

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 10, 2023

The Journey Begins – How Do You Fight like a Christian?

Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)

For the transformation of the world, we study God's Word in context to be equipped to live Jesus' Way.

CENTERING WORDS People may not like us for being honest, but it truly is the Scriptural pathway of love. Jesus gave us a plan for settling conflict in the church.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Pilgrims on the way, when we feel lost and ask for a sign to show us the way out of our confusion,

**P: We remember that when we gather to worship, we find God in our midst.**

L: When we face obstacles and barriers that keep us from the life God has called us to,

**P: We remember that God is always at work among us, protecting and tending our well-being.**

L: When we cannot find our way out of conflict and discord,

**P: We remember that God calls and equips us for the work of reconciliation.**

L: When we struggle to pay attention to how God is at work all around us,

**P: We remember God's call to sit, eat, and tell one another the stories of God's faithfulness.**

L: Pilgrims on the way, when we watch for signs of God among us,

**P: Let us remember that we too are signs of God's presence for others!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of war. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**AMEN.**

† OPENING HYMN We Gather Together UMH #131

† 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.***

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

HYMN God Is Here UMH #660

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Exodus 12:1-14 // Romans 13:8-14 // Matthew 18:15-20

MESSAGE How Do You Fight like a Christian?

† CLOSING HYMN O Church of God, United UMH #547

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)

September 18 – Trinity Trustees and Ad Board meet at 7pm.

September 19 – Historic Paradise Church Cemetery Assn meets at 7pm at St. James in Coburn

September 20 – Veggie chopping 1:30pm at St. James UMC for Homecoming Parade soup

September 20 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter PV Charge Staff Parish Relations Committee meets 7pm at St. James

September 21 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James in Coburn at 9:30am.

September 21 – Soup making at Old Gregg School, Homecoming parade at the Grange Fairgrounds.

Contact Paula Smith 814-880-6023 to volunteer.

September 24 – Fall Hayride and Picnic at Trinity UMC, Woodward. Hayride begins at 3pm and the picnic will follow. Bring a covered dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. All are welcome!

September 27 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC, Coburn. Contact Paula Smith 814-880-6023.

September 28 – “The Secret Power of Kindness” book study via Zoom 7-8:30pm. Sign up at [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)!

September 30 – Paradise Cemetery Work Day – Volunteers welcome, starting at 8:30am.

October 18 – Our Charge Conference is 7pm at Sprucetown UMC. Members, please attend.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

Pastor: Theresa M. Heiser; [theiser@susumc.org](mailto:theiser@susumc.org); 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

District Superintendent: Rev. Brenda Leigey District Website: [statecollege.susumc.org](http://statecollege.susumc.org)

Bishops: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball Conf. Website: [susumc.org](http://susumc.org)

The Penns Valley Charge is part of the Penns Valley Cluster; State College District; Susquehanna Annual Conference; Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church

CCLI #1671542 Elements of worship are from Ministry Matters, A Preacher's Guide Lectionary Sermon Series Thematic Plans for Years A B and C, Feasting on the Word, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023.