

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, August 23, 2020

Facebook live Scripture & message only 8:30am - Phone/online Family Worship 9:45am
Find link on PennsValleyParish.info or call 1-708-713-5876, then enter the PIN: 992 148 847#

Those without long distance service may be called into worship, contact Pastor Theresa.

Weekly messages are available by phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238.

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Learning to Love Our Enemies* series begins September 6th!
- Pastor Theresa is on vacation August 24-30. Pastor Valerie Delooze is on call, 814-880-2367.
- Starting August 30th, a prerecorded service will be available Sunday on our website and by phone by calling 422-6238. That is a local number. Both will be available 24/7.
- September 6th we will resume worship at Trinity UMC 8:30am, St. James UMC 9:45am and Sprucetown UMC 11am
- Want to add to our prayer list? Contact Pastor Theresa by text/phone 814-883-9510 or by email theiser@susumc.org.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Lord, be with each one of us today. We have come seeking your guidance and direction for our lives. Help us recognize the gifts you have given to us and enable us to put these gifts to good use in your world. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **Dancing for God** Based on 2 Samuel 6:1-19

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – DEVICES *litany by the Rev. Kathie Wilkinson*

God of all knowledge and wisdom, Bless these backpacks and devices and each student that will carry them every day of this school year.

As students carry these items, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each day.

Help them to do their best, guide them to make right choices, and remind them that your love and presence are always with them. Fill them with curiosity, understanding, respect for their teachers, and care and compassion for other students.

Help us encourage our children and understand the challenges and fear of failure that can come with each new year.

Help us to have realistic expectations of children that are neither unreachable nor unchallenging.

We give thanks for teachers, administrators, and staff that work with children each day, and ask a blessing on these that we name before you now..._____

Bless the briefcases and totes of the teachers and administrators of the schools we know and love as we name before you now..._____ and bless all others in schools throughout our city, our nation, and our world.

May these teachers and staff be reminded that this congregation supports them in their roles, and surrounds them with our love and care.

Help the teachers and administrators care for every student, find the best in each one, and understand those who have special needs. Give them patience and strength to never give up, and assurance that you are always with them.

In your love and mercy, surround our children and our schools with your protection that they may be safe places for all who enter.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (*The Lord's Prayer "trespass"*)

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Matthew 16:13-20

MESSAGE Signs of Integrity

BLESSING OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS -

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Thank you for joining us today!

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Faith UMC – mail to – Kathy Eisenhuth, PO Box 15, Spring Mills PA 16875-0015

St. James UMC – mail to – St. James UMC, PO Box 90, Coburn PA 16832-0090

Sprucetown UMC – mail to – Tawnya Childs, 133 B. Dobson Drive, Centre Hall PA 16828

Trinity UMC – mail to – Trinity UMC, PO Box 157, Woodward PA 16882-0157

This Week's Study: Who Do You Say?

Read [Matthew 16:13-20](#) and [Romans 12:1-8](#)

What might it mean to “present our bodies as a living sacrifice” (notice the word ‘body,’ not the word ‘mind’? [*Not just our intentions or thoughts, but the actions of our body should be a gift to glorify God.*])

What does it look like to be “conformed to this world”? What does it look like to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”? What are some practices that can help us to live “transformed” and not “conformed”? [*Spiritual practices such as corporate worship, corporate and personal prayer, corporate and private study of Scripture, fasting, journaling, etc.*]

What might it look like for a church community to truly embody verses 3-6? A community that takes seriously the call to humility (v. 3), honor and bless each other in their unique gifts (v. 4 and 6), and be members of one another (v. 5)?

What do you already know about the area of Caesarea Philippi? (Use Study Bibles or other resources such as the internet to find out more, if needed.) This area was full of temples to various gods. It is the perfect backdrop for Jesus to ask his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

What do you think Jesus means by declaring to Peter, “on *this* rock I will build my church (v. 18)? [From verse 17, we can discern that it is the revelation of who Jesus is, “the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” That is the foundation of the church.] How is *this* transformative to Peter? To all disciples? [*We become part of the church family who are inviting others to live under this revelation of who Jesus is.*] How is declaring Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, not just something Christians do with their lips, but with their lives?

CLOSING PRAYER

Living God, we give you thanks that we are not alone. You are ever-present, and we live this life surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). Give us the faith to commit our time and talents to serving you within the church and to those who are looking to belong in the family of God. Energize us to live with all that we are and to live the faith we confess with our mouths. Amen.