



# CONCORD LIBERTY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"Come as Visitors - Leave as Friends - Return as Family"*

To talk to someone about a particular area of ministry, please call the church office, (610) 358-2105 and Mary Ann, our church secretary, will direct your call to one of the Leaders, Directors, or Pastor below.

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply  
Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session  
David Steel, Service Leader

Charlie Jones, Dir., Community Outreach & Congregational Care  
Dino Firmani, Sexton  
Mary Ann Emely, Office Secretary

**Office Phone:** 610-358-2105

**Web Site:** [www.concordliberty.org](http://www.concordliberty.org)

**E-Mail:** [office@concordliberty.org](mailto:office@concordliberty.org)

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/concordliberty>

*If you have any concerns or questions about our church please feel free to contact any of our session elders listed below.*

### CLPC Session

Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session

Beth Berstecher	Worship
Tom Long	Property
Judy McCleary	Discipleship
Tom McGrail	Outreach, Communications, Missions
Frank Sangster	Finance
Marian Spor	Congregational Care
Brenda Wilson	Discipleship

### CLPC Deacons

Gary Cannon  
Betty Culver

Denise Jingoian  
Dave Lengel

Kim Lengel  
Connie O'Donnell

### Pray for our missionaries:

Nate & Jenny Bacon  
InnerChange  
Skip and Carol Tobin, VMM  
Chester Eastside Inc.  
Carolyn & Dan Hennings,  
World Impact  
Michele Rickett — She is Safe  
David & Bethany Wilkinson,  
Chop Point

Ray Garcia, Philadelphia Project  
Jacob & Hosanna Thomas, VMM  
City Team - Chester  
Cornerstone Christian Academy  
Young Life of Delaware County  
Greenhouse Project  
Delaware County Pregnancy Center  
Doug Dicks, PCUSA's Regional Mission  
in Israel-Palestine

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *15th Sunday After Pentecost* *Grandparents Day*



## CONCORD LIBERTY WEEKLY CALENDAR

**SUNDAY**  
September 7th

9:15 am Prayer Time. *All are welcome.*  
10:00 am Worship Service, Communion  
10:00 am First Fruits  
10:00 am KOTM Elementary — Beth Berstecher, Cheri Bates  
10:00 am KOTM Preschool — Judy McCleary  
10:00 am Nursery Care — Carol Keeler, Carol Nickey

**MONDAY**  
September 8th

All Day Love & Learn teachers prepare for Parents' Open House event.  
5:30 pm Love & Learn Parents' "Sneak-A-Peak Night"  
7:30 pm Nominating Committee Meeting (Zoom)

**TUESDAY**  
September 9th

9:00 am LOVE & LEARN classes back in session!  
10:00 am Women's Ministry Team Meeting (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

**WEDNESDAY**  
September 10th

1:00 pm Wednesday Prayer Time (Sanctuary)  
6:00 pm Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study (Zoom)  
6:00 pm Men's Bible Study (Library)

**THURSDAY**  
September 11th

12:30 pm Women's Thursday Afternoon Bible Study (Sanctuary)  
7:15 pm Women's Thursday Night Bible Study — Beth Berstecher's home — viewing *The Forge*

**FRIDAY**  
September 12th

**SATURDAY**  
September 13th

## CONCORD LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTS

### WORSHIP

To view live or recent worship services, please go to the Concord Liberty YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@concordlibertychurch19342/streams>  
You may also access it from the Concord Liberty home page by clicking on the **CLICK HERE** button.

To view a recent sermon only, go to the CLPC website — under Worship, select Services and Sermons. Then choose the date/sermon you wish to view and click on the link provided.

Nursery service will be offered during Worship. If you need nursery service on Sunday morning, please let a Greeter know and they will assist you.

**STEPHEN MINISTERS** - If you are going through a difficult time, or you know of someone who is facing difficulties, consider a caring relationship of a Stephen Minister. To learn more contact, Sylvia Schaffer or Joann Smith.

**PRAYER CHAIN** — Prayer requests for the emailed prayer chain should be sent to [office@concordliberty.org](mailto:office@concordliberty.org).

**DEACONS AND SESSION MAILBOXES** are located in the Berstecher Library.

**WORSHIP DETAILS** — Any schedule changes to worship service roles (KOTM, communion, tellers, etc.) should be sent to [office@concordliberty.org](mailto:office@concordliberty.org) at least a week in advance of the respective service date.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** — Please take time to fill out a "comment card" located in seat back pockets — tell us about your interests! We'll add you to our email distribution list!

### **REMINDER: LOVE AND LEARN IS IN SESSION!** **THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO:**

- Not "drop in" to the Worship Center during school hours M-F 9-3! (Call the office in advance to schedule your visit if 9-3 hours are essential.)
- When you are in the Worship Center during school hours, **NOT** parking in the lot closest to the school/narthex doors! (Parents line-up there, and children have recess there.)
- **NEW THIS YEAR** — When you are in the Worship Center during school hours, sign-in upon entry, and sign-out when you leave. Sign-in sheets are in the narthex (Door 1) and in the preschool entry (door 2) — use either one!

### *Communion Cups Request!*

Please place your used small Communion cups in the hole in the rack of the chair in front of you. The Deacons will collect the used cups and discard them. Thank you.

# Sermon Notes

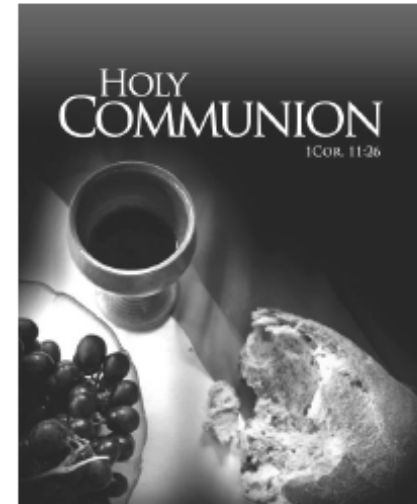
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

- I. A Ministry of Reconciliation Philemon 1-25
- A. A crisis and an opportunity.
- For Philemon
    - He has lost a valuable investment/asset.
    - He could restore that investment or he could receive the gift of a new brother in Christ.
  - For Onesimus
    - He's a man on the run and, although he was temporarily imprisoned, at which time he responded to the gospel, he has been freed and sent by Paul to go back to his slaveowner, Philemon. This could result in punishment and/or death.
    - He could be freed by Philemon, resulting in a new life, just as he was reconciled to Christ through Paul's ministry and received eternal life.
    - Interestingly, in later years, there was a bishop of Ephesus whose name was Onesimus, who is mentioned by the early church father Ignatius. Since it was a fairly common name, we don't know whether he is the same person.
  - For Paul
    - He is taking a great risk in two relationships and his integrity as an apostle.
    - The Hebrew and Roman law are at odds in this matter. Paul is both a Jew and a Roman citizen. The Hebrew law instructs them to harbor slaves (Dt. 23:15-16). The Roman law required Paul to return him to his master or face severe penalties.
    - Paul has had a ministry of reconciliation in bringing alienated sinners to Christ, in reconciling Jewish and Gentile believers and, now, in sending a runaway slave back to his owner.
- B. The letter is written in the ancient format of a letter of recommendation.
- Paul claims a sense of authority based on numerous credentials for his request.
    - Verse 9 - "an old man" - Paul's age in itself (probably late 50s or 60s) would have been regarded as cause for respect.
    - Verse 9 - "a prisoner of Christ Jesus" - Paul's suffering for the gospel would have given him extra respect.
    - Verse 16 - "a dear brother",
    - Verse 17 - "a partner" (partners in Christ).
    - Verse 23 - mutual friends.
    - Implies that he is Philemon's spiritual father - "You owe me your very self" (v.19).
  - Includes an offer to pay, if necessary (v. 18) - Roman law considered slaves to be both persons and property. It is possible that Philemon has already replaced him through the purchase of another slave.
  - Verse 11 - Uses a clever play on words. Onesimus means "useful". "Useful both to you and to me."
  - Adds the personal touch of the possibility of a future visit (v. 22).
- C. The fact that this letter became part of the canon indicates that Philemon fulfills the request. If he hadn't, the letter would have been discarded, not read in the churches

## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
13th Sunday After Pentecost, Communion Sunday  
Grandparents Day  
September 7, 2025  
10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply  
Charlie Jones, Worship Leader  
David Steel, Service Leader  
Victoria Temple, Soloist



### Silent Preparation

*We are marked from our first waking moment  
by an identity that is given to us by grace:  
an identity that is deeper and more real than  
any other identity we will don that day.*  
Tish Harrison Warren in *Liturgy of the Ordinary*

\*Congregation is requested to stand if able.  
Please adjust all electronic devices so as to not interrupt the service.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*  
Sebastian Temple  
Victoria Temple, Soloist

**LEADER:** Let us join in worshipping the Lord our God.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 139)

**LEADER:** You have searched us, Lord, and You know us. You know when we sit and when we rise; You perceive our thoughts from afar. You are familiar with all our ways.

**PEOPLE:** **Before a word is on our tongues You know it completely. You hem us in behind and before, and You lay Your hand upon us. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, too lofty for us to attain.**

**LEADER:** Search us, God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. Lead us in the way everlasting. Come, let us worship our God!

**\*THE HYMN OF ADORATION**  
*"We Will Glorify"*  
No. 72

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**  
*"Amazing Grace"*  
No. 202 (vs. 1, 3, 5)

**\*THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS** (responsively)

**LEADER:** We give You, Lord, what is Your own.

**PEOPLE:** **All that we have, though different in each home and person, is a trust from Your gracious hand.**

**LEADER:** May we be faithful stewards as we share these blessings to be a blessing for the sake of Your kingdom. Amen.

**\*DOXOLOGY**  
*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*  
No. 625

**SCRIPTURE**  
Philemon 1-25

**THE MESSAGE**  
*"A Ministry of Reconciliation"*  
Pastor John King

**\*HYMN**  
*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*  
No. 185

**The Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

The Invitation to the Lord's Table  
The Prayer of Blessing  
The Lord's Prayer No. 426 (sung in unison)  
The Words of Institution  
The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup  
The Prayer of Thanksgiving

**LEADER:** Loving God, we thank You that You have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in Your eternal kingdom.

**PEOPLE:** **Send us out in the power of Your Spirit to live and work to Your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING AND SENDING**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**  
*"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"*  
Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

**POSTLUDE**  
*"Amazing Grace" (reprise)*