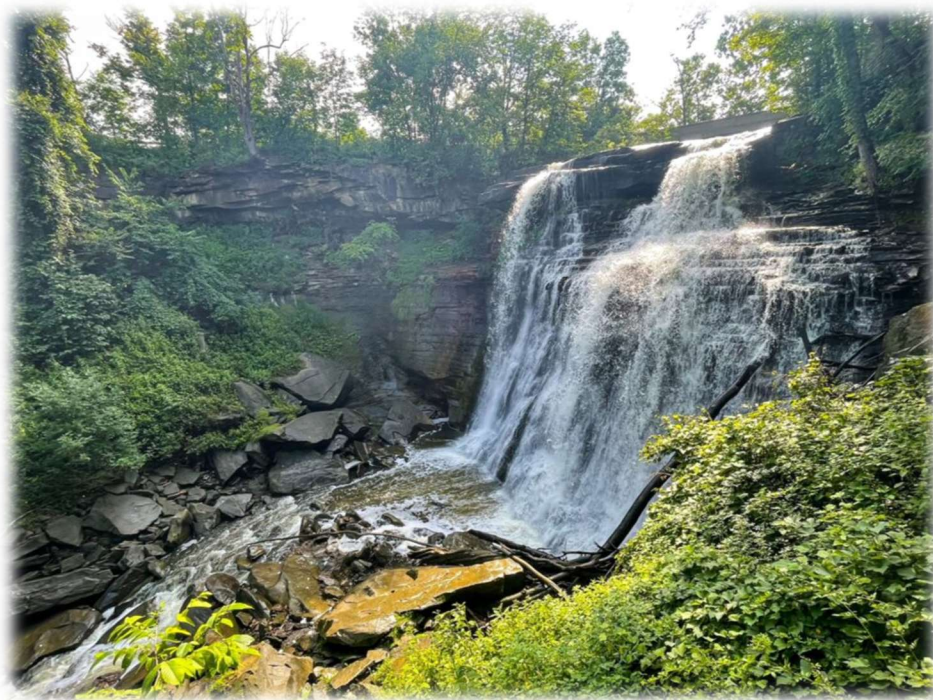




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



**Order of Worship for
July 13, 2025 10:00 am**

**Welcome to Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are with us today.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP – JULY 13, 2025
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Cuyahoga Valley National Park: Restoration

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC Rondo (From Concerto #5 in D)
Charlotte McCoy, Violin

Seitz

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, to the river of life—
clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

**People: We come to be refreshed, renewed, and restored.
Let the waters of grace wash over us.**

Leader: Come to the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.

**People: We come with hope and expectation,
to worship the One who makes all things new.**

**Together: Let us worship God—source of life, giver of healing,
and author of eternal peace.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN NCH 18 Guide Me, O, My Great Redeemer

CWM RHONDDA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**Congregation Sings:*

*This land is your land,
This land is my land;
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.*

W. Guthrie

Children leave for Sunday School Classrooms

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Joel 2: 25 – 27
Revelation 22: 1 – 2

SERMON *The Healing of the Nations - A Call for Total Restoration*
Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

*HYMN NCH 576 (vs. 1 & 4) For the Healing of the Nations WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Allegro (From Concerto #5 in D) Seitz
Charlotte McCoy, Violin

***DOXOLOGY NCH 780**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Generous and life-giving God,
You have shown us the river of the water of life, flowing from Your throne, and the tree
whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.**

**Receive these gifts, O Lord, as seeds of that vision—
a sign of our hope, a witness to Your abundance,
and a prayer for the healing of our world.**

**Bless what we offer, and bless us in the giving,
that we may become channels of Your grace and instruments of Your peace.
In the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, we pray.**

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 575 O, For a World

AZMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Go now, beloved of God,
refreshed by the river of the water of life,
rooted in the promise of the tree whose leaves bring healing to the nations.

May you walk in the light of God's throne,
carry the hope of renewal into every place of need,
and bear the fruit of love, joy, and peace wherever you go.

In the name of the Creator, the Lamb, and the Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE I've Got Peace like a River

M. Hayes

Thank you to everyone who participated in worship! Go in Peace!

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. What are the “locusts” in your life or in our world today, and how might God be working to restore what has been lost?

📖 Joel 2:25–27 – “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten...”

→ Reflect on personal or communal experiences of loss. Where can you already see signs of healing or restoration?

2. How does the presence of God bring healing—not just to individuals, but also to whole communities?

📖 Revelation 22:1–4 – “The river of the water of life... flowed from the throne of God... the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

→ Consider the connection between God’s presence and the restoration of justice, peace, and community.

3. In what ways are we called to move toward suffering and injustice, rather than turn away? How can this be a path to healing for others and ourselves?

📖 Isaiah 58:6–8 – “Is not this the fast that I choose... to loose the bonds of injustice... then your healing shall spring up quickly.”

→ What does it look like in your life to stand in solidarity with those who are hurting?

4. What does it mean to become an agent of restoration in today’s broken world?

📖 Micah 6:8 – “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?”

→ Reflect on practical steps you or your community can take to reflect God’s healing in social, ecological, or political ways.