

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*O give thanks to the LORD;
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Psalm 105:1*



WORSHIP ✦ SHARE ✦ GROW ✦ SERVE



WELCOME, Visitors and Guests!
We pray for God's blessing for us all
as we worship together today.
Please silence your cell phones
and pass the peace of Christ.

†Please rise in body or spirit.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

All: With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

All: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Leader: You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

All: Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!

†OPENING SONG

"I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart and let the healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever

WE COME BEFORE GOD TO CONFESS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION —based on Hebrews 4:14, 16

Leader: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done. Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has entered the inmost heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON —from Isaiah 49:15; 66:13

Leader: Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

RESPONSE

“Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me”

Holy Spirit, breathe on me
Holy Spirit, let me see,
all the things you are,
all the things you want me to be,
Holy Spirit breathe on me.

by Jeff Nelson and Eddie Smith

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Lay Reader

This Week at Willow Grove

- *The Session will hold its regular meeting today, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Alexander Hall. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link is available upon request.*
- *Join us for our weekly prayer meeting! The Zoom link is available on the church website.*

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm: Led by Judy and Paul.

Let’s come together in prayer and seek the presence of God as we lift up our hearts and intercede for one another. Everyone is welcome!

What’s Ahead at Willow Grove

- *Join us for Thursday Bible Study, “Faithful in an Unfaithful World,” as we study the Book of Judges.*
- *Support the 2026 Crop Walk. The annual Scotch Plains/Fanwood 5K CROP Walk will be held on Oct. 11 at 1 pm on the SPF High School track. See page 9 of the bulletin for details.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Finding Joy Under the Sun”

Rev. Se Hyuk Park

†SONG OF RESPONSE

#473 “For the Beauty of the Earth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

†OFFERING

[Now let us bring our gifts to God through our offering.

Please stand or sit as the Spirit leads and join us as we sing our song of thanks.]

†RESPONSE

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks, because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. *Repeat*

And now, let the weak say I am strong,

Let the poor say I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*

Give thanks.

Words and Music: Henry Smith

†SONG OF DEPARTURE

“My Worth Is Not in What I Own”

BENEDICTION

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE PULLEY

by George Herbert

When God at first made man,
Having a glass of blessings standing by,
“Let us,” said he, “pour on him all we can.
Let the world’s riches, which dispersèd lie,
Contract into a span.”

So strength first made a way;
Then beauty flowed, then wisdom, honour, pleasure.
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that, alone of all his treasure,
Rest in the bottom lay.

“For if I should,” said he,
“Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts instead of me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature;
So both should losers be.

“Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlessness;
Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
May toss him to my breast.”

MY WORTH IS NOT IN WHAT I OWN



My worth is not in what I own Not in the strength of flesh and bone But
 My worth is not in skill or name In win or lose, in pride or shame But
 As sum-mer flowers we fade and die Fame, youth and beau - ty hur - ry by But
 I will not boast in wealth or might Or hu - man wis - dom's fleet-ing light But
 Two won-ders here that I con - fess My worth and my un - wor - thi - ness My



in the cost - ly wounds of love At the cross My
 in the blood of Christ that flowed At the cross
 life e - ter - nal calls to us At the cross I
 I will boast in know - ing Christ At the
 val - ue fixed, my ran - som paid At the



cross I re-joice in my Re - deem - er Great-est Trea - sure, Well-spring of my soul



I will trust in him, no oth - er. My soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

Prayers

Each week as we pray together, we pray for people whose names and stories we may not know. Yet we faithfully pray for them as we know God is aware of each and every need.

*Grateful prayers for the continued healing of
Mital, Ed, and Frank*

*Healing prayers for
Andy, August, Sandra, Irany, Olivia, Ed, Sue,
Gisela, Bonnie, and Lorraine*

Today's Worship Assistants

Edith Konopka – Lay Reader

Edwin Velez – Greeter

We thank all our volunteers who make our service welcoming.

Paul DiDario – Director of Music and Pianist

Rebecca Pacella – Song Leader

Doris Dias – Secretary

Office hours Mon-Thu 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Paul Whitehurst – Custodian

Rev. Se Hyuk Park – Pastor

Rev Park's office hours are:

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wed. and 12-3 p.m. on Thu.

Appointments during this time or at another time can be scheduled by emailing him at pastor@willowgrovechurch.org or contacting the church office

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2026
CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

Hi everyone,

I have some exciting news! I am volunteering to walk in the 2026 Scotch Plains/Fanwood 5K CROP Walk on Sunday, Oct. 11, at 1:00 PM. We will be walking at the SPF High School track (667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains) to raise funds and reduce hunger both locally and around the world.

This is a special year because the SPF CROP Walk actually started 50 years ago at Willow Grove Church. Over the last half-century, it has raised an incredible total of \$374,000 to help those in need!

No one in this world should go hungry. The steps we take and the funds we raise together provide life-saving support—including emergency food and resources, alongside the seeds, tools, and sustainable programs that help families feed themselves long-term.

Here is how your donation can make a direct impact:

- \$88 provides 20 chickens for a family.
- \$125 provides a goat.
- \$152 provides an entire acre of sweet potatoes.

Even better, 25% of the funds we raise will remain right here in our community to support local food banks and soup kitchens in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The remaining 75% will go toward global efforts, like helping families access clean water and produce sustainable food.

If you would like to donate and/or join the Willow Grove team of walkers,

1. Please visit 2026crophungerwalk.org
2. Type "Scotch Plains" in the Search box at the top.
3. In the next Search box, type "Willow Grove".
4. Click on the "Donate Now" box and click on "Join a team" to register as a walker.

Thank you so much for your generosity, encouragement, and support!
August Ruggiero

Willow Grove Mission Statement

Reflecting God's love, we love and serve all neighbors

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church

1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains NJ 07076

908-232-5678 office@willowgrovechurch.org

willowgrovechurch.org

We'd Love to Connect

Thanks for worshiping with us today! Scan the QR code to complete our Connection Card so we can get to know you, share what's happening at the church, and support you however we can.



Cover Design by Frank Thorne