

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Joel 2:23-32 ~ Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 ~ Luke 18:9-14

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

HYMN PRELUDE: *Gather Us In*, **GtG 401, Vv. 1, 2, and 4**
(everyone sing)

CHIMES

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Luke 18:14)

Liturgist: All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.

All: We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God's truth.

OPENING PRAYER

Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, Almighty God, to rule and direct us according to your will, to comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, to defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth; that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*, **GtG 367**

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

Leader: Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us open ourselves in this time of prayer, being truthful in our confession as we humble ourselves before our God.

All: Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us hear and receive your truth.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Have Thine Own Way, Lord,
Celebration Hymnal, 591, Vv. 1 and 4

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Jeremiah 31:34)

Leader: Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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** *I Will Call upon the Lord, GtG 621*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Standing on the Promises

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Based on the traditional American hymn PROMISES

Words and Music by R. Kelso Carter (1849-1928)

Please refer to **GtG 838**.

The SCRIPTURE

OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:23-32

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:9-14

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (Philippians 2:6-11)

All: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

⌘ **SONG of AFFIRMATION** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, GtG 275*

⌘ **INVITATION to the OFFERING**

Leader: Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

The OFFERTORY

Peace

Words and Music by Patricia Mock

Arranged by Richard A. Nichols

Oh, Lord, through the strife bring your peace.

Where worry prevails, give release.

As the shadows linger all around,
to our troubled minds and broken land.

Let there be peace...

Oh, Lord, through the dark shine your light.

Where truth seems unclear, help our sight.

Lift the veil that covers blinded eyes;

Give a vision of you, only wise.

Let your light shine...

Lord of all mercy and grace,
rain down your love in this place.

In a world where hatred seems so strong,
may your grace right the wrong.

Give your peace, Lord, give your peace...

⌘ 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

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion, a single slice, of the abundance you've handed to us. Still, we press them into your care, set them down where they might become more. We hand over these gifts, grateful, but also in awe at how you shape small things into good news. Let these gifts find their way into the broken places, find the ones carrying heavy burdens. May these humble offerings help relieve those who need it most. 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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, **GtG 729**

⌘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 Teri McDowel Ott, 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 Jeane Finstein for serving as liturgist today.
- Trunk or Treat is coming October 31st! See the sign-up in the Narthex!
- Save the Date! November 16, 2025 – Congregational Meeting!
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Kevin Miller
 - Ushers are Diane Crowl, Audrey Abraham, Sue Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp
 - Communion Servers are Kevin Miller, Bob Kanters, Audrey Abraham
 - Liturgist is Michelle John

Vance Calendar

Week of October 26, 2025 through November 02, 2025

Sunday, October 26

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **6pm, Youth Group, Fellowship Hall**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Monday, October 27

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tuesday, October 28

- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, October 29

- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, October 30

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

Friday, October 31

- **6pm, Trunk or Treat, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen & Parking Lot**

Saturday, November 01

- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, November 02

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**

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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.