

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 17, 2023
Week 1 - "Give an Answer": How to Forgive like a Christian & Why
Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: PennsValleyParish.info
For the transformation of the world, we study God's Word in context to be equipped to live Jesus' Way.

CENTERING WORDS Apologetics is worshipping God with our minds as we defend the Christian faith with logic and evidence that may remove barriers to belief.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP *written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023*

L: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

P: How many times should I forgive?

L: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

P: How many times should I forgive?

L: Until God turns the question around: "How many times have I forgiven you?"

P: Seventy times seven.

L: "How many times have I loved you?"

P: Seventy times seven.

L: "How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?"

P: Seventy times seven. Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God's, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER *adapted from a prayer written by Dr. Lisa Hancock*

Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive, and we struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen. We rush ourselves to excuse the harmful speech and actions of others as a way of suppressing instead of honestly naming the hurt we have experienced. We expect others to pardon our faults without also attending to our own need to repent. We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift we give to one another and that we receive from you. We wield forgiveness as a weapon instead of a bridge that brings us back together. Free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, set and respect boundaries, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

† OPENING HYMN Freely, Freely UMH #389

† 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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms UMH #133

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Romans 14:1-12 // Matthew 18:21-35 // 1 Peter 3:13-22

MESSAGE Give an Answer: How to Forgive like a Christian, and Why

† CLOSING HYMN Just as I Am, Without One Plea UMH #357

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on 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 – 3rd Quarter PV Charge Staff Parish Relations Committee meets 7pm at St. James

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

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!

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.

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.