



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WITH COMMUNION AND BAPTISM
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	Pastorale on " <i>Nettleton</i> "	Phil Lehenbauer
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
MINUTE FOR MISSION		Eddie Horvat
INTROIT	O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord	Christopher Tye

O come, ye servants of the Lord, and praise his holy name;
From early morn to setting sun his might on earth proclaim.

His laws are just, and glad the heart; He makes his mercies known:
Ye princes come, ye people too, and bow before his throne.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.
God has given us birth by the word of truth.
We are drawn to God as to a lover.

**We leap for joy when we know God's care.
Every perfect gift comes to us from God.**

God's image is a part of each one of us.

**God's grace has been poured into our lives.
Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.**

Who will dwell on God's holy hill?

Those who walk uprightly and speak the truth.

**We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.
We will act toward them as we wish to be treated.**

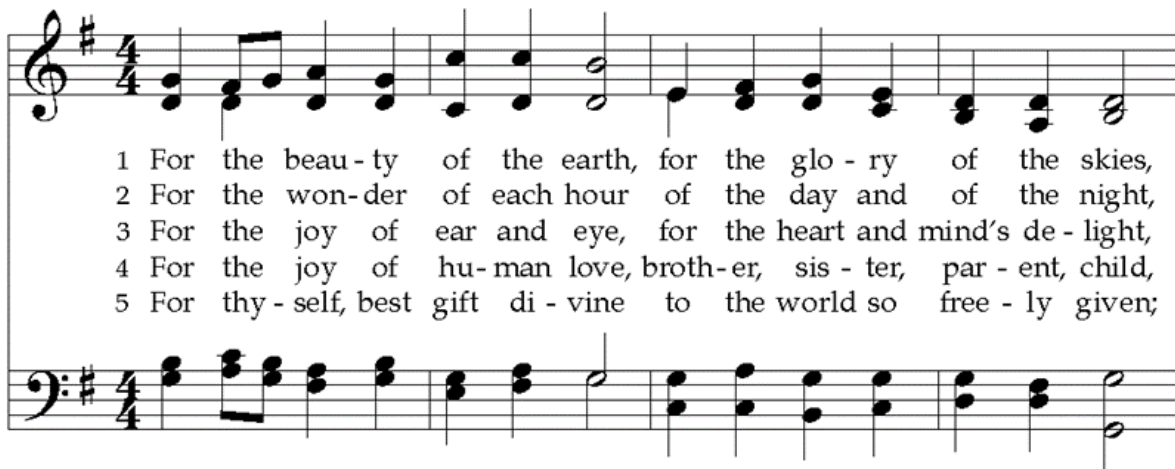
* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Our hearts overflow with longings too great for words, gracious God.
You have been so good to us, yet we are dissatisfied.
We have many things to enjoy,
but seldom have we found our home with you.
Meet us here to anoint us with the oil of gladness.
Awaken us with singing and speak your truth
to draw us away from the lure of wickedness.
May this time of worship help us
to become a wise and understanding people,
eager to live as the body of Christ,
making a difference in the world
as Jesus did so long ago on the Galilean shore.
Amen.**

* HYMN #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Follitt Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
 7.7.7.7.7.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Beth Buchanan

How easily we notice the sins of others,
 finding ways to criticize what they do or do not do.
 How much harder it is to believe that we are sinners
 needing to repent of habits that separate us from God
 and set us against neighbors who are different from us.
 Let us seek forgiveness.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we admit that all is not well with us.
We are easily angered and slow to forgive.
We speak without listening and pretend to listen without really hearing.
Our tongues become weapons rather than instruments of healing.
We are more critical than helpful toward the poor in our midst.
Hidden in our hearts are the attitudes that produce
avarice, deceit, and violation of our promises to you and to one another.
Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness
and learn to love ourselves as you want us to be, through Jesus Christ.**

(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 frees us from our human bondage
to live by commandments that build up rather than destroy.
God offers us boundaries that liberate us
from licentiousness, greed and false pride.
Our Creator draws us close so that our hearts may find their true home.
Praise God for the grace that saves us from our self-deceit
and lifts us up to bear good fruit.

Alleluia and Amen!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elizabeth Noelle Ashdown

Patricia Lewis & Nicholas Ashdown
(Godparents)

Stephanie Lewis & Michael Ashdown
(Parents)

* 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:

Let us not forget that the bounty we enjoy
is only loaned to us for a little while,
to be managed to the glory of God.

Every generous act of giving is prompted by God's own generosity toward us.
We are invited to return the first fruits of our labors that,
through the outreach of our church,
God may accomplish much good for those
who most need to know that someone cares.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Cantate Domino

Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni

Cantate Domino canticum novum,
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.
Lætetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,
et filii Sion exultent in rege suo.

*Sing to the Lord a new song.
his praise in the assembly of the saints.
Let Israel rejoice in He who made them,
and the people of Zion rejoice in their King.*

Psalm 149:1-2

* 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

Beth Buchanan

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving
for all the bounty you entrust to our stewardship, O God of light.
You have reached into the shadows, where we often flee,
to rescue us and give us your work to do.
As you have freed us from the chains of sin,
we seek to offer healing to others as we listen and share and do.
Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray.
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

Let us pray together:

**Father of lights,
there is no variation or shadow due to change in you.
Let your Spirit illumine our hearts through your holy Word,
turning us from the emptiness of our human traditions
to the fullness of life in the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NRSVUE)

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away,
for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly.

All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“A Love Affair with God”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #366

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

HYFRYDOL



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.

* INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We are here because Jesus has called us –
strangers and friends, locals and visitors,
believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.
It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and the fruit of the vine,
he meets us and through him we, who are different,
are joined to each other.
So come, not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

Come, not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.
Come, not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

Our hearts are open to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to the Holy One.

We give you thanks, O God!

Indeed, we give you thanks, O God,
for you keep showing up to meet us at this table.
Created in your image, you made us different
from one another and yet we are also one.
Still, we fight tooth and nail to keep your table
from hosting the fullness of your body.

Though we long to practice love, evil still has its way in us and our communities.
We struggle to confront the unjust powers and prejudices that keep us from
being in full relationship with you and one another.
In Jesus, you showed us an alternative way.

Jesus, who practiced counter-cultural socializing,
was friends with the despised ones of his time:
Sex-workers. The ill. Bleeding women.
Tax collectors. The poor.
Jesus, God enfleshed,
found companionship in the ones deemed sinners
or unclean by religious leaders.
And he modeled for us what it looks like to practice love,
not only interpersonally,
but by confronting political and religious powers that destroy.

In Christ you seek to restore us and all creation to the fullness of life.
We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Sunny Kunche, Eleanor Cicerchi, Harry Hatters, Frank Macuga,
Laurel Ashdown, Chelsea and Kyle, Rev. Jason Thompson,
the Brownfield family, the Kordalski family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Kordalski,
may his memory be a blessing.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

(Please be seated)

Because of Jesus' relentless pursuit of love,
he was seized by those in power.
On the night he would be arrested,
he gathered with his companions for a meal.

He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke the bread and shared it with his disciples saying,

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
hamotzi lechem min ha'aretz.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

**Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.**

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

And so, in remembrance of Christ with us,
and with the hope that we too might pursue love so relentlessly,
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ has risen;
Christ will come again.**

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God.
Make this a meal that nourishes us on this long journey we share together,
that by your Spirit we might seize every opportunity before us to advance love,
justice, and compassion in the face of evil in all its forms.
For the sake of all that aches in this world, our church,
and within every creature and creation, we come to your Table,
hungry for a taste of your Kingdom.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer or in remembrance.
Take this bread, share the fruit of the vine.
In these Christ comes to us with love from God.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Come Away

Mark Hayes

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
Arise, my love so beautiful, and come away.
For lo, the winter is past. The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth. The time for singing has come!
The voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.
The fig trees are bursting with buds and the promise of fruit.
The grapevines are fragrant with blossoms.
How delicious they smell! Spring is here and my heart is filled with love!

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm.
For love is as strong as death, and passion, fierce as the grave.
Many waters cannot quench love. All the world's riches cannot buy love.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION:

**O God, you have so greatly loved us,
long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us.
Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves,
our wills and our works,
as a continual thank offering to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Rul - er of the

na - ture, O thou of God to earth come
 wood - lands, robed in the bloom - ing garb of
 moon - light, and all the twink - ling, star - ry
 na - tions, Son of God and Son of

down, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 spring. Je - sus is fair - er; Je - sus is
 host. Je - sus shines bright - er; Je - sus shines
 Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Franz Liszt used this melody for a "Crusaders' March" in an oratorio, but this hymn had nothing to do with the Crusades. No record of the German text exists before the middle of the 17th century or of the Silesian folk melody before the first half of the 19th century.

TEXT: Münster *Gesangbuch*, 1677; stanzas 1-3, trans. *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850, alt.;
 stanza 4, trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873, alt.
 MUSIC: Silesian folk melody; *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

CRUSADERS' HYMN
 5.6.8.5.5.8

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God offers to each of us deep inner cleansing.
We can become whole people, unstained by the world.

In the world around us, life is cheap.

Violence destroys what is valuable to God.

We are called to challenge this destruction.

We are to love righteousness and turn from wickedness.

We want to witness to the power of love.

We believe people can change and turn from evil.

God's Word transforms all who hear and heed it.

God blesses those who are doers of the Word.

God anoints us with the oil of gladness.

Our hearts overflow with God's good gifts.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Joyous Procession

Garry A. Cornell

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

Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Sunny Kunche, Eleanor Cicerchi, Harry Hatters, Frank Macuga,
Laurel Ashdown, Chelsea and Kyle, Rev. Jason Thompson,
the Brownfield family, the Kordalski family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Kordalski,
may his memory be a blessing

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.



A Priceless Invitation

**The 2025 Stewardship Campaign begins today!
Please RSVP to your Priceless Invitation as soon as possible.**



Getting Your House In Order

Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 1:30 PM

Please sign up if you plan to attend this very important workshop. Signup sheets are outside the Chapel doors.

Please note that a potluck luncheon to be held before the workshop.

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, September 29, 2024 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 September 29, 2023.

Blessing of the Animals



PLEASE JOIN US ON THE FRONT STEPS OF OLD STONE CHURCH

Saturday, October 5, 2024

12:00PM–1:30PM

Animals should be on leash or in a carrier.



Andrew Sords in Concert

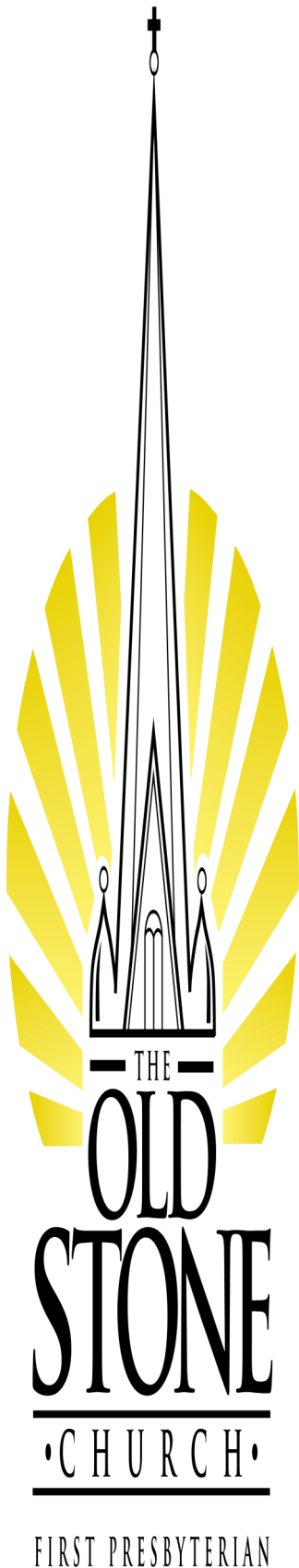
Old Stone Church is pleased to announce that violinist Andrew Sords will perform on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 1 p.m. as part of Old Stone Church Concert Series.

A potluck luncheon will follow Sunday's worship service, leading into the concert.

A reception will follow the concert to meet Andrew Sords.



Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



@ Old Stone Church

Sunday September 1

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary/Communion

Monday September 2/Labor Day

Building and Offices Closed

Wednesday September 4

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday September 8

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

4:15PM Browns/Cowboys

Wednesday September 11

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday September 12

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday September 14

11:00AM New Member Retreat/Chapel

Sunday September 15/Homecoming Sunday

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Potluck Luncheon/Memorial Hall/

Welcome and Fellowship Committee

1:30PM HWR Getting Your House in Order/Heidi Barham

1:40PM Guardians/Rays

Wednesday September 18

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday September 19

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room/First floor

Sunday September 22

9:00AM Bible Study/Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room/First floor

1:00PM Browns/Giants

Wednesday September 25

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Friday September 27

4:00PM Wedding Rehearsal/Print & Czyz

Saturday September 28

3:00PM Wedding/Print & Czyz

Sunday September 29

9:00AM-12:00PM Fall Food Drive

9:00AM Bible Study/Pastor Denise/Gallery

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians/Astros

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:84 Online:181

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword “ oldstonecle ” 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

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Singers

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Ian Atwood, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*
Albert Donze, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2024

Michelle Baron
Janie Chambers
Fred Heider
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2025

Dorothy Baunach
Willie Brown
David Eifert
Dave Finley
Robert Hubert Jr.

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan
Judy Macuga
Melissa Maffia
Harriet Niles
Marty Vassel

Church Deacons:

Class of 2024

Anand Bandari
Bernie Bischel
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2025

Valorie Hempstead
Eileen Kelly
Elie Medie
Mark Pichler

Class of 2026

Mark Corey
Forrest Diehl
Pam Daly
Ruth Finley
Alyssa Niepokny
Charlene Thornton

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