FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Church of Hamilton

Rejoicing in God · Growing in the Gospel · Pointing people to Jesus

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OCTOBER 25, 2026

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Kevin Baird

Preparing Our Hearts

"Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." - 2 Chronicles 20:12

* **Call to Worship:** Psalm 90:1-2, 13-14 Pastor Matt Schuberth

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

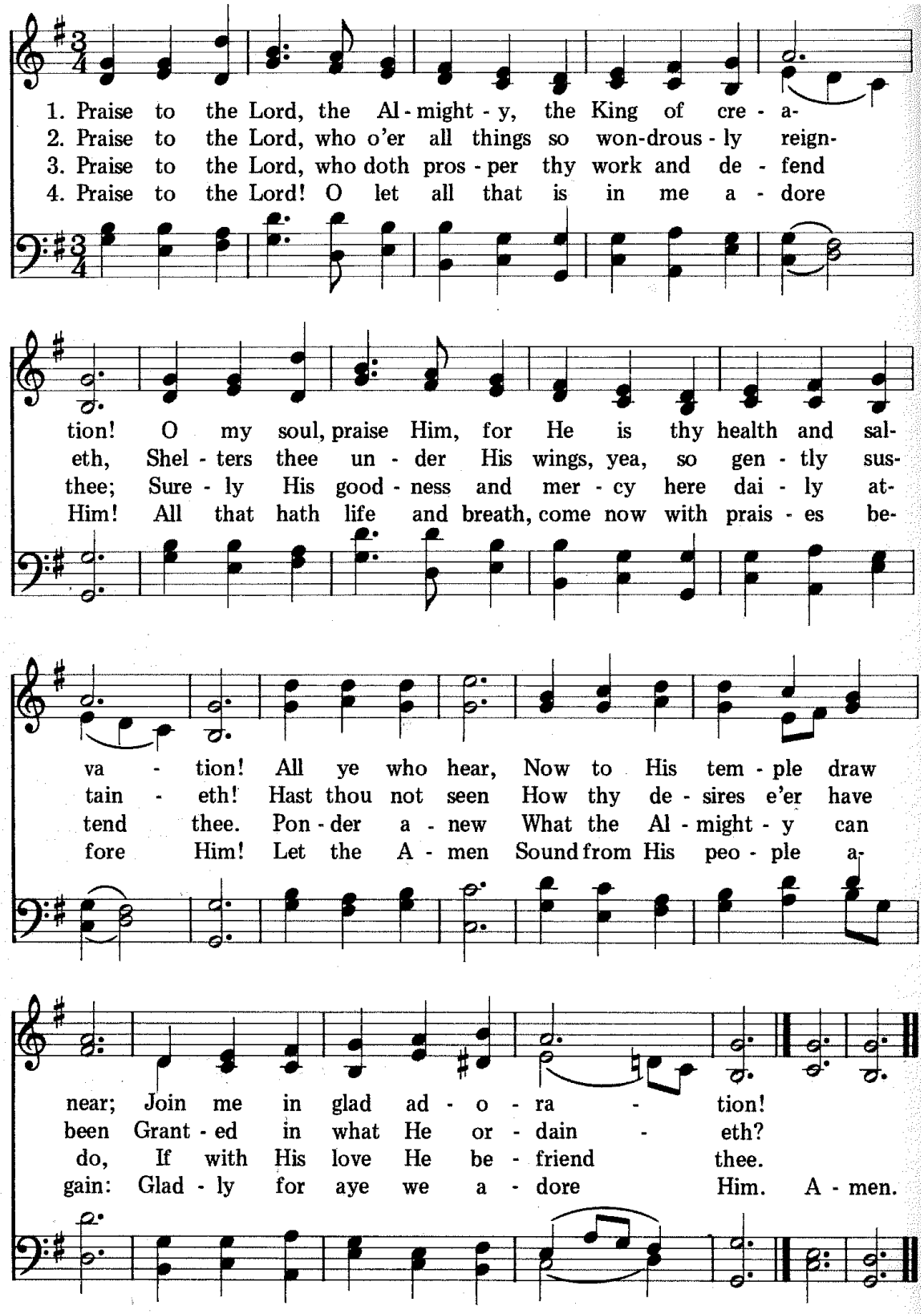
People: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader: Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

Unison: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

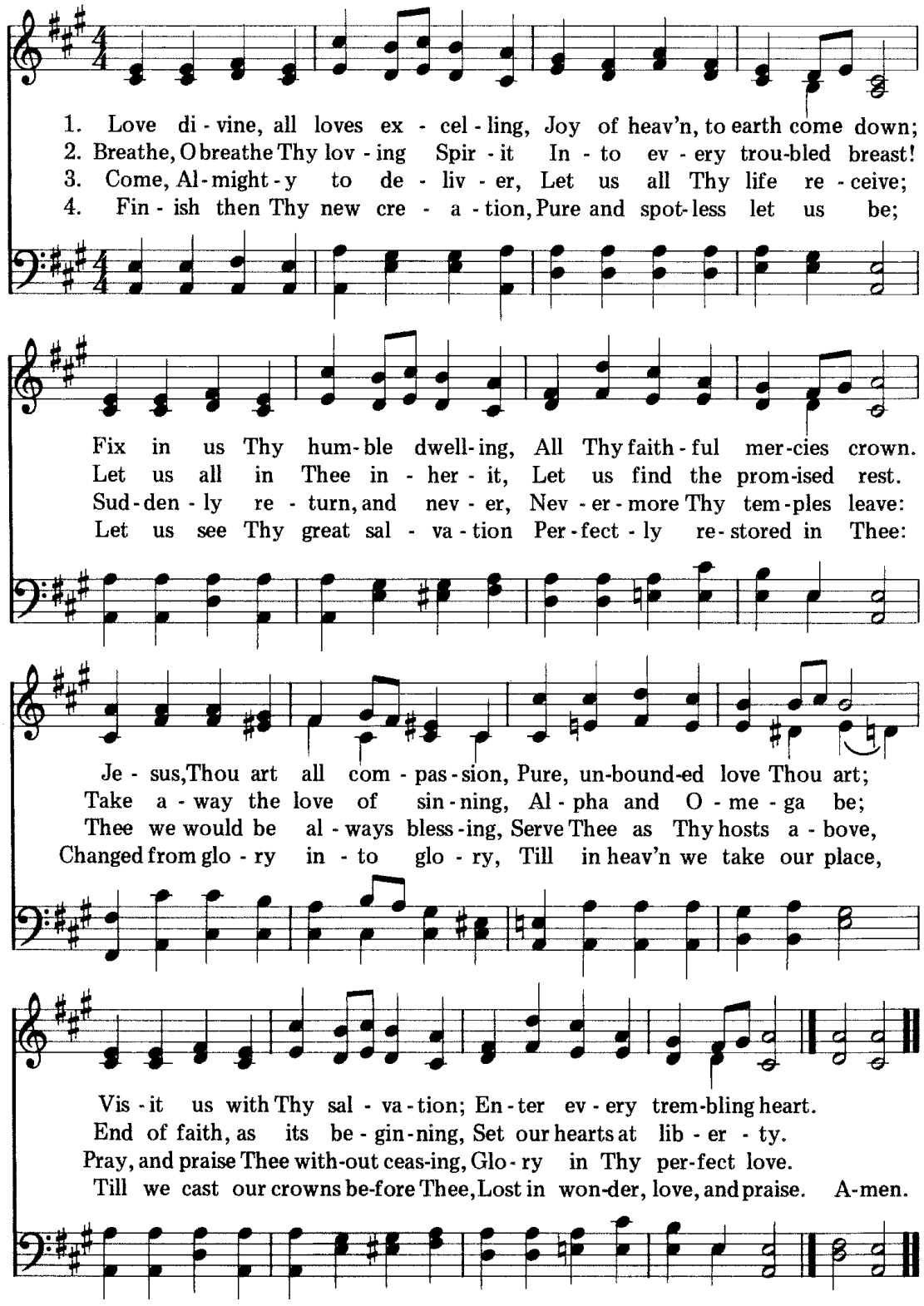
COMING WITH PRAISE

* **Hymn:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



* **Invocation, Confession of Sin, and Assurance of Pardon** Pastor Kevin Baird

* **Hymn:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Children's Message Lauren Sager

Please accompany children forward for the message, then take the elevator to the lower-level classroom to check into Little People's Church (ages 4 to grade 1)

DRAWING NEAR FOR PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:18-25 Dr. Sean McDonough (8:30), Margot Rox (11:00)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Matt Schuberth

Offertory: *ThyWill* Elena and Trevor Schonewald

I'm so confused
I know I heard You loud and clear
So I followed through
Somehow I ended up here
I don't wanna think
I may never understand
That my broken heart is a part of Your plan
When I try to pray, all I've got is hurt
And these four words

Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done

I know You're good
But this don't feel good right now
And I know you think
Of things I could never think about
It's hard to count it all joy
Distracted by the noise
Just trying to make sense
Of all Your promises
Sometimes I gotta stop
Remember that You're God
And I am not
So

Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done like a child on my knees
All that comes to me is
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will

I know You see me
I know You hear me, Lord
Your plans are for me
Goodness You have in store

So, Thy will be done
Thy will be done

* **Doxology**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-17 (ESV) Ray Unang, Dr. Jack Billings (8:30)
Jean Devitt, Ella Forest (11:00)

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw. **2** O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? **3** Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. **4** So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

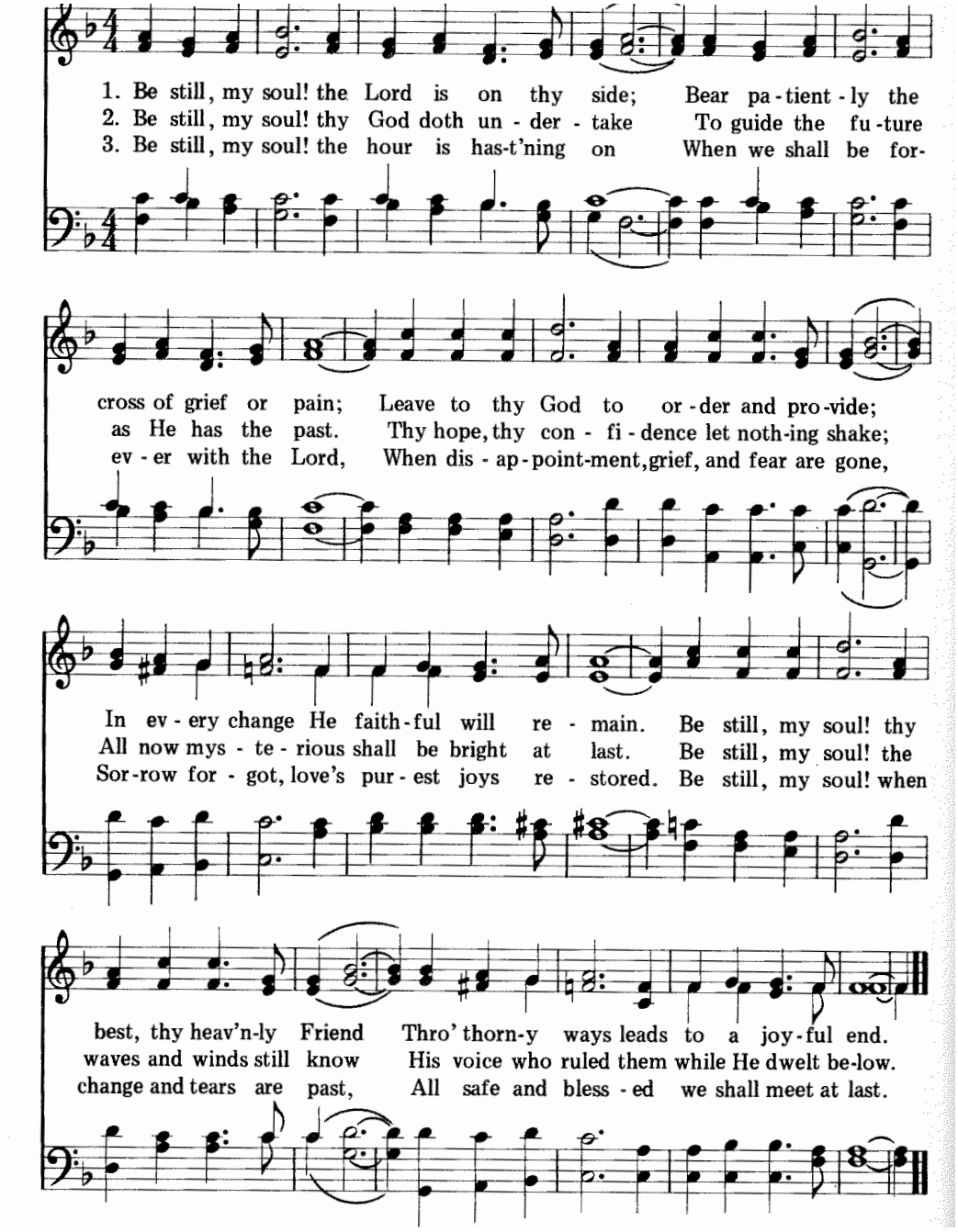
5 "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. **6** For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who march through the breadth of the earth, to seize dwellings not their own. **7** They are dreaded and fearsome; their justice and dignity go forth from themselves. **8** Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves; their horsemen press proudly on. Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour. **9** They all come for violence, all their faces forward. They gather captives like sand. **10** At kings they scoff, and at rulers they laugh. They laugh at every fortress, for they pile up earth and take it. **11** Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!"

12 Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof. **13** You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he? **14** You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like crawling things that have no ruler. **15** He brings all of them up with a hook; he drags them out with his net; he gathers them in his dragnet; so he rejoices and is glad. **16** Therefore he sacrifices to his net and makes offerings to his dragnet; for by them he lives in luxury, and his food is rich. **17** Is he then to keep on emptying his net and mercilessly killing nations forever?

Sermon: *Pointing People to Jesus: Salt and Light"* Pastor Oli van Ruth
Matthew 5:13-16

RESPONDING GOD'S WORD

* **Hymn:** Be Still, My Soul



* **Call to Prayer and Benediction** Pastor Oli van Ruth

Postlude

Our Ministry Leaders will be available at the front for prayer after the service:
Jonathan Heppner (8:30) and Margot Rox (11:00), Elders
Kelly Lestage (8:30) and Beth White (11:00), Deacons

SERMON TEXT & NOTES

Habakkuk 1:1-17 (ESV)

Announcements

Signup for events

- **New to our church?** Please join us today for breakfast, downstairs in the first-floor classroom at 9:45 am.
- **Installation Service:** Kevin Baird and Oli van Ruth will be installed as co-lead pastors today at 4:00 pm in the Meetinghouse Sanctuary. All are invited to worship, pray, and witness this special service. Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Foyer.
- **Men's Ministry Dinner**: Join us on Thursday, October 29, for a special evening with Dr. Scott Sunquist, President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, as he speaks on Conversations with God in Our Times of Suffering. Enjoy a catered dinner in Heritage Hall from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The cost is $10 per person.
- **Fall New Members Class:** Held in three sessions: Sundays, November 1, 8, and 15, from 9:45 to 10:45 am in the Wigglesworth-Cutler House. Sign up using the QR code above or email info@fcchamilton.org.
- **Pumpkin Donations:** Donate your leftover smelly pumpkins to our annual high school event, The Great Pumpkin Smash!, on Tuesday, November 3. Leave pumpkins on the Wigglesworth-Cutler House porch.
- **LifeShare Dresser Project**: This year's dresser project recipient is a mom who is a full-time student in need of many items for her baby boy, born in June. Please help fill the dresser, which is located in the hallway of the Meetinghouse, by choosing a tag of the item(s) you would like to purchase. Place your unwrapped gift in the dresser by November 15. Direct questions to LuBeth Kuemmerle, *lubethkuemmerle@gmail.com*.
- **Annual Meeting Preparation:** We'll have an informational Zoom session on Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 pm to prepare for our Annual Meeting, which will take place on Monday, November 16, at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events | *For details, scan the QR code above.*

October

25	**Newcomers Breakfast** | 9:45 to 10:45 am, Meetinghouse, First-Floor Classroom **Installation Service** | 4:00 pm, Meetinghouse Sanctuary
29	**Men's Ministry Dinner** | 6:00 to 8:30 pm, Ministry Center, Heritage Hall

November

1	**New Members Class** | 9:45 to 10:45 am, Wigglesworth-Cutler Living Room
2	**Women's Night at the Post** | 7:00 pm, Post Restaurant at 16 Bay Rd, South Hamilton
3	**The Great Pumpkin Smash** | 7:00 to 8:45 pm, Ministry Center Lawn

New to Our Church?

Welcome! We're glad you could join us this morning! If you have questions, please ask an usher or visit our Welcome Desk downstairs.

For families, we provide children's church. During our 8:30 am service, our supervised Nursery serves infants through age 3, and our Little People's Church (LPC) program serves children ages 4 through grade 1. LPC meets following the Children's Message in the lower level of this building. During the 11:00 am service, the Nursery room is staffed as a combined space for infants and toddlers.

Sermon Notes for children are available downstairs at the Welcome Desk.

Sunday School for all ages is at 9:45 am. Classes are found throughout our campus in this building (the Meetinghouse/MH), the Ministry Center (MC), and the Barn. The Barn and Ministry Center are located across the parking lot.

- Infants, preschool, and kindergarten-age children gather in the Meetinghouse downstairs.
- Elementary ages meet in the lower level of the Ministry Center.
- Middle schoolers meet in the Ministry Center Room 11.
- High schoolers meet in the Barn.
- Adults
  - *Economics and the Bible* with Dr. Sean McDonough, Dr. Glenn Butner, Dr. Robert Gough, Jr., Chapel (behind the sanctuary)
  - *The Church, the Spirit, and Union with Christ* with Dr. Jack Davis, MC Room 22
  - *Forgiveness* with Dr. Eckhard Schnabel, MC Room 21
  - *Exploring Your Marriage* with Priscilla Masterson, NP; Pastor Kevin Baird, Dr. David Horn, MC Room 23/24

For large-print Bibles, please see an usher.

If you need prayer after the service, an elder and deacon are available to pray with you at the front.

Join us for coffee and tea after both services in Fellowship Foyer.

Scan to let us know you visited!

Kevin Baird, *Lead Pastor of Care & Outreach*
Oliver van Ruth, *Lead Pastor of Preaching & Teaching*
Matthew Schuberth, *Pastor of Youth & Young Adults*
Chrysa Bliati, *Children's Ministry Director*
Lisa Clay, *Women's Ministry Director*
Cece Gough, *Executive Director*

Hana Lee, *Music Director*
John Bigus, *Audio-Visual Manager*
Jill VanderWoude, *Administrative Assistant*
Phil Best, *Facilities Manager*
The People of God, *Ministers to the World*

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