

Sunday, September 21, 2025 Series - When Anger Burns: From Self-Righteous Fire to Holy Flame
Pastor's Sermon by Phone 24/7 at 814-422-6238 - Website: PennsValleyParish.info
† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see this symbol.

*Hebrews 12:14-15 But if you bite and devour one another,
take care that you are not consumed by one another.*

CENTERING WORDS Like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die, self-righteous anger destroys us, not them.

† 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: Come, people of God, to the fountain of mercy.

P: We bring our burdens, our wounds, and our bitterness.

L: Lay them down before the Lord, who heals and restores.

P: We come to drink deeply of grace, and to be made whole.

† OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, too often we hold on to anger as if it were a treasure, when it is only poison to our souls. Cleanse us by Your Spirit. Heal our broken places. Plant in us forgiveness and peace, so that no root of bitterness may grow. Through Christ our Redeemer, Amen.

† OPENING HYMN Near to the Heart of God UMH #472

† 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”)

HYMN OF PREPARATION Glory Be to the Father UMH #70
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Galatians 5:19-21 // Jonah 4:1-11 // Hebrews 12:14-17

MESSAGE When Anger Poisons the Soul – Turning Rage into Righteousness

† CLOSING HYMN Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive UMH #390

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

PARTING THOUGHT: Like Jonah, it's possible to be more concerned with "being right" than being helpful. What bitterness are you carrying that God is asking you to release?

Key Memory Verse:

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled." — Hebrews 12:15 (NASB)

How do we move from poisonous anger to holy flame?

Acknowledge the anger. Jonah denied the mercy of God by justifying his rage. We must confess it before God instead.

Release it at the cross. Only by the grace of Jesus can anger be transformed. He bore not only our sins, but also our bitterness.

Replace poison with peace. Hebrews tells us to "pursue peace with all men" (12:14). When we release bitterness, God plants forgiveness and joy in its place.

Examine daily. Like Wesley taught, ask God each day: "*Is there a root of bitterness growing in me? Am I clinging to poison?*"

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

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

October 2 – Ladies Coffee and Conversation at St. James UMC, Coburn 9:30am. All welcome!

October 7 – Sprucetown UMC Ad Board and Trustees Meeting 7pm

October 26 – Sprucetown UMC Homecoming Service featuring guest speaker and friend of the church Rev. Kraig Faust. All are welcome at the celebration and lunch following the service. This will be our first lunch of the season!

November 2 – Our Church Conference, 6pm at Grace UMC, Centre Hall. Full members of the church are encouraged to attend to holy conferencing for our church. Questions? Contact Pastor Theresa.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

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The Penns Valley Charge is part of the Penns Valley Cluster; Mountain Valley District;

Susquehanna Annual Conference; Northeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church