CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

United Methodist

A Christian Community Committed to Growing Deeper in Faith and Pursuing God's Hope for Every Life

August 30, 2026

11:00 a.m., Great Hall

Rev. Andy Call, Lead Pastor
Rev. Cindy Patterson, Administrative Pastor

2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118 | 216-321-8880 | www.cotsumc.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREAT HALL **11:00 a.m.**

OPENING TO GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME The Rev. Andy Call

* CALL TO WORSHIP [1] Geri Williams

One: Welcome,
all who come with weary spirits seeking rest,
who come with troubles that are too much to bear,
who come hurt and afraid.
Many: You are welcome here.
One: Welcome,
all who come with hope in your heart,
who come with anticipation in your step,
who come with confidence and joy.
Many: You are welcome here.
One: Welcome,
all who are seekers of faith,
who come to probe and explore,
who come to learn.
Many: You are welcome here.
One: Welcome,
all who enter into this space as a homecoming,
who have found here room for your spirit,
who find in this people a family.
Many: You are welcome here.
One: Whoever you are,
whatever you seek,
wherever you are on your journey...
Many: You are welcome here.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #660 *God Is Here* ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Call

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [2]

Holy God,
we confess that we are an arrogant people –
so full of "knowledge" that we hardly have any room for love.
We confess that we too often judge
when we really need to listen.

We confess that we push people away
when you call us to offer hands of welcome.
We confess that we think too often about protecting ourselves
when we are challenged to risk everything for others.

Forgive us for being more concerned with being right
than we are with showing love.
Forgive us for demanding conformity
when you call us to learn from each other.
Guide us to live according to your unconditional love.
Teach us to see one another not as newcomers to be assimilated,
but as siblings to be welcomed and loved. Amen.

(Silence is kept.)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

BLESSING THE BACKPACKS

HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 15:2-7 Ms. Williams

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Many: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE *Making Room* Rev. Call

OFFERING OUR LIVES IN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* CORVEDALE
See back cover

SHARING OUR JOYS & CONCERNS The Rev. Cindy Patterson

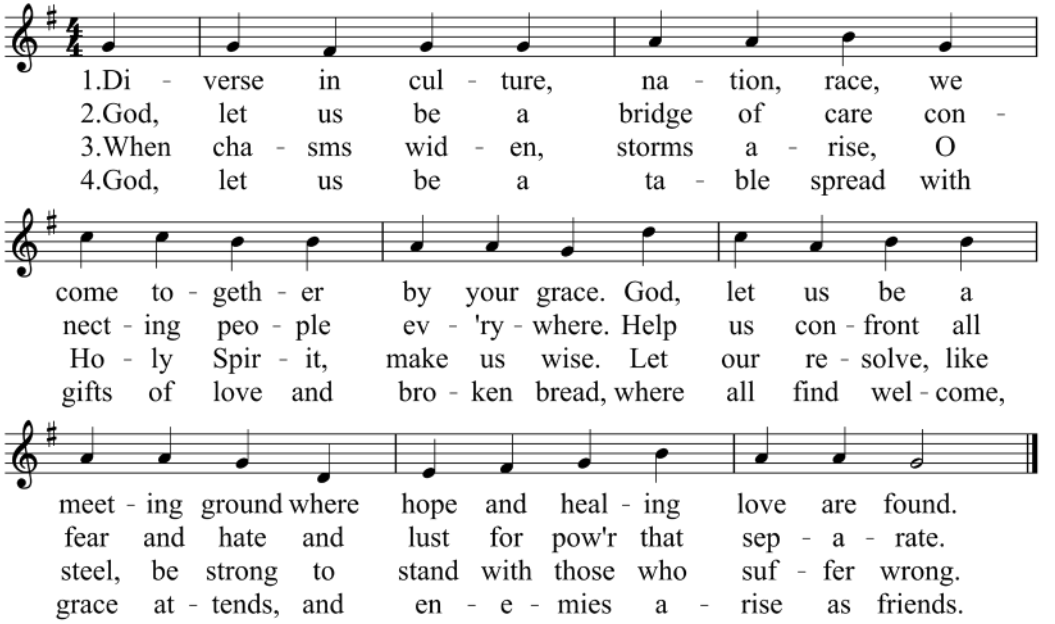
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

Our Father, 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 trespasses,
as we forgive 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.

GIVING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY (#95) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race* TALLIS' CANON



Text by Ruth C. Duck.

* BENEDICTION Rev. Call

* POSTLUDE

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* The people may stand.

Don Verkuijlen, Director of Traditional Music & Organist

[1] Rainbow Cathedral (adapted); [2] Amy Loving, The Worship Closet (adapted)

The flowers on the altar are dedicated in honor of Corinne and Bob Dunn's fortieth wedding anniversary. This is also the first day that their son, Rev. Aaron Dunn, assumes the role of the rector at Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Silver Spring, Maryland.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, August 30

Kickoff Picnic on the Front Lawn, 12:00PM

Sunday, September 6

LGBTQIA+ Adults & Active Allies Prayer Group via Zoom, 12:30PM

Visit cotsumc.org/events for additional programming information and regularly scheduled events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sermon Series Preview

Artificial Intelligence is everywhere around us. What used to be a hypothetical concept seemingly from the realm of science fiction is now ubiquitous. AI already has an established footprint in our internet searches, our shopping habits, the way we use our phones and personal devices, and even much of the advertising and writing we encounter in our daily lives. As companies race to develop more sophisticated and pervasive technologies, who is regulating their reach and their application? How does our faith inform our interaction with technology and the tools available to us? When, how, and why should we engage with AI as people of faith – both in our pursuit of discipleship and our daily lives? *Get Real: Faith in an AI World* – Sundays, September 6-27.

United Women in Faith General Meeting

All are invited to attend the Unted Women in Faith General Meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 10AM in the parlor. Meg Marshall, COTS Children's and Family

Ministry Director, will talk about our Sunday school program. Godly Play is designed to teach meaning through story, wonder, and play. Its goal is nurturing spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children. Following the presentation, fellowship will continue in the parlor while we eat our brown bag lunches. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Local Missions Update: Grafton Prison Softball

Matthew 25:36 – "I was in prison and you came to me." This verse calls believers to show compassion to those in prison, reflecting Christ's command. Since 2006, Church of the Saviour has been providing support for a softball ministry at Grafton prison. Five times a year a softball team plays both with and against the all-star prison teams. We play against them in a challenge game at the start of the day and then mix rosters and play a fun game. Each time we gather we open and close with prayer. This format allows a group of softball jocks to become friends with inmates over many years and let them know this is a Christian ministry.

Church of the Saviour's Local Missions grant money, sourced from your Christmas donations, allows this ministry team to provide a picnic of incredible food at the end of each double header. As we eat, the tables have a mix of resident and outside athletes, laughing and talking about the games and their lives. A big plus is that over the years, as the resident softballers get released, many join us on our church team and play against their old friends. Many of the alumni became Christians in Grafton and readily go back to see old friends. These games are a simple reminder to the men that they are not forgotten and are very much loved by Christ and our Church. If you're interested in participating in a Saturday game, please contact Brian Broadbent at 216-559-9109.

New Church Photo Directory

The time has come! There have been a number of requests for a new church photo directory, and this fall we're taking it on.

A professional photographer will be here at the church on three Sundays – September 20, October 4, and October 11 – to take complimentary photos of anyone who would like to be included. Scan the QR code to book a session window, and please be sure to read the instructions on the booking site about when to arrive. If you need any assistance reserving your photo session, please contact Sarah Dick in the church office at 216-321-8880 or office@cotsumc.org.

If you are unable or do not wish to have a new photo taken on one of these three dates, but still wish to have a photo included in the directory, you may submit one to Sarah by October 11.

If you are a member or regular attendee of Church of the Saviour we will include your names, address, phone number, and email in the directory unless instructed otherwise. If

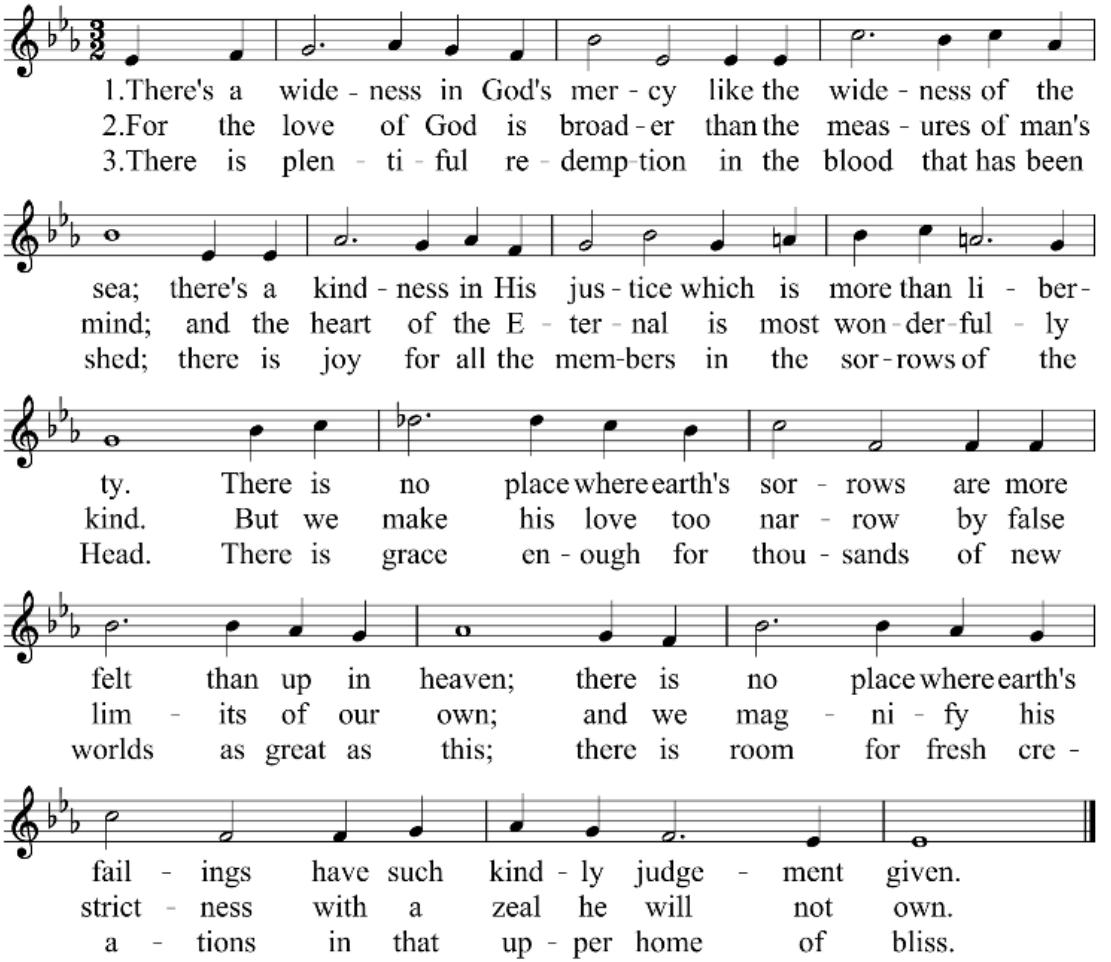
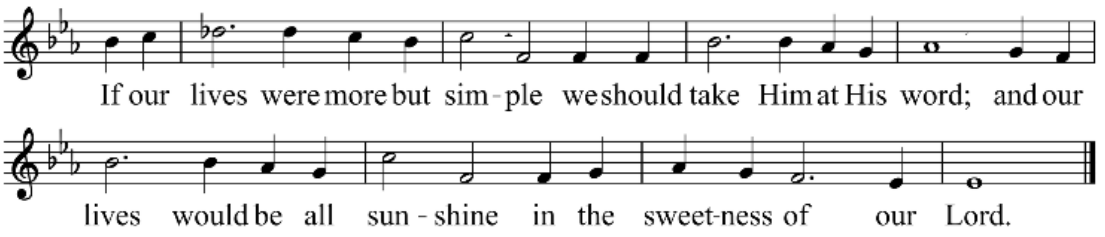
you DO NOT wish to be included or want to limit the information shared in any way, please communicate that to Sarah by October 11. We are happy to adapt individually to your needs.

The Chosen Study Resumes on September 3
Last winter/spring a group of us came together to view and discuss the first 2 seasons of The Chosen – a dramatization of the ministry of Jesus and the disciples. After breaking for the summer we will begin Season 3 on Thursday, September 3 at 10 am in the Parlor. We will watch the episode together and then have lively discussion, concluding at noon. New members are welcome, but you would need to catch up by watching the first 2 seasons on your own. You can watch all the episodes on Amazon Prime, YouTube, fuboTV or for free at watch.thechosen.tv. I hope you're looking forward to starting back up as much as I am! —Rev. Cindy Patterson

Community Dinner Ministry Launch
This fall we are rolling out a new ministry at COTS that we hope will help us both serve our neighbors in the Heights and get to know them better. Beginning in October, we'll offer a monthly community dinner free to anyone who would like to attend--families, couples, seniors--and especially those who eat alone too often or whose monthly food budget doesn't cover the whole month. As food prices continue to increase faster than incomes, that last group includes more and more of our neighbors.

A beautiful thing about this ministry is that it offers a wide variety of ways to volunteer. We'll need cooks of course, but also shoppers, vegetable choppers, a set-up crew, food servers, table wipers, and dishwashers. And--the heart of this project--we'll need folks who would enjoy sitting and eating with our guests and getting to know them. We want to offer both the nourishment of food and the sustenance of connection. If you have a sense of God calling you to be part of this team, please contact Renee Leonard at reneeleonard17@gmail.com or 216-409-9840. It's so exciting to consider what God might have in store for us in this new venture!

Please register your attendance at today's worship service.
Thank you!

HYMN OF REFLECTION *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* CORVEDALE

Ending: