



# THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY

10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

*Shall We Gather at the River?*

Richard Elliott

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Dorothy Baunach  
James Nichols, *Cuyahoga Land Bank Charities*

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! And serve the Lord with gladness.  
Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands! Come before his presence with a song.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

Let us remember God's marvelous works.

**Surely God has saved us in difficult times.**

**How can we forget God's guiding hand?**

When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,  
God helps us turn the evil to good.

**We need not be afraid whatever happens.**

**We are in God's care wherever we go.**

Sing the praises of God, our strength.

Know that God is majestic and holy.

**How great is God's mercy for all who worship!**

**We sense among us God's kindness and patience.**

**\* INVOCATION PRAYER**

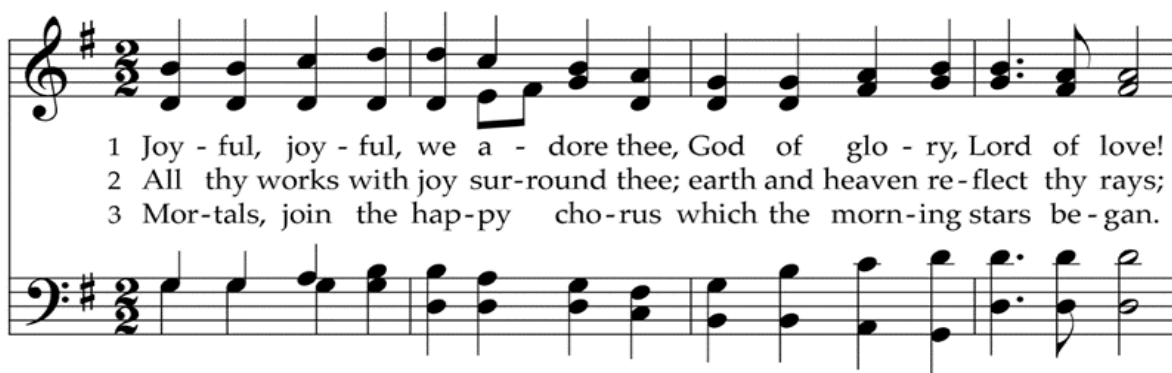
Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors  
with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night,  
lead us through the threatening times in which we live.

Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust,  
as you saved them from the waters of the sea  
and the weapons of their pursuers.

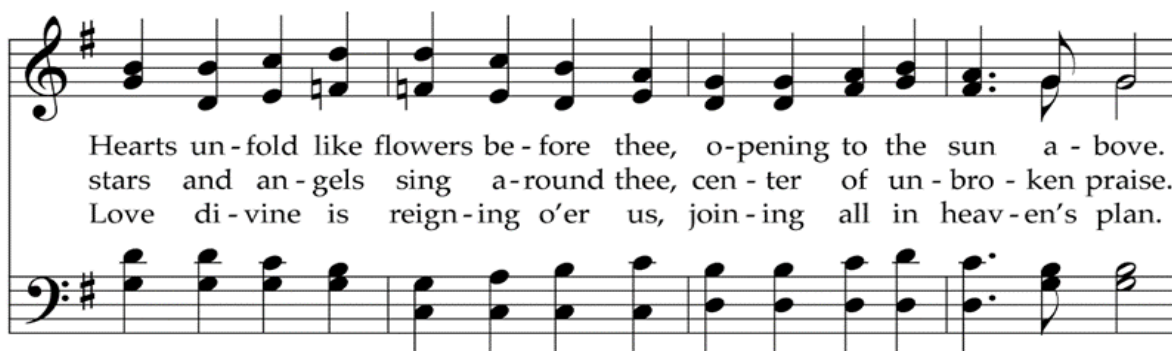
On this day, grant strength to those who are weak  
and support for all who are stumbling.

Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds.

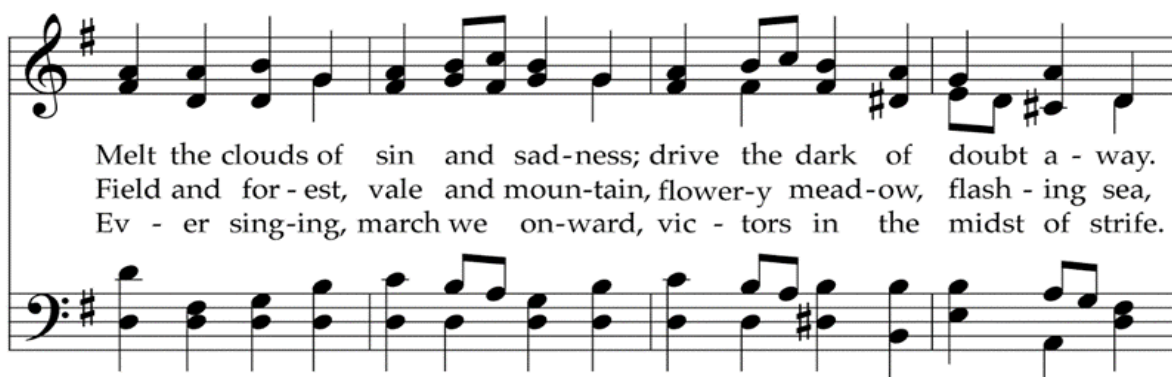
Amen.



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee; earth and heaven re-flect thy rays;  
 3 Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan.



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, o-pening to the sun a-bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing all in heav-en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife.



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

This well-known melody was created to provide a choral setting for J. C. F. von Schiller's poem, "An die Freude" (To Joy), as the final movement of the composer's *Ninth Symphony*. The author, a prominent Presbyterian pastor and author, wrote the words with this tune in mind.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Dorothy Baunach

Why do we pass judgment on our brothers and sisters?  
Why do we quarrel with those whose ways are different from our own?  
How can we despise another who is also a child of God?  
How can we ignore the suffering of other human beings?  
Surely we have much to confess to our God.  
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,  
followed by time for silent personal confession.  
Thus, we pray:

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We bow before your judgment seat, O God.  
We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards  
of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention.  
We have rejected those whom we dislike  
and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up.  
We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults  
as we look down on other people.  
O God, you have shown us a better way.  
Save us from the pain we inflict  
and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness.  
*(moment of silent confession)*

KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has pity on us and releases us from the debts we have accumulated.  
In the great design of the universe,  
we are equipped to receive this forgiveness only when we extend it to others.  
Jesus points us to an unlimited willingness to forgive – seventy times seven.  
How amazing is God's love for us, and God's expectation of us!  
**Alleluia and Amen!**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

\* GLORIA #581

*Glory be to the Father*

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.  
We are indebted to the Creator  
for all we have and for the precious gift of life itself.  
Nothing we can do will ever begin to repay this debt.  
Therefore, with gratitude, we extend to others  
the gracious acceptance and generosity we have experienced.  
Let us thank God with our offerings.  
The offering will now be received.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Lord, Have Mercy*

Pepper Choplin

R/. Lord, have-a mercy on my brother. Lord, have-a mercy on my sister.  
While I'm a-prayin' down on my knees, Lord, have-a mercy on me.

When we gather 'round a brother who is lyin' on a bed of pain.  
We're prayin', Lord, won't You lift him up and take his burden away. R/.

For the children carin' for their parents, for the mother worry-in' bout her child.  
I'm prayin' Lord, won't You lift them up and give them peace for awhile.  
Lord, have-a mercy on the children, Lord, have-a mercy on the parents.  
Lord, I'm a-prayin' for all of these, Lord, have-a mercy on me.

When I'm a-callin', "Lord, Lord," I won't be callin' in vain.  
When the waters of trouble are risin' up, I'm callin' Your name! R/.

### \* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dorothy Baunach

Let us join our voices in prayer:

We honor you, O God, as we give.  
We know we do not live or die to ourselves  
but are part of a large community,  
linked in ways beyond our knowing  
with you and all generations of your children.  
We are accountable to you and share in responsibility  
for one another and for the care of this planet.  
Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you  
for the work of your realm.  
Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself.  
Amen.

### \* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*All Things Come of Thee*

Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

# WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of All Wisdom, since the dawn of history,  
you have spoken to your people to teach us and guide us.  
Speak to us again this day,  
and let your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to understand.  
Speak to us, Lord, in this hour.  
In the name of that Holy Spirit we pray.  
Amen.

## THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 14:1-12 (Inclusive Bible)

Welcome those whose faith is weak, and don't argue with them. The opinions of people range from those who believe they may eat any sort of meat, to those whose faith is so weak they eat only vegetables. Those who eat everything must not despise those who abstain. The ones who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to judge someone else's worker? It's for the employer to decide if the worker has succeeded or failed—and the worker will succeed, for our God has the power to make it so. One person considers one day more sacred than another, another considers all days equally sacred—and both are equally certain of their own opinions. The person who observes special days does it for our God. Whoever eats meat does it for our God and gives thanks to God. Whoever abstains does it for our God and gives thanks to God.

We don't live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves. While we live, we live for Christ Jesus, and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus. Both in life and in death we belong to Christ. That's why Christ died and came to life again—in order to reign supreme over both the living and the dead.

But you, how can you sit in judgment of your sisters or brothers? Or you, how can you look down on your sisters or brothers? We will all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. Scripture says, "As surely as I live"—it is our God who speaks— "every knee will bend before me and every tongue will give praise to God." We will all have to give an account of ourselves before God.

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

**With God's help we are listening.**

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35 (Inclusive Bible)

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here's why."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.



At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, 'I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!' Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, 'Pay back what you owe me!'

The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!' But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor's prison until the money was paid.

When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?' Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

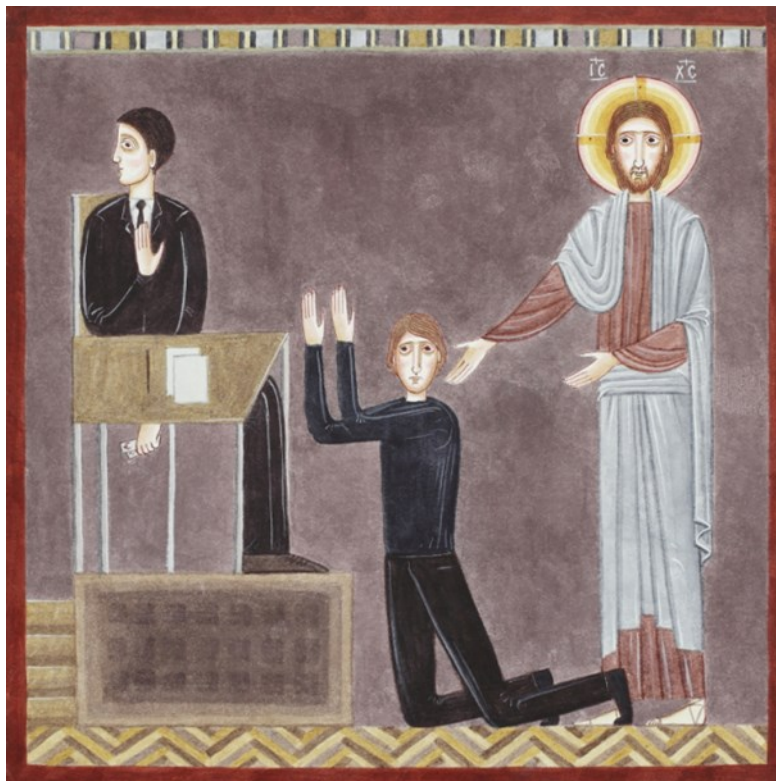
My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
"70 x 7 = Nonjudgement"



\* THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

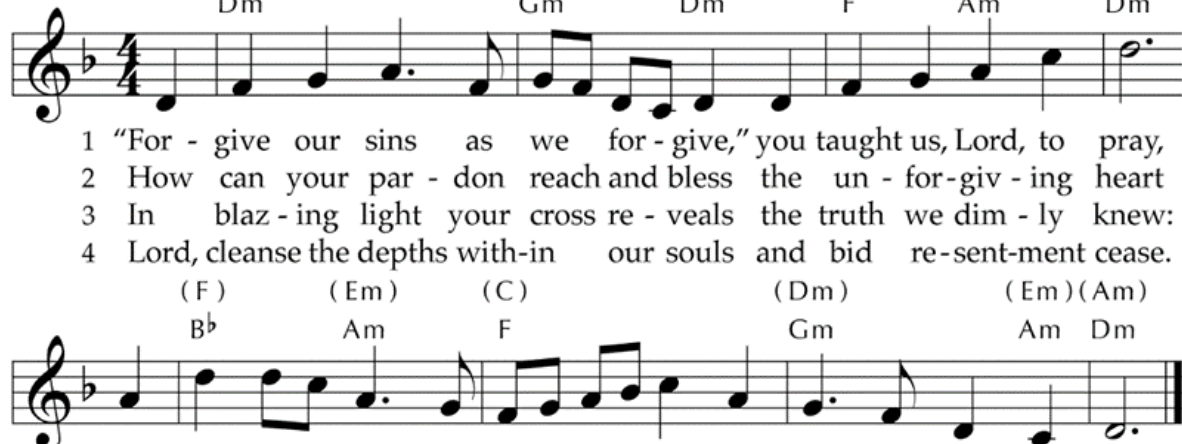
LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen



Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am)  
 Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for-giv - ing heart  
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em)(Am)  
 Bb Am F Gm Am Dm

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!  
 Then, by your mer - cy rec - on-ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Few petitions of the Lord's Prayer are as difficult to pray as this one, and we would not dare to pray it if we had to depend on ourselves rather than the example of forgiveness we are given in Jesus Christ. The shape note tune sets these words with appropriate sparseness.

TEXT: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.

MUSIC: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. Margaret W. Mealy, 1985

Text © 1969, 1983 Rosamond E. Herklots

Music Harm. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

DETROIT

CM



\* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

We have observed this day to honor God.

God's promises go with us as we depart.

**God upholds us and helps us to stand.**

**We are grateful that God strengthens our faith.**

We do not live or die to ourselves.

Christ has claimed us and offered us life.

**From Christ, we have learned to forgive.**

**We have been taught to value every person.**

Let every knee bow daily before our God.

Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.

**God help us turn evil into good.**

**Every day we can know God's loving presence.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Amen*

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "*Hymn to Joy*"

Jason D. Payne

Please remain in your seats for the debut screening of our  
*200 Homes* documentary. (12min.)

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

*Psalms 73:26*



**We continue to keep in our prayers:**

Faith Battan, Barney Taxel, Gail Reid, Mark Merritt, Angela Hendricks,  
Melvin, Karen Cogar, Vito Zinerco, Cara Murkins, JoAnn Hood and family

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

*Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.*

## **WALK WITH NAMI IN 2023**

It's not how far we walk at **NAMIWalks Greater Cleveland** on **September 23 at Edgewater Park**, but how far we've come to make our milestones count. With your support and high spirits, we intend to make an unprecedented impact on mental health in our community.

NAMIWalks 2023 represents a powerful chance to leave a significant mark on the local mental health landscape.

Whether you're a previous participant or a new voice waiting to be heard, we're pretty sure you'll find the festivities inspired *and* inspiring.

**9AM Check-in/10AM NAMIWalks steps off.**

## **Old Stone Church Fall Food Drive**

Old Stone Church is pleased to announce the return of our Fall Food Drive with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on **Sunday, October 8th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

A list of needed items may be found in the weekly Connexions

**Please bring your filled bags to Old Stone Church on Sunday October 8, 2023.**



### **@ Old Stone Church**

**Sun Sep 17**

11am Deacon Meeting/Chapel

11:15am Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/Conference Room

**Tue Sep 26**

6:30pm Session/ZOOM

**Sat Sep 30**

11am New Member Retreat/Chapel

### **Last Sunday Attendance**

In-Person:65

Online:218

### **September 17-24, 2023**

**Sun Sep 17** 10:00am Worship/Homecoming Sunday/200 Homes

11:00am Deacon Meeting/Chapel

11:15am Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/Conference Room

1:00pm Guardians/Rangers

**Tue Sep 19** All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

**Wed Sep 20** 10:30am Team Meeting

5:00pm Personnel Meeting/ZOOM

**Thu Sep 21** All day International Day of Peace

**Sat Sep 23** All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

9:00am NAMI WALK 2023/Edgewater Park

**Sun Sep 24** All day Cruise Ship Cleveland

10:00am Worship

1:00pm Browns/Titans

1:00pm Guardians/Orioles

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: <a href="http://oldstonechurch.org/giving/">oldstonechurch.org/giving/</a>	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword <b>"oldstonecle"</b> to 73256
Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113	Checks should be made payable to "Old Stone Church." If you would like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone's mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

## THE OLD STONE CHURCH

*LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org) E-Mail: [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.org)

Music copied under ccli#1638695

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

**Minister of Music:** David L. Dettloff

### The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*  
Elizabeth Rickel, *soprano*  
Val Sibila, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*  
Stephen Brown, *tenor*  
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*  
Margaret Raupp, *alto*  
Joanna Tomassoni, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*  
Christopher Clark, *bass*

### Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

#### Class of 2023

Beth Buchanan  
Robert Hubert Jr.  
Judy Macuga  
Harriet Niles  
Lee Ann Rader  
Marty Vassel  
John Young

#### Class of 2024

Michelle Baron  
Janie Chambers  
Fred Heider  
Bernard Medie  
Bob Reid

#### Class of 2025

Kara Bane  
Willie Brown  
Dave Finley

### Church Deacons:

#### Class of 2023

Melissa Maffia  
Pete Maffia  
Mary Mikula  
Michael Rolén  
Penni Rolén  
Alyssa Niepokny

#### Class of 2024

Scott Bailey  
Bernie Bischel  
Carol Hoagland  
Amy Wheeler  
John Wheeler

#### Class of 2025

Elie Medie  
Mark Pichler

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Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The Old Stone Church/First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, Ohio. Thank you.