

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, October 25, 2020

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God has called us to be people of love.

P: God didn't mean the "syrupy" stuff of movies and novels.

L: Truly loving can sometimes be difficult

P: Yet we are called to reach beyond the difficulty with compassion.

L: In all of this, God is with us, guiding and helping us.

P: Thanks be to God for God's faithful presence.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of light and hope, be with us this day as we have gathered to hear your word. Help us open our hearts to the commandments to love, even when loving is difficult. Give us the courage to be people who will commit their whole lives in your service. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Love God and Love Others

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

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

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:34-46, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

MESSAGE Committed to the Win-Win-Win

HYMN Great is Thy Faithfulness UMH 140

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next Week is All Saint's Communion Sunday and Communion Sunday. Have your bread or crackers and juice, wine or water ready.

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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

BIBLE STUDY: On These Two Commandments

Read Matthew 22:34-46

The Israelites believed the Law was a gift from God that provided guidance to them on being the unique people of God. Unfortunately, we tend to perceive laws as rules that bring punishment if broken or as rules meant to be broken. But as we see from the Old Testament, religious laws were designed as God's guidance for living a life pleasing to God. How does it change your perception of the law or commandments, if the word "instruction" is used instead?

What might the motive have been of the lawyer's question to Jesus (v. 36)? [*Curiosity, Entrapment, Mixture of both.*]

How do Jesus' instructions of loving God and loving neighbor provide a summary for how Christians should live?

What happens if one of these two instructions is left out as an instruction for living?

What are some specific ways you might grow in love for God? For family? For needy people? For neighbors? For yourself? How can this group help you grow in love?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, we continue to marvel at the depth of your love. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we clearly see that your love is committed, compassionate, sacrificial, and tangible. So, fill us with your love and grace, so that our actions and words will overflow with gentleness, compassion, and tangible expressions of love for others. Amen.