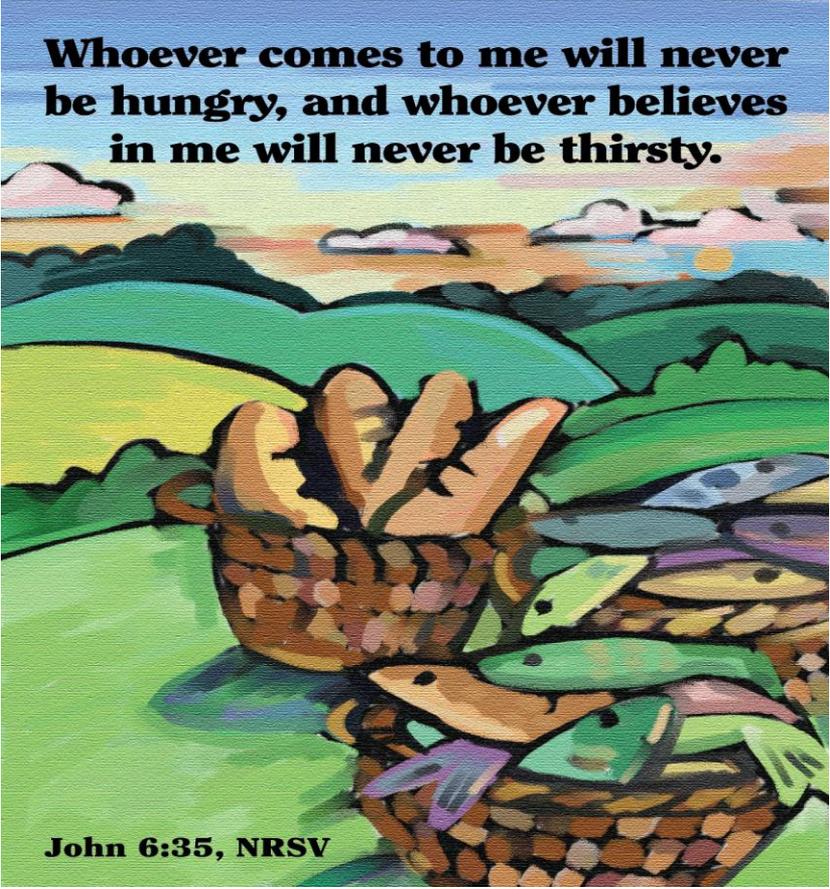


# Faith Presbyterian Church

*Christians growing in Faith by  
Caring, Connecting, & Serving Community*

**Whoever comes to me will never  
be hungry, and whoever believes  
in me will never be thirsty.**

**John 6:35, NRSV**



**CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE ON COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

**August 1, 2021**

INTROIT

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you sing us a love song every time we gather,

**Every time the bread is broken,**

Every time the cup is blessed.

**O God, sing to us again.**

Let our lives blossom in your love

**Till the whole world knows your love song.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Holy One, your compassion is limitless, and your love is unending. Your welcome is gracious and extravagant. Your embrace is healing and transforming. Perhaps, as we continue to learn to trust, and to lean into your love, we will find the peace and wholeness that you desire for us. And so we come, we worship and we open ourselves to your surprising compassion again. Amen.**

\*HYMN #138

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with**

**our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## A TIME OF QUIET/PERSONAL CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

\*RESPONSE

“Christ Beside

Me”

*(tune Morning Has Broken)*

*Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, [love] of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me,  
Christ above me, never to part.*

### PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace- a nod of greeting, a wave of hello, a bow wishing your neighbors God's peace, God's Shalom.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm

78:23-29

Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

**he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.**

Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all

the food they could eat.

**He let loose the east wind from the heavens and by his power made the south wind blow.**

He rained meat down on them like dust, birds like sand on the seashore.

**He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.**

They ate till they were gorged—he had given them what they craved.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### GOSPEL READING

John 6:24-35(p.755)

SERMON “Got Jesus? Got Bread.” (John 6:24-35),  
Raise your hand if you own or have ever owned a copy of The Joy of Cooking! You may have used it a lot, but do you know the story behind it? In 1930 Irma Rombauer’s husband died. She was just 52 years old. Her children were grown and she only had \$6000 in the bank, which wasn’t bad considering this was the Depression, but still she knew it wouldn’t last forever. So she started thinking about how she could support herself. She finally came up with the idea to write a cookbook. Nobody thought this would solve her money problems. Yes, she was a good cook; but she knew nothing about writing a book or publishing one.

At first it was all about word of mouth. She hired a local printer who had never published a book before and then she delivered copies to the local bookstores herself. This was in 1931 when most cookbooks were just plain dry and boring. They were like technical manuals. But Irma sensed that readers of cookbooks wanted something different. So she filled her cookbook with funny little

stories and tips ... And it went on to become the best-selling cookbook of all time. What was the secret of her success? Maybe it was in that little 3-letter word “joy.” She wanted her readers to have fun in the kitchen and she wanted cooking to bring them joy!

Here’s an example. It’s the first thing under the heading “Breads & Coffee Cakes.” *“Once upon a time, when the English language was young, the word from which the modern English [word] ‘lady’ sprang meant ‘loaf-kneader’ and the verb ‘to knead’ has even prehistoric origins! To our own and our families’ distinct profit- and with a little effort- we housewives can become ‘ladies’ again.”* I guess that means that true ladies knead dough! But these days, we can let the gentlemen in on the fun too. Raise your hand if you’ve ever made your own bread. I used to make bread all the time and pizza dough too. Sometimes it would turn out really well. But other times it just flopped. And I could never figure out why. Everything was the same every time I thought—the flour, the yeast, a little bit of sugar to feed the yeast, the temperature of the water. But sometimes the dough just refused to rise. I always blamed it on the air. It was too cold in the house or not humid enough. Bread has a lot to do with air. And did you know that air is one of the four elements of life? The other three are fire, water and earth. This idea goes all the way back to the Greeks and so it’s deeply embedded in our western culture. And what do we need to make bread? Fire, water, earth (flour) and air. This adds new meaning to what Jesus said about bread. He said, “I am the bread of life.”

So this story from John might sound familiar if you’ve been here the past few weeks. Jesus is traveling around by boat and on foot and those crowds won’t leave

him alone. They love him too much. He has just fed them all with those loaves and fishes. They are crazy for Jesus! But why? Is it because he has food and they are hungry? Or is it something else? They ask him *when* he got to the other side of the lake and we have a hunch the answer is not, oh... about an hour ago. Behind that question could be a deeper one, like, who are you really Jesus and why are you here? And Jesus wonders what they're after. Do they just want more food or is it more than that? We certainly can't blame them for being hungry. And they probably have hungry families back home to feed too.

Here's our Hunger Action Congregation question again. How can we help people be able to find food all the time, not just for a few days? Amanda Mountjoy's message to us two weeks ago was all about education. She was thinking long term. Teach the children (and adults) to make good choices by showing them the best foods to eat and how to read labels. And then maybe we can help to break that generational cycle of hunger that is very hard to get out of, and that won't be solved no matter how many boxes of cereal we bring in for FISH. And we brought in a lot yesterday for our FISH Walk around the park.

Besides helping people here in Huber Heights and the Dayton area, the Mission & Outreach Committee has also been talking about how we might widen our perspective a bit. No matter how many times we say that we want to take care of our own, and I've heard that a lot over the years, not just at Faith Church, the problems with hunger in other countries are a thousand times worse than they are in the United States. The good news is that the PCUSA has people out in the field, all over the world, partnering with the local people to help make their lives better. We used to call them missionaries, but now they are

called Mission Co-Workers because their job is not to be “the experts” who have all the answers, but to be partners and supporters of the local people as they find the solutions to their biggest challenges. We’ve been looking at a few Mission Co-workers who are involved with hunger issues with the idea that Faith Church could sponsor and support one of them.

For example, Cindy Correll is working in Haiti, which is in grave danger of famine. Nearly one in four people in Haiti is critically hungry and they don’t have the resources we do, like the Foodbank. So Cindy is working with a local partner group called “Hand in Hand Haiti Foundation” to teach people how to build Yard Gardens; to reuse old tires, learn how to make compost-rich soil, plant seeds, nurture produce to harvest, and save those seeds for another season. It might not seem like much to us, when we can go into Krogers and find an abundance of produce trucked in from all over the world. But that garden could mean life or death for a family in Haiti. How can we say we only want to help local people? Yes, these problems are overwhelming and that’s the only reason I can understand why people would hesitate. Physical hunger is never ending. Maybe that’s why Jesus often preached a different message.

Yes, Jesus cared about hungry people, but for now at least, that doesn’t seem to be his concern. He is coming from a different point of view. He cares less about physical hunger and more about spiritual hunger. Yet Jesus was human and he had to eat too. I think he cares so much for those crowds that he wants to challenge them to take the next step on their walk with God. First he fed their bodies, and now he wants to feed their souls. So he tells the crowds, “don’t work for food that spoils, but for food that

endures to eternal life.” Hmm. The crowds don’t get it though, and I admit that I have a hard time understanding what he’s trying to say.

But here’s what helps me. Thinking about faith as a verb, instead of faith as a noun. In John’s Gospel, faith is always a verb and never a noun. Faith is always active. It’s never something we can check off our list as in “I’ve got that one down! I’ve found Jesus! I’ve been saved! Now on to the next challenge.” No, that’s not how it goes. Faith is an ongoing, lifelong process that we’ll never be done with. But sometimes when we hear that, we walk away. It’s too hard. We want easy answers. At least we want answers that we can do something with. We want to feel productive. That’s what the crowds want. They ask, “what must we do to do the works God requires?” They want to have something to do that they can check off a list. Instead Jesus tells them, “the work of God is to believe in the one he has sent.” It’s hard to check that one off a list. You can’t just do it once and be done with it.

It’s kind of like doing a trust fall, over and over again, every day. Have you ever done that? We used to do them on retreats. You stand really tall and then you fold your arms over your chest. And then you find some friends or enemies who are willing to catch you. You close your eyes and you fall straight backwards. It’s even better if you’re standing up off the ground, on a ladder or a tree limb. Would you trust us to catch you? Do I have a volunteer?

Or sometimes you have a hunch about who to trust. Like when we were driving back from Burnside, KY a few days ago and we decided to stop at Cumberland Falls because it’s near I-75. The thing is that our cabin was in the middle of the woods and we had only come in and out

on one road. But the GPS told us to turn onto a dubious looking almost dirt road. And we did, with my husband rolling his eyes the whole way because if he were driving, we would have ignored the GPS and kept going straight. After close to 10 miles on three different “roads” we finally seemed to be a little closer to civilization, and sure enough there was a road crew ahead and one guy looked at us and waved us over and I thought he was going to tell us that the road was closed ahead. But no, he said, you’re not from around here, are you? There’s no Ohio license plate on the front of my car, so how do you think he knew we weren’t locals? But somehow he did. He told us we were pretty far from Cumberland Falls, which we knew, but if we turned left, we’d soon hit the main road that would take us there. I said, we’re following our GPS and it’s telling us to turn right. But even as I said that, I knew the right thing to do. Turn left and trust this guy instead of our GPS. And we did. And Cumberland Falls was beautiful and we made it home! And that’s the end of that story!

So the good news today is if you’ve got Jesus, you’ve got bread. Even though I wrestle with that, because there are so many hungry people out there. And then I remember- where in the world is the church growing the fastest? Is it here in our rich United States? No, the church is growing the fastest in the poorest countries of the world. What do they have that we are missing? They have trust in God. They have trust that Jesus is the true bread of life. And they’ve got Jesus. We do too- right here in this bread and this cup. We will not be hungry or thirsty today. And we pray the same for our neighbors, near and far. Amen.

**MOMENT OF REFLECTION**

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN #517

“We Come as Guests Invited”

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray...

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to the Offering

Offertory

\*Response

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God whose giving knows no ending, we know how to say thank you when we receive. Right now we say thank you as we give. In our giving, hear our heartfelt gratitude for all that you are and all that we have. Bless these gifts for your mission in the world. And bless the other gifts we have to bring to your mission, opening our eyes to how you are calling us to participate. Amen.**

\*HYMN #358

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

\*BENEDICTION

\* RESPONSE

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

*I’m so glad, Jesus lifted me, (3X)*

*Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.*

POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our floral arrangement today has been donated by Dottie Standley, and family in loving memory of James A. Standley.

*We have group tickets to the Dragons game on Sept 1! They are available, first come first serve. You may pick up your tickets in the office, or contact Paul Brown for more information."*

*Mission and Outreach is collecting school supplies during July and August for **Crayons to Classrooms**, a non-profit organization. All teachers in Huber Heights are eligible to shop*

at no cost at the store. Donation boxes in the parlor to leave your donations.

We would like to treat the preschoolers to cookies at their Open House on August 18 and 19. If you would like to donate two dozen cookies, please sign up on the sheet on the office window. Thank you!

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

*Beth Griffin*

*Norma Leshner*

*Roy Schroeder*

*Betsy Morris*

*Mary Swartzel*

*To remind us of our connection with the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, please pray for Good Shepherd United Presbyterian Church, located at 524 Park Avenue, Piqua, Moderator Jocelyn Sheldon.*

*Pastor Julia Williamson*

*Music Director John Derrickson*

*5555 Chambersburg Rd. Huber Heights, Ohio 45424*

*Regular Office Hours Tues- Thurs 9 AM-12 PM*

**CCLI #2792286 ONE LICENSE #739013-A**