

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming Sunday

September 14, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 ~ Psalm 14

1 Timothy 1:12-17 ~ Luke 15:1-10

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

Think on this:

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!, **GtG 839**.

This is my story; this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

Setting by Joel Raney

BUNESSAN: Gaelic melody

Presented by Haley Williams and Deborah Breiding, pianos;

Dr. Alan Cline, organ; and

STRING QUARTET: Ben Podolski and Laura Grube, violins;

Derek Pavlic, viola; Dr. Molly Williams, cello

Please refer to GtG 664.

CHIMES

HANDBELL INTROIT

How Firm a Foundation

Arranged by Patricia Hurlbutt

FOUNDATION: Early American Melody

A Compilation of Genuine Church Music, Joseph Funk

Winchester, Virginia: J. W. Hollis, 1832

Please refer to GtG 463.

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Luke 15:1-10)

Liturgist: Have you come here to grumble?

All: No! We are here to rejoice!

Liturgist: Oh. Are you lost?

All: No! We are found!

Liturgist: Okay, I see. Do you seek a welcome at this table?

All: Yes! We are here to let go of the past and begin fresh.

Liturgist: We are here to celebrate the joy of heaven.

All: We are here to feast with Christ, our Lord!

Liturgist: Wonderful! You are in the right place.

All: You are welcome here.

Liturgist: Let's worship God together!

OPENING PRAYER

God of Mercy: Help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work; 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

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us, **GtG 187**

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (based on 1 Timothy 1:15)

(congregation may be seated)

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. With confidence born out of faith in Christ's power to save and deliver us, let us confess our sin.

All: (based on Psalm 51:1-10) **God of loving kindness, have mercy on us.**

According to your multitude of tender mercies, blot out our transgressions, thoroughly wash us from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. We know our transgressions, our sin, our evil done against you as we distort your love and corrupt your creation. From the moment of our conception we have worked to separate ourselves from your love. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom, purge and clean our hearts, put your Spirit anew within us. Let us hear joy and gladness so that our ragged bones might rejoice with you.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*, **GtG 839, v. 2**

DECLARATION OF PARDON (based on 1 Timothy 1:14, 16)

Leader: Hear the good news: With utmost patience, Christ offers mercy so that we may thrive in eternal life. In Christ's name, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

Leader: May the grace of our Lord overflow for you with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

⌘ **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** *A Woman and a Coin*, **GtG 173**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Surely the Presence

Words and Music by Lanny Wolfe

Setting by Joel Raney

Dr. Gail Looney, flute; John E. Leonard, trumpet

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;

surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

The SCRIPTURE
OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-10

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

MORNING MESSAGE

"The Worth of a Sinner"

Rev. Peter F. Jessen

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(from The Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Text)

All: In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

SONG of AFFIRMATION Presented by VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

Arranged by Moses Hogan

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING (based on Exodus 32:7-14)

Leader: God has offered us our lives and bestowed us with mercy, grace, and love. Let us now respond to God's offering to us by returning to God in part what is God's in whole.

The OFFERTORY

I Can Only Imagine

Words and Music by Bart Millard

Arranged and Orchestrated by David T. Clydesdale

Evan Williams, encore soloist

⌘ 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 (based on Luke 15:1-10)

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.

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 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*, **GtG 649**

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*, **GtG 839, v. 3**

⌘POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal
Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079
CCS License #11957
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 Walter Canter, 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.
- Flowers donated by Wendy, Julie and Phil Polack in memory of family.
- Our Surf-n-Turf Dinner is scheduled for September 21 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please see the sign-up in the Narthex. Entrée choices are Steak, Chicken, or Salmon.
- Catholic Charities' Neighborhood Center is having a Spaghetti Dinner on September 21 from 11am-5pm.
- We thank Cheryl Joseph for serving as liturgist today.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Andy Barger
 - Ushers are Drew Seabright, Russ Green, Tom John, Andy Barger, Roger Cain
 - Liturgist is Joanne Winters
 - Welcome Center is Sue Abraham

Vance Calendar

Week of September 14 through September 21, 2025

Sunday, September 14 Homecoming Sunday

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, New Member Class, Narthex**
- **6:00pm, Youth Group, Fellowship Hall**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Monday, September 15

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Tuesday, September 16

- **Erica's Eye Surgery**
- 5:30pm, WSO Board Meeting, *Potter Chapel*
- Scouting America Troops 6 and 6000 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Wednesday, September 17

- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- **6:15pm, EF&M Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, September 18

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

Friday, September 19

Saturday, September 20

- **10:30am, Kidz Morning Out, Fellowship Hall**
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, September 21 Baptism Sunday

- **9am, Session Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service with Baptism, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, New Member Class, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **6pm, Surf & Turf Dinner, Fellowship Hall**

~~~~~

**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.

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**  
**Rev. Erica L. Harley ~ Senior Pastor**  
**Janet Hart ~ Clerk of Session**  
**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**  
**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**  
**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**  
**Chaz Erasmus ~ 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**

*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.*