



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JUNE 28, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>A Pleasant Thought</i>	Florence Price
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>Draw the Circle Wide</i>	Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone; we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still let this be our song;
No one stands alone. Standing side by side.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come before God as a family of Christ's people,
in whom our Risen Sovereign lives and serves.

**It is an awesome thing that God's Chosen One
continues to minister through us.**

How blessed you are when you reach out
to do more than the expected.

**It is a joy to offer hospitality
and provide what others need most,**

Those who give support to the righteous
shall receive the reward of a righteous person.

**The links forged by our faith call forth loyalty
that even our families cannot command.**

All who risk themselves for Christ's sake
will find abundant life through the cross.

**Whether a cross or a cup of cold water is required,
we want to give ourselves to the tasks at hand.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation.

We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry.

You understand our weariness.

Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite.

We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you.

**The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment
fills us with renewed joy and gladness.**

We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us,

not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word.

Open our hearts to receive all you offer.

Amen.

* HYMN #301

All Are Welcome

TWO OAKS



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger: all are wel - come;
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Kristy Sawicki

People who live closest to God
 are most aware of their shortcomings and need for forgiveness.
 Saints, more than grievous offenders against God and humanity,
 are convinced that growth and reconciliation are necessary.
 All of us know some gaps in our lives
 between the way things are and how they should be.
 In humility and expectation let us come to God in prayer.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Uncreated God, above all the gods we create,
we are not eager to take up a cross to follow Jesus.
We would rather help out in safe places
where we can protect those persons and things most dear to us.
We shrink from the difficult choices that may separate us
from loved ones with differing views.
We even have some favorite sins we would like to continue.
But we know that life for us is not all it is meant to be.
We long for true reconciliation with your purposes for us.
Forgive us, we pray,
that we might die to sin and rise to new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

Choir

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Congregation

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Your old self was crucified with Christ, according to the scriptures.
You are no longer enslaved to sin.
Walk, therefore, in newness of life.

Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #583

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God,
alleluia, alleluia.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

God has greatly blessed us with many kinds of wealth.

Let our joy and gladness overflow

as we express gratitude to God with our offerings.

As we support the ministries of the church,

let us consider those whose lives are grievously burdened,
reaching out to them in practical acts of mercy.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Welcome

Laurie Zelman and Mark Miller

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in, To be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace. Singing welcome, welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here;

All are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray.

Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,

A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice crying welcome!

Welcome to this place You're invited to come and know God's grace

All are welcome the love of God to share 'cause all of us are welcome here;

All are welcome in this place.

* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Kristy Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

What shall we offer as a fitting response to your abounding grace?

**Will our offerings support a prophet's ministry
in our midst and to the world?**

**Will they extend a cup of pure water in a thirsty land
and life-sustaining food when there has been no hope?**

Will they ennoble us for more creative outreach?

Bless our gifts with affirmative answers in which we can rejoice.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Simple Gifts

SHAKER HYMN

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Loving God, as we hear your Word this day,
send your Spirit to equip and inspire us,
that your grace-filled hospitality
may be the center of our lives.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 6:12-23 (Inclusive Bible)

So don't let sin rule your mortal body and make you obey its lusts; don't offer the members of your body to sin as weapons of injustice any more. Rather, offer yourselves to God as people alive from the dead, and your bodies to God as weapons for justice. Sin no longer has power over you, for you are now under grace, not under the Law.

Where does all this lead? Just because we are not under the Law but under grace, are we free to sin? By no means! You must realize that when you offer yourselves to someone else in obedience, you are bound to obey that person, whether you subject yourself to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to justice. Thanks be to God, that though once you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that rule of teaching imparted to you; freed from your sin, you became forever committed to justice.

I use the following example from human affairs because of your weak human nature. Just as you used to enslave your bodies to impurity and licentiousness for their degradation, now make them stewards of justice for their sanctification. When you were slaves to sin, you felt no need to work for justice.

What benefit did you enjoy from these things that you are now ashamed of, all of which lead to death? But now that you are freed from sin and have offered yourselves to God in obedience, your benefit is that you are being made holy; your outcome is eternal life. The wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Savior.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42 (Inclusive Bible)

Rabbi Jesus said: “Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.

Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones.

The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Jesus Welcomes All”



* NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

**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.**

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we

Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

As you depart to serve, be aware of people who are depending on your best efforts.

**God's work is accomplished through
and in spite of our commitment to a faithful witness.**

God surprises us with unexpected rewards at those times we are most selfless in our giving.

**The opportunity to be truly helpful to others
is its own reward.**

Take up your cross;
it is a symbol of life, not death.

**We take risks for Christ's sake,
knowing that it is the only way we will find life.**

The grace of Christ, love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit abide with you and equip you for every good work .

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

Better Than A Hallelujah

Chaplin Hartford and Sarah Hart

*“My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

JoAnn Hood, Jane Hazen, John Young Jr., Dorland, Philip Sykora, Dawson, Sally Columbo, Larry Kroeger, Gabriella Brownfield, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Jo'Anna Thomson and family, Pat Buchanan and family, Rosa Buccino and family, Renita and family, Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford and family

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



Welcome and Fellowship Committee

Red, White and Blue Luncheon with Birthday Cake!

Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 11:30AM in Memorial Hall.

Sign up sheets are outside the Chapel and at Coffee Hour.

@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday June 28

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

1:40PM Guardians-Mariners/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 30

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 1

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

1:00PM Baltimore Children's Chorus/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday July 4 Independence Day

Sunday July 5

9:00AM Community Choir Rehearsal/Michigan Room

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Red, White, and Blue Luncheon/Memorial Hall

Monday July 6

Independence Day/Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday July 7

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 8

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 9

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday July 12

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Gallery

12:30PM Chair Exercise Class/Chapel



Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:63 Online:259

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:

firstprescle.org/giving



Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026
Beth Buchanan
Judy Macuga
Melissa Maffia
Harriet Niles
Marty Vassel

Class of 2027
Michelle Baron
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2028
Dave Finley
Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026
Mark Corey
Forrest Diehl
Pam Daly
Ruth Finley
Alyssa Niepokny
Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027
Anand Bandari
Eric Grattan
Sunny Kunche
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2028
Valorie Hempstead
JoAnn Hood
Elie Medie
Brad Oglesby
Mark Pichler
Lori Montero

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027
Dave Eifert

Class of 2027
Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027
Mike Musson

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