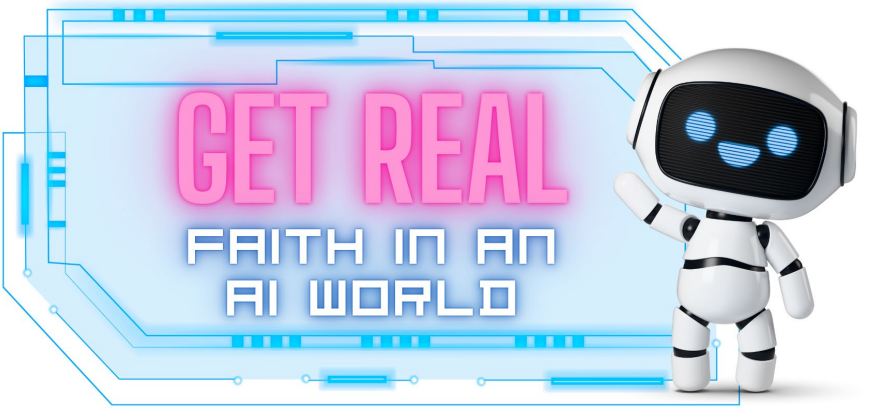
CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

United Methodist

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



September 20, 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 *Sei Fioretti, VI* Charles Tournemire

WELCOME The Rev. Andy Call

CHORAL INTROIT *Sing Unto the Lord* Ebenezer Prout
Chancel Choir

* CALL TO WORSHIP Joan Voorhees

One: O God, our God,
Many: How majestic is your name in all the earth!
One: When we look at the heavens,
the work of your hands,
who are we that you should think of us?
Many: Yet you made us in your image and gave us honor and glory.
One: All things belong to you, for you made them all.
Many: We worship you with wonder and awe.

* HYMN OF PRAISE #60 *I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath* OLD 113TH

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Call

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
the psalmist declares that you have given human beings
dominion over the works of your hands.
But we confuse this holy charge with having ownership.
We treat your creation as a resource to be used
for our needs and our profit.
Enamored with our own creativity and skill,
we turn our knowledge into towers of pride
and treat the things we create as divine.

Forgive us, O God, and show us another way.
Curb the arrogance that takes us toward a path
that leads to self-destruction.
Remind us that you alone are God. 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 — *Christ of All My Hopes* — David Schwoebel
Chancel Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON — Psalm 8 — Ms. Voorhees

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE — *Cliffs and Guardrails* — Rev. Call

OFFERING OUR LIVES IN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION #596 — *Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word* — LIEBSTER JESU

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 — Rev. Call

OFFERTORY — *The True Glory* — Peter Aston
Chancel Choir

* DOXOLOGY (#95) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP — *This Is God's Wondrous World* — TERRA BEATA
See insert

* BENEDICTION — Rev. Call

* POSTLUDE *Toccata* Théodore Dubois

* The people may stand.

Don Verkuijlen, Director of Traditional Music & Organist
Ethan Morris, organ scholar

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. A brief service of holy communion will be held in Myers Chapel at 8:30AM. 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 is here at the church today and has availability to take your complimentary picture for the new directory. Make your way down to Room 50 on the lower level via the Great Hall lobby elevator and get in the queue. She will also be back for two more Sundays on October 4, and October 11. Scan the QR code to book a session window on one of these dates, 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 at one of our three photo shoots. 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, with or without a photo, 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.

UWF Fall Flea Market

The United Women in Faith are hosting their biannual flea market Thursday-Saturday, October 8-10. Donations will be accepted in the Great Hall on Sunday 10/4 through Tuesday 10/6. Scan the QR code for all the details about donating and shopping. Many volunteers are needed throughout the week; from set-up, to cashiers, to bakers, and beyond. Contact Mary Freer at cotsfleas@gmail.com to sign up. Volunteers receive special shopping privileges!

Sanctuary Restoration Project Update

Work on the sanctuary is continuous. Contractors have repaired or replaced displaced and damaged stones; cleaned the limestone arches, framing, and window tracery; and have been meticulously repointing all masonry joints in the chancel area. This is highly detailed work that is critical to the project. We could choose to perform that work initially or at the conclusion of the project. Since we were waiting on more information about structural repairs, we elected to do it first. The work that has already been done has restored and enhanced the beauty of an already stunning space.

Structurally, there are still several unanswered questions. After a series of delays, inconclusive reports, and unsatisfactory answers, we parted ways with the initial engineering firm. We have since begun working with another firm with a more robust portfolio and stronger peer connections. They, understandably, do not want to begin with earlier assumptions, and have begun their own process of discovery. They are looking at everything from the foundation to the roof, testing materials, and closely examining the wall construction. We expect their initial report in the next few weeks.

Because of the delays, we are projecting a more conservative timeline. We had initially

hoped to be able to resume worship in the sanctuary by December but now are looking toward a completion in summer or fall of 2027. While that is deeply disappointing, we do not want to rush to meet a self-imposed timeline that causes us to miss anything in the work being done. We have from the beginning of this project focused on solutions that provide the greatest lasting value. Church of the Saviour is nearing its 100th anniversary, and we want to do all we can to ensure that this magnificent structure is here for the next 100 years.

In the short term, we invite you to come and see what is happening. On Sunday mornings, we are creating a "safe zone" in the sanctuary, accessible through the tower entrance. While you cannot climb the scaffolding or get up close to the windows, you will gain a better sense of the magnitude of the project and the loving care being taken in restoring this sacred space.

Braver Angels: Skills for Managing Difficult Conversations

All are welcome to attend a free workshop on Thursday, October 15 from 6:80-8 p.m. in the parlor designed to help people manage difficult conversations, an especially useful skill in these times of growing polarization in our country. Political and cultural positions are often infused with intense emotions—anger, contempt, and distrust—that are threatening our most valued relationships with family and friends. Facilitated by Dr. Bill Shaul, co-founder and ambassador of the NE Ohio Chapter of Braver Angels, a national, grassroots, non-partisan, non-religious organization that seeks ways to depolarize the country. Let's learn how to re-engage with others in a constructive, respectful way.

Simply Jesus Book Study

"Why am I here?" "How can I live a meaningful life?" Most people wrestle with these kinds of questions. We want our lives to make a difference. We want to "leave the world a better place." It seems to be a fundamental human drive.

Church of the Saviour is offering a course aimed at helping people find answers to these questions. The course, called "Simply Jesus," is based on the book of that title by Anglican priest and theologian N.T. Wright. Using Wright's method of weaving history and theology together, we will gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and come away with some good answers to the question, "Why should I follow him?" You may just find, in a deep-seated and powerful way, that following Jesus is the key to living a meaningful life.

The course is being offered at two different times, to make it accessible to as many people as possible: Mondays from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and Thursdays from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The first meetings will take place on October 12th and October 15th. There will be a total of 16 sessions, with some breaks for holidays, so the last sessions will take

place during the week of February 22nd. David Hildebrandt will be the facilitator. If you'd like more information, please contact him at dhildebr1961@gmail.com or 229-378-0636. Scan the QR Code or call the office to sign up. We hope to see you there!

CWRU Ratner Lecture

Case Western Reserve University invites all to attend the annual Ratner Lecture in Religion given by Professor Miguel de la Torre, a noted Latinx social ethicist, theologian, and ordained Baptist pastor at Iliff School of Theology deliver the annual Ratner Lecture in Religion. This year's lecture, entitled "Toward a Liberative AI Ethics," will be given on Thursday, September 24, from 4:30-6:30 PM at the Thwing Excelsior Ballroom on the CWRU campus.

AI is radically changing how most of us go about our daily lives, bringing, in some cases, radical changes. Unfortunately, we are rushing forward simply because we can and paying little attention to the ethical implications. Focusing on the impact of AI, this lecture will begin by exploring its theological implications for the individual, the nation, and the world. Special attention will be given to those who were already marginalized before the normalization of AI.

Walk with COTS in the CHUH Homecoming Parade!

Support the kids and families of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools in their annual homecoming parade Friday, October 2! Church of the Saviour is marching, passing out mini basketballs and candy, and carrying a banner. It's a great opportunity to show that we care and to get the word out about the next COTS Youth Basketball season and our other children's and youth ministries. Meet on Coleridge Rd. off Lee Rd. at 4:45pm and look for the Jeep with the basketball hoop on the back. The parade starts at 5pm and travels 1/2 mile up Lee Rd. to the Heights High football field. Wear a COTS or CHUH shirt if you have one. Contact Curt Campbell at ccampbell@cotsumc.org with any questions.

Please register your attendance at today's worship service.

Thank you!

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, September 22
Edna Rhodes Circle, 12:30PM

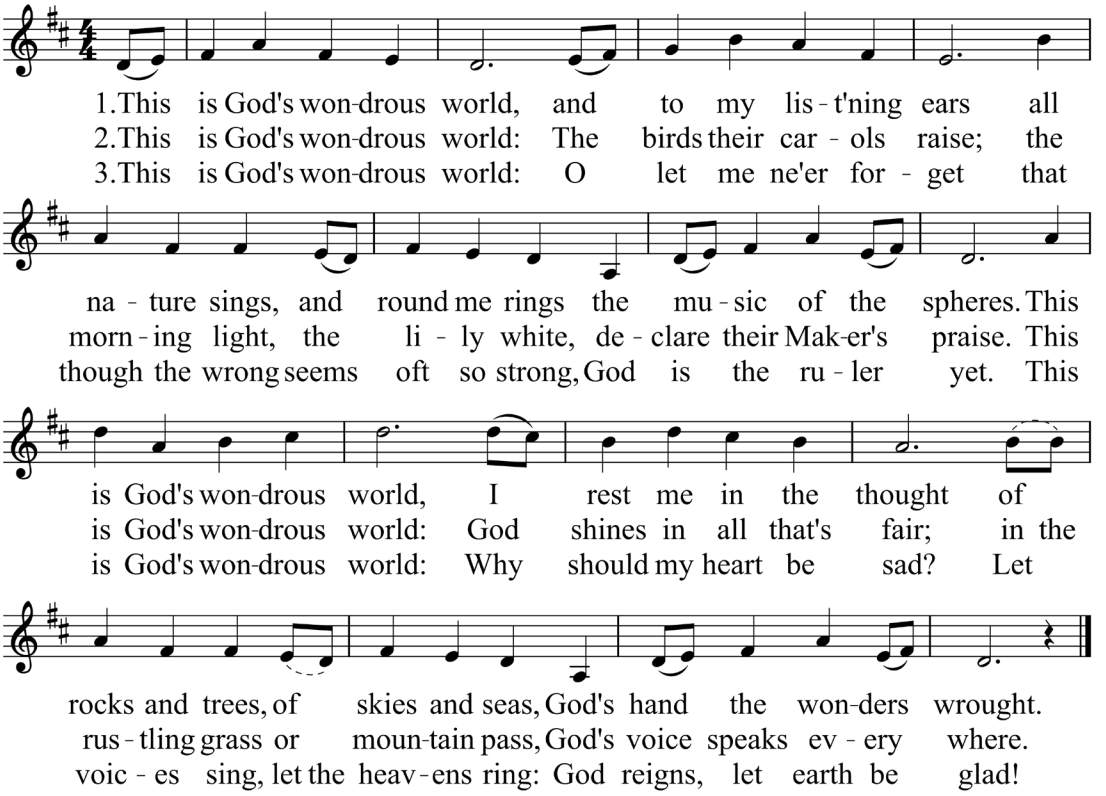
Wednesday, September 23
Martha Circle, 7:00PM

Friday, September 25
Jr. Youth Night Hike at Squire's Castle, 7:00-10:30PM

Saturday, September 26
Myers Forum, 8:30AM-1:30PM

Sunday, September 27
Unified Worship, 10:30AM

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

CHURCH *of the* SAVIOUR

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