

Order of Worship Sunday, June 1, 2025 7th Sunday of Easter, Year C, Ascension Sunday  
Hear Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: [PennsValleyParish.info](http://PennsValleyParish.info)  
† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see this symbol.

CENTERING WORDS Sometimes those who seem free are truly enslaved, and those who seem to be in chains are truly liberated.

† SERVICE OF THE ACOLYTE (The Sanctuary Song, twice) *Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true, with thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Today is Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

**P: We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!**

L: But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.

**P: Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.**

L: Let's get to work!

**P: Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!**

L: Amen

**P: AMEN!**

† OPENING PRAYER

**God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. AMEN.**

† OPENING HYMN Leaning On the Everlasting Arms #133

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 - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST – St. James UMC & Sprucetown UMC

HYMN OF PREPARATION Spirit Song UMH #347

SELECTED SCRIPTURE John 17:20-26 // Acts 16:16-34

MESSAGE The Tug of Glory, the Touch of Grace

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE UMH p. 12

- Confession and Pardon - The Great Thanksgiving - Giving of the Bread and Cup

† CLOSING HYMN Blest Be the Tie that Binds UMH #557

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PARTING THOUGHT: Where in your life is God inviting you to sing at midnight and to show His glory not in escape, but in endurance?

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

- Support our graduates tonight at the Baccalaureate Service 7:30pm at PVHS.
- Thursday morning – Ladies Coffee & Conversation, 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn. All ladies welcome.
- You are invited to a **Retirement celebration for our District Superintendent Rev. Brenda Leigey** next Sunday, June 8th with worship at 3 p.m. and fellowship from 4 – 6 p.m, hosted at Mount Nittany UMC 1500 East Branch Road, State College.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Coffee and Conversation, 9:30am at St. James UMC. All ladies welcome!
- June 25 – Soup Kitchen at St. James UMC. Contact Paula Smith for more information.
- July 2 – St. James Trustees meeting at 6:30pm, administrative board at 7pm. If you are not able to be at the meeting, please let Paula Smith know in advance. Thank you.
- **The Penns Valley Charge and Community Worship & Picnic** is hosted by St. James this year and will be held July 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30am at Coburn Park pavilion. Enjoy special music from the Penns Valley Men's Chorus, a butterfly release, and potluck picnic following. The church facilities will be open for restroom use in addition to the porta-potty on site. Power is available at the pavilion for crockpots. Meet our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Michelle Bodle (pronounced BOH-dull). Bring a lawn chair for worship. Picnic tables available. In the event of poor weather, we will move the event inside the church and dine in the fellowship hall. The picnic takes the place of all regularly scheduled services this day.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Fall Hayride & Picnic at Trinity UMC, Woodward – Sept. 28, 3pm**

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

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 2024.