



United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E. Second Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Sunday — October 13, 2024

The Reverend Susan McGhee  
Executive Presbyter of Presbytery of Ohio Valley  
Guest Speaker

812-332-1850

[www.upcbloomington.org](http://www.upcbloomington.org)

United Presbyterian Church Worship Guide  
October 13, 2024 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Arise Your Light Is Come* Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Deacon Michelle Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: maker of earth and heaven.**

Liturgist: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

\*OPENING HYMN *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* #462

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share the peace with one another.



CALL TO CONFESSION (Liturgist)

To all and to each where regret is real,  
God pronounces pardon and gives us the grace to begin again.  
Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison with Liturgist)

**Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired,  
new love where we have turned hardhearted,  
forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded,  
and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves.**

*(all pray in silence...)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Liturgist)

Praise to the Living Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning.  
Christ scatters the sin from our souls like the mist from the hills.  
Let us welcome the grace of Christ in our hearts  
to begin what we do, to inform what we say, and to redeem who we are.  
Thanks be to God. Amen

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

*Break Forth O Beauteous, Heavenly Light*

Members of the UPC Quartet

THE WORD, READ AND PROCLAIMED

The Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 26:1-10 (Liturgist)

The Gospel Lesson John 1:1-5;10-18 (Preacher)

Reverend: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## The Sermon

*How Firm a Foundation*

The Reverend Susan McGhee

HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation.*

#361

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

*from A Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** Rev. Susan McGhee

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:** Rev. Susan McGhee

Offertory – Members of the UPC Quartet

*\*Doxology #592*

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Susan McGhee

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

#420

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Rev. Susan McGhee

### POSTLUDE

Benjamin Watkins, piano

*\*Please stand if you are able*

**UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com).

Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Georgia, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Middle East and Ukraine

**First Presbyterian in Jeffersonville** has been a downtown church for 194 years! Our mission statement is: We are disciples of Jesus Christ who love and serve others. We fulfill our mission by praising God in worship with scripture, music, and prayer, we are welcoming, caring, and inclusive; and we are faithful stewards of God's creation and resources. We are a PC(USA) Matthew 25 vital congregation; serving, supporting, and actively ministering in the community through the Center for Lay Ministries food pantry and women's recovery shelter, Loaves & Fishes, Clark County Youth Shelter, Community Kitchen, Catalyst Rescue Mission, Exit 0, D.I.A.P.E.R. project, and Girl Scout Troop 1621's on-site food pantry.

We are currently partnering with Kentucky Refugee Ministries as we work to acclimate a Congolese family into life in Kentuckiana. Our ministry continues to expand as we join with other downtown churches to recycle, plant trees, and care for the houseless. The 157-member congregation is blessed to have Rev. Karen McDonald Smith as our Bridge Pastor. We covet your prayers as we look to define our goals and vision before seeking new pastoral leadership.



### United Presbyterian Church Staff

Secretary/Event Coordinator – Allen Pease – office (812) 332-1850; cell (812) 325-7849

Treasurer–Andy Hill andy@andyhill.us

Music Director – Benjamin Watkins – (864) 980-7731 [benjamintaylorwatkins@gmail.com](mailto:benjamintaylorwatkins@gmail.com)

Christian Education – Melanie Mathis-McBride – [susieq\\_msm@yahoo.com](mailto:susieq_msm@yahoo.com)

### Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

✘ The **Nicene Creed** was developed at the Council of Nicea in a.d. 325 (convened by Constantine) and revised in a.d. 381, by a second council meeting in Constantinople. It is the most ecumenical of all the creeds. In contrast to Eastern Orthodox churches, however, the western churches state that the Holy Spirit proceeds not only from the Father, but from the Father *and the Son*.

✘ Although not written by apostles, the **Apostles' Creed** reflects the theological formulations of the first century church. In a time when most Christians were illiterate, repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the western churches.

✘ Following the death of Queen Regent Mary of Guise in 1560, the Protestant nobility of Scotland was able to secure English recognition of Scottish sovereignty. The Scottish Parliament declared Scotland a Protestant nation, and asked the clergy to frame a confession of faith. Six ministers, including John Knox, completed their work on the **Scots Confession** in four days. "Cleave, serve, worship, trust" are key words in this document.

✘ Completed in 1562, the **Heidelberg Catechism** was written to ease tensions between Lutherans and Reformed Christians. Much-loved is the first question: What is your only comfort, in life and in death? That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ...

✘ Heinrich Bullinger, successor to the great Reformer Ulrich Zwingli, wrote the **Second Helvetic Confession** in 1561. He intended to attach it to his last will and testament to the Zurich church, but instead he offered it as the basis for defense in a heresy trial of Frederick the Elector, who had commissioned the Heidelberg Catechism. Frederick was exonerated in 1566, and the new confession was adopted by the churches in Switzerland.

✘ The **Westminster Standards** were commissioned in 1643 by the English Parliament, who called upon "learned, godly and judicious Divines," to meet at Westminster Abbey to advise on issues of worship, doctrine, government and church discipline. The meetings, over a period of five years, produced the **Westminster Confession of Faith**, as well as the **Shorter Catechism** and the **Larger Catechism**.

✘ The **Theological Declaration of Barmen** was written by a group of church leaders in Germany (including Karl Barth) in 1934 to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party and of the so-called "German Christians," a popular movement that saw no conflict between Christianity and the ideals of Hitler's National Socialism.

✘ The **Confession of 1967** addresses the church's role in the modern world, and calls the church to obedient action, particularly in response to social problems such as racial discrimination, nationalistic arrogance, and family and class conflict. It sees the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ as the pattern for the church's mission today, and calls on all Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

✘ **A Brief Statement of Faith** was written in response to the formation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 1983, by the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States. As the preface to this confession states, it "celebrates our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task."

✘ **The Confession of Belhar** was drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in South Africa. Its themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice were part of an effort to grapple with the church's participation in and defense of apartheid. Belhar was approved for inclusion in the **Book of Confessions** in 2016 by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly as a unique voice among the predominantly European and North American confessions, and serves as a model for the PC(USA) to "speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice."