

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 5:1-7 ~ Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 ~ Luke 12:49-56

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

CALL to WORSHIP (Psalm 80)

Liturgist: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

All: Stir up your might and come to save us!

Liturgist: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

All: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

Liturgist: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

All: It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the river.

Liturgist: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see.

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

How Firm a Foundation, GtG 463

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

Leader: Try as we might to follow Jesus, at some point we always fail. But our failure does not have the power to separate us from God. Trusting Christ's grace, let us confess our sin together:

All: Ever-loving God, we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love. You call us to step forward in radical faith, but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial. You are eternally at work in the world, but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times. Forgive us, O God. By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular. Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name we pray,

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

You Are My All in All, GtG 519

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners. The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship. Proclaim the good news with me:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

⌘ 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

How Can I Keep from Singing?, GtG 821

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Walk by Faith!

Words by J. Paul Williams

Music by Joel Raney

By faith, Noah built an ark in the midst of doubts and fear.

By faith, he waited patiently till the plan of God was clear.

By faith, David slew Goliath with a mighty blow.

By faith, Moses spoke for God, saying "Let my people go!"

He walked by faith! O walk, walk by faith!

By faith, Esther told the king Haman was an evil man.

By faith, the Israelites were saved, according to God's plan.

By faith, Deb'rah told Barak that peace would be restored.

By faith, Hannah prayed to God and a son was her reward!

She walked by faith! Walk by faith!

By faith, Jesus came to earth, in lowly human frame.

By faith, he obeyed the plan that God in heaven made.

By faith, we will walk each day, his spirit by our side;

by faith, we will find our way, by faith and not by sight!

O walk, walk by faith! Oh, walk, we'll walk by faith!

The SCRIPTURE

OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

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

MORNING MESSAGE
"Divisions Among Us"
Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

All: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Abide with Me, GtG 836

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: God is the giver of every good gift. Let us return our thanks to God as we receive the morning offering.

The OFFERTORY

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty
Arranged by David Angerman

⌘ 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 as investments in your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Use this money and use our lives to bring about the world as you intend it. With gratitude we pray, 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

O Jesus, I Have Promised, GtG 725

⌘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 Ginna Bairby, 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.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Audrey Abraham
 - Welcome Center is John Hargleroad
 - Ushers are Ed Gustkey, Frank Provance, Bob Mead, Bob Kanters, Jeanne Finstein
 - Liturgist is Frank Provance
 - Fellowship Snacks are Jill Flanagan and Joelle Oliver

Vance Calendar

Week of August 17, 2025 through August 24, 2025

Sunday, August 17

- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **6pm, Game Night, Fellowship Hall**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Monday, August 18

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*
- 7pm, WSO Community Choir Practice, *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, August 19

- 7pm, Scouting America Troops 6 and 6000, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, August 20

- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, August 21

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **6:00pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

Friday, August 22

Saturday, August 23

- 12pm, Baby Shower, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, August 24

- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **6pm, Youth 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.