



Statement of Welcome & Inclusion

As followers of Jesus, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God. We are committed to creating an inclusive space of belonging and safety. Therefore, this community of faith welcomes into full participation, membership, and leadership persons of diverse age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, level of education, class, and income.

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, we affirm that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” allowing for a breadth of diverse theological and biblical interpretations. We covenant to accept, respect, and love one another as we apply our faith in the circumstances of our lives and in the matters of our world.

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

We are glad you are worshiping with us today.

*Childcare is available from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 3 of the Kuhn Education Wing.
We also invite children to use our activity area in the sanctuary.*

Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth (rear of sanctuary).

Alice and Dean Crossland have given today's flowers to support all those battling cancer and mental health challenges.

Worship begins with the first note of the prelude — may we silence our voices and open our hearts, allowing the music to draw us together into the presence of God.

Prelude

Dreams

Gordon Young

Diane Rutzler, Guest Organist

Welcome

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 114)

L: When God's people left a strange place and entered another,

P: God made a home in a people, not a land.

L: Even the earth moved to make a way for them.

P: The sea fled to keep their feet dry.

L: So, let the earth tremble at the presence of the Lord who can turn a rock into a spring of water.

P: Let us praise our God, who frees us for new life.

*Hymn 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

*Call to Confession

Why do we pass judgement on our siblings? Why do we despise them? We all stand before the judgement seat of God. Therefore, let us confess our sins before the God who makes us stand, first in silence and then together in our unison prayer of confession.

**Those who are able are asked to please stand.*

*Prayer of Confession

Dear God, we confess that we judge before we understand. We tie our burdens to others and do not regard their own unique relationship to you and to others. We're insecure about our own observances and anxious about the failures of this world, our communities, and our neighbors. Help us, then, to seek community not in our own image, but in yours. Help us to forgive as you have forgiven us. Like the risen Christ, help us to respond with trust and praise to your glorious and manifold presence in the human community, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

L: We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So let us observe this day as a people set free from judgement to live in praise.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be; world without end.
Amen, Amen.*

*Passing of the Peace

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

P: **And also with you.**

Children's Message

The Rev. Nancy Conklin

(After the message, preschool and elementary-age children are invited to follow volunteers to the Little Kirk for an age-appropriate worship experience.)

First Scripture Reading (NT, p.163)

Romans 14:1-12

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

On Eagle's Wings
The Chancel Choir

M. Joncas

Second Scripture Reading (NT, p.20)

Matthew 18:21-35

L: This is the word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

The Rev. Stuart Seelman

*Hymn 822

When We Are Living

Moment for Stewardship: Church World Service

Lydia Keller

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Morning Hymn
Diane Rutzler, Guest Organist

Gordon Young

*Doxology (Tune: "Old Hundredth")

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;
Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, by these gifts and our lives help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Benediction (to the tune of *Edelweiss*)

*May the Lord, mighty God
Bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace
Courage in every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and see God's face
Full of grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty God
Bless and keep you forever.*

Postlude

Praise Ye the Triune God
Diane Rutzler, Guest Organist

F. Fleming

IT'S HAPPENING AT CHPC

- The **Wednesday morning Fall Book Study** group will now meet at 10 a.m. (instead of 9:30 a.m.), to avoid Preschool drop-off time. **The Tuesday evening class begins Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.** Both groups will meet in the Blue Room, and a Zoom option will be available.
- **Supper Club** is returning for Fall 2023. These groups of six to eight people meet at the house of a host or at a restaurant. Groups meet once a month over a period of three months, and both singles and couples are welcome. Forms and sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Place. **Please sign up today if you haven't already done so.**
- It's time for a **Women's Retreat!** There will be **an informational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 24, immediately after worship on the window-side area of Fellowship Hall.** To assist in choosing a time and place, Pastor Nancy would find it helpful to have an initial conversation with anyone who might be interested in attending the retreat. Grab your coffee after worship and join us!
- Those who signed up to attend the trip to the **National Museum of African American History and Culture** are reminded that **the bus will pick us up at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, in the parking lot, so please arrive at the church no later than 8:15 a.m.** Cost of the bus trip and museum entrance is covered by our Thriving Together grant, but you may want to bring money for food and beverages and souvenirs.
- September is the month we support PCUSA's Peace and Global Witness Offering. Please find offering envelopes in the pews. CHPC's portion of the offering will be used to **support Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties.** Thank you for your generous contributions.
- The **Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be held Sunday, Oct. 1, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** All women are invited; a \$2 donation is requested. A light luncheon will precede a special program on service dogs presented by Kary Starling of Dandy Dog Training.
- The first of this season's **Noonday Organ Recitals will take place at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, in the Sanctuary.** Daniel Glessner, organist at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Enola, will be joined by flutist Laura Bielen. **A free luncheon precedes the concert at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** A freewill offering will be taken.
- CHPC's **Blessing of the Animals will take place Sunday, Oct. 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the Peace Garden.**

CHPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, September 18

- 10 a.m. – Staff Meeting; Pastor's Study
- 1 p.m. – Quilters and Crafters for Mission; Q&C Room
- 7 p.m. – Pax Christi Meeting; Reception Room
- 7 p.m. – Congregational Care Team Meeting; Blue Room and via Zoom

Tuesday, September 19

- 6 p.m. – West Shore A.A. Big Book Study; Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. – Fall Book Study; Blue Room and via Zoom
- 7 p.m. – CAM Meeting; Via Zoom

Wednesday, September 20

- 10 a.m. – Fall Book Study; Blue Room and via Zoom
- 6 p.m. – Handbell Choir Rehearsal; Music Room
- 7 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal; Music Room

Saturday, September 23

- 3 p.m. – McGeary Memorial Service and Reception; Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 24

- 9 a.m. – Exegesis Adult Sunday School Class; Blue Room and via Zoom
- 9 a.m. – Men's Bible Study; Green Room
- 9:45 a.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal; Music Room
- 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service; Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. – Kirk Kids Class; Little Kirk
- 11:30 a.m. – Fellowship; Fellowship Hall

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