

Penns Valley Charge of the United Methodist Church  
“Family Reunion” Series Worship Service for Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 9:30am online/by phone  
**Call 1-708-713-5876. When prompted enter pin number 992 148 847#**

Link to watch is also available online at [pennsvalleyparish.info](http://pennsvalleyparish.info)

- **July Book Club:** “The Anatomy of Peace: Resolving the Heart of Conflict” Wednesday at Trinity UMC, Woodward 7pm

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**We are such a rag-tag group of people. Some of us are at the “top of our game” and others just struggle to get through each day. Yet you draw us here where we will find friendship, peace, and hope not only for our lives right now but for all the times yet to come. Stand us up again, O God. Dust us off and put us back on the pathways of service and reconciliation. Warm our hearts with your love; lift our spirits with your power, for we ask these things in the Name of Jesus our Savior. AMEN.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Communities Transition 1 Samuel 7:15–8:22; 10:17-24  
Verse of the month: Joshua 1:9 The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

SELECTED SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25:19-34 **The Birth and Youth of Esau and Jacob, Esau Sells His Birthright**  
Genesis 29:15-28 **Jacob Marries Laban’s Daughters**

THE MESSAGE: Sibling Rivalry Pt. 1: When “Seconds” Count!

PASTORAL PRAYER

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Please take time this week to study part of Romans on the back of this paper.  
Blessings! – Pastor Theresa

PERSONAL STUDY:

CREATION AWAITS based on Romans 8:12-25

Read the passage through and then focus on the questions with starter answers below:

Verses 12 and 13 contrast where life according to the flesh leads (death) with life animated by the Holy Spirit, which enables us to overcome our sinful and selfish nature. *(Both verses end with the verb “to live” in Greek. Also note that, in Romans, Paul uses the words translated “flesh” or “body” not to refer to our physical bodies, but to our selfish nature.)* As we’ll see in the next question, Paul builds on this contrast to affirm that those who live by the Spirit are children of God, children who receive their worth as children of “Abba” and are co-heirs with Christ. What might it mean to be a co-heir with Christ? *[There is freedom, v. 12; there is a responsibility to live in newness of life, v. 13, to live not according to fear, v. 15, but as children of God, verses 15-16.]*

In verse 15, Paul contrasts our status as children of God with those who are slaves. In Roman times, only the children would receive the full share of inheritance. With that being the case, what is Paul’s point that we are co-heirs who share in Christ’s suffering and his glory? *[We don’t just share in the glory or in being in God’s presence for all eternity. We also share in the suffering that comes from being in a fallen world. Just as all creation longs for redemption, so do we.]*

What might it mean for the creation to be in “labor pains” (v. 22)? *[While there is suffering now, there is also joyous anticipation for what is to come.]*

What is the role and responsibility believers have as people of hope in what is to come? *[The suffering that we experience here will not have the last word. God’s justice and righteousness will. The church, the community of believers, is called to embody this here and now.]*

What is the difference between “the power of positive thinking” and the hope we have in what God has done in Christ? *[There is NO difference except acknowledgment of the Source. Our hope rests on the secure foundation of what God has already done, specifically in the resurrection of Christ, and what God is continually doing as the Spirit empowers believers.]*

Final thought from Pastor Theresa: Christian hope is not pie in the sky; it is hope rooted in what Paul calls “the first fruits of the Spirit” (v. 23) which is the power of life over death we that are in Christ already know. Amen.