

Our History

“The congregation which worships in this edifice, was organized (in) 1830 and held their first meetings in a building on the Sankey farm near by.”

“Henry P. Sankey...studied a term at Williamsport Academy under the presidency of Dr. Bowman, now one of the Bishops of the M. E. church.”

[Source: 1894 Publication of History A Passing Glance at Penns Valley by Rev. Ralph Walshaw Illingworth, who was serving at the time of writing.]



It's interesting to know that several Sankeys were part of a class organized near Centre Hall in 1814 by Robert Pennington “The Father of Penn's Valley Methodism” and it is believed that Francis Asbury himself sent David Cooms, a circuit rider, to look up the Penningtons.

The first church was erected in 1842 on the tract of land deeded from James and Susan Potter and John and Amelia Potter to James Sankey, John Turner Sr., and Daniel Livingston, trustees. The Rev. Houghawont presided at the dedication. The old church was torn down in 1872 and the present structure was built at a cost of \$4,200.00.

In 1968 it was discovered that the foundation of the church was in poor condition and necessary repairs were made along with updates to the downstairs. Further renovations were made starting in 1979 to include water, remodeled kitchen and concreted floor, paneling, installation of the sound system, bathroom facilities, new ceiling tile, arch behind the altar. Rev. Jeff Mugridge dedicated the new steeple in the 2003. The most recent update includes the locally crafted stained-glass transom window above the entrance and a backlighted memorial stained-glass shadowbox in the sanctuary dedicated October 6, 2019.

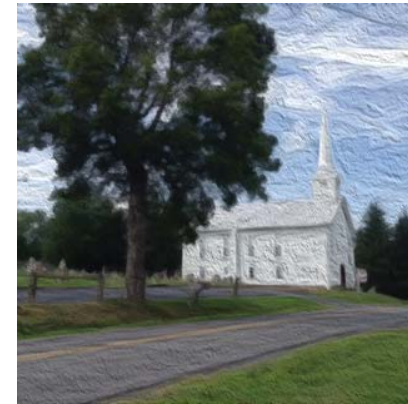
CCLI #1671542 Several elements of today's worship are from MinistryMatters.com, Sermons for Kids, FreeBibleImages.com, the United Methodist Book of Worship and A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Series.

Welcome to Sprucetown UMC's 190th Anniversary Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Message Series: Thriving

This Week: Building Faithfulness on the Way to the Promised Land
Good stewardship builds upon a mission that is clear and forward thinking.
Our guest panel will discuss the past, present, and future of the church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEEDED: A Lay Member and an Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference June 3-5, 2021 at Hershey Lodge. Costs covered by the charge. Lay Members to Annual Conference must be full, professing members of the church. See Pastor Theresa if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATES: Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 Pastor Theresa will lead the new Advent Study “Incarnation” by Adam Hamilton via Zoom starting at 7pm. See flyer or visit PennsValleyParish.info for details.

Our mission at Sprucetown is to be used by God to serve and strengthen others as we transform the world.

“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”
- Ephesians 4:11-12

Theresa M. Heiser, Pastor Organist: Janet Zerby
Guests: Rev. Brenda Leigey & Rev. Bruce Wallace
Special Music: Robert Steiger & Rev. Bruce Wallace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When the Lord calls us to the banquet, we get puffed up with importance.

P: Humility needs to be our attitude; humility and gratitude.

L: Help us, O Lord, be grateful for the many ways in which you love us.

P: Help us return that love by the way in which we care for others.

L: Be with us, O Lord, this day.

P: Open our hearts to hear your words of hope and encouragement.

OPENING PRAYER

Open our hearts and our spirits to hear your healing words of peace and love, O God. Help us be the people of service and justice that you have called us to be. Make us ready to heal rather than harm; to serve rather than sever. Give us hearts of joy and justice, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE The Golden Calf

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Doxology: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye Heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

† The Prayer of Dedication

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord's Prayer "*trespass*")

SPECIAL MUSIC from Robert Steiger

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

MESSAGE Building Faithfulness on the Way to the Promised Land
– A Panel Discussion with District Superintendent Rev. Brenda Leigey,
Assisting Elder Rev. Bruce Wallace

SPECIAL MUSIC from Rev. Bruce Wallace

COMMISSION & BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION Sent Forth By God's Blessing UMH 664

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

CCLI #1671542

Next week: God's Imprint on Our Lives

Today's service will be available online at PennsValleParish.info later today.