

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost ~ September 8, 2024

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ *Thank you to Howard Lyon for providing special music this morning.*

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please Stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace
in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 519 *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People*

GREETING

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

HYMN of PRAISE ~ *Glory to God* cont'd pg. 3

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord
God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.**

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth
in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall
become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 146 Sung Responsively



Tone 1

¹Hal- l lelujah!

Praise the LORD, ¹ O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long ¹as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your ¹trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there ¹is no help.

**⁴When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹ LORD their God;

**⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to |
those who hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

**⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who ¹ are bowed down;
the LORD ¹ loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares ¹for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹of the wicked.

**¹⁰The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹ Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~



GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter Seven.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *Spirit, Open My Heart* pg.7

Spirit Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of
kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear deed, to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
day, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
love will be my fin - est la - bor.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort all who live with chronic illness and grief. Surround them in your tender embrace. We pray especially for: Mary, Kathi, Maddie, Pastor Karen & Dave, Ed & Jeanne, Tom, John, Stephanie, Bill, Evelyn, Don & Donna. Sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE ~ The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Please be seated

MEAL

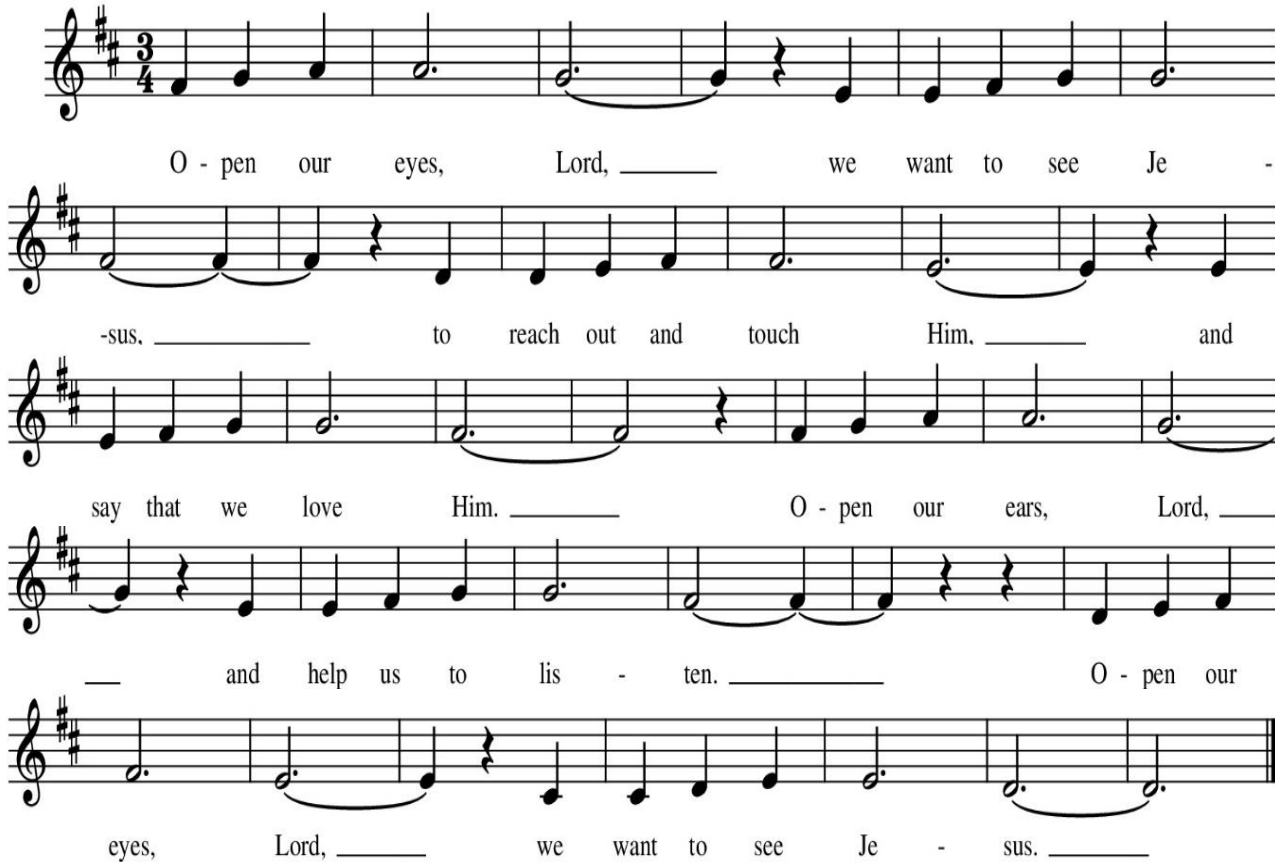
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Open Our Eyes, Lord*



O - pen our eyes, Lord, _____ we want to see Je -
-sus, _____ to reach out and touch Him, _____ and
say that we love Him. _____ O - pen our ears, Lord, _____
_____ and help us to lis - ten. _____ O - pen our
eyes, Lord, _____ we want to see Je - sus. _____

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made divine life available to all. We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. And so, as we gather at this table, we recognize the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence. Together we offer our praise and join in the hymn of all creation:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na
in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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 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.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 612 *Healer of Our Every Ill*
Instrumental Meditation

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

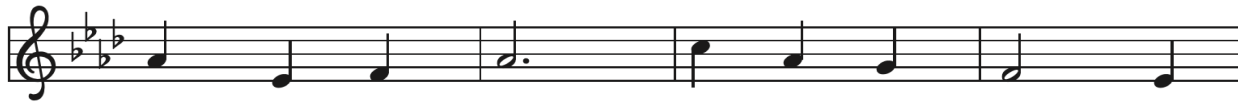
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

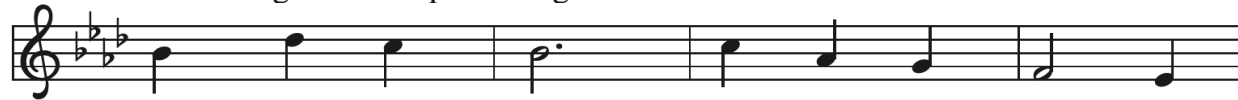
SENDING HYMN ~ *God's Work. Our Hands*



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



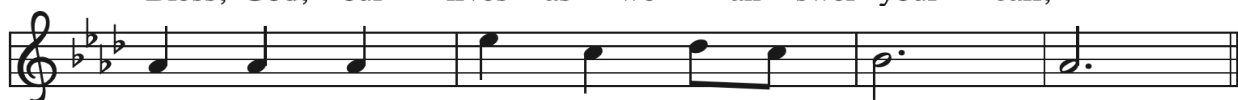
rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free. hum - bled and hon - ored.



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

DISMISSAL ~ Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ September 8, 2024

Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

Office: 814.868.8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch) ~ www.abidinghopeerie.org

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: The family and friends of Ed Randall. Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister) Maddie & Stephanie Voland, Pastor Karen & Dave, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Tom Cirillo, John Belek, Bill Overmoyer, Evelyn Senger, Don & Donna Holder.

Receiving Communion: If it is a **challenge for you to come forward** to receive communion, please alert the usher and you will be served communion at your seat.

Sunday, September 8: Choir rehearsal resumes @ **10:45a.** ~ **Bible Study 11a**

Monday September 9: Ladies are welcome to join the "Prayer Shawl"

Gathering, 10a-12noonish for prayer, good conversation and knitting/crocheting shawls, prayer cards, lap robes for the homebound. Start a new or maybe complete a piece you've started, but not quite finished. Experience not necessary, showing "how to" will gladly be offered. Frequency of the meetings will be discussed.

Wednesday, September 11: AHLC's **Lunch & Listen** begins a new year with series of informative, interesting and, at times, humorous speakers. The **first guest** for this Fall season is **Mark Tanenbaum** from **P.A.C.A.** which houses a center for the performing arts, artisans, artist and creative entrepreneurs. **BYO lunch 12n, speaker, 12:30.** Complimentary beverages & dessert.

Wednesday, September 18: **Prayer Worriers** anytime between **1:00-3:00p** for silent prayer and meditation for the needs of our church, neighborhood, community, state, nation and world. Remember, if you cannot join us, you can pray with us wherever you are, for as long as you can. God honors our prayers--Believe it!

Wednesday, September 18: This will be **final** viewing/bidding for the paintings of Milton Sontheimer at the P.A.C.A. Gallery 1505 State St. The **event for ALHC members and friends** begins at **5:30p**. The paintings are available for viewing and bids accepted until that date. Please check with Mark Tannenbaum, 814-434-0687, for other days/times the gallery is open.

Friday, Saturday, September 20 & 21: **AHLC Rummage Sale, 12p-3p.**

Starting to think about changing your home/clothing from summer to fall/winter? Look through your closets, attic, basement, garage and bring in items for the sale. We ask that donations be clean, useable and wearable. **Donations accepted**

beginning Sunday, September 15, 10:30a-12:30p. Other times for donations along with the various days/times/duties for volunteers to sign-up is on a form on the center table in the narthex. Please consider offering some of your time to make this a success.

Sunday, September 29: The **49th** annual **Crop Walk** event that supports the Kearsarge Food Panty and Second Harvest Food Bank will start **from Beach 1 @ 1:00pm**. All are invited to participate in the walk and of course, donate. **Please see Analee Cree** to sign-up for the walk or for donations.

Saturday, October 19: Plans are in full swing for the **Pumpkin Fest** and not only are **volunteers a vital part but also an asset** in **making this event a successful** community outreach program. A **form to sign** with a list of areas where people are needed is on the **center table in the narthex**. Please consider offering a couple hours of your time to help out ... you'll have fun and be greatly award by the smiles and laughter of the children attending. **Bath tissue cardboard rolls** are still in need for the children's **craft project**. Please place in the Heritage Room by the shelves.

Little Library Update: God is so faithful to this ministry! Since information regarding the Little Free Library/Pantry was added to the electronic sign in front of the church, visits have increased! We are not in need of books at this time, but donations of bookmarks with room for an Abiding Hope address label would be appreciated! The pantry can use dried fruit, meals in pouches or microwave containers, cereals, pasta, rice, juice boxes, packages of graham crackers, and peanut butter in plastic jars. How grateful we are for your generous donations!--you are truly impacting our neighborhood! *-Connie Kerr-Vogt.*

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 9:30a-12:30p. Wed 9:30-12:30p. For **Pastoral emergencies**, please contact **Pastor Karen @ 814-881-3266**

KAFP Project Dignity: September item, . Donations can be place in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to donate flowers for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- \$20.00 each. Place the completed form and payment in the offering plate, or to the office by the Monday prior your chosen Sunday.

Worship Leaders ~ September 8, 2024

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Sally Zill
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Communion Cups	Ed Whitbred
Communion Tray	Carol Whitbred
Presenter	Emily Miller
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Andy and Penny