

Columbiana First United Methodist
210 S Main St. • Columbiana, Ohio 44408
(330) 482-2382

September 6th, 2026

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Pastor's Welcome

Announcement:

- Adult Sunday School, 9:30 am. We are learning about the Holy Spirit.
- Street Fair parking will take place September 10, 11, and 12. If you're available to help, please contact Anne Brown. You may leave a message with the church secretary or call Anne directly.
- Good as New Shoppe is open, Free clothing after church for all who is interested after service today.
- Sept. 16th SPRC consultation with the DS 6:00 pm at Western Reserve UMC
- Sept. 20th Chef Brad's Brunch, a time of extended fellowship and a great meal. Come join us.
- Sept. 23rd One Board Meeting at 4:30 pm.

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, We gather in Your presence with gratitude, trusting that You meet us exactly where we are. Breathe Your Spirit into this place and into our hearts. Quiet our worries, open our minds, and steady our steps so we may hear Your Word and follow Your way. Shape us into a people of compassion, courage, and hope. We offer this hour to You, and we ask You to lead us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: Only Trust Him 1,2,3**

#337

Call to Worship:

L: Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.

P: **God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.**

L: We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.

P: **God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.**

L: We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.

P: **God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.**

L: We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.

P: **Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of the whole world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory:

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication

Reconciling God, You mark our lives not with fear, but with mercy, and You gather us into a people shaped by grace. As You delivered Your children at Passover and taught Your church to seek peace with one another, teach us to live in our "church clothes" every day—clothed in patience, truth, and love. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in Your saving power and our commitment to Your work of healing and restoration. Use what we offer to mend what is broken, welcome those who feel outside, and build a community where forgiveness and hope have the final word. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 1,2,3 #629

Celebration of Communion

Apostle's Creed

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Gloria Patri

#70

Message: "The Better Way"

Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn:**

Since Jesus Came into My Heart 1,2,3 TFWS #2140

*Benediction

***Sending: "God Be with You"**

*Postlude

**Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before You today to praise and worship You. We come with heavy hearts, weary spirits, and with the hope of being restored and renewed so that we may be ready for whatever lies ahead in the coming week.

You are an amazing God. You walk with us so that we never walk alone. You speak to us so that our days are not spent talking only to ourselves. Your conversations with us are filled with encouragement, hope, and gentle reminders that we are loved, seen, and never forgotten.

Yet we confess, Lord, that the conversations we have with ourselves are often filled with negativity. We talk ourselves out of what You have tried to talk us into. We make plans without inviting You into the planning. We try to determine what is best for others without first listening for what is best for You.

Help us focus more on the desires of Your heart and less on the desires of our own. Help us to see the world as You see it.

Thank You for getting us through another week. We have seen Your great works. We thank You for the good report from Cory's doctors, and for the encouraging results for little Dalton. Their journeys are not over, but we trust that You will continue to walk each step with them. Find favor in them, Lord, and allow their stories to become testimonies of Your greatness—especially to those who question or do not yet know You.

Our hearts are heavy today as we grieve the loss of a young girl whose life ended unexpectedly. She is an extended part of our church family. We lift to You her great-grandmother Gabriella, and her grandson and his family. We cannot imagine the depth of their pain, but You know it fully.

Come alongside them, Lord. Wrap Your loving arms around them. Hold them tight. Allow them to feel Your presence. Bring Your peace, Your comfort, and Your hope. Help them to know they are not alone. And help us to know what to say, what to do, and how to remain faithfully in the trenches with them.

We lift to You those in our church family who need Your healing touch:

Betty Ruppenthal, Judy Stouffer, Inez Cory, and Walt Rohrer.

We continue to lift Tom—we praise Your name for the diagnosis, and we ask that You give his doctors Your wisdom so that the treatment needed becomes clear, and Your healing takes root in him.

We continue to lift Lowell—thank You for getting him through almost half of his treatments. Strengthen him, Lord, so that the remaining treatments go well and do not cause long-lasting effects.

We join Marge in praying for Donny and his family. His diagnosis suggests his time this side of heaven may be short. Only You know when You will call him home. Prepare their hearts, Lord, and allow them to know Your will and Your nearness.

We continue to pray for Calvin, scheduled for an angiogram on Wednesday. Go before him and prepare the doctors, the equipment, and Calvin himself. May this test reveal clearly what needs to be known. Give his medical team wisdom so they may be Your hands in his healing process.

You know all of their needs, Lord, and we ask that You provide in ways that unmistakably reveal Your hand—always for Your glory.

We join the Leonard family today as they remember Jackie—her birthday, and the day You called her home. As they continue to walk the long journey of grief, lighten their burden today. Though grief never fully disappears, Your promise that she is with You—and that we will see her again—brings hope. Let that hope be felt deeply today.

Lord, each of us is carrying something. So we pause now, lifting those burdens to You...

Take these things, Lord, and help us trust that You will either carry us through them or remove them entirely. Do with them what You will.

We want to be the church You desire us to be. Open our eyes so we may see what that looks like. Open our ears so we may hear Your calling. Open our hearts so we may love as You love. And allow Your joy, Your love, and Your renewing strength to draw people to You through us.

Make Heaven crowded—and let that work begin here.

All this we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.