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

Nov. 8th, 2026 24th Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude**

**Pastor's Welcome**

**Announcement:**

- **Adult Sunday School – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** Join us as we read Scripture, listen for God's message, and explore how the Word speaks to our lives. Studying the book of James.
- **Chef Brad's Brunch** Nov. 15th, After Worship Service.
- **One Board Meeting** Nov. 18th @ 4:30 pm
- **Advent is approaching.** If you would like to participate in this year's Advent readings, please let Pastor Cyndi know.
- **Nov. 22nd,** Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent, starting at 4 pm. Anyone interested in helping, you are welcome.
- **Christmas Eve Service** will be at 4 pm. Come and build warm memories with your family and church family.
- **Soup Sales** return in December! Pre-order by Dec. 6 for pickup Dec. 10, 3–4:30 pm. Choose from Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Pepper, Chili, Ham & Bean, Potato, Beef Vegetable, and Cheese Broccoli. Price: $8.00 per quart.

**Opening Prayer:**
**Loving God, we thank You for the gift of this day and for the opportunity to gather in Your presence. Fill our hearts with gratitude, our voices with praise, and our lives with Your peace. Open us to Your Word and guide us by Your Spirit, that we may leave this place renewed for service in Your name. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord Is King 1,2,3 #715**

**Call to Worship:**

L: Family of God, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
**P: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.**
L: Sometimes we grow weary in the waiting, and we wonder if we are watching and working for nothing.
**P: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.**
L: Sometimes God surprises, and we are overwhelmed by joy and wonder at all God is doing among us.
**P: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand.**
L: Family of God, whether you are weary or energized, worried or wonder-filled, rejoice! The kingdom of God is all around us!
**P: We gather to encourage one another to keep awake and watch, for the kingdom of God is at hand. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer
**The Lord's Prayer**

**Special Music** **Steve Burbick**
Offertory:
*****Doxology #95

***Prayer of Dedication**
Watchful God, keep us awake to recognize Christ in daily needs and joys. As we bring these gifts, fuel our compassion with kindness, generosity, and holy attentiveness. May our lives shine with Your love amid fear and indifference. Use our offerings and willing spirits to bring light, hope, and welcome to Your children. Keep us attentive to Your presence and faithful in Your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn of Preparation: The Summons 1,2,4 TFWS #2130**

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13
**Gloria Patri** **#70**

Message: "Who Do You Choose?" Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn: I Know Whom I Have Believed (all) #714**
*****Benediction
***Sending: "God Be with You"**
*****Postlude
**Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come into Your presence today to give You all our praise and worship. We offer You our hearts, our lives, and all that we are, because You alone are worthy. You created us and called us to be Your children. You have provided for our every need, and we love You because You first loved us.

Lord, we confess that we do not always place You first in our lives. The things of this world often pull our attention away from You. We chase after empty promises, only to find disappointment. Yet Your promises never fail. You have promised that You will never leave us nor forsake us. Help us to hold tightly to that promise. Remind us that You are truly all we need, and when we trust in You, everything else finds its proper place.

Father, when we pause for a moment and reflect on this past week, we can see Your hand at work all around us. You blessed us with beautiful days filled with sunshine, blue skies, and comfortable temperatures. Thank You for reminding us of the beauty and goodness of Your creation.

Thank You for the traveling mercies You granted each time we got behind the wheel of a car. You brought us safely to our destinations and safely home again.

We thank You for the nurses, doctors, technicians, and caregivers You placed in our paths. Whether through routine checkups, tests, procedures, surgeries, or treatments, You have worked through their hands. Thank You for the wisdom You have given them, the answers You have revealed, and the healing You continue to provide.

And Lord, thank You for bringing us here today. Thank You for this church family and the blessing it is to be part of it. Thank You for the love, encouragement, fellowship, and hope we find here. Continue to help us grow together as the family of God, united in faith and love.

Today we lift before You those in need of Your healing touch: Ralph, Cheryl, Tom, and Judy Stouffer. You are the Great Physician, and we ask that You bring the healing, strength, and comfort each one needs. Surround them with Your peace and remind them that You are near.

We join Karen in lifting her sister Susan. We praise Your name for allowing them to find a problem that they have been searching for. Thank You for opening their eyes. We ask that You be with Susan as she prepares for a surgery that is said to be needed. Bring to her peace and calm as she waits. Be with her medical team, guide their minds as they plan with Your wisdom, and allow their plan to align with Your plan. Allowing Your healing to encompass Susan, and bring glory to Your name.

We ask that You be with the family of Ed as they walk through the journey of grief. Hold them up and bring to them a flood of memories that will help to keep him alive in their hearts, until that glorious day when they will meet again in Your presence.

We join Betty in lifting Cory to You. We ask that You allow the medication to help with his headaches. Or extend Your healing hand to him and allow Your touch to remove the pain that he has been enduring. May You be seen in his relief, and glory be given to You.

We also remember those who are unable to join us in worship but would dearly love to be here: Inez, Walt, Beverly, Leland, and Vylee. Lord, draw especially close to them today. Let them feel Your presence and Your love. Remind them that they remain an important part of this church family, that they are remembered, cherished, and never alone.

We praise Your name for being with Anne's granddaughter, as she was given the opportunity to have a new furnace installed. It is in the way this all came about that we know that Your hand was in it. May she be reminded of Your love, mercy, and grace every moment that she feels the warmth in her home.

Father, we also lift our nation. Thank You for seeing us safely through another election season. We recognize that some are pleased with the outcome and others are disappointed. Yet we trust that Your presence is available to every leader and every citizen alike. We pray for all those who have been entrusted with positions of leadership. Stir their hearts, renew their minds, and give them a desire to seek Your wisdom above all else. May they remember the words of Jesus: *"The greatest among you shall be your servant."* Help them to lead with humility, integrity, and a genuine concern for those they serve.

And Lord, help us to remember those same words as we seek to be Your Church. Open our eyes that we may see what You see. Open our hearts that we may love as You love. Renew our minds so that our desires align with Yours. May Your kingdom continue to grow as we reflect You in all that we say and do.

We ask all these things in the precious and powerful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Amen.**