REAL LIVES.**

*Everyone
is welcome!*
MEN TOO!



**LUNCH
PROVIDED**
(charcuterie box)



**FREE
EVENT**



SPONSORED BY
Women's Fellowship

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. **Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm**

Brian Allman
Cindie Anderson
Debbie B.
The Becking Family
Joyce Bojarski
Margarete Boschert
Ryan Boylan
Jim Caplinger
Matthew Chapman
Jane Charles
Patty Conely
Jeffry Cotton
Betty Cottrill
Bob Davis
Rylin Davis and family
Susan Dean
Sean and Sara Doty

Ron Drake
Elaine Engle
Ron Evans
Darrell Goodson
Eleanor Hall
Jim Jackson
Nancy Johnson
Anita Kelly-Lahrmer
The Klinginsmith Family
Yvonne Larson
Bill Laymon
Roberta Lewis
Kitty Maddox
Carol McFarland
Jack and Helen McKee
Donna Phillips
Bob Poff

Lt. John Norton
Gary Rambler
Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear
Lt. Maxwell Spear
Jeff Sullivan
Richard and Karen Thomason
Troy and Kara
Lloyd Troyer
Kim and Noel Walters
PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter
Don Woerz
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

EQUIPPING ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES.



**Neighbors
in Need**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all. Thank you! Learn more at www.ucc.org/nin

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*
Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*
Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

IN PERSON | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

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