

Order of Worship for Sunday, May 8, 2022 – Live No Lies Series – Happy Mother’s Day!

Sermon By Phone: 814-422-6238 Website: PennsValleyParish.info

For the transformation of the world, we make disciples. We study God’s Word and offer praise and worship, strengthening each other for outreach beyond the church walls.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS The resurrected Christ is our one true shepherd – the good shepherd spoken of by the psalmist, who leads God’s flock through fear and trials to rest beside still waters.

† SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come! Let us worship and praise God.

P: The Lord is our shepherd, our guardian and our guide.

L: Celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

P: Green pastures and silent still waters beckon us and comfort us.

L: Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.

P: Even when it seems that the world has nothing to offer but suffering and pain, God surrounds us with God’s love and bounty.

L: Surely God’s mercy accompanies us on our journey.

P: And we will dwell in God’s house forever.

† OPENING PRAYER

With joy we come this day to the house of the Lord. God provides for us abundantly even when we doubt and fear, even when we turn away. God is faithful. Open our hearts today, O Lord, to hear your word for us that we may become faithful disciples of our Lord all our days. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN Close to Thee UMH #407

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Guaranteed Forever John 10:22-30

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord’s Prayer “trespass”)

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Acts 9:36-43 // Galatians 5:13-25

MESSAGE The Slavery of Freedom

† CLOSING HYMN Open My Eyes, That I May See UMH #454

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 10th the Historic Paradise Church Cemetery Association will meet at 6:30pm at the cemetery site, weather permitting.
- St. James' Spring Clean Up day is May 14th starting at 8am. Refreshments and coffee provided!
- May 15th is District training day with programs for laity, church teams/committees and clergy at Grace UMC, 101 Logan Street in Lewistown 2-6pm. The deadline to register is Monday, May 9th. Details and registration are available online at PennsValleyParish.info

Choose one of the following:

- "STRIDE" - KEN WILLARD This seminar will equip you and your team to create a discipleship process for your ministry.
- THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE SMALL CHURCH Grounded in Scripture and gathering our best memories, experiences, and knowledge we will seek the next faithful steps for awakening our small churches.
- "THE FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS" We will learn that five practices are part of the core process by which God uses congregations to make disciples. People of all ages hunger for congregations that embrace these qualities.
- May 16th is Trinity's Trustees and Ad Board Meeting starting at 7pm. All are welcome.
- May 19th all Ladies are invited to Ladies Coffee and Conversation 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn.
- May 21st the Susquehanna Conference Annual Conference Laity and Clergy Sessions will be held online starting at 9am and will be available to view at susumc.org
- May 22nd PV Cluster Pulpit Swap brings Pastor Deb Dailey from Grace UMC, Centre Hall to our pulpit.
- May 22nd the Penns Valley High School Baccalaureate Service begins at 7:30pm in the Auditorium
- Susquehanna Annual Conference at Hershey Lodge June 1-3, watch at susumc.org
Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

CCLI #11541746 Several elements of today's worship are from Ministry Matters, Feasting on the Word, the United Methodist Book of Worship and The Abingdon Worship Annual. Our series is based on "Live No Lies" by John Mark Comer Waterbook Publishing

THE KEYS TO LIVE NO LIES: Week 2 - The Flesh

Definitions:

The flesh – our base, primal, animalistic drives for self-gratification, especially as pertains to sensuality and survival

The Spirit – God’s empowering presence in us

Freedom in modern Western use – the permission to do whatever we want

Freedom in the New Testament – the power to want and do what is good

Love in modern Western use – desire; often sexual desire

Love in the New Testament – the compassionate commitment of the heart to delight in the soul of another and to will that person’s good ahead of your own, no matter the cost to yourself

The law of returns – every action has a reaction, and those reactions are often disproportionate to the action.

Key texts to meditate on: Galatians 5-6; Romans 8:1-13; and 1 Peter 2:9-22

Working theory of the devil’s strategy: deceitful ideas that play to disordered desires that are normalized in a sinful society.

Working theory of the law of returns applied to spiritual formation: Sow a thought, reap an action; sow action, reap another action; sow some actions, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny, either in slavery to the flesh or freedom in the Spirit.

Working theory of how we fight the flesh: We feed our spirits and starve our flesh by practicing habits laid down by Jesus, specifically fasting and confession of sin. As we do this over time, we not only grow our own willpower muscles but, more importantly, we open our minds and bodies to a power that is beyond us – that of God’s Spirit.

Key practices to overcome the devil: fasting and confession

Summary: The devil’s deceitful ideas are not random; they appeal to our disordered desires, or what the New Testament writers call the flesh. The flesh is our animal side, the primal, instinctual drives of self-gratification and self-preservation. The solution is not to white-knuckle our way through but to live by the Spirit via practices that enable us to draw on the power of God to live in freedom.