

Penns Valley Charge of the United Methodist Church

Worship Service for Sunday, July 26, 2020 – Lines open at 9:30am with worship at 9:45am

Call in to 1-708-713-5876 and when prompted enter the pin 992148847#

Watch online at meet.google.com/uoa-gjag-xjw (type in exactly)

Plan to share joys and concerns prior to the service. Thank you.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Sunday, August 2nd, our service will include Holy Communion. Please have some kind of bread or crackers and juice, wine or beverage ready prior to service time.
- The August Book Club date has been changed to August 19th at 7pm at St. James UMC, Coburn. The book is *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety* by Henri J. M. Nouwen. We plan to meet outside in the green space next to the church. Please bring a lawn chair and anything else you may need, your book, paper, pen, a cool drink. We will physically distance and observe all safety requirements. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will go indoors. All are welcome!
- Pastor Theresa will be on vacation Aug. 24-30. Pastor Valerie Delooze will be on call for urgent pastoral care that week. Pastor Valerie's number is 814-880-2367

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of preparation and transitions, we are already halfway through our summer months. We sit and wonder where the time went, did we spend it well in your service. Give us these next few weeks for renewal that we may be prepared to work through your church for your world. Keep us mindful of the needs of family, friends, and others, that we will be your faithful disciples through all kinds of days in all loving ways, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Verse of the month: Joshua 1:9 The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." This week: **Communities Grow** Comparing seed to faith Luke 13:18-21

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Genesis 32:22-31 Jacob Wrestles at **Peniel** [*Hebrew, The face of God*]

MESSAGE Holy Wrestling

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PERSONAL STUDY: “When You Give Them Something” based on Matthew 14:13-21

Read the Scripture and consider the following:

- What was Jesus’ motivation to be with the crowd and cure the sick (v. 14)? [*Compassion*]

- Notice the contrast between the disciples and Jesus. Where the disciples’ answer was to send the crowds away (v. 15) and then point to scarcity (v. 17), Jesus’ response was to minister to the crowd’s needs and envision abundance. What do we learn about the disciples? What do we learn about Jesus from this story? [*The disciples are focusing on their own resources or lack thereof. Jesus is the giver of life. Much as God, through Moses, fed the people in the wilderness, so here Jesus miraculously feeds the people.*]

- How are we too often like the disciples in their desire to send “needy” people away and also focus on their own lack of resources?

- Notice the deliberate actions of Jesus in verse 19. Jesus “takes” the food, looks up to heaven, blesses and breaks the bread, and gives to his disciples. Notice, too, in verse 20 that there were twelve full baskets remaining (a likely reference to the twelve tribes of Israel). Can you recall another time that these same actions take place in Jesus’ ministry? Read Matthew 26:26-30. Why do you think there is such similarity? What might that mean for our interpretation of this miracle story? What might that mean for how we understand the Communion ritual? [*Just as the disciples were invited to see abundance instead of scarcity and were called to extend their blessings, so too does the Communion meal invite us to see abundance instead of scarcity and to extend this blessing to others.*]

- This is the only miracle story told by all the Gospels. Why do you think this was such an important story to tell? [*It reveals Jesus in line with Moses and as the giver of life.*]

A NOTE FROM PASTOR THERESA

What speaks loudest to me about this entire passage is that Jesus saw a large crowd and his first reaction was compassion. Do you look at large groups of people with Jesus’ kind of compassion?

Giver of life, give us contentment for the bread of life you provide. Give us the eyes of faith to see your presence and your abundance all around us. Give us willing hands to serve those around us, so that they too might experience the abundant life that comes only from you. Amen.