CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR

United Methodist

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

October 4, 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

INTROIT — *My Voice Shalt Thou Hear* — John Goss

* CALL TO WORSHIP [1] — Thelma McIntosh

One: We come to the table and see that Jesus is with us.
Many: Wherever two or three are gathered, his presence abides.
One: What we see, as the disciples did, was Jesus serving others.
Many: And he asks us to do the same.
One: Even, and perhaps especially, in times of distress,
Jesus invites us to move toward others, not away.
**Many: We are called to see those around us as Jesus sees them:
as neighbors, not "others."**

* HYMN OF PRAISE #547 — *O Church of God, United* — ELLECOMBE

CALL TO CONFESSION — Rev. Call

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [2]

**God of our every moment,
we want to live like Jesus,
but we confess that our actions don't often reflect that.
Forgive us when we turn away for the sake of self-preservation.
Help us to embrace that loving one another is the way to abundant life.**

**Especially when it is hard,
help us to see, not look away,
help us to serve, not judge,
help us to reach out, not pull back,
help us to risk relationships that ask something of us.
May our actions demonstrate that we are followers of Jesus,
who loved everyone completely and without reservation.**

(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.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

We welcome you to share signs of reconciliation with one another.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

* THE GOSPEL LESSON John 13:1-5, 34-35 Rolf Bergman & Anne Billington

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE *Love One Another* Rev. Call

OFFERING OUR LIVES IN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION #632 *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* UNION SEMINARY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Rev. Cindy Patterson

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS Rev. Call

OFFERTORY *As We Gather at Your Table* K. Lee Scott
Chancel Choir

* DOXOLOGY #95 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Santos Responses* Revs. Call & Patterson

One: The LORD be with you.

Many: And also with you.

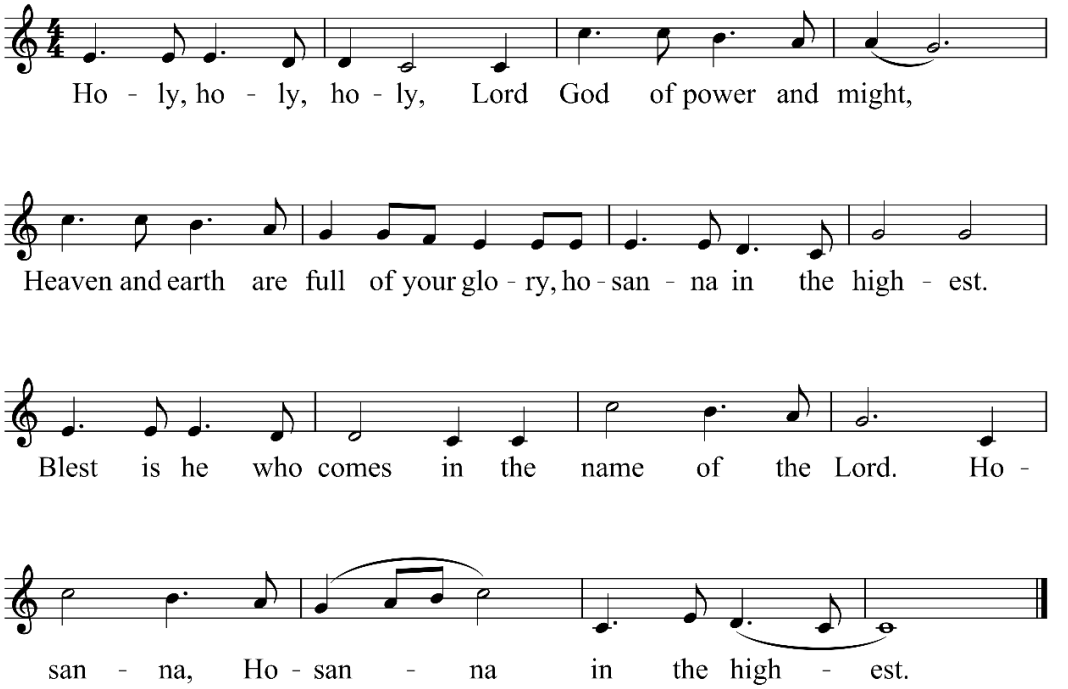
One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the LORD.

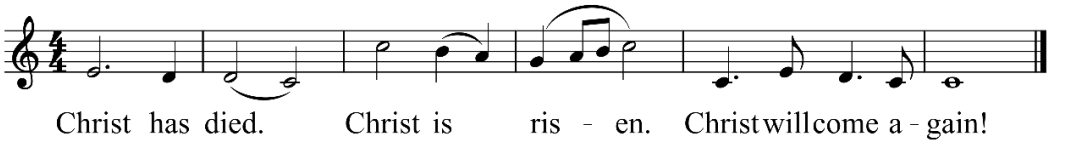
One: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

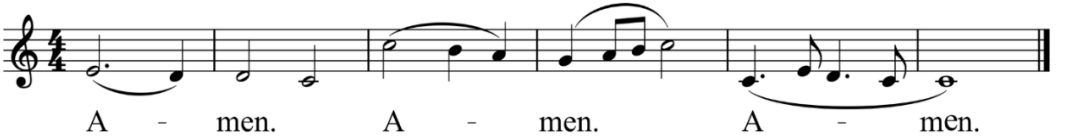
Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right . . . and join their unending hymn:



One: …as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



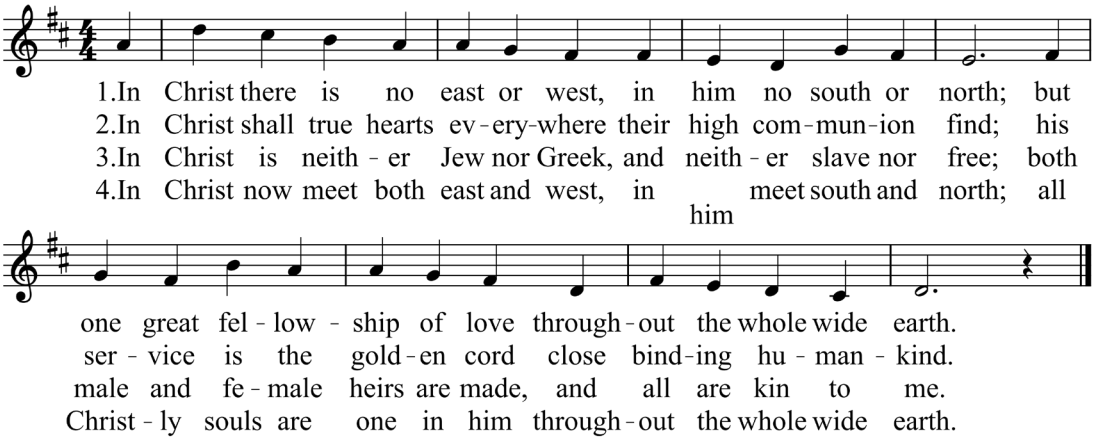
One: …all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Call

* HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP *In Christ There Is No East or West* ST. PETER



* BENEDICTION Rev. Call

* POSTLUDE

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* The people may stand.

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

[1 & 2] Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio (adapted)

The flowers on the altar are dedicated in honor of
Tammy Owings & Nolan Holland's 25th wedding anniversary,
and also to the United Women in Faith and flea market volunteers.

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 9:45AM 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. If you're sitting in worship right now and want to join, please come upstairs!

World Communion Sunday
Today we observe World Communion Sunday—one of six Sundays designated in The United Methodist Church for a special offering. On these Sundays, United Methodists join together to support life-changing work like disaster relief, education, advocacy, and community development through the broader church. United in impact, we do more together than we ever could alone. On World Communion Sunday, United Methodists join Christians around the world in celebrating Holy Communion, remembering that we are one in Christ, no matter our background, language, or culture. But it's more than just worship. It's also a time to support scholarships and leadership training for students from underrepresented communities—helping the Church become more inclusive and better equipped to serve.

Our altars are dressed with fabrics from the places where we have covenant relationships: Willie Berman in Mexico, Patrick Booth in Cambodia and Temba Nkomgzepi serving in Zambia. COTS also supports the North Coast Haiti Mission where children at Dondon School wear yellow gingham shirts for their school uniforms. The hand-woven fishing basket from Liberia is a reminder that Jesus calls us "to be fishers of men." As followers of Jesus, we will share the message of hope and Gospel with others.

Blessing of the Animals TODAY
Join us for a Blessing of the Animals service this afternoon, 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.

New Church Photo Directory

Last chance! A professional photographer is here today and next Sunday, October 11 to take complimentary photos of anyone who would like to be included in a new church photo directory. Reservations are still recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. Make your way down to Room 50 in the Early Learning Center to join the queue.

To book a session, scan the QR code, and please be sure to read the booking site instructions. 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 but still wish to have a picture 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 with or without a photograph 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.

UWF Fall Flea Market – It's Here!

The United Women in Faith are hosting their biannual flea market Thursday-Saturday, October 8-10. Donations will be accepted in the Great Hall starting today, 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!

Foundation Sunday

Next Sunday, October 11 we will recognize The Church of the Saviour Foundation during worship services. Founded in 1955, the Foundation's mission is to provide permanent support to Church of the Saviour by underwriting major maintenance of the church's facilities, providing start-up funds for new ministry initiatives and church programs, and supporting local and worldwide mission work.

Thanks to the contributions of church members and friends and careful investment by the Foundation board, the Foundation is able to provide grants totaling more than $500,000 each year. There are many ways to give to the Foundation, and gifts of any amount are appreciated. Donors that include the Foundation in their estate plans become members of the honorary Tower Society. Scan the QR code to view a list of giving opportunities. If

you have any questions about The Church of the Saviour Foundation, please contact Cathy Belk (cathynbelk@gmail.com).

Love to Sew Ministry
The mission of Love to Sew is to be in fellowship while creating items needed by others. We welcome both novice and experienced sewers. We also need people to cut and press fabric. We will continue to produce items requested by the UMC Midwest Mission Distribution Center: baby items, book bags, hygiene bags quilts and more. Join us Saturday, October 17 from 10AM-12PM and/or Tuesday, October 20 from 1-3PM. Please email questions to Kevin Louise Schaner at schanerkevin@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build
Habitat For Humanity's mission statement is to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. The Faith Build program, founded in 2015, brings people of faith together to sponsor a home. Each congregation gives a portion of prayer, volunteer power, and funding to build a home for a family. This is COTS' third year of participation in a Faith Build project, although we have a core group of regular Habitat construction volunteers who have been helping build homes for decades.

Our 2026 Faith Build home is located in the nearby Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of Cleveland. There is one final construction date on Wednesday, October 14 for volunteers to join the project. Scan the QR code for all the details and to sign up.

Braver Angels: Skills for Managing Difficult Conversations
All are welcome to attend a free workshop on Thursday, October 15 from 6:30-8 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. Please RSVP to the church office at 216-321-8880 or office@cotsumc.org.

Get Out the Vote!
We can love our neighbors and community by showing up to the polls for election day on November 3. Scan the QR code or visit Vote4Ohio.com to double check your voter registration today!

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!

Fall Men's Breakfast

The next quarterly men's breakfast is on Saturday, October 10 at 7:30 AM in Calvary Hall with speaker Dave Hildebrandt. Join us for a delicious homemade breakfast and great fellowship. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. Bring a friend! Contact Pete Krouse (pkrouse@cleveland.com) or Steve Merriam (stevemerriam@roadrunner.com) with questions or to volunteer to help out.

Embark New Member Orientation

Have you considered taking the next step in connecting your faith and the church by becoming a member of Church of the Saviour? Membership is like becoming a stakeholder - making the shift from participating to shaping who we are and what we do together. Embark is a 90-minute session orienting you to some of the details about life at COTS - who we are, what we believe and why, where we focus our energy, and how we grow in God's grace together. The next session will be on Sunday, October 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the parlor and will include lunch and childcare upon request. Scan the QR code to register.

Seeking Advent Devotional Submissions
The last lines in the Bible (depending on the version) are, “Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.” (Revelation 22:20b-21) This is what we anticipate and celebrate during Advent.

As Advent approaches, we would love to share the different ways those in our COTS community anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ by creating our very own Advent devotional. It will be shaped around the four themes of the season: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Would you consider submitting something? It can be anything pertaining to one or more of those themes - an original devotional message, a scripture verse, book excerpt, poem, song, or artwork. Anything that is meaningful to you during Advent is acceptable. Not sure it's right? Send it anyway and we can have a conversation. Please include attribution for any author or artist whose work is used.

Email your submission by November 3 to Lorrie Goss at COTSadvent@gmail.com.

“Love One Another” Yard Signs
The “Love One Another” sermon series is about empowering and encouraging people to put love into action. Yard signs turn neighborhoods into a statement. When homes across our community display the “Love One Another” message, it signals something bigger than any single congregation—a collective commitment to kindness that’s visible to everyone who drives or walks by. If you want to help spread that message, “Love One Another” yard signs are now available for the taking in the Great Hall lobby.

CHURCH *of the* SAVIOUR

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, October 4

Church Directory Photo Shoot, 8:00AM-1:00PM
LGBTQIA+ Adults & Active Allies Prayer Group via Zoom, 12:30PM
UWF Fall Flea Market Donation Day, starting at 12:30PM
Blessing of the Animals, 4:00PM

Monday, October 5

UWF Fall Flea Market Donation Day

Tuesday, October 6

UWF Fall Flea Market Donation Day

Thursday, October 8

UWF Fall Flea Market Sale Day, 3:00PM-7:00PM

Friday, October 9

UWF Fall Flea Market Sale Day, 10:00AM-1:00PM
Sr. Youth Campout, 5:00PM

Saturday, October 10

Men's Breakfast, 7:30AM

Sunday, October 11

Church Directory Photo Shoot, 8:00AM-1:00PM

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

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