

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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[vancechurch.org](http://vancechurch.org)

## **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

September 15, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



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

Proverbs 1:20-33 ~ Psalm 19

James 3:1-12 ~ Mark 8:27-38

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

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

*Seek Ye First, GtG 175*

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Psalm 19 & Wisdom of Solomon 7.26-8.1)

**Liturgist:** The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, knowing the streets are full of God's glory!**

**Liturgist:** The sky proclaims God's handiwork.

**All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, worshiping in the sanctuary of creation!**

**Liturgist:** The ways of the Holy One make wise the simple.

**All: With Wisdom, we rejoice, sharing in the oneness of love. Let's worship the Holy One in the streets, sanctuaries and squares!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

*Be Thou My Vision, GtG 450*

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

**Leader:** Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

**All: You call out to us, Holy God, from city streets, town squares and cattle gates, but we refuse to listen. Preoccupied with our projections of you, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other. You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such a dance with Divinity is possible, choosing complacency to your counsel. Forgive us, Logos of Love, when we ignore your constant call to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call to examine our foolishness so we may live as fools for Christ's sake.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive, GtG 444*

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

**Leader:** Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven.

**All: Having been forgiven, we take up Wisdom's way of knowing, embracing it as we journey toward wholeness and peace. Thanks be to God. 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

*I Danced in the Morning, GtG 157*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool Children are dismissed to the Nursery)

### The ANTHEM

#### *Canticle of Worship*

Words by J. Paul Williams

Music by Joseph M. Martin

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Let us fill this house with worship; let us celebrate Your grace.  
Let Your words be read and honored. May we all Your truth embrace.

Help us follow where You lead us, till Your work on earth is done.  
May each heart and mind and spirit joyfully sing praises now as one.

Let us fill this house with music. Let us fill this house with praise.  
Giving thanks for all God's blessing. Hymns of gratitude we raise.

Let our music reach to heaven; let our hearts be joined as one.  
Let the sounds of all creations joyfully proclaim what God has done.

Let us leave this house as servants. Let us live our songs for You,  
singing words of hope and courage, living lives of gratitude.

Let us give your hearts and talents; let us dedicate our all.  
Make us, Lord, one alleluia, as we answer to Your loving call.

You alone are holy. You alone are worthy.

You alone are God. We will serve You, Lord.

We worship You, O Lord.

### The SCRIPTURE

#### HEBREW TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 1:20-33

#### NEWER TESTAMENT READING

Mark 8:27-38

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica Harley

**Responding to God's Word**

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(from The Confession of 1967)*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful [people]. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

*How Great Thou Art, GtG 625*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** In Mark, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" This question serves as a call to action for us to express and share the transformative and healing love of God that we experience in our lives through our generous giving of tithes and offerings.

**The OFFERTORY**

*Nearer, My God, to Thee*

Hymn Tune: BETHANY

Text: Sarah F. Adams; based on Genesis 28:10-22

Music: Lowell Mason

Arrangement by: Susan W. Henry

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!  
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, My rest a stone,  
Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God to thee, Nearer to thee!

There let the way appear, Steps unto heav'n;  
All that thou sendest me, In mercy giv'n;  
Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God to thee, Nearer to thee!

⌘ 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

**God who witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen.**

MORNING PRAYER & OUR 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!**

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

⌘ CLOSING HYMN      *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said, GtG 718*

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE & POSTLUDE

*Lift High the Cross, GtG 826*

⌘ 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 Adam Ryan Quine, and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024.

## *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.
- Tithes, Offerings and other congregational receipts for the month of August 2024 were \$26,063. An example of expenses incurred during August was \$15,668. paid to Angelina Stone & Marble for repointing stone work on outside of building.
- We thank Jeanne Finstein for serving as liturgist today.

# Vance Calendar

Week of September 15, 2024 through September 22, 2024

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, New Members Class, Potter Chapel**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

## Mon. September 16

- 11am, Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery Training & Development, *Squibb Room*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 2pm, Ohio County Food Security Team Meeting, ZOOM
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*
- 6:30pm, WLU Community Choir Practice, *Squibb Room*

## Tue. September 17

- 1pm, Ohio County Adult Services Coalition, *Potter Chapel*
- 4:30pm, Susan Eison Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

## Wed. September 18

- **5pm, Woodsdale School Food Bag Packing, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

## Thur. September 19

- 5pm, YWCA Board Meeting, *Squibb Room*
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

## Fri. September 20

## Sat. September 21

- **10:30am, Kidz Morning Out, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

## Sun. September 22

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **9am, Session Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Kidz Christmas Play Practice**
- **Time TBD, Youth Group, The Washington Break 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.