



Church
of the
Lakes

Connecting all to Christ to become
healthy in God and courageous in love.

Connect with us:



KINGDOM RESET

Returning to Our First Love

Traditional Worship - August 23, 2026 - 8:30 & 11:00 am

Entering into the Spirit of Worship

Greeting 8:30 - Tom Beattie 11:00 - David Morgan

Prelude *Sonata 11: Cantilena* Josef Rheinberger

***Call to Worship** 8:30 - Roger Miller 11:00 - Sue Hirschman

Leader: We have come not simply to attend a service, but to meet with the living God.

People: Jesus, draw our hearts back to You.

Leader: Before our service, before our sacrifice, before all that we do in Your name...

People: ...You desire our hearts.

Leader: Scripture says, "We love because He first loved us."

People: So today, we remember Your grace and return to Your love.

Leader: Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus - our Savior, our King, and our first love.

All: With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, let us worship the Lord!

***Hymn** *My Jesus, I Love Thee* #117

The Uniting of our Hearts in Prayer

Prayer 8:30 - Roger Miller 11:00 - Sue Hoffmeyer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Anthem To God be the Glory André Crouch
Dave Kimberly

Scripture Reading John 15:1-11 pg.874

Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, You have loved us faithfully, yet too often our hearts wander from You. Forgive us when we serve without surrender, worship without wonder, and become busy for You without being close to You. Through the blood of Jesus, cleanse us. By Your Spirit, renew us. Reset our hearts and return us to our first love, so that everything we do flows from our love for You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Offering our Gifts to God	<i>Knowing You, Jesus</i> Dave Kimberly	Graham Kendrick
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***Response in Song** (11:00 only)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts; Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication** (11:00 only)

*Hymn (11:00 only)	<i>I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say</i> (v. 1 & 2)	#515
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Scripture	Revelation 2:1-7	pg. 1001
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Message	Returning to Our First Love Kingdom Reset	Pastor Jared Priset
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Sending Forth

*Closing Hymn	<i>More Love to Thee</i>	#588
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***Benediction**

Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune in F</i>	David Lasky
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*Those who are able, please stand
Choir Director & Organist/Accompanist - Dean Wagner

Altar Flowers: are given by Jeremy and Alicia Alfani
in celebration of their anniversary

Sermon Outline

Focus: It is possible to keep doing the things of Jesus while slowly losing our affection for Jesus. Before we step forward in Kingdom mission, Jesus calls us to reset our hearts and return to our first love.

I. Remember

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen...” (Revelation 2:5)

Look back and recognize what has changed.

Don't become so familiar with grace that you lose your wonder.

You cannot return until you recognize that you have drifted.

When did delight become duty?

II. Repent

“Repent...” (Revelation 2:5)

We can have right activity with the wrong heart.

Christian mission goes deeper than altruism.

The deepest motivation for Kingdom work must always be worship: Jesus is worthy.

We can have activity without intimacy, service without surrender, and mission without communion.

III. Return

“Do the works you did at first.” (Revelation 2:5)

Return to the places where love for Jesus is cultivated.

Open the Word. Pray. Worship. Confess. Abide.

Kingdom fruit does not come from running harder; it comes from staying connected to the Vine. Activity flows from intimacy.

“Remain in me... No branch can bear fruit by itself.” (John 15:4)

Contemporary Worship - August 23, 2026 - 9:30 & 11:00 am

Praise Songs

*I Thank God
What a Beautiful Name*

Welcome

9:30 - Matt Ritzert Oasis - Julia Fabich

Worship Song & Offering

Out of Hiding

Prayer

9:30 - Duran Balyeat Oasis - Makenzie Morgan

Scripture

Revelation 2:1-7

Message

Returning to Our First Love
Kingdom Reset

Pastor Bryan George

Closing Song

Brokenness Aside

Benediction

Sermon Outline

Focus: It is possible to keep doing the things of Jesus while slowly losing our affection for Jesus. Before we step forward in Kingdom mission, Jesus calls us to reset our hearts and return to our first love.

I) "Closed for a lack of participation"

A congregation in Virginia and a bankrupt Crystal Cathedral

The waning of vitality in marriages, friendships, jobs, and church

II) The Congregation in Ephesus suffering from wandering from the faith (Revelation 2:1-7)

Starts by listing strengths of the congregation (vs. 2-3)

Good works, endurance, reject evildoers, test false apostles, not grown weary

Yet Critical Accusation: Orthodoxy Without Love (v. 4)

"abandoned the love you had at first"

Wesley: *"An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge."*

III) The prescription of returning to our first Love (v. 5a)

"Remember:" the sweetness of the Lord's love: When did delight become duty?

"Repent:" Continuously needed to prevent spiritual apathy from setting in

"do the works you did at first:" Focus on prayer, scripture, devotion and worship

IV) The Warning to a congregation that strays from path: The Removal of the Lampstand (v. 5b)

Without repentance, the congregation loses their effectiveness as a true witness for Him

Grace can be resisted, forfeited and lost if we refuse to walk in love

V) The promise of restored fellowship in the day of the Lord (v. 7)

"I will give permission to eat from the tree of life"

Jesus became ugly so you can be beautiful,

Jesus was stripped naked so we can be clothed forever

Jesus left paradise so we can enter

Hiring Nursery Co-Coordinator

Church of the Lakes is currently hiring a Sunday Morning Nursery Coordinator. This is a part-time, paid position. Apply to Angela Fritz by *August 30th*. For the complete job description and application go to churchofthelakes.org/job-postings.

Bible Sunday

Sunday, August 30th will be "Bible Sunday". We are accepting donations of gently used Bibles to pass out for Bible Sunday. If you would like to donate a gently used Bible (children's, youth, or adult) bring your donation to the Christian Education office by *TODAY Sunday, August 23rd*.

Explore

Women's Book Club

The book club will meet on **Wednesday, September 2nd**, 10:00 am in room 201. The group will be discussing 'Theo of Golden' by Allen Levi. New attendees are welcome to join any time. Contact Sue Hoffmeyer, 330-704-1774, for more information.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare is a support group that welcomes people and guides them on the path of recovery after separation or divorce. This 13-week group uses video-based teaching and interactive discussions to help provide comfort and hope. Join us on **Mondays, beginning August 24th**, 6:30 pm in room 105. Cost of the workbook is \$30. Contact the church office to register.

GriefShare

GriefShare is designed to bring healing through Jesus Christ to anyone who has lost a loved one to death. Whether it was a recent loss or many years ago - grief doesn't disappear. Luckily, Jesus Christ, along with a supportive community who have "been there" can bring healing. Join us for a 13-week session on **Thursdays, beginning September 3rd**, 6:30 pm in room 105. Cost of the workbook is \$30. Contact the church office to register.

Serve

Baby Bundles Plus

Baby Bundles Plus is a sewing ministry that makes baby quilts, stuffed animals and little dolls all for donation to area agencies & hospitals. We will meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays (**September 3rd & 17th**), 9:30 am in room 108. Everyone is welcome. It is a great chance for fellowship and to make new friends. We always need someone to cut fabric or stuff items. We accept children's flannel, pastel cotton and monetary donations; thank you for your support. Any questions, call or text Lucy Woods, 330-417-0282, or Connie Sherman, 330-224-1034.

Habitat for Humanity

This summer, Church of the Lakes will be building a home for the Kerns Family. Join in the journey of building a house into a home by volunteering as a team member. The final workday will be cleaning on **Saturday, September 19th**. Visit habi.build/cotl to volunteer. Join us on *Saturday, October 10th* for the home dedication.

WAYS TO GIVE

Visit churchofthelakes.org/online-giving or text: **give to 330-961-5524**

Offering envelopes are located by the Activity Center entrance

For EFT instructions contact Stephanie Strock, stephanie@churchofthelakes.org



Together-N-Truth

BLAST

Believe Learn and Seek Truth

FALL 2026

KINDERGARTENERS - 6TH GRADERS

**SEPTEMBER 9TH -
NOVEMBER 11TH**

**BIBLE
SUPERHEROES
& THEIR
SIDEKICKS**



Only \$45 if paid in full or \$5/week;
includes dinner & activities
Scholarships available

5:30 Dinner
6:00 - 7:30 Worship &
Stations



REGISTER AT
CHURCHOFTHELAKES.ORG

Join us at
**JACKSON
HIGH SCHOOL**



All Church
**WORSHIP
SERVICE**

September **13** | **10:00 AM**

**ALL WORSHIP SERVICES COMBINED
IN CELEBRATION OF:**

70 YEARS OF CHURCH OF THE LAKES
THE MINISTRY OF PASTOR BRYAN & AMY GEORGE

-Children 5 & under-
Register on our website
for Childcare during service

JESUS

in the
@

HOME

NICKAJACK
Farms



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

3:00 - 7:00 PM

\$8 PER PERSON

Register at churchofthelakes.org

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY ON THE FARM

CORN MAZE
GOURD GOLF
PUMPKIN BOWLING
CORN BOX
HAY RIDE
TODDLER TOWN

BUBBLE STATION
TODDLER TOWN
PHOTO STATION
BONFIRE
HOT DOGS
S'MORES



Submit your news, information or announcements to betsi@churchofthelakes.org.



Please pray for: Ken Spangler, Sheri Grunwald, Michael Pryatel, Jody Gardner, Bill Christiansen, and Phyllis Bush

To submit prayer requests call 330-499-8972 ext. 203 or email: prayer@churchofthelakes.org.