

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

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vancechurch.org

5th Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Acts 11:1-18 ~ Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6 ~ John 13:31-35

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

Spirit, Open My Heart, GtG 692

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

Liturgist: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

All: Praise God, all you angels; praise God, all you hosts!

Liturgist: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

All: Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Liturgist: Let them praise the Name of Our God, by whose command they were created.

All: God established them forever and ever; and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

OPENING PRAYER

We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high. Be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, GtG 624

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

Leader: The world often judges by outward appearances, but Jesus reveals to us a deeper reality. When we fail to live in the new way of love God commands, we distance ourselves from the truth and pretend to possess a righteousness that is only ours through Christ. In this new promise, and knowing God's steadfast love is trustworthy and true, let us confess our shortcomings together, seeking the Spirit's new workings within us.

All: Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love, freely given without expectation or strings attached, like the unconditional love of a bridegroom. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others, holding court in our own hearts. We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy, forgetting the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your boundless forgiveness. Forgive us, Redeeming God. And transform our hearts

with your amazing grace and unconditional love so that our relationships and your world are transformed.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Live in Charity, GtG 205

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Behold: The former things have passed away, and God's grace flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are made new!

All: 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**

Help Us Accept Each Other, GtG 754

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool Children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Yes, Jesus Loves Me!

Words by Anna B. Warner and David R. McGuire

Arranged by Tim Osiek

Please refer to GtG 188.

...As a child on my knees, Jesus was a friend to me.
Does he still remember me? Does he still remember me?...

...But what about my doubts and fears?
How I've changed throughout the years?
When I cry out, does he hear?...

...Yes! Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way.
Wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live,
God's light and love! ...

Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

The SCRIPTURE

NEWER TESTAMENT READING

Acts 11:1-18

GOSPEL READING

John 13:31-35

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language)

All: The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. Jesus' human life involves the church in the common life of all people. Jesus' service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. Jesus' suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. Jesus' crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of Christ's coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table, GtG 769

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: Just as God pours out new blessings without measure, let us, with hearts overflowing with gratitude for this divine generosity in our lives, offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ in this new creation being ushered in.

The OFFERTORY

God of Wonders

Words and Music by Steve Hindalong & Marc Byrd

Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Lord of all creation, of water, earth and sky;
the heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the Lord on high.

REFRAIN: God of wonders beyond our galaxy, you are holy, holy.
The universe declares your majesty, you are holy, holy.
Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light.
When I stumble in the darkness, I will call your name by night. *REFRAIN...*

Hallelujah, to the Lord of heaven and earth. *REFRAIN...*
Lord of heaven you are holy, you are holy, O Lord.

⌘ 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

**Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your throne.
Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy
work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ who revealed to us the truth of your loving commands.**

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 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, GtG 645*

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal
Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079
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CVLI License #505495174

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

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Brian Christopher Coulter, 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.
- We thank Kevin Miller for serving as liturgist today.
- Altar flowers given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John H. and Marian V. McElhinney, by the George Weaver Family.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Janice Carenbauer
 - Ushers are Diane Crowl, Audrey Abraham, Sue Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp
 - Liturgist is Frank Provance
 - Welcome Center Volunteer is Bob Kanters
 - Fellowship Snacks Volunteers are Tom & Michelle John

Vance Calendar

Week of May 18 through May 25, 2025

Sunday, May 18

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Authentic Manhood, 33 The Series, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Wheeler Room**

Monday, May 19

- 7am, Woodsdale School Preschool Graduation, Fellowship Hall
- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, Primary Chapel
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Room
- 2pm, Ohio County Food Security Team Meeting, ZOOM
- **5pm, New Believers' Bible Study, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms

Tuesday, May 20

- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, Squibb Room
- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000, Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms

Wednesday, May 21

- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, Primary Chapel
- 7pm, Junior League, Junior League Room, 3rd Floor

Thursday, May 22

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, Merriman Chapel
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, PEO Meeting, Robbie Clarke Room

Friday, May 23

Saturday, May 24

- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Potter Chapel

Sunday, May 25

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Authentic Manhood, 33 The Series, Merriman Chapel**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Nominating Committee, Wheeler Room**
- 1pm, Baby Sprinkle for Brittany Krieger, Fellowship Hall & Large Kitchen
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, 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.

|                      | <b>ELDERS</b>     |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| John Looney          | Elaine Strauch    | Jeanne Finstein (2) |
| Frank Provance (2)   | Zach Abraham      | Diane Crowl (2)     |
| Karen Seabright      | Scott Winters     | Amber Green         |
| Howard Monroe (2)    | Jill Flanagan     | Sue Abraham         |
|                      | <b>DEACONS</b>    |                     |
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| Denise Williamson    | Janice Carenbauer | Audrey Abraham (2)  |
| Jennifer Shearer (2) | Cheryl Joseph     | Jane Hare (2)       |
| Andy Barger (2)      | Roger Cain (2)    | Joanne Winters      |
| Chase Burdick        | Alan Cline (2)    | Rowena Baker        |

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Erica L. Harley ~ Senior Pastor**

**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**

**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**

**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**

**Chaz Erazmus ~ Custodian**

**Keith Wilson ~ Sound, Video, and Media Coordinator**

**Michelle Harriman ~ Nursery Coordinator**

**~ MINISTERS of the CHURCH: ALL MEMBERS ~**

**MISSION PERSONNEL of OUR DIRECT CONCERN**

**Caleb and Claire (Seabright) Bermudez**