CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

United Methodist

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

September 13, 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

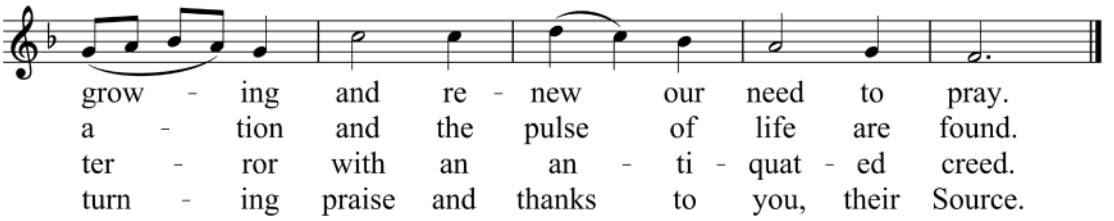
PRELUDE *Saraband* Herbert Howells

WELCOME The Rev. Andy Call

* CALL TO WORSHIP Bruce Jones

One: We come, seeking wisdom.
Many: Holy God, meet us here.
One: We come, longing for connection.
Many: Gracious God, be present in our midst.
One: We come, searching for meaning.
Many: Eternal God, move our minds and stir our hearts.

* HYMN OF PRAISE [1] *Praise the Source of Faith and Learning* HYFRYDOL



CALL TO CONFESSION — Rev. Call

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we long for our lives to have meaning.
We want to make an impact on the world.
We want to have fulfilling relationships.
We want to be good people.
But our quest for meaning often focuses only on ourselves.
We seek accolades over impact.
We look for acceptance from things that are not real.
We trade what goodness is within our reach in pursuit of pleasure.

Forgive us.
Remind us that you are a God of connection,
a God who loves us more than we could ever know,
a God who longs for us to be deeply connected
to you and to one another. 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.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC — *Jubilate* — Phillip Stopford
Chancel Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON — Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 — Mr. Jones

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

THE MESSAGE — *Connectivity Issues* — Rev. Call

OFFERING OUR LIVES IN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION *God of All Knowledge, Human Skill* O WALY WALY

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

OFFERTORY	*Just As I Am* Chancel Choir	Gilbert Martin
* DOXOLOGY (#95) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP #110	*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*	EIN FESTE BURG
* BENEDICTION		Rev. Call
* POSTLUDE	*Fanfare*	William Matthias

* The people may stand.

Don Verkuijlen, Director of Traditional Music & Organist

[1] Text by Thomas H. Troeger.

The flowers on the altar are dedicated in honor of Dorr & Joyce Dearborn's 50th wedding anniversary on September 24, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome—We're glad you're here!
At Church of the Saviour, we welcome people of all ages and abilities to grow in faith together. We celebrate children's voices, movement, and energy in worship! Coloring materials are available at the round tables and the church library offers a quiet space, if needed. Nursery care is available in Room 100 from 9:30AM–12:00PM.

Children in PreK-4 through 5th Grade are invited to join in our Godly Play and Children's Music programs, between 9:50AM and 12:00PM. Middle and High School groups meet at 11:00AM. Visit the church office for room locations and details. Scan the accompanying QR code for complete information about our Children's and Youth Ministries.

Blessing of the Animals
Join us for a Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 4 at 4 p.m. on the church's front lawn. Bring your pets—furry, feathered, or scaly—for a special blessing and a treat! This joyful gathering is open to all as we give thanks for the animals who share our lives and bring us so much joy.

Myers Forum: Faith in an Age of Artificial Intelligence

Please Join us in the Great Hall on Saturday, September 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the 2026 Myers Forum. The Myers Forum is a biannual event that fosters spiritual growth, discovery, and discipleship.

Artificial intelligence is changing how we work, communicate, find information, and make decisions. As its influence grows, so do important questions about truth, trust, privacy, wisdom, responsibility, and what it means to be human.

Join Elonda Clay, AI literacy expert and religion researcher, and Chad Voller, cybersecurity and technology expert, for an engaging conversation exploring artificial intelligence through the lenses of faith, ethics, technology, and everyday life. Whether you use AI regularly, know only a little about it, or are simply curious about what it may mean for our future, this program will offer an accessible opportunity to learn, reflect, ask questions, and consider how we can engage emerging technology thoughtfully and responsibly.

Please scan the accompanying QR code to register. You may also call or visit the church office to sign up. The cost for registration is $15, which includes lunch and childcare. If you require childcare, please RSVP by 9/20. Scholarships are available upon request.

Unified Worship Sunday, September 27 at 10:30AM

There will be a single, unified worship service on Sunday, September 27 at 10:30AM in the Great Hall in lieu of our typical three-service schedule. At this special worship service we will hear from our distinguished Myers Forum speaker, Elonda Clay. Regular worship services at 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m. will resume on Sunday, October 4.

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 how many slots to reserve and when to arrive. If you need any assistance booking your photo session, please contact Sarah Dick in the church office at 216-321-8880 or office@cotsumc.org.

Ideally, everyone in the directory will have an updated photo taken on one of these three dates. Again, there is no cost to sit for a picture, and having recent photos improves the quality of the finished directory. However, if you are unable to make a session or do not

wish to have a new photo taken, you may submit your own photo to Sarah by October 11. Self-submitted photos will be screened and may be altered for usability.

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 want to be included or wish to limit your information shared in any way, please communicate that to Sarah by October 11. We are happy to adapt individually to your needs.

Evensong Worship Returns
After a summer break, Choral Evensong is returning this fall with the first service taking place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28 in the sanctuary at The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44118. The service will be led, as always, by organist and director of traditional music Don Verkuijlen, the Vox Salvatoris premiere evensong chamber ensemble choir, and COTS clergy. Come and experience this timeless tradition in the community surrounded by beautiful music as together we listen, pray, and reflect.

Community Meal Update
We recently announced a new community meal ministry that's being launched here at Church of the Saviour and we now have a confirmed date and time for our first meal: Wednesday, October 14 at 5:30pm in the Great Hall. Volunteers will be prepping and cooking that afternoon. Dining area set-up could be accomplished then as well, or even the evening before. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to be part of this work, as well as the very important task of welcoming and eating with our guests! Further details will be communicated via our email group. If you are considering joining our team for this meaningful outreach ministry, please contact Renee Leonard at reneeleonard17@gmail.com or 216-409-9840.

Local Missions Update: Urban Scholars Scholarship Program
One of the many ways the Church of the Saviour congregation generously supports Local Missions is through the Christmas offering. Part of that gift supports our Metropolitan Cleveland neighborhoods through a scholarship fund for students in one of the least economically stable districts. These scholarships are also funded by private donors from the church who donate directly to the Urban Scholars Scholarship. Six students who attended East Tech High School received a scholarship this year.

One scholar, Treasure Crenshaw, writes, "Being selected as a recipient means more to me than words can fully express. I am currently pursuing a degree in Nursing; a goal I have carried with me since graduating from East Tech High School in 2003. Becoming a nurse has been a lifelong dream, and I am proud to be working towards becoming a first-generation graduate. This scholarship eases the financial burden of tuition, books, and the

cost of supporting my family while I pursue my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. Thank you for your kindness and belief in students like me."

Thank you for supporting Local Missions! You have helped to launch six young people onto a worthy career path**.** For more information about this mission, please contact Juanita Taylor at jajuarez1@yahoo.com.

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, September .
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, 6:30PM

Tuesday, September 15
Love to Sew Ministry, 1:00PM-3:00PM

Thursday, September 17
GCC Judge Candidate Forum, 7:00PM
(Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland)

Friday, September 18
Jr. Youth Hide & Seek, 7:00PM-9:00PM
Sr. Youth Whiskey Island & Mitchell's Ice Cream Outing, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Saturday, September 19
Love to Sew Ministry, 10:00AM-12:00PM

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

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