

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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**vancechurch.org**

## **13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

September 07, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



### **Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:**

Jeremiah 18:1-11 ~ Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1:1-21 ~ Luke 14:25-33

Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
is a welcoming, active, community-oriented,  
theologically Reformed congregation  
where all people are celebrated and valued  
as we worship the Triune God, engage in mission,  
and serve our community and beyond.

## Gathering around God's Word

## PRELUDE

# CHIMES

# LET THE CHILDREN COME

## GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL to WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18)

**Liturgist:** Like clay on a wheel

**All: God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.**

**Liturgist:** And like moldable clay,

**All: God continues to shape us.**

**Liturgist:** Let us worship God.

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, increase our faith, hope, and love; and, that we may receive all you promise, make us love what you have commanded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**✠OPENING HYMN of PRAISE** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory, GtG 213*

**CONFESSION and time of self-examination** (*congregation may be seated*)

**Leader:** In the very beginning, God made us in God's own image. And yet, in the most common of human actions, we stray from God's pure intentions for us. Let us return to our Lord, acknowledging our mistakes both individually and as a community.

**All: Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us.**

## SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

**SUNG RESPONSE** *Lord, Have Mercy, GtG 551*

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

**Leader:** Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen!**

✠ GLORIA PATRI *Glory Be to the Father, GtG 581*

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 the PEACE of CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

## **Encountering God's Word**

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION      *Change My Heart, O God, GtG 695*

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

#### **The ANTHEM**

##### *Keepers of the Faith*

Words by Joseph M. Martin and Timothy Dwight (1752-1817)

Music by Joseph M. Martin

Incorporating tune: *ST. THOMAS* by Aaron Williams (1731-1776)

We love Thy kingdom, Lord, the house of Thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.

We are keepers of the faith, seekers of the Light,  
people of the promise, and music in the night,  
children of compassion, instruments of praise.

Make our hearts Your dwelling place.

Fill us with Your love and grace,

Lord, this we pray.

Help us to be keepers of the faith.

Lord, You have filled us with Your power from above,  
crowned us with purpose and clothed us in Your love,  
filled with Your Spirit, we answer now the call.

To You we dedicate our all.

We love Your church, O God. We give You all the praise.  
Make us true servants of the cross and keepers of the faith.

Make us keepers of the faith.

We Love Your church, O God

#### **The SCRIPTURE**

##### **HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:**

Jeremiah 18:1-11

##### **NEWER TESTAMENT READING:**

Luke 14:25-33

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

#### **MORNING MESSAGE**

"The Cost of Discipleship"

Rev. Erica L. Harley

## **Responding to God's Word**

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (The Apostle's Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and  
in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy**

**Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.**

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, GtG 223*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** God has formed us and continues to do so. With thanks for God's ever-present love for us, let us give back to God a portion of what God has given to us. *(congregation may be seated)*

### **The OFFERTORY**

*Search Me, O God*

Lyrics by Joy Sherman based on Psalm 139

Music by Lloyd Larson

#### *REFRAIN:*

Search me, O God, and know my heart  
as You have searched and known before;  
who I am, where I go, what I say and what I know.  
Search my heart that I may love You more.

You know where I've been and where I'm going,  
when I'm asleep and when I rise.  
You know my thoughts before I think them.  
Nothing is hidden from Your eyes.

#### *REFRAIN...*

You know my steps before I take them.  
You've ordered each and ev'ry one.  
The darkness will not hide me from You,  
for night to You shines as the sun.  
From heavens high to valleys low,  
there is nowhere I can go  
where Your Spirit will not find me and remain.  
For You formed me with Your hands  
by Your pure and holy plan.  
I will now and ever sing this glad refrain:

#### *REFRAIN...*

⌘ DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, GtG 606*

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

⌘ PRAYER of DEDICATION

**We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed. Amen.** *(congregation may be seated)*

# The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

**Leader:** This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

## Great Thanksgiving

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Leader:** Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful. Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

**All Sing:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## Words of Institution

**Leader:** We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

**Leader:** Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Sing: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Leader:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**All Sing: Amen, amen, amen.**

**All please join in singing.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father, which 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, Amen.**

**Leader:** Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Jesus also said: I am the vine, you are the branches. Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst. The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Cup

#### Communion of the People

#### Prayer after Communion

**Leader:** God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds**

#### ⌘ CLOSING HYMN

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

#### **The Celebration Hymnal, # 602**

I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back.  
The world behind me, the cross before me, No turning back, no turning back.  
Tho' none go with me, still will I follow, No turning back, no turning back.  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back.

#### ⌘ BENEDICTION

#### ⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

#### ⌘ POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

**GtG**=Glory to God Hymnal

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**10:00 a.m. Service of Worship regularly broadcast over WKWK-FM 97.3**

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Julia Burkley and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025.

# AdVance Announcements

- Welcome to Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, a traditional church with Spirit, serving the greater Wheeling Community and beyond! We welcome our radio congregation listening to our live worship on 97.3 WKWK-FM and to our Facebook Live congregation watching on facebook.com/VancePresbyterian. Remote listeners can go to vancechurch.org, select the "News" tab and choose "Bulletin" to follow along with a PDF of the worship service. If you ever need prayer or would like home communion, please contact the church office at 1-304-232-0980.
- Worship guests are particularly welcome this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex to receive a free gift and to leave us your contact information.
- The Men's Bible Study (33 The Series) will begin on October 5, 8:30am, in the Merriman Chapel. Please see the sign-up in the Narthex
- The Catholic Charities' Neighborhood Center is having a Spaghetti Dinner on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11am-5pm.
- Our Surf & Turf Dinner is scheduled for 6pm on September 21<sup>st</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. Please see the sign-up in the Narthex.
- We thank Gail Looney for serving as liturgist today.
  - Next week is as follows:
    - Greeter is Rowena Baker
    - Ushers are Diane Crawl, Audrey Abraham, Sue Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp
    - Liturgist is Cheryl Joseph
    - Welcome Center Volunteer is Amber Green

***In the month of September, Vance will offer new member classes for those who want to officially join in membership with the Church. September 14 will be the first class where we will talk about Presbyterianism. September 21 will be a meeting with the officers of Vance Church to learn more about this congregation, and September 28 will be a meeting with the Church Session. If you have questions, please talk to Erica.  
We look forward to seeing you.***

# Vance Calendar

Week of September 07, 2025 through September 14, 2025

## Sunday, September 07

- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **4pm, Youth Group Pool Party, Home of Russ & Amber Green**

## Monday, September 08

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C. E. Classrooms*
- **7pm, Session Meeting, Squibb Room**

## Tuesday, September 09

- Erica's Eye Surgery
- 6pm, Ohio County Master Gardeners Meeting, *Wheeler Room*
- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

## Wednesday, September 10

- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *C.E. Chapel*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *JL 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Room*

## Thursday, September 11

- **11:45am, Community-Wide Service of Remembrance, Heritage Port**
- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **5pm, Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

## Friday, September 12

## Saturday, September 13

- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

## Sunday, September 14 HOMECOMING SUNDAY

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C. E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Homecoming Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, New Member Class, Narthex**
- **6pm, Youth Group, Fellowship Hall**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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**Vance Church events are in bold type.**

Vance Church also houses the offices of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, Young Life,  
Junior League, Harmony House,  
and Wishing Well Learning Center.