

Order of Worship Sunday, Sunday, August 31, 2025 Equipped to Follow: Jesus' Way of Discipleship

Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: PennsValleyParish.info

For the transformation of the world, we make disciples. We study God's Word and offer praise and worship to strengthen each other for mission field beyond the church walls.

† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see this symbol.

CENTERING WORDS Can I encourage the world to be more loving if I refuse to be loving first?

† 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: God didn't wait for us to be perfect.

**P: He loved us while we were still broken.**

L: Christ didn't delay his compassion.

**P: He stepped in when we were helpless.**

L: The Holy Spirit moves before we even recognize the need.

**All: Come, let us worship the God who loves first, and calls us to do the same.**

† OPENING PRAYER

**God of mercy and grace, You loved us before we ever turned to You. You acted before we knew we needed You. As we gather in worship today, stir in us the courage to love others first. To serve with no promise of return, to extend grace even to those who may never understand it. Shape us in the image of Christ, whose love went ahead of us all. AMEN.**

† OPENING HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling UMH #384

† 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 – "trespasses")

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN OF PREPARATION Help Us Accept Each Other UMH #560

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 10:17-19 // Luke 10:25-37 // Romans 5:8

MESSAGE Modeling the Life: Love Goes First

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH UMH #885

† CLOSING HYMN Freely, Freely UMH #389

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PARTING THOUGHT: Someone has to go first. Let it be you. That's the way of Jesus. That's the way of the cross. That's the way the world changes.

Key Memory Verses:

- Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- Luke 10:36-37 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"  
And he said, "The one who showed compassion to him."  
Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

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

September 2 – Sprucetown Ad Board and Trustees Meeting 7pm. All are welcome.

September 3 – St. James Trustees meet 6:30pm, Ad Board at 7pm. All are welcome.

September 4 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation 9:30am at St. James UMC, Coburn.

September 28 - Fall Hayride & Picnic at Trinity UMC, Woodward 3pm [Rain date Oct. 5]

October 26 - Trust Based Relational Intervention, TBRI, training is specifically designed for Ministry Leaders & Volunteers to better understand children and teens of trauma and will equip attendees with practical tools to support vulnerable children. Lunch at 12:30pm followed by training until 4pm at Calvary - Harvest Fields 150 Harvest Fields Drive; Boalsburg. RSVP by October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact [hillary@keyfam.org](mailto:hillary@keyfam.org) with questions or to reserve your place.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

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District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Michelle Bodle District Website: [statecollege.susumc.org](http://statecollege.susumc.org)

Susquehanna Conference Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez Conference Website: [susumc.org](http://susumc.org)

The Penns Valley Charge is part of the Penns Valley Cluster; Mountain Valley 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 2025.