

Order of Worship for Sunday, December 31, 2023 1st Sunday After Christmas
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 When Jesus was born at Bethlehem, God enabled humanity to begin anew. When Christ comes into a human life, at any time of the year, that's a fresh start, too.

SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

P: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.

L: The darkness that enveloped the people,

P: Has been pierced by the Light.

L: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

P: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving. AMEN.

† OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son
Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us
this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us
to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

† OPENING HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful UMH #234

† 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 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice UMH #224

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40 // Isaiah 61:10-62:3

MESSAGE Going Home

† CLOSING HYMN There's a Song in the Air UMH #241

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

January 3 – 1st Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am at Sprucetown UMC. All are welcome!

January 3 – St. James Trustees meeting 6:30pm, Ad Council meets at 7pm. All are welcome.

January 4 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation hosted by St. James UMC, Coburn 9:30am.

January 14 – Sprucetown UMC Potluck Lunch following 11am worship. Ad Council meets after lunch. All are welcome.

January 15 – Trinity Trustees and Ad Board meet 7pm. All are welcome.

January 17 – 3rd Wednesday Bible Study 10-11:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn. All are welcome!

January 17 – Organizational meeting of the Charge Staff Parish Relations Committee 7pm at St. James UMC.

January 18 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation hosted by St. James UMC, Coburn 9:30am.

January 31 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC, Coburn

IMPORTANT DATES:

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024

Easter Sunday is March 31, 2024

Gideon's Guest Speaker Sunday is April 21, 2024

2024 General Conference of the United Methodist Church is April 23-May 3, 2024

2024 Susquehanna Annual Conference is May 30-June 1, 2024

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

Pastor: Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall PA 16828

District Superintendent: Rev. Brenda Leigey District Website: statecollege.susumc.org

Bishops: Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball Conf. Website: 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.