

Service of Worship

October 29th, 2023

22nd Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

Rev. Dr. Amy Snow, Interim Pastor

Dave Zeng, Music Director

Mika Komuro, Pianist

We Gather Together

Fanfare

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Mika Komuro

Call to Worship

Terry Spencer

L: Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.

P: Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

L: May we be like trees planted by streams of God's living water.

**P: May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor.
Let us worship the Living God!**

*Opening Hymn

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”
(v. 1, 2, & 4)

Hymn #396

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. To often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. We betray you and our best selves by living without regard for the ways our actions harm our neighbors in need and the planet entrusted to our care. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us and return us to your way of righteousness. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

**“Alleluia, Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to His name.”**

Hymn #240, refrain

The Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
And also, with you.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

“Praise to the Lord, Alleluia!”
Chancel Choir

by John Carter

Doxology

Hymn #608

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

Litany of Commitment

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. **Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.**

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

-Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw in 1979

We Proclaim God's Word

Time with Our Children

Pastor Amy

Prayer for Illumination

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action. Open our minds and our hearts to the reading of your Word, and knit our stories into your Holy Story that we might live as participants in your will. Ready us to respond to the Spirit's call. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:34-46

Pew Bible pg. 25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Stories of our Neighbors”
Lois Rogers, Roger Neff and Aimee Shadwell

Hymn

“What a Friends We Have in Jesus”

Hymn #465

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith
Belhar Confession

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;

That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain;

That this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted;

That this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and share of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Prayers of the People and 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 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.

We Go Forth In God's Name

Closing Hymn

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

Hymn #712

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Hymn #744 verse 1

**“Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today”**

Postlude

Mika Komuro

WORSHIP NOTES

Acolyte: Young Family

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

Liturgy written by Terri McDowell Ott for the Presbyterian Outlook, used with permission.

First Presbyterian Church
220 S. Ft Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075
ffnpc220@gmail.com website: ftfpc.org 859-441-8939
We are a Christian body dedicated to:

- Showing God's Love
- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Serving the Needs of others



Tues. 10/31	Office Hours, 9-12
Wed. 11/1	Office Hours, 9-12
Thurs. 11/2	Office Hours, 9-12
	Tewn Up Meeting

Support FPC by giving online using this link:

Ftfpc.org/give

On the Prayer List This Week: Linda B, Sally Reusch, Herb Hilgeman, Jane Reusch, Cindy Roth, Gary Shields, Jo Alexander

Remember Our Members in Caring Facilities:

The Barrington: Ann Deering, John Alexander, Barb Manyet

Carmel Manor: Jane Reusch

Hyde Park Health Center: Carol Warf

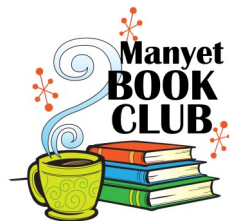
Highland Springs: Kathy Clixby

Inspirations: Corinne White

Providence Pavillion: Betsy Evans

To address any pastoral needs, please contact the office at 859-441-8939 or Pastor Amy at 513-335-1621— pastoramyfpc@gmail.com

The Manyet Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 29 at 7 pm at Donna Baxter's house. We will continue our discussion of the stories from the last half of the new Chicken Soup for the Soul book Angels and the Miraculous by Amy Newmark. All folks are welcome. Contact Donna with questions.



Children's Christmas Musical!



We are very excited to be offering a Children's Christmas Musical this year, and we would LOVE for you to be involved!!!

If your child would like to participate, please send their name and age to Erika Zeng at erikafzeng@gmail.com by November 1! Once you respond, we will send you music to start listening to at home. Short rehearsals will begin after church on November 5. The musical will be performed during the church service on Sunday, December 17.

We hope you can join us!!

Upcoming Youth Events

Registrations and more info
can be found at
lakesidechurch.org



Questions about Israel and Palestine?

We have all been struggling to understand the situation taking place in Israel and Palestine and it can be hard to find a source that understands this from a variety of perspectives.

Dr. Dean Nicholas will be doing a presentation regarding his study and experiences in the Holy Land and also respond to questions you may have.



Dr. Dean Nicholas, the head of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, will share from his study and experiences of over 40 visits to the Holy Land. His work focuses on the history of Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the region.

Dr. Nicholas is the head of Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy and has a PhD in Hebrew Studies from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. He has taken groups of students and adults to learn about the complex history of the different groups that

call these lands Holy. He has developed significant relationships with Christians, Jews, and Muslims who reside in both Israel and Palestine. His work in the region focuses on the history and different perspectives of the diverse people in the region.

Wednesday, November 8
7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
220 S. Fort Thomas Ave.

