VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003
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vancechurch.org

24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 08, 2026 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 ~ Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ~ Matthew 25:1-13

**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 78)
Liturgist: Give ear, O my people, and listen to the words of my mouth
All: We will tell the coming generations of the Lord's glorious deeds and the wonders God has done.
Liturgist: Let us set our hope in God and not forget the works of the Lord.
All: As we wait, we will tell the story and keep the commandments.
Liturgist: We come together to worship the living God.

OPENING PRAYER
O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where the Son lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE *Bless All Who Trust in God,* **GtG 47**

CONFESSION and time of self-examination *(congregation may be seated)*
Leader: If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, we seek to begin again. With confidence that God hears us as we pray, let us confess our sins.
All: God of grace, we have sinned against you by not honoring you or loving one another. We sleep when you ask us to be awake. We fall short in our preparations for the delays that inevitably come. We fail to share what you have provided. We have lost our hope. Forgive our sinful ways, tame our wayward wills and make us more like Christ. Inspire us by your Spirit so that we will be prepared to welcome the Lord when the Lord appears. May our lives here and now be a glimpse of what we hope all may one day enjoy.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *Lord, Prepare Me,* **GtG 701**

DECLARATION OF PARDON
Leader: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news: Jesus died and rose again.
All: 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** *Love the Lord Your God,* **GtG 62**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM
Christ Be in My Waking
Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Simon Brading
Arranged by Larry Shackley

Christ be in my waking, as the sun is rising,
in my day of working, with me ev'ry hour.
Christ be in my resting as the day is ending,
calming and refreshing, watching through the night.

Christ be in my thinking and my understanding,
guarding me from evil, walking in the light.
Christ be in my speaking, ev'ry word a blessing,
pure and not deceiving, grace to all who hear.

Jesus, this is my devotion,
all my life to know You,
ev'ry day to walk with You.
Savior, You're my deepest longing;
You're the one I live for;
teach me, Lord, to walk with You.

Christ be in my gladness, for the joy of living,
thankful for the goodness of the Father's hand.
Christ be in my sorrow, in my day of darkness,
knowing that I follow in the steps He trod.

Christ when hope has faded, nothing left to cling to,
ev'ry pleasure jaded, ev'ry well is dry.
Christ the loving Shepherd draws me with His kindness,
leads me from the desert to the streams of life.

The SCRIPTURE
GOSPEL READING:
Matthew 25:1-13
HEBREW BIBLE READING
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
The Word of the Lord … **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE
Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (from the Confession of 1967, 9.54-9.55)
Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly

city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION *Near to the Heart of God,* **GtG 824**

⌘INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: The gifts of God are abundant, and we have received far more than we know. Out of gratitude and with hope, let us bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us as we wait for the day of Christ's appearance in our midst.

The OFFERTORY

Steal Away

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, He calls me, He calls me by the thunder/lightning,
the trumpet sounds within-a my soul. I ain't got long to stay.

⌘ 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

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Receive these gifts as symbols of the dedication of our very lives and signs of trust in your coming reign of justice and peace. In Christ's name 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 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past,* **GtG 687**

⌘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 Matthew A. Rich, and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook,* 2026.

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 Michelle John for serving as the Liturgist today.

- Next week is as follows:

    - Greeter is Rowena Baker
    - Welcome Center Volunteer is John Looney
    - Liturgist is Gail Looney
    - Ushers are Bob Kanters, Bob Mead, Frank Provance, and Jeanne Finstein

Vance Calendar

Week of November 08, 2026 through November 15, 2026

Sunday, November 08

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *CE Classrooms***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **10am, Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- **11:30am, Chili Cook-Off, *Fellowship Hall***
- 2:30pm, Birthday Party, *Fellowship Hall*
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Monday, November 09

- 10am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:300pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*
- **7pm, Session Meeting, *Squibb Room***

Tuesday, November 10

- **10am, Staff Meeting, *Church Office***
- 1pm, Presbytery Mission Outreach Community Meeting, *Potter Chapel*
- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 6pm, Ohio County Master Gardeners, *Robbie Clarke Room*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Wednesday, November 11

- **Office closed for Veteran's Day Holiday**
- 10am-2pm, Elizabeth Blake, WV SHIP, *Wheeler Room*
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- 5:30pm, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra Board Meeting, *Potter Chapel*
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 6pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *CE Classrooms*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, November 12

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **5pm, Community Dinner with Soups & Stews, *Fellowship Hall***
- 5:30pm, Girl Scout Cookie Training for Adults, *Squibb Room*
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, *Merriman Chapel***

Friday, November 13

Saturday, November 14

- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, November 15

- **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***

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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.