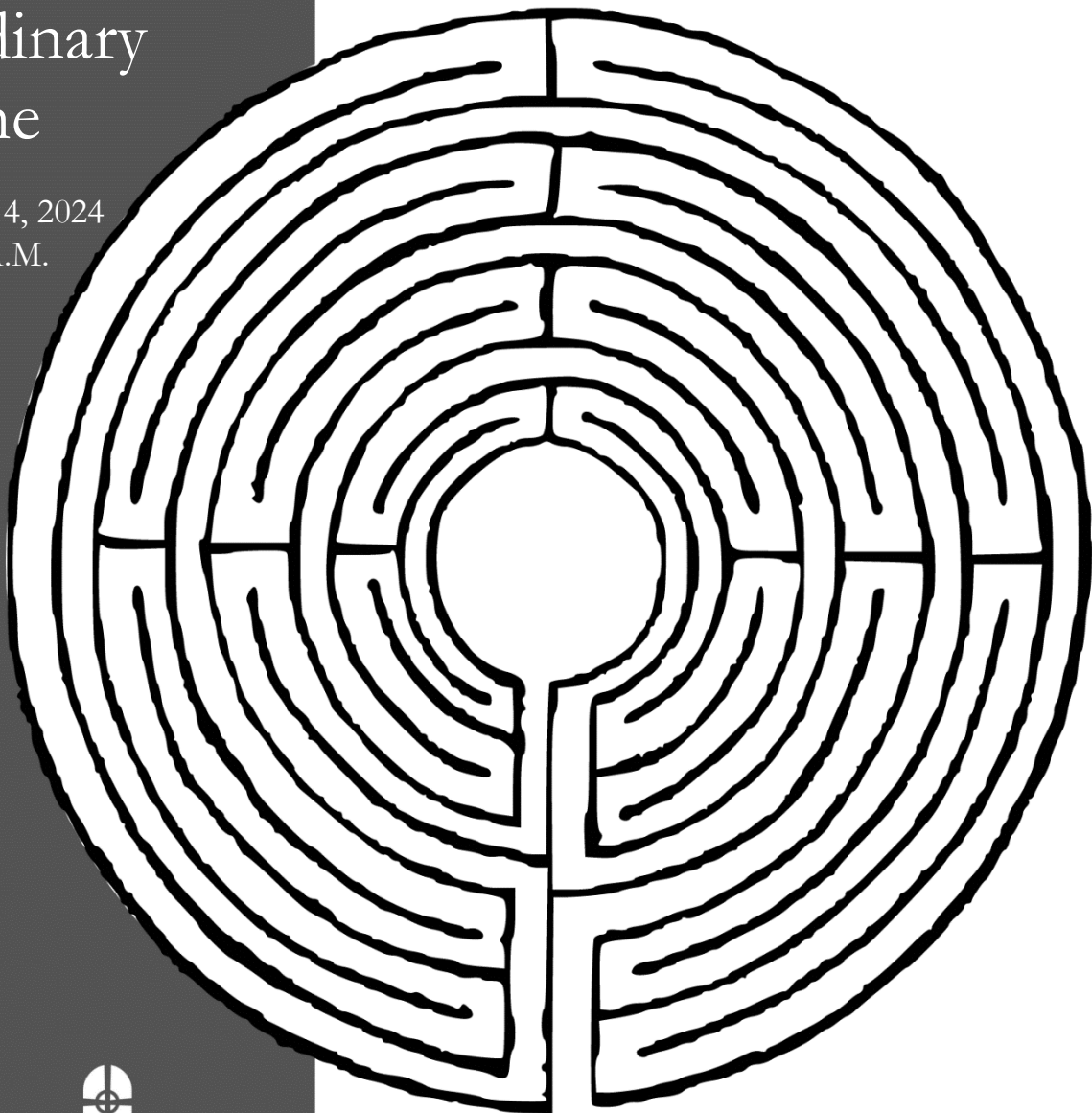


Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 4, 2024
10:30 A.M.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The **labyrinth** is similar to a maze, but has no wrong paths. Its center with radiating circles reflects the basic shape taken by much of God's creation, from the solar system down to the atom. Many use the labyrinth as a form of prayer and meditation by walking the path or tracing with a pencil or finger. Our own church grounds include a labyrinth for contemplation near the Prayer Garden.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We do not live by bread alone,

But by the Word become flesh who dwells among us.

Christ is the true bread of heaven.

Christ is the manna of freedom. Come, let us worship and give thanks.

*OPENING PRAYER

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend us; and, because we cannot continue in safety without your help, protect us by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*HYMN 81

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with us all, now and wherever we go.

Children may return to sit with their families.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We have a sign that is stronger than death. The sign of the cross points to our exodus from sin's grip. When we confess our sin, we are in bondage no more. Let us repent, seek God's forgiveness, and live our lives with Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One whose loving justice has the authority to condemn us but who feeds and blesses us instead, we confess our need. We have caused suffering. We have misused others and threatened their dignity. We have harmed the earth. God, change us. Put the Spirit of Christ in us. Free us from captivity to selfishness. Bind us to Jesus. As we put away falsehood, we will bear witness to the truth, in the name of our Savior. Amen

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As the ocean's water is full and deep, so are our lives made deep by God's loving mercy. By this water, remember your baptism and give be thankful!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

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.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, God forgives us and strengthens us for love.
Let us love one another! And let us be at peace.

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 509)

HOLY MANNA

**All who hunger, gather gladly, holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering: Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger; sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creator of unity, Body of peace and Spirit of souls brought together, fill us with your Word. Show us your gracious goodness, and let us embody your redeeming love in our lives, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 78:23-29 The Psalms are Israel's songbook. **Thanks be to God.**

John 6:24-35 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. **The King of endless glory.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

Jesus was God in the flesh. Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers that enslaved and degraded people, yet he made no use of power to protect himself. He healed those who were sick in body and mind, yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself. He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him above loyalty to family and country, yet he lived among them as a servant. We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority. He did what only God can do. In both his majesty and lowliness Jesus is the eternal Son. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Any who met Jesus on the hillside would have only thought of abundance, and never of scarcity. Let us come before God with our tithes and our offerings.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

The prayer continues.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We are fed for abundant life. We celebrate this life with Jesus as our host.
Thank you, O Lord, for giving us everything we have and all that we need.
Nourished and nurtured, send us out into the world as your disciples. Amen.**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 526

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist *Janice Odom*

Communion Servers: *Creda Heffelfinger & Larry Hale*

You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawals



Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year (through July)

Income: \$290,357.33*

Expense: \$329,172.32

Balance: -\$38,814.99

*This includes \$20,000.00 from Permanent Funds

Month of July (to date)

Income: \$57,553.09*

Expense: \$35,642.58

Balance: \$21,910.51

Week Ending July 28

Income: \$ 3,070.75

Expense: \$10,223.73

Balance:- \$ 7,152.98

Want to help? Please keep your giving current, and if you are able, increase what you give to our church and the ministry we share.

The Life of the Church

The flowers in the sanctuary today are in memory of Lorraine Corkran, who passed away on August 2, 2023.

Promotion Sunday is coming up on August 11! This is the day we kick off our fall programming. At 9:30am, you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for a breakfast and to learn more about the faith formation opportunities that we offer at FPC. During worship, we will do a back-to-school blessing for students, teachers, and families. Youth group will have its first meeting for the year that evening at 5pm.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10 AM – 4 PM

The annual Owensboro Multicultural Festival is one of the signature ministries of our church and is a fantastic opportunity to share the welcome of God as thousands of people come to our grounds to celebrate the diversity of our community. There are many ways to be involved!

Yard Signs: Pick up signs in the main hallway for your home and/or place of business. These are a great way to help us spread the word.



Social Media: Follow @OwensboroMulticulturalFestival on Facebook and share our posts.

Volunteer: Sign up sheets will be available next Sunday. We need volunteers to help with set up and tear down, staffing the welcome booths, serving refreshments, and more.

Work Day: Our beautiful grounds need a little sprucing up. There are sticks to be picked up, weeds to be pulled, dead bushes to be removed, and the list keeps going. Meet on Saturday, August 3rd at 9:00 AM. All ages are welcome.

Save the date: Sunday, September 29th, the 24th annual FPC Golf Scramble beginning at 12:10 PM. Dinner to follow at Old Hickory. More details to come.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

1328 Griffith Avenue | Owensboro, Kentucky | 270.684.1467



fpcobky.com



FPCOwensboro



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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Pat Corkran
Tom Furlong
Creda Heffelfinger
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Brad Smith
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Janice Odom
Beverly Swanson
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington
Interim Pastor

Jeff Moles
Director of Christian Education
& Mission; Organist

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Dylan Schroader
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Bookkeeper