

Order of Worship for July 26, 2026 - Weaponizing the Fruit: Faithfulness

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we seek to grow in faith, love boldly, and make disciples by continually asking:

How am I loving God? How am I loving the people God puts in front of me?

How am I inviting others to embrace the hope of Christ in their lives?

† - Please rise in body or spirit where you see the cross

CENTERING WORDS "What is the difference between loyalty and faithfulness?" Many people have never considered there is one.

† 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: We gather because God has been faithful through every generation.

P: Great is God's faithfulness! God's mercy is new every morning.

L: When we have wandered, God has remained steadfast.

P: When we have doubted, God has remained true.

L: God calls us not merely to admire faithfulness, but to live it.

P: We come to worship the One who is forever faithful, that we may become a faithful people.

† OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, Before we ever learned to trust You, You were trustworthy. Before we ever loved You, You loved us. When we have stumbled, You have not abandoned us. When we have doubted, Your promises have remained sure. As we gather today, quiet every competing voice that calls for our ultimate loyalty. Open our ears to hear Your Word, soften our hearts to receive Your truth, and strengthen our spirits to follow wherever Christ leads. For You alone are worthy of our highest devotion. In Christ's holy name we pray. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing UMH #400

† 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 OF THE PEACE [St. James UMC and Sprucetown UMC]

HYMN OF PREPARATION Take My Life, and Let It Be UMH #399

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Joshua 24:14-24 // 2 Timothy 2:11-13 // Matthew 21:28-32

MESSAGE Faithfulness Begins with God

† CLOSING HYMN Great is Thy Faithfulness UMH #140

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

*Reflection: When we anchor ourselves in God's unwavering faithfulness,
we are freed from giving our ultimate allegiance to anything less than Christ.*

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

- August 6 & 20 – Ladies Coffee & Conversation, all ladies in the valley are invited to get together at St. James UMC in Coburn the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:30am conversation and refreshments.

- August 9 – Rev. Dr. Michael Stine leads worship. Pastor Theresa is on vacation.

- September 1 – Sprucetown UMC Administrative Board and Trustees Meeting 7pm, all are invited to assist with the business of the church.

- September 2 – St. James UMC's Trustees meet at 6:30pm and Administrative Board at 7pm. All are invited to assist with the business of the church.

- September 3 & 17 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation, all ladies in the valley are invited to get together at St. James UMC in Coburn the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:30am conversation and refreshments.

- September 21-23 – Pastor Theresa will be on spiritual retreat with limited email and phone. Please know that she will return calls and emails as soon as she can.

- September 30 – CHANGE: The 3rd Quarter Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting is moved to Wednesday, September 30th 7pm at Trinity Woodward UMC.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Church Conference is Nov. 7, 1pm at Sprucetown UMC. Members of the church are encouraged to attend to be well informed and to vote on officers and more for 2027.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

Pastor: Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org Our Church Website: PennsValleyParish.info

Conference Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Michelle Bodle District Website: statecollege.susumc.org

Susquehanna Conf. Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez Annual Conference Website: susumc.org

Northeastern Jurisdiction Website: nejumc.org UMC Website: umc.org

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 2026.