

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



At PCO we strive to be a faithful, open, and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any age, ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Invitation to Our Shared Ministry

Pastor Aaron Punt

Prelude

Intermezzo Op. 116 No. 4
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

Johannes Brahms

*** Call to Worship – from Psalm 149**

Catherine Holdway, Liturgist

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

All: For the Lord takes pleasure in the people and adorns the humble with victory.

One: Let us praise God's name with dancing, and with the sound of instruments.

All: Let the faithful exult in glory; we will sing for joy and let the high praises of God be on our lips.

One: The Lord's judgments are just; his mercy is plentiful.

All: Praise the Lord!

*** Hymn #61**

Your Law, O Lord, is Perfect, vs. 1-3
[Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben]

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Aaron Punt

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Aaron Punt

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when he will make a new covenant with his people. He will place his laws within us, writing them on our hearts.

All: The Lord shall be our God, and we shall be God's people.

One: No longer will we tell one another, "Know the Lord," for we will all know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.

All: The Lord will forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more.

One: As a forgiven people, we come before the Lord and approach his table together. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Act of Praise #581**

Gloria Patri

Prayer of Illumination

Catherin Holdway, Liturgist

God of mercy, you have given us your word, that it may be a light for our path through life and a source of guidance and truth. As we receive your word anew today, open our minds and hearts to receive it by the power of your Holy Spirit. Lead us to hear your words of instruction and correction as a call to life and peace for this life and the life to come. Amen.

Children's Sermon and Time of Wonder

Pastor Aaron Punt

First Scripture Reading

Exodus 12: 1-14

Catherine Holdway, Liturgist

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading

Romans 13: 8-14

Pastor Aaron Punt

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Life and/or Death

Pastor Aaron Punt

Offering

Pastor Aaron Punt

Invitation

Offertory

Soon and Very Soon

Arr. Jack Schrader

Gail Lytle Lira, piano

***Doxology #606**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion Hymn #510

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name, vs. 1-3

Holy Communion

Pastor Aaron Punt

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

One: Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful. Therefore with all creation we speak your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Communion will be served by intinction. Please take a piece of bread and dip into the cup of juice and partake as you return to your seat. The bread is gluten, soy, nut and dairy free so all may partake together.

Communion Music

Be Thou My Vision
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

Arr: Larry Shackley

Communion Prayer

Pastor Aaron Punt

*** Hymn #459**

O Word of God Incarnate, vs. 1-3
[Munich]

*** Charge & Benediction**

Pastor Aaron Punt

Postlude

Passacaille
[Suite in G Minor]
Gail Lytle Lira, piano

G.F. Handel

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Ushers: Tom Schaberg, Keith Camann, Jill Tribell

This Morning's Fellowship Team: Thank you to Shirley and Dave Rumminger for supplying our snacks today, to Edward Ennen for preparing the coffee and to Wayne Scott for washing the dishes.

Education Hour is on Summer Break. Enjoy an extended time of fellowship this morning.

Next Week September 13, 2026, Fall Back into Rhythm Sunday

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Rev. Aaron Punt, Associate Pastor
Dr. Marlene Brewbaker, Organist
Shelby Laird (she, her), Chancel Choir Director
Irene Shutt, Handbell Choir Director
Edward Ennen, Sexton
Anna Thiel, Office Manager
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