



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**16th Sunday of Pentecost
September 17th, 2023**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *let us pray.*

Creator God, we ask that you move among us today and gather us together with you. Take our many selves—our lives, our loves, our ideas, our questions, our speech, our silence—and unite us as your people. Give us the gifts of perception and understanding, so that even as we dream your dreams

and see your visions, we may be able to witness to your presence in our common life. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

We are called to joy

Making our moves with wild abandon

Sure of the love that buoys us

Sure of the laughter that awaits.

We are called to play

To play with God, with each other, with creation

Abandoning the grip of control

Releasing solemnity

Basking in the warmth of God

In love, in light, in laughter.

Come, let us worship God!

***HYMN #465** *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather (v. 1-3)*

Here, O Lord, your servants gather,

hand we link with hand;

looking toward our Savior's cross,

joined in love we stand.

As we seek the realm of God,

we unite to pray:

Jesus, Savior, guide our steps

for You are the Way.

Many are the tongues we speak,

scattered are the lands;

yet our hearts are one in God,

*one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears,
calling age and youth;
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us,
for You are the Truth.*

*Nature's secrets open wide,
changes never cease;
where, O where, can weary souls
find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed,
torn by endless strife,
Jesus, healer, bring Your balm,
for You are the Life.*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

To open our hearts is to risk vulnerability, judgment, and condemnation. But throughout the scriptures, we learn that God is merciful and just, slow to anger, and eager to forgive. Let us then risk our confession, first in silent prayer.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Please join me in the unison prayer of confession.*

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look

like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. We ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy up on us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE #582 (GtG)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, who grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *at this time, all children are invited up to hear a short message! After, kindergarten and younger can be dismissed to Story Circle with Olivia Meyers. Those older than kindergarten may return to their pews. We have activity bags available for their use in the back.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION– *Let us pray.*

Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your Word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the unclean spirits of worry, fear,

destruction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:9-15

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING

Genesis 21:1-7

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son

Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’ And she said, ‘Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Kori Robbins

We Respond to God’s Love

***HYMN #488 (GtG)**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

*I was there to hear your borne cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.*

*I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;*

*In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.*

When you heard the wonder of the Word

I was there to cheer you on;

*You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,*

*I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk ‘till rising sun.*

In the middle ages of your life,

not too old, no longer young,

I’ll be there to guide you through the night,

*complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.*

*I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

CALL FOR OFFERING

*In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit,
generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills
are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so
as the offering plate comes around, place your hand
over it, committing to God that you will use your time,
talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's
kingdom.*

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (GtG)**

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care
You are the fount of goodness,
the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you?
The praise is but a start.
Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

O God, Jesus taught that where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. In this hour, we come bringing our treasures—all that we have and all that we are. We come seeking your treasure—treasure that does not fade, decay, or disappoint. Share with us the treasure of heaven, that we may boldly share it with others. Amen.

EUCCHARIST – *see insert*

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN** (*SEE SONG SHEET*) *We Are the Church!*

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE #743** *Step by Step*

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

Names will be taken off after 6 weeks, unless noted.

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)

Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)

Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)

Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)

Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)

Pam & Sam Clay (Cousins of Debbie Rendes & Diane Reinhart)

Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic's sister)

Alan Bray (friend of Keeley Family)

Family of Melissa Keeley

Joan Williams

John Anderson & Family (Friends of Bill Reinhart)

Rusty Garland

Kathy Garland

Cindi Farina (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Vince Fazio (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Rich Pilla (Lisa Sorg's step-dad)

Jodi Jorgensen (Lisa Sorg's friend)

Shirley Brodie

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Ukraine
World Leaders
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker
Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria
Wildfire Victims in Maui

Announcements

*Information sent after Thursday at 9 am may not make it into
the bulletin.*

NAMI mental health training will take place on
Saturday, September 30th. Please stay tuned for
further updates on this upcoming event.

Book Club returns Tuesday, September 19th at 4pm.
Please join us!



Birthday Wishes

Bev Meyers 09/17

Jaclyn Craver 09/17

Sherry Gleason 09/17

Ty Lukehart 09/18

Ted Smith 09/19

Bethany Glidewell 09/23

Brian Frayer 09/23

Anniversary Wishes



Ken & Jan Rambo 09/20

Brian & Nicole Pugh 09/22



Responsibilities

Pastor Rev. Kori Robbins

Liturgist Melissa Keeley

Elder Chuck Reinhart

Deacon Debbie Rendes

Music Anita Miller

Story Circle Olivia Meyers

Media Alyssa Strange

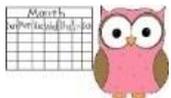


Thank you for your Generosity

September 10th \$2,784

September 03rd \$2,335

August 27th \$971



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 17 th	9:15am	Church School
	10:30am	Worship Communion Fellowship

Monday, September 18 th	7:00pm	Al-Anon/Al-Ateen
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Tuesday, September 19 th	4:00pm	Book Club
	6:30pm	Committee Night

Thursday, September 21 st	4:30pm	M.R. Football Team Dinner
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Sunday, September 24 th	9:15am	Church School
	10:30am	Worship Fellowship

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
(406)-560-5548
Pastor@FPCMR.org

Christian Educator

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodian

Patty Postlethwait

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Alyssa Strange

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

Address- 3654 Main Street
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

Email (office)

Admin@FPCMR.org

Phone

330-652-5712

Website

www.fpcmr.org

Clerk of Session: mrfpcclerk@gmail.com