



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JUNE 7, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION
PRIDE SUNDAY
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Colorful Creator</i>	Ruth Duck
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>God, We Gather as Your People</i>	David Hohman

God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
and we dare to share the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be,
when your children will be free.
Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for everyone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

As surely as the new day has dawned,
God comes to meet us and be known by us.

I will sing to God and trust God's steadfast love.

My heart rejoices in God's saving grace.

God gives life to the dead
and creates new things from nothing.

**We believe, against all hope,
that new life can be wrought in us.**

Jesus invited people to fresh starts
with the words "Follow me."

**We want to respond with our lives,
to take the risks of discipleship.**

God will raise us up
and equip us for our life of service.

**We rejoice in God's promises
and devote this hour to prayer and praise.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

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

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 Bb F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F Bb

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F Bb A7 Dm Gm Dm

Refrain

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F Bb F

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

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Lindsay Buchholzer

We need not fear to approach God
 with all the blots and stains that make us unattractive
 and destroy our self-confidence.

God welcomes honest confession and frees us from our slavery to sin.
 Let us come boldly to the throne of grace to find acceptance and help.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.

Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we have been quick to criticize
and slow to offer our devotion.
Our love is as fleeting as the dew, and just as fragile,
before every hint of disapproval.
We have relied on rituals rather than on righteousness,
knowing about Jesus
rather than taking our rightful role in the body of Christ.
We have used others for our own ends
and shrunk from offering our resources to them.
Forgive our self-centeredness and engage us in ministry, 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

We are welcomed into God's presence by forgiving love
that will not let us go.

Christ came to call sinners to repentance.

The Great Physician ministers to the sick and hurting ones,
including us.

Rejoice and give glory to God, as you grow in faith and love.

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.

What shall we return to God for all the bounty we have received?

Everything we have comes from God and is but lent to us for a time.

Let us offer a thanksgiving sacrifice,

rejoicing in the opportunity to share in bringing in the harvest for God.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Stand in the Light

arr. Johnathon Miller

Didn't I tell you I hear what you say?
Never look back as you're walking away
Carry the music, the memories and keep them inside you
Laugh every day. Don't stop those tears from falling down
This is who I am inside. This is who I am, I'm not gonna hide.
'Cause the greatest risk we'll ever take is by far
To stand in the light and be seen as we are
To stand in the light and be seen as we are
With courage and kindness hold on to your faith
You get what you give and its never too late
To reach for the branch and climb up leaving sadness behind You
Fight hard for love
We can never give enough
This is who I am inside
This is who I am, I'm not gonna hide
'Cause the greatest risk we'll ever take is by far
To stand in the light and be seen as we are
To stand in the light and be seen as we are
Riding the storms that come raging towards us we dive
Holding our breath as we break through the surface
With arms open wide.

* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD

Choir

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

Congregation

**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

Lindsay Buchholzer

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We bring our offerings to the table of Christ,
not as taxes to be paid, or as sacrifices to be blessed,
but as an outpouring of love.
We have known acceptance and healing, forgiveness and grace.
All that is dearest to us we give in gratitude for all we have received.
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

Let us pray together:

**By your Word, O God, everything was made.
Your Word is powerful
and can transform the hearts of men and women.
Speak to us today, O God.
Open our hearts and minds to your renovating Word,
and give us guidance and strength.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Hosea 5:15-6:6 (Inclusive Bible)

“Then I will go back to my lair until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their suffering they will make haste to see me:
'Come! Let us return to YHWH—the One who has torn us asunder will make us whole; the One who struck us down will bind our wounds. In two days, God will bring us back to life and on the third day God will restore us so we will live in the presence of the Most High. Let us come to know YHWH intimately, and pursue that knowledge zealously. And as sure as the sun rises in the morning, God will come, and will return to us like the rains of winter, like the rains of spring that water the earth.’

Oh, Ephraim, what am I going to do with you? And Judah, what am I going to do with you? Your devotion is like the morning fog, like the dew of morning that vanishes! So I hack them to pieces through my prophets and slay them with the words of my mouth. My judgments flash like lightning before you. For I desire kindness toward others, not sacrifice, acknowledgment of God, not burnt offerings.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (Inclusive Bible)

As Jesus walked on, he saw Matthew, a tax collector, at his post. Jesus approached and said, "Follow me," and Matthew got up and followed.

Now it happened that, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and notorious "sinners" came to join Jesus and the disciples at dinner. The Pharisees saw this and complained to the disciples, saying, "What reason can the Teacher have for eating with tax collectors and sinners?"

Overhearing the remark, Jesus said, "People who are in good health don't need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire compassion, not sacrifices.' I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

As Jesus was speaking, a synagogue official came up, knelt down and said, "My daughter has just died. But if you come and lay hands on her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with the official, and so did the disciples.

As they were going along, a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the hem of his cloak; she was saying to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus turned around and saw her. "Courage, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." That very moment the woman was healed.

When Jesus arrived at the house of the synagogue official, a noisy crowd had gathered, and the flute players who served as mourners had already arrived.

When he saw them he said, "Get out! The child is not dead—only asleep."

They all laughed at him.

After the crowd had been put out, he entered and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. And the news spread throughout the countryside.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Compassion, Not Sacrifices"

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

*HYMN #769

For Everyone Born
Verses 1, 3 and 5

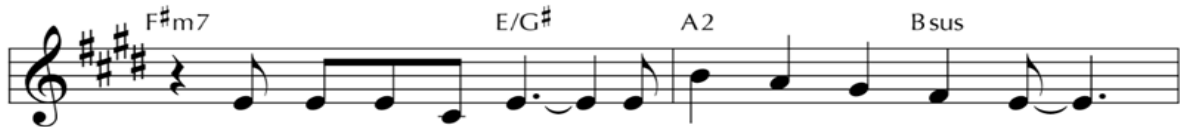
FOR EVERYONE BORN



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



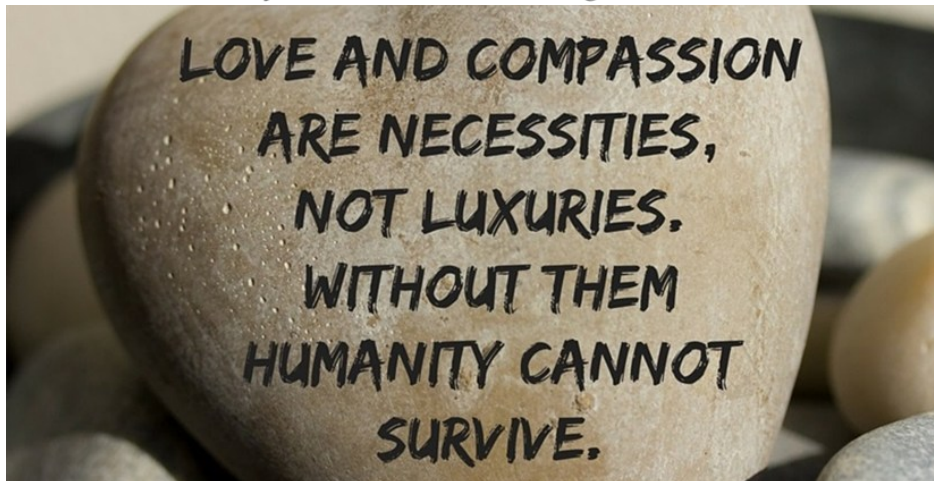
for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



Refrain

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and
 joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,
 God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,
 jus-tice and joy!

***INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

**For the courage of the Holy that lives in us,
 we give thanks.**

Bold and Beloved One, throughout history
 you have revealed yourself to us
 in ways that surprise and disrupt.
 You shocked the world when you came to be with us
 as a vulnerable baby born
 into a family fleeing political persecution.
 Though the scandal of your embodiment in Jesus
 led to crucifixion, still your Spirit of New Life
 is birthed anew among the marginalized.

You live among us today:
In the lives of black trans women
whose experiences of violence
are dismissed and ignored.

Among people living with HIV/AIDS.

As babies born into the care of lesbian women.

**You wander school halls as trans children
and navigate the streets as queer couples
walking hand-in-hand.**

You come to us as LGBTQIA+ youth without a home.

At times, we are offended by your self-expression.

You take on flesh in people, places,
and ideas we have been taught to fear or despise.

And so we struggle. Our hearts harden.

Our hospitality recoils.

But still, your love persists.

Through beauty, compassion, and truth,
you lure us into laying down our need to control.

You move us.

Free us.

Embrace us.

By your grace, we are brought into
the sacred labours of justice and transformation.

We become free in Christ to reject all evil and oppression.

We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

John Young Jr., Jane Harris, Laurie Thomson,
Dorland, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur,
Pat Buchanan and family, Rosa Buccino and family,
Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Buccino,
may his memory be a blessing.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

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.

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Like those who gathered with Jesus
on the night of his arrest, we come in need of grace.
After feasting with his companions, Jesus took the bread,
blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

“This is my body which is given for you.
Take, eat, and remember me.”

After the supper, Jesus did the same with the cup, saying:

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

“This is a symbol of the new covenant.
Drink in remembrance of me.”

In remembering the life of Jesus,
we remember what he showed us:

The love of God is public.

The love of God is intentional.

The love of God is explicit.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

And so we pray,
pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God.
Through these gifts,
open our hearts to encounters with Christ
in the strange and the ordinary.
May the bread of life and the cup of blessing
strengthen us in our courage to live as Jesus lived.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.

You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

arr. Mac Huff

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a-waitin' for the mornin'
It's been a long hard fight
But I see a brand new day a-dawning
I've been looking for the sunshine
You know I ain't seen it in so long
But everything's gonna work out just fine
And everything's gonna be all right
That's been all wrong
'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh, and everything's gonna be all right
It's gonna be okay
It's been a long, long time (ooh, ooh, ooh)
Since I've known the taste of freedom
Those clinging vines (ooh, ooh, ooh)
That had me bound, well I don't need 'em, oh
I've been like a captured eagle
You know, an eagle's born to fly
Now that I have won my freedom
Like an eagle, I am eager for the sky

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**Nourishing One,
your gifts renew us in body, spirit, and mind.
Through this taste of love,
may the Spirit send us with a faith that is brave.
Let no institution or narrow thinking hold us back;
make us people who boldly pursue collective justice
and tend gently to the world's pain.
Amen.**

1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
Who will light the flame of care?
might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
each a love song to be sung.
res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Let us press on to know the Eternal One,
who desires our steadfast love.

**Day by day we will live by faith
and trust the promises of God.**

Our faith in God, who raised Jesus from death,
is reckoned to us as righteousness.

**We are justified by faith,
not by religious acts or works of the law.**

Christ came not to call the righteous, but sinners,
to heal the sick, not the satisfied.

**Aware of our need and eager to find life
we answer Christ's call, "Follow me."**

The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you today and forever.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

anon.

POSTLUDE

Poco vivace

Herman Schroeder

*"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:

John Young Jr., Jane Harris, Laurie Thomson, Dorland,
Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur,
Pat Buchanan and family, Rosa Buccino and family,
Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford and family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Buccino,
may his memory be a blessing.

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.



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



@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday June 7 Pride Sunday

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Plant Exchange/Memorial Hall

Tuesday June 9

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday June 10

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday June 11

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday June 14

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Gallery

12:30PM Chair Yoga/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians-Tigers/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 16

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday June 17

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcoming & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Thursday June 18

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Friday June 19 Juneteenth

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Sunday June 21

10:00AM Worship with Baptism/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Gallery

2:00PM Juneteenth Concert/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:79 Online:272

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

Leah Jennings-Brown, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Cali Jacobs, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *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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