

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

Oct. 18th, 2026

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Pastor's Welcome

Announcement:

- **Adult Sunday School – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** Join us as we read Scripture together and listen for what God is saying to us today. We explore the meaning of the Word, how it speaks into our lives, and how the Holy Spirit helps us understand and apply it. All are welcome.
- Today **Chef Brad's Brunch** after worship service.
- October 21st **Fellowship Breakfast** at the Dutch House 10 am. No reservations needed, all are welcome.
- **One Board Meeting** October 21st at 4:30
- **Nov. 1st All Saints Day.** Anyone wanting to remember a loved one by having a candle lit in their name. Fill out the form in the bulletin and put it in the offering plate, or give it to Pastor Cyndi
- **Newsletter Articles for the Nov/Dec edition, due by Oct. 28th.** Please give to Miranda or Pastor Cyndi

Opening Prayer:

Lord God, Gather us in Your grace this morning. Quiet our hearts, open our minds, and draw us into Your presence. Speak through Your Word and strengthen us to follow You faithfully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***Opening Hymn: How Firm a Foundation 1,2,3 #529**

Call to Worship:

- L:** We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.
- P:** **We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.**
- L:** The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.
- P:** **We belong to God, and through God, we learn to**

love one another.

L: The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

P: **We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.**

L: Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

P: **We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory:

*Doxology #95

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, You choose ordinary people and make them a community that shines with Your love. Thank You for the gift of belonging and the call to live our faith in ways that touch others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our witness to Your grace. Use them to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen Your church as a living sign of hope. May our life together point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation: Lord of the Dance 1,2,4,5 #261

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 33:12-23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

Gloria Patri #70

Message: "Whose Image Do We Bear?" Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn: Leave It There 1,2,3 #522**

*Benediction

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

*Postlude

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

Dear Heavenly Father, We come today to worship and adore You. You are the One who makes our lives whole. You bring joy we never imagined we could experience. You bring peace that is beyond description. You meet needs we didn't even know we had. You go before us, You walk beside us, and You watch behind us like a loving parent—giving us freedom, yet never letting us fall without Your arms ready to lift us up again. Thank You God, Thank You Jesus, Thank You Holy Spirit.

We confess that we do not always wake with our hearts turned toward You. We rise thinking first of the challenges ahead, instead of waiting for You to lead the way. We reach for the cup of coffee before reaching for Your presence. Forgive us for placing other things before You. Teach us to discipline our minds and hearts so that we turn to You first, and again when we lay down at night. We know that doing so will deepen the joy You desire to give us.

Thank You for all that You do. Without You, life can feel overwhelming—but You guide our steps, You send family and friends to help us, and You remind us that we never walk alone. Thank You for hearing our prayers, for answering them, and for lifting the weight from our shoulders when we finally hand our burdens to You. Thank You for the healing You have brought, the wisdom You have given, and the strength, love, hope, and joy You have poured into our lives this past week. We give You all the glory.

Dear Heavenly Father, so many lives are affected by addiction. Many do not recognize the hold it has on them, and many do not see the pain it brings to themselves and to those who love them. But we know that You alone can enter a life and remove the desire for whatever has taken control. Each one of us knows someone who is struggling. So now, in this moment of silence, we lift their names to You... *pause* Lord, in the way You know they need, break the stronghold that grips them. Open their eyes to see You clearly. Open their ears to hear Your voice and know it is You. Open their hearts to feel again—to know that the hurt they are trying to erase can be healed only by You. Help them surrender everything to You, so that they too may feel the weight lifted and discover the desire to live with You.

We continue to lift Corey, Cheryl, Tom, and others who are in need of Your healing. We trust that Your hand is in their treatment plans and in their recovery. Guide their medical teams with Your wisdom so that Your will is done in their lives. May Your great works be seen in and through each one of them.

As we prepared for Charge Conference, we were reminded of all You have done for us—Your Church—this past year. Thank You for the opportunities to be Your hands and feet. Thank You for standing beside us when we struggled. You have carried us through grief, through unexpected challenges, and through a year in which every need was met. This gives us confidence in You. Continue to bless us, Lord, so that whatever obstacles lie ahead do not distract us from relying on You, following You, and living for You.

You have placed us in this community to shine Your light. Make us the beacon You desire us to be—all for the multiplication of Your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.