



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

**Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

CCLI License # 2839486

May 5, 2024

10:30am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.
young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched lift the new, new songs of faith.

GATHERING PRAYER

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world.
Amen.

***HYMN: "Earth and All Stars!" #26**

EARTH AND ALL STARS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Beautiful music, every note perfect, joining together in graceful harmony - this is what we imagine our lives to be. Yet our love is flat, our anger often sharp. Let us confess how we struggle to keep the measured beat of God's life-giving melody in our lives, even as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Joy-giving God, we know who we are:

people who hear the harmony of your grace and love in our souls, but sing off-key so often.

We want to learn new songs, but those haunting tunes of our past mistakes run through our heads.

We long to make a joyful noise to you, but the hurts inflicted on us, and the pain we have caused others, silence our voices.

Sing to us, Conductor of Grace:

sing of your forgiveness, your hope, your love for us.

Strike a chord of humility in our hearts so our eyes could see all you have done for us;

and in seeing, we might believe how much you love us;

and in believing, we would echo that new song of hope and life composed through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen to the melody of the good news: Christ is risen, bringing joy into the world. The One who was dead now lives, and wraps us in the delight of life forever with our God.

Now, our dirges have turned to joy; our requiem has been rearranged as a hymn of hope; our laments are lost in a cantata of praise. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today. May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN: Billy Welch

RESPONSIVE PSALM 98

¹O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²The LORD has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands;

let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Draw the Circle Wide" - Hearts4Worship

Draw the Circle

GOSPEL READING: John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Our Center is Love"

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

SERMON HYMN: "In Christ There Is No East or West #317

MCKEE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

THE OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks" #240 - chorus only

ALLELUIA NO. 1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take our gifts, Composing God, and weave a song of healing for the broken, of nourishment for the hungry, of hope for those who despair, and peace for those torn by violence. We sing our praises, as we offer our treasures, as well as our hearts, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of creation choruses be with you!

And also with you!

God sings of hope and grace to your hearts, people of God!

We open them to be filled with the wonder of love.

God welcomes your songs of praise and joy.

We lift our hearts and voices in thanksgiving to the composer of all!

Maestro of the Universe: ... we lift our voices in praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of beauty and joy.

All the ends of the earth sing praises to you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to sing a new song.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holiness is the melody ... we sing of that mystery we call faith:

The Singer was not silenced by death;

the Singer was raised to new life;

the Singer will come to lead us home to God.

Pour out your joyful Spirit ... God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

And forget not all God's benefits.

***HYMN: "One Bread, One Body" #530**

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

CHARGE

As God has loved us,

so we will go to love those despised by the world.

As Jesus has forgiven us,

we will go to forgive everyone who has hurt us and to bring healing into their brokenness.

As the Spirit calls us 'friends,'

so we will go to befriend the outcasts, the lonely, and the lost of our society.

BENEDICTION

Volunteers This Week:

Liturgist: Janet Haacker

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Bonnie Zimmer

Greeter(s): Bonnie Sibley

Coffee Hour:

Communion: Janet Haacker, Sue Schurr, Pat Loeswick

Volunteers Next Week 5/12:

Liturgist: Pat Loeswick

Tech: Betsy Crocker

Usher(s): Linda Barry

Greeter(s): Terry DeLuca, Ina Charsley

Coffee Hour: Terry DeLuca

PRAYER CONCERNS

The prayer concerns have recently been updated. If you have a prayer request, please contact

Pastor Rebecca at 315-317-6140 or the church office at 716-692-1319.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 5

9:30am Faith Formation (All Ages)
10:30 am Sunday Worship for all ages (Sanctuary)
11:30am Coffee Fellowship for all ages (Parlor)

Monday, May 6

10:00 am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Tuesday, May 7

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Wednesday, May 8

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours

Thursday, May 9

9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)
6:00pm Hearts4Worship
6:45pm Bell Choir
7:15pm Choir

Saturday, May 11

10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (Circle II Basement)

Sunday, May 12

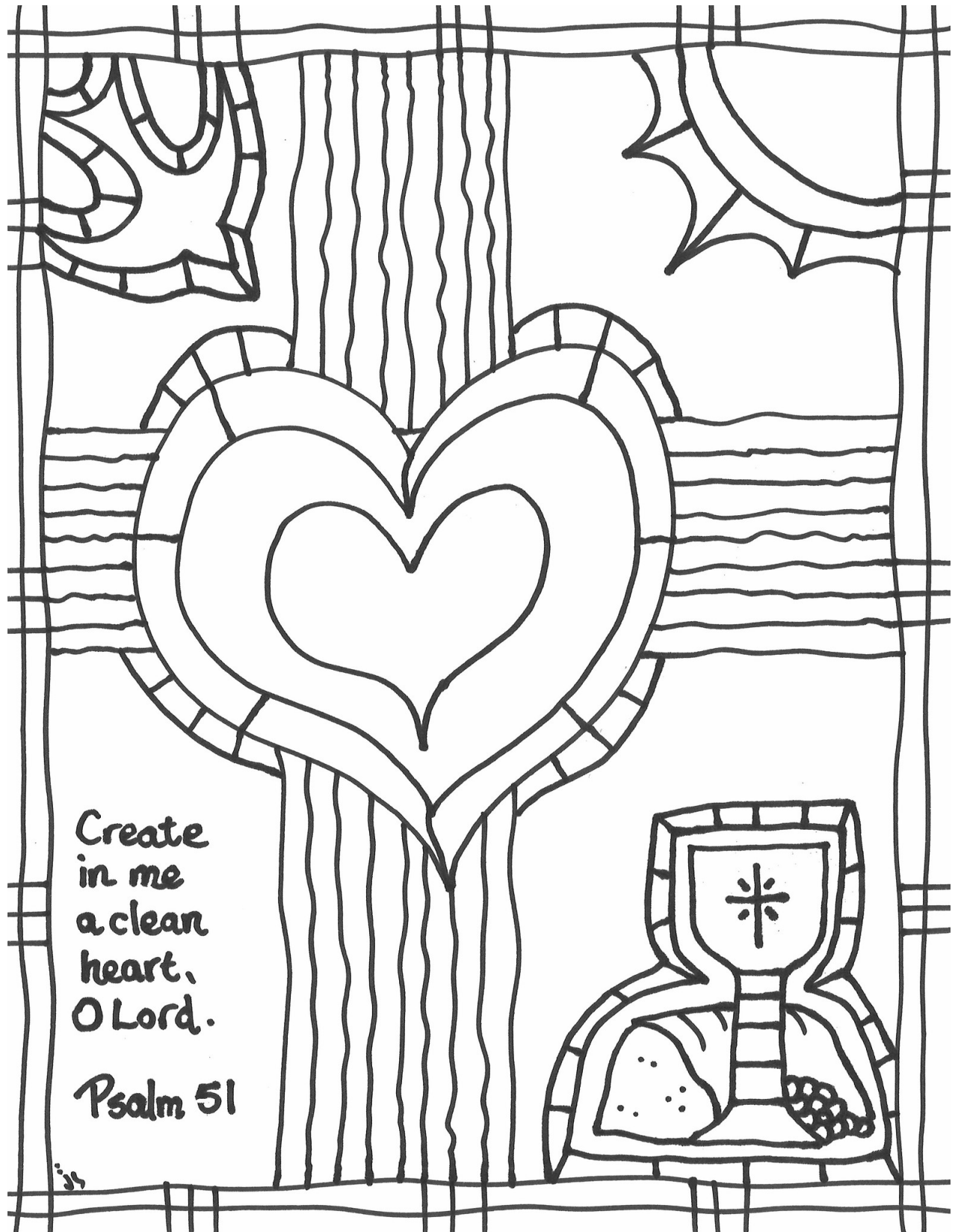
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Duffield Camp

Duffield Camp and Retreat Center has openings for their summer camps. Please consider sending your children and grandchildren and let your friends know about Camp Duffield.

- First Timers Science Camp (1st -2nd grade) July 14 - 17
- First Timers Music Camp (1st -2nd grade) July 21 - 24
- Science Camp (3rd-8th grade) July 14 - 20
- Music Camp (3rd-8th grade) July 21 - 27
- Night Owls (8th-12th grade) July 28 - August 3
- Impact 716 Camp (1st-8th grade) July 28 - August 3
- Challenge Camp for adults (over 18) with developmental disabilities
July 7 - 13

Camp Duffield is located on 137 acres of forested land in Delevan, NY, just over the border between Erie County and Cattaraugus County, 45minutes south of Buffalo. It has 7 groomed trails, 6 cabins sleeping 12 each, a pond for swimming, fishing or canoeing, and many traditional camp activities. There is a recreation area including a Gaga pit (ask your kids), a Nine Square in the Air ball game, climbing wall, playground, frisbee golf, horseshoes, sand volleyball area, tether ball, and basketball hoop. The camp is ready and waiting for you. Just go to our website, www.campduffield.net for more information and to register.



Create
in me
a clean
heart,
O Lord.

Psalm 51