Willow Springs Worship
Nurturing Faith Together
October 18, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Call to Worship – Esther VT 884

Songs – Phil K.

Children's time – Phil K.

Scripture – Matthew 6:1-18 NRSV

Sermon – Phil Waite
Sign the Petitions

Song – The Lord's Prayer: VT 674 Our Father, Who Art in Heaven

Sharing and prayer – Elvin

Song

Announcements
Sunday School ends at:

Sending Blessing – VT 985H

Sending Song

Calendar

Oct. 25	Phil Waite preaching
Nov. 14	Game Night, 6:00 pm

Tuesdays at 10:00 am: Praise, Prayer and Pacing: If you would like company getting in your daily walk join the group at the church.

Please remember to place your gifts in the basket towards the back of the sanctuary.

Our next game night will be Saturday, November 14 at 6:00 pm and will include a bonfire. We will bring food to share as usual. When it gets dark, we will go outside for the bonfire. Makings for s'mores will be provided by the church. Then we can go back in and play games if desired. Mark your calendars and be ready for an evening of fun!

10/18 Pastoral Search Update: In consultation with Conference Minister Bryan Miller, we are only searching for a settled pastor at this time. Bryan Miller has reached out to a number of persons on our behalf. We encourage you to be praying for the pastor who will be a good fit for us. If you have questions about the search process please reach out to one of us. – Ellen Davis-Zehr, Megan Krabill, Phil Kaufmann, Tarik Kheshgi, and Anna Zehr.

The Willow Springs Elders have named a Pastoral Search Committee. By the WS Constitution, the Elders are the Search Committee, but in consultation with Bryan Miller (Conference Minister), he suggested broader representation. His recommendation was one from the Elders, one Church Board member, one from the Stewardship Board, and two at-large. From this list, we suggested Ellen Davis-Zehr, Megan Krabill, Phil Kaufmann, Tarik Kheshgi, and Anna Zehr, and each of them agreed to serve on this committee. We plan to have a commissioning for this group on Sunday, October 11. – Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Elvin Krabill, Pam Kaufmann, and Phil Waite

Between now and the first Sunday of Advent (November 29) our worship series will focus on practice of prayer. Prayer undergirds the life of the church and the individual Christian. It is at the center of nurturing faith. Scripture models prayer for us. The prayer that Jesus taught us gave shape to the prayer life of the early church. Speech about God, to God, and from God to us, fills the Bible. In a world where most speech means talking to each other about ourselves, prayer goes missing. Scripture models many ways to pray. Christians pray in many ways. This fall we will nurture our faith together by exploring prayer!

When pastoral care is needed, please contact Phil Waite or an Elder: Dale Bachman, Ellen Davis-Zehr, Pam Kaufmann, or Elvin Krabill.

Matthew 6:1-18 (NRSV)

Concerning Almsgiving

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before
others in order to be seen by them, for then you
have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a
trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the
synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be
praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have
received their reward. **3** But when you give alms, do
not let your left hand know what your right hand is
doing, **4** so that your alms may be done in secret,
and your Father who sees in secret will reward
you.[a]

Concerning Prayer

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the
hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the
synagogues and at the street corners, so that they
may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have
received their reward. **6** But whenever you pray, go
into your room and shut the door and pray to your
Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees
in secret will reward you.[b]

7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty
phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they
will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not
be like them, for your Father knows what you need
before you ask him.

9 “Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be revered as holy.
10 May your kingdom come.
May your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us today our daily bread.[c]
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,[d]
but rescue us from the evil one.[e]

14 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your
heavenly Father will also forgive you, **15** but if you
do not forgive others,[f] neither will your Father
forgive your trespasses.

Concerning Fasting

16 “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like
the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show
others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they
have received their reward. **17** But when you fast,
put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that
your fasting may be seen not by others but by your
Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees
in secret will reward you.[g]