

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church



Worship for September 1, 2024

**Worship for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024**

*We are glad you are worshipping with us today.
Please join us for refreshments after the worship service.*

Meditations (In preparation for worship)

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.”

Job 12:7-10

"Come live with me and be my Love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That hills and valleys, dale and field,
And all the craggy mountains yield."

Christopher Marlowe

"The heart can push the sea and land
Farther away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two,
And let the face of God shine through."

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Prelude

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome!

Please stand if you are able. The congregation reads aloud the **bold print.*

Call to Worship

written by Katherine Hawker

Tim Frazee

We have seen the light of God;

On high mountains of celebration and in the ecstasy of embrace.

We have seen the light of God;

Through the bitter scorn of betrayal and the searing chasm of grief.

We have seen the light of God;

With eyes that have been shaded, with eyes that have been opened, with eyes that have been blinded.

We have seen the light of God. Let us worship our Lord!

*Opening Hymn #14

For the Beauty of the Earth

Confession and Pardon

Prayer of Confession

God of patience, we hear that we are loved, but we struggle to receive it.

We err on the side of fear and judgement rather than faith and love.

We choose darkness instead of light. We hear there is eternal life, but we refuse to believe it.

Forgive us when we choose darkness over light. Have mercy on us when we choose judgement over love. Remind us that you hear our cry in the wilderness and we will not perish.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

Pardon

Friends, hear the good news: the Light has come into the world and the darkness shall not overcome it! Rejoice! Beloved children of God, we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen!

*Passing of the Peace

***Gloria #582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (x3)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Children's Conversation

Children's Hymn *Jesus Loves Me!*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Song of Solomon 2:8-13*

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.

Epistle Lesson *James 1:17-27*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to

listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, ongoing away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep one self unstained by the world.

Sermon

“A Pastoral in Light”

Rev. Courtney Steininger

***Hymn of Response #666** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

Offering

Offertory

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm
and William M. Runyon

***Doxology #606** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

Joys and Concerns



Welcome to our worship at Pebble Hill!

If you are with us for the first time, we hope that you find our worship meaningful and our fellowship inviting. Please reach out to Pastor Courtney or Nancy Byrne to learn more about Pebble Hill Church.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S ASSISTANTS:

CRAIG AND KEVIN COBB – USHERS

NANCY B. JAMES – ORGANIST

TIM FRAZEE – LITURGIST

COMMUNION SERVERS

DEEDEE ELLEMAN, DORIS GORMAN, JACKIE TALCIK

COMMUNION PREPARER

CAROL GANOTIS

THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

Church Staff

Rev. Courtney Steininger, Pastor
Ashley Vance, Choirmaster
Nancy B. James, Organist
Mara Miller, Office Administrator
Finance Office
Bob Wolff, Sexton
Nancy Byrne, New Members' Ministry

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Announcements



We had wonderful donations of backpacks and school supplies for this year's Welcome Home Ministry. Just over 50 backpacks and many, many school supplies were delivered to Interfaith Works, Center for New Americans this week. Your financial donations were also greatly appreciated. They contributed to some of the backpacks and will be used to purchase \$25 gift cards for refugees to use at Tops Market.

Rhonda Butler, who spoke at Pebble Hill several weeks ago for A Moment for Mission, wrote the following: "Hello and thank you for your continued support of newly arriving Americans. In 2024, we have doubled the number of refugees we are resettling. In the month of May alone, we have 113 new clients. I don't know how our case workers do their job, so it is important for me to support their work through donations".

They look forward to future donations. Our next collection will be for household items later this fall. Watch for an announcement of that list.

Jean Soper Welcome Home Ministry

Judy Burgess, daughter of Don Byers, is collecting stories about her father for a slideshow at his memorial service. If you have any stories you would like to share, please send them to j.3.burgess@gmail.com.

Just a reminder we need your help in decorating our Sanctuary. As the summer season is winding down, our homegrown source of flowers will soon be gone. Please call Susan Cobb at 315-415-0464 where she will be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding how you may contribute. She is happy to guide you as to choice of flowers and cost. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to honor and celebrate someone in your life.

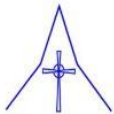


**PEBBLE HILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Welcome Picnic!

Sunday, September 29, 2024
Worship at 10 AM
Picnic to follow at 11 AM

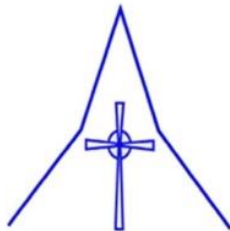


*With Dinosaur BBQ Pulled Pork & Mac and Cheese
Please sign up to bring a side or dessert to share.
Invite a friend to get to know our church family!*



Please keep in your prayers this week:

- ❖ Karen Turner, Jon's grandmother, as she enters hospice.
- ❖ The family and friends of Ruth Colvin, as we grieve her passing.
- ❖ Paul Sellars, who is recovering at home.
- ❖ Doris Cornell, mother of Zetta Fayos. Zetta is in Oklahoma City with her mother after she sustained a bad fall. She also has bacterial sepsis.
- ❖ Linda Sofranko for continued healing and relief from pain as she recovers from a recent fall.
- ❖ Those among our Pebble Hill family and friends who are healing after surgery.
- ❖ Rev. N. Scott Cupp's friend Nicki, who is in Hospice.
- ❖ The health of our planet and the individuals coping with the ravages of natural disasters.
- ❖ All those who are suffering from disease and famine.
- ❖ All people living in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen and those in Ukraine and Russia, who endure hatred and continued violence.



This Week at Pebble Hill September 1 – September 7

Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Coffee and Fellowship Hour – Atrium
Monday		Labor Day – Office Closed
Tuesday	3:30 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm	Board of Deacons – CR L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3 Schola Cantorum Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Wednesday	1:00 pm 6:30 pm	Worship at The Nottingham Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday	5:30 pm 6:00 pm	Salt City Ukulele Meeting – Forum Girl Scouts KT – FH
Friday	10:00 am	R. Wildridge Memorial – Sanctuary
Saturday	9:30 am 1:30 pm	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal – Sanctuary Schola Cantorum Rehearsal – Sanctuary

PEBBLE HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–1:00 pm

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ABOUT THE **COVER**

As Pastor Courtney begins her ministry at Pebble Hill, she is thinking about buildings-not only in terms of Christ as the cornerstone and the church's one foundation but also as the "new" church that we are designing and building together. As such, she is using architectural imagery as bulletin covers for the next few weeks. Next week, a new theme will emerge.



The week's bulletin cover features the Community Church Knarvik in Hordaland, Norway. Inspired by Norwegian stave churches, this building utilizes geometry in familiar ways, while being adapted to the existing hillside. This modern chapel features folded timber surfaces and a huge spire which reimagine the architectural tradition of the stave church. This church is meant to bridge the built and natural environment, drawing attention to the surrounding heath landscape while also drawing people in as an inviting and inclusive space. Exterior walls are clad in strips of pine that have been pre-weathered to create a mottled coloring, designed to help the building blend with the rural landscape. The building permits daylight into the sanctuary through tall and narrow windows. What a special place to encounter God!