

“These things I have spoken  
to you, *that in Me you may  
have peace*. In the world you  
will have tribulation; but be  
of good cheer, I have  
overcome the world.”

John 16:33

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 25, 2025

### Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn      *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*      (ELW) No. 742

\*The Confession and Forgiveness      (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting      (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)      (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise      *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*      (ELW) No. 533

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: O God, all good things can come from You alone; generously consider then our humble prayers. Inspire us to consider what is true, and direct us to accomplish what is right; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 67

<sup>1</sup>May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,

<sup>2</sup>**that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.**

<sup>7</sup>God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

Second Reading

Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Allelula, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Allelula. Allelula.**

\* The Gospel

John 16:23-33

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

## **Children leave for Sunday School**

Sermon

Lay Leader, Dennis Schmidt

\*The Hymn of the Day

*Built on a Rock*

(ELW) No. 652

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) No. 27

\*The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Abide With Me*

(ELW) No. 629

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

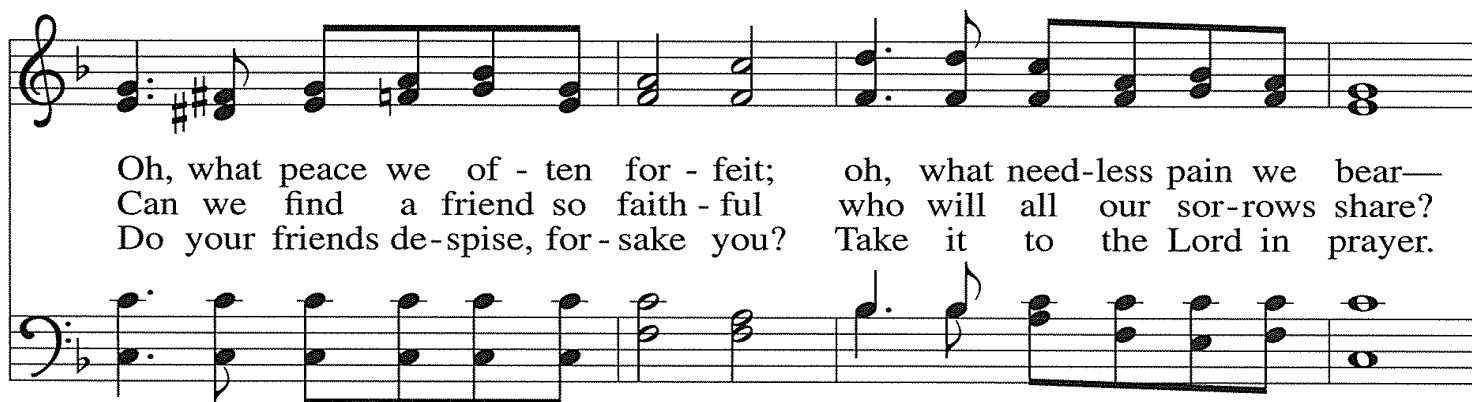
742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;

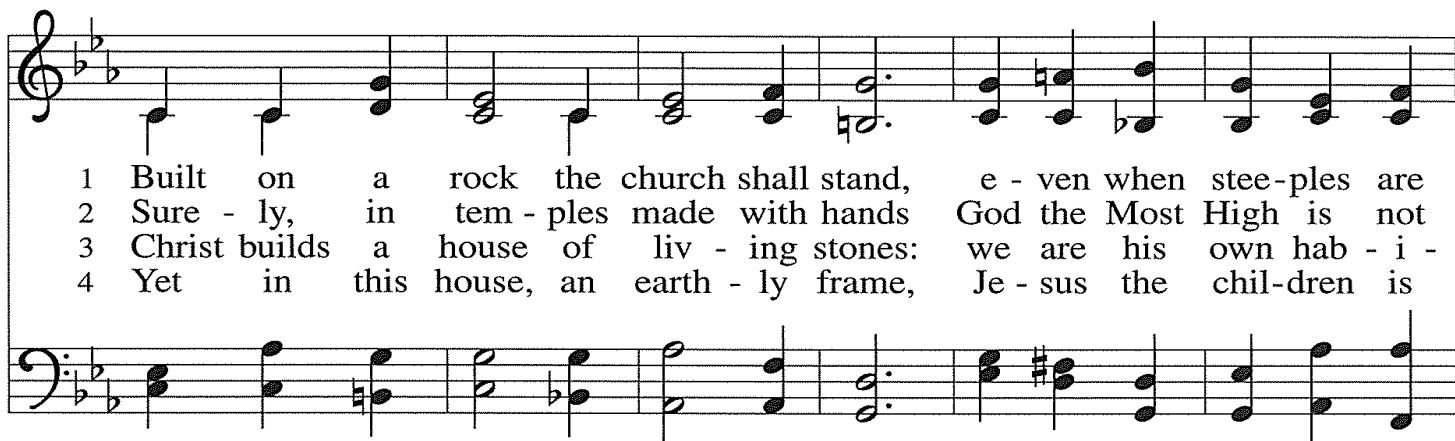


where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.

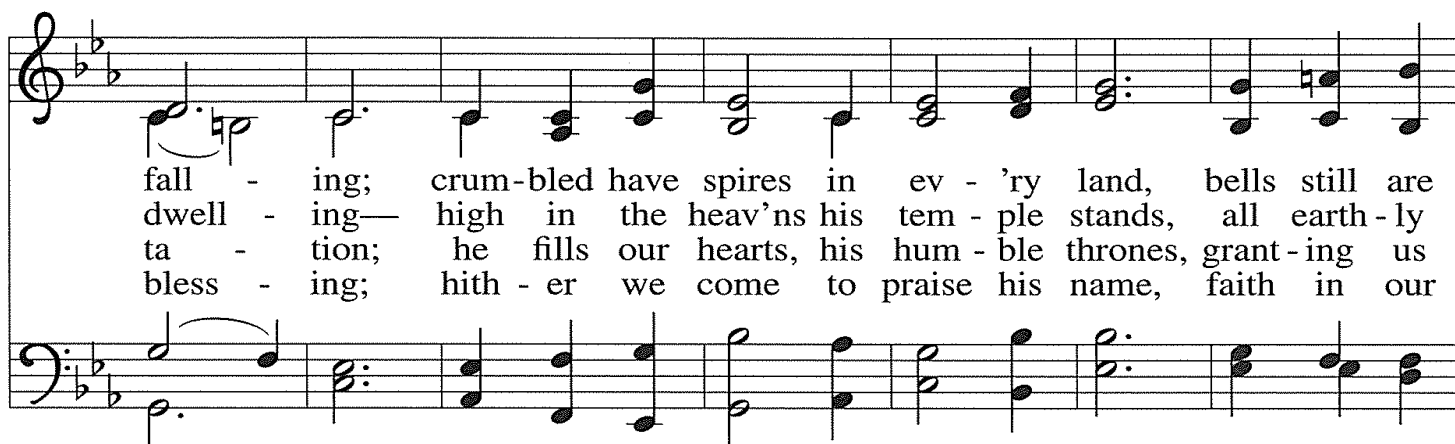


Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

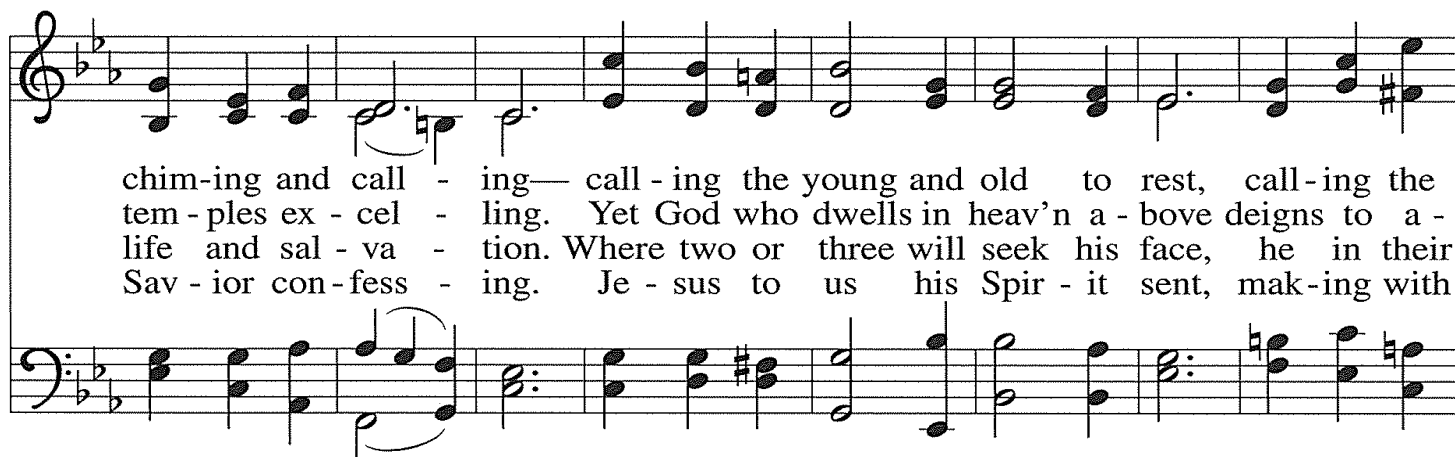




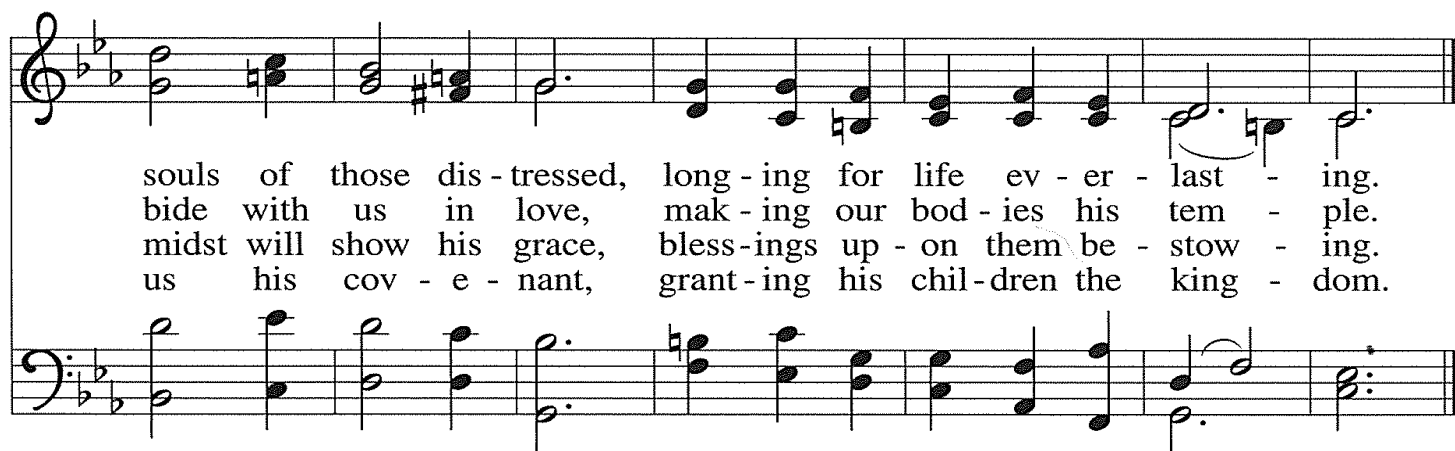
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
“I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

## The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -' are written below the notes.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -' are written below the notes.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly' are written below the notes.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of' are written below the notes.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble staff, and the bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.' are written below the notes.

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God for those that made the ultimate sacrifice this coming memorial weekend. A donation to the maintenance fund is made by Joe and Judy Sarver.

**The Lay Reader** is Heather Quedenfeld.

**Acolytes** are Elijah Clark and

**Counters/Greeters** today are C. Group and V. Group.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2025** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2025.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2025.** Please sign up.

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Isaac Christian, Tyler, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Judy, Brooke, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Linneise, Donna B., Karen John. Phyllis Daniels, Beckie Wood, Bridgette, Alex Houck, Stacy Carroll, Ron Erdmann & Belinda, James, Lori Mauer, Budd Platts, John, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, the Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Pat Dupas, Gwen Roberts, Tammy, Judi, Larry Downing, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Jennifer Sasek, Larry Zimmerman, Elizabeth, Phyllis, Joe Kern, Lisa Wilds, Julia Jeffcoat, Richard Hager, Rob, John, Terri Newton, Holly Hiser, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westcott, Eric Fritz, Terry Jurkovsky, Karen Dawson, Judd Lacko, Cadence, Sandy Mannsman, Robyn Cameron, Ian, Isaiah, and Alecia, Nettie Walsh and her parents and family, Greg Mason, Joanne Reck, Kenny and Josh, and Linda, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Thomas, Lowell, Matt S., Paula, Klaus and Mel Behrens, Kim, Alice Z. Lindsay Mankey, Apollos Yocca, Jackie, Diane Fisher, Mikao S, Joe McBride and Pastor Rob.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

### FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

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**Adult Sunday School** is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

**Bell Choir** rehearsal is Thursday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, [kbrgs1@gmail.com](mailto:kbrgs1@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Chess Club** meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced.

The next **Ladies Circle** meeting is Thursday, May 29th at 10am in the lounge. Linda Coleman is Leader and Joanne Marker is Hostess. Contact Michelle Williams 724-914-1164 with any questions.

**Church Service begins at 10 AM next Sunday, June 1.**

**Listening for the Promise**  
**Weekly Devotional**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter – May 25, 2025**

*“The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.”*  
- Acts 16:14 -

One of the questions the church struggles with year after year and generation after generation is how to reach new people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are always looking for new, exciting and innovative ways to tell the story of God's saving work on our behalf. We look for ways to make it more interesting, more cool, more fun.

The first people who told the story of Jesus didn't really think about things in quite that way. They went around from town to town simply telling people who Jesus is and what he has done. They would talk to small groups of people. They would talk to large groups of people. They would talk to one person at a time. They would talk to anyone who would listen.

And the Holy Spirit took hold of their words and created believers. The Holy Spirit opened the hearts of those who heard preachers like Peter and Paul. Their hearts were opened and they came to know that Jesus had come to save them. People like Lydia heard the good news and were moved to be baptized along with their entire families.

Sharing our faith with others is not nearly so difficult as we might imagine. The Holy Spirit takes our words and makes them his own. Sometimes those words are elaborate, well-planned sermons. Sometimes they are simple invitations to come along to church. Sometimes they are Sunday school lessons. Sometimes they are prayers parents and children share. Sometimes they are faith statements confirmation students are forced to write. Sometimes those words are nothing more than saying hello to someone the world ignores.

Each of us can do the work Paul did for Lydia in Thyatira. Each of us can share the gospel. And we can trust that the Holy Spirit works through those words to accomplish God's purposes. If you're not really sure how to do it, or if you're not really sure you're up to it, the easiest way to start is to invite someone to come with you to church next Sunday. The Holy Spirit might already be working on them. They won't be offended, and they might surprise you and say yes.