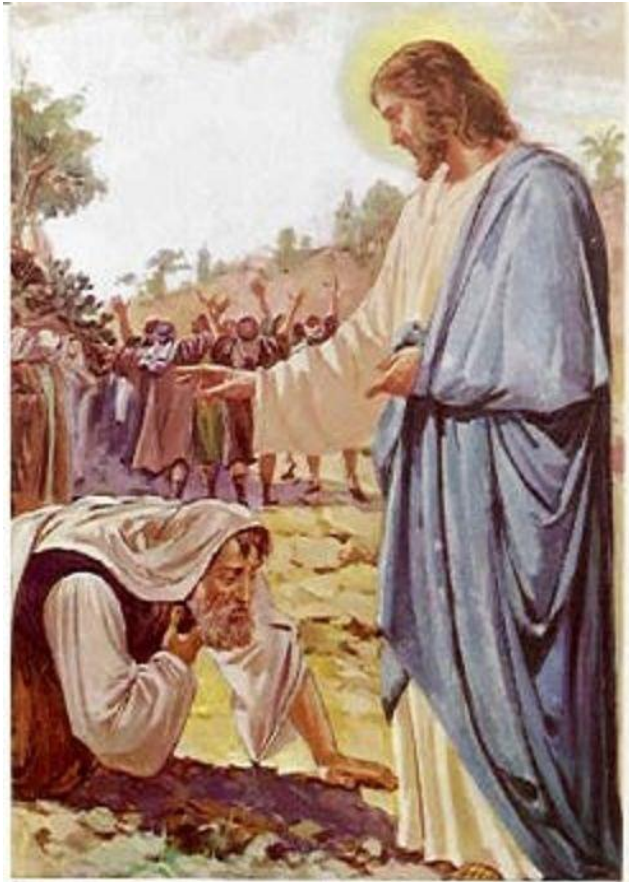




To share faith, hope & love with all  
**First Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

36363 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
440-327-2921 ~ [www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org)



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/8b/eb/dd/8bebdd862b41db95fd5a86fe619ef4d3.jpg>

**November 10, 2024**

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.**

**If you would like to know more about our church, please contact us at [info@fccalive.org](mailto:info@fccalive.org)**

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Liturgy inspiration this week has come from the UCC's *Worship Ways*.

**God is still  
speaking,**



**COME LISTEN**

## SERVICE of WORSHIP AND PRAISE

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*\*Indicates "All who are comfortable, please rise in body or spirit"*

### **WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Prelude** "Panis Angelicus" – César Franck

### **Ringing of the Bell**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

We welcome you to worship this sabbath day. Please sign the red fellowship pad found along the center aisle side of the pew. After signing, please return the book down your row, matching names with faces, and be sure to greet one another after the service.

### **Stewardship Moment**

**Choral Introit** "We Gather Together" vs. 1

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: From generation to generation, the Holy One has loved justice and righteousness, lifted the broken and bowed, and opened possibilities for the dejected.

**All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Trust the Holy One!**

One: When the power brokers and corrupt systems have failed us, the Holy One has remained faithful to abiding love and abundant liberation.

**All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Follow the Holy One!**

One: Praise the Holy One with song and dance, in spirit and in truth, for God's glory and for life abundantly!

**All: Help, hope, and happiness are of the Holy One, who reigns forever. Praise the Holy One!**

**\*Opening Hymn** #801 "This Is the Day"

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **\*Prayer of Confession (*in unison*)**

God of mercy and possibilities, forgive us for clinging to the measures of success and security in our world rather than trusting in the abundance of your creation. Help us to recognize the kin-dom coming and our role as participants in your realm. Liberate us from the bonds of consumerism, scarcity, and self-centeredness, and make us vessels of your love come alive in the world.

### **\*Words of Assurance (*in unison*)**

We are inheritors of the kin-dom of God. We receive abundance beyond compare. The Holy One journeys with us and enables us to grow in grace, peace, and contentment. Amen.

## Ministry of Music "Rock of Ages" – Robert Weltzer, Thomas Hastings

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### **Scripture Reading** Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?' <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

One: The Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path.

**All: Thanks be to God who is still speaking.**

#### **\*Gloria Patri**

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.

#### **Sermon**

"The Cost of Privilege"

Carla Valles

#### **\*Hymn of the Day** #578 "Come, All Christians, Be Committed"

*Deacons will collect prayer request cards during this hymn.*

### **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

#### **Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

*You are invited to pray in the language & tradition of your choice.*

*Our Father/Creator, 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/trespases.*

*As we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us,*

*and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,*

*for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

#### **Prayer Response** "Give Thanks"

#### **Words of Offering**

In the Creator, there is no lack of any good thing. When we consider our resources as part of God's abundance, we nurture generosity within us. Let us give to support the mutual needs of our faith community, the expansion of our ministry, and the benefit of the world that God so loves.

**Offertory** "Rock of Ages" – Robert Weltzer, Thomas Hastings

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** *(in unison)*

God of generosity and giver of gifts, receive our offerings as a reflection of our gratitude and trust in your sovereignty. May we witness the miracle of your provision through our generosity and for your glory. Amen.

***WE GO TO SERVE***

**\*Sending Hymn** #53 "Let All Things Now Living"

**\*Taking the Light into the World**

**\*Benediction**

*Take a posture of openness that feels good for you and receive this blessing.*

When the needs of the world compel you, may the blessings of God assure you, may the abundance of God inspire you, and may the goodness of God embolden you to resist the systems of scarcity and to embrace a life of generosity, compassion, and mutuality in the presence of Creator's abundance. Amen.

**Choral Benediction** "We Gather Together" vs. 3

**Postlude** "A Trumpet Chorale" – J.S. Bach



**Announcements**

THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS, ELECT OFFICERS, & ADOPT A PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2025 WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE. ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND.

***November Messenger:*** Pick up your copy of the November issue of *The Messenger*. Extra copies are available in the front and back of the sanctuary and it is also available for downloading from our website [www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org).

***Fellowship Time:*** Volunteers are needed to oversee fellowship time after the worship services on **November 24 and December 1, 8, 22 and 29**. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the front of the sanctuary or in the narthex.

**Constitution & Bylaws:** Church Council has been working on updating our constitution and bylaws. These proposed changes need to be voted on by active members of the congregation at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 17 after the worship service. The document is available on our website [www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org) under the "Resources" tab and then under the "Documents" section. Paper copies are available on the table at the front of the sanctuary and the narthex. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to anyone listed under Your Church Council on the first page of the document.

**Women's Book Club:** All gatherings are at the church at 7 pm.

**November 18:** The Last Exchange by Charles Martin

**December 16:** Twelve Topsy-Turvy Very Messy Days of Christmas by James

**Help Wanted: Custodial position:** 5 hours per week with additional 4 hours per week May through October for lawn care & groundskeeping. Regular duties include but are not limited to sweeping & mopping fellowship hall floors; setting up & taking down tables & chairs for coffee hour; keeping entryways and walkways clear of leaves, snow & ice; make repairs as needed; set up & take down and be on-site representative for all non-church member rentals\* (additional pay for rentals). Must be able to lift 50#. Contact Roy Dreger, Jack Fitts or church office.

**Guest Speaker**

Carla Valles

**Christian Ed Director**

Mary Karlovec

**Music Director**

Barb Habecker

[info@fccalive.org](mailto:info@fccalive.org)

[www.fccalive.org](http://www.fccalive.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/firstconqucncr>

**This Week's Events**

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Today   | Worship service, 10:30 am (Carla Valles, guest speaker) |
|         | <b>Pledge cards due</b>                                 |
|         | Fellowship hour, after worship service                  |
| Nov. 11 | Budget meeting, 6:30 pm / Council meeting, 7 pm         |
| Nov. 12 | CE meeting, 7 pm  |
| Nov. 13 | Confirmation class, 5-7 pm                              |
|         | Bell choir practice, 6:30 pm / Choir practice, 7:30 pm  |
| Nov. 16 | Newsletter articles due                                 |
| Nov. 17 | Worship 10:30 am  |
|         | Congregational Meeting, after worship service           |





## **Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?**

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: "We all do theology. Theology is God-talk." A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.