

Order of Worship for Sunday, October 15, 2023 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
“Give An Answer”: I go to church, so I’ll get into heaven, right?  
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 Unity in Christ is at the heart of the church’s existence. If we are to follow Christ, we’ve got to find a way to follow him together.

#### 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.**

† OPENING HYMN Sweet Hour of Prayer UMH #496

##### † 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 It’s Me, It’s Me, O Lord UMH #352

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Exodus 32:1-14 // Philippians 4:1-9 // Matthew 22:1-14

MESSAGE I go to church, so I'll get into heaven, right?

† CLOSING HYMN Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound UMH #378

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

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

Harvest Home Food Drive – Bring non-perishable food items to benefit the local food pantry through November 19<sup>th</sup>!

**October 18 – Our Charge Conference is 7pm at Sprucetown UMC.** Open to all who attend the church. Full members have voice by vote.

October 19 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James in Coburn at 9:30am. All ladies welcome.

October 19, 26 – “The Secret Power of Kindness” Zoom book study 7pm. Details on our website.

October 22 – Sprucetown Church Homecoming and Luncheon, worship 11am, lunch following. Guest speaker is Georgene Searfoss, Robert Steiger’s family historic documents will be on exhibit. A new history of Sprucetown compilation will be available.

October 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting 7pm at Trinity Woodward

November 1 – St. James Trustees meet at 6:30pm, Administrative Board at 7pm

November 2, 16 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation at St. James in Coburn at 9:30am. All ladies welcome.

November 4 – Fall Bazaar at Sprucetown UMC 9am-2pm, gently used items, crafts and more.

Homemade soup and baked goods will be available. Great items for Thanksgiving and Christmas!

November 5 – Fall Back! Turn your clocks back at 2am so you get that extra hour of sleep! 😊 It is All Saint’s Sunday when we honor all the new saints who have joined the Church Eternal in the last year, as well as all who have gone before.

November 12 – Monthly potluck lunch following worship at Sprucetown UMC

November 19 – Harvest Home Sunday when we bless the food pantry donations.

November 19 – Penns Valley Community Thanksgiving Service at 6pm hosted by Faith Alive

Fellowship on Rt 45 near the high school. Anyone willing to sing in the volunteer choir should show up to rehearse at 5pm.

November 20 – Trinity Woodward Trustees and Ad Board meets at 7pm.

November 29 – Soup Kitchen at St. James. Contact Paula Smith for details.

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.