

September 3, 2023 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather hoping to see God,
here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.

We can see God
when we show one another honor,
when we pursue hospitality to strangers,
when we live in harmony with one another,
when we rejoice in hope.
Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN 406 *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*

PRAYER

OPENING MUSIC

SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are, you tell us to bless one another, you encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to your words, instead of loving we have practiced hatred, instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing, instead of doing good, we have sought to get even.

Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again, and encouragement to make your ways, our ways.

We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.

(Silent prayers)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

RESPONSE

HYMN 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

HYMN 833 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12: 9 - 21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good;

¹⁰ Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

SERMON

"Let Love Rule"
Rev. Scott Lawson

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision
Arr. Tom Trenney
Sarah Downey - solo

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Offering boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.
Gifts may also be made online at starmountpres.org.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

HYMN 539

We Will Go Out With Joy

BENEDICTION

Our liturgy today was written by Rev. Molly Spangler

***Please stand in body or spirit**

Announcements

Thank you for joining us for worship this Sunday! We hope you will find it to be an uplifting and meaningful experience. If you are a **guest or visitor**, we invite you to stop by our information desk in the Narthex (entry space). We have a gift for you as well as some information about our wonderful community of faith. If you feel comfortable sharing your contact information, we invite you to also fill out a visitor card.

Families with young children are invited to stop by the children's corner in the Narthex. Here you can check in your children for nursery care and staff can direct you to our downstairs classrooms. There are also worship/activity bags available.

Reconnect Sunday (formally Welcome Home Sunday) – Join us **Sunday, September 10**, for Reconnect Sunday. All are invited to stay after worship for a time of fellowship. There will be refreshments, games and activities for kids and an opportunity to learn new ways to connect as a community!

Please pick up a flyer today to invite a friend or neighbor!

Starmount Organ project – We will share updates as they become available.

Plastics Recycling –The Earth Care team is working with the NexTrex recycling program from August through January to collect plastic waste. Accepted items can be found on the box and in your weekly email.

Starmount Presbyterian Youth (SPY) activities for the month of September:

September 4 – Moe Monday, Come to Moe's @ Friendly for dinner. Laura will be there from 6 – 7:30 pm.

September 17 – Parent & Youth Meeting, meet briefly in Laura's office to talk about SPY this school year! If you're not able to attend, but want more information please let Laura know.

September 29 - GHS Tailgate, find Laura in the parking lot before heading into the football game! She will have food and drinks. Bring your friends! Contact Laura for additional information laura@starmountpres.org

Parking Lot Concert – Join us on **Friday, September 15 at 6 pm** for an evening of fellowship and music in the parking lot. Stamey's BBQ, water, lemonade, and a performance by Jack Gorham will be highlights of this evening. More information on Jack can be found in your weekly email.

Just Lunch – Join us after worship on **Sunday, September 17**, for lunch at K & W Cafeteria. Visitors are welcome as our guests. Children are welcome as well!

Starmount Presbyterian Church Program Staff

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee, Pastor

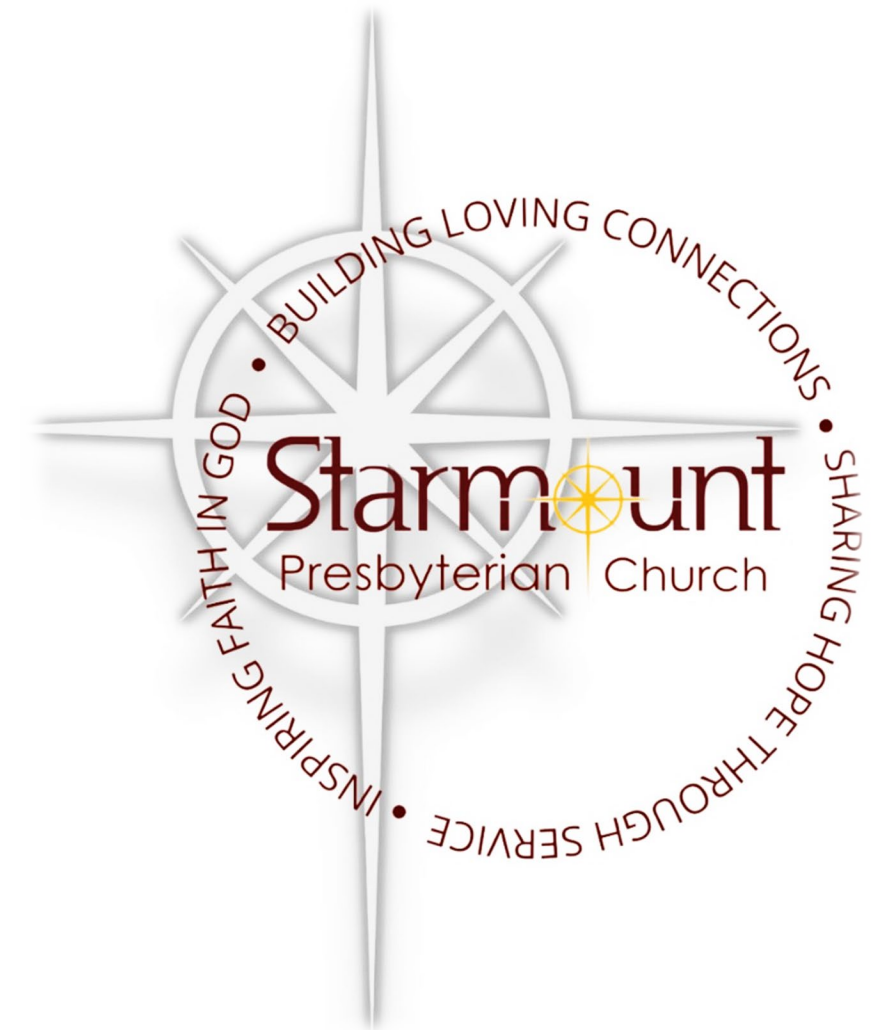
Rev. Scott Lawson, Parish Associate

Sarah Downey, Director of Music

Michael Parker, Pianist/Organist

Cindy Lee, Director of Children's Ministries

Laura Roberson Hadas, Director of Youth & Refugee Ministries



Starmount Presbyterian Church
starmountpres.org
(336) 299-8131

**Welcome to Sunday Worship
September 3, 2023 · 10:00 a.m.**