



St. James UMC, Coburn Trinity UMC, Woodward Newsletter

August/September
2026 Edition

August 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

St. James Soup Kitchen will not meet in August.



Step Into Leadership in 2027 – Your Church Needs You!

As we prepare for the 2027 calendar year, we're excited to invite YOU to consider serving in a **leadership role** within our churches. This is your chance to make a meaningful impact, help shape our shared ministry, and bring your gifts forward in a way that strengthens our entire community.

Church leadership isn't just a responsibility – it's a **joyful opportunity** to grow, connect, and serve alongside others who care deeply about our mission. If you've ever felt a nudge to get more involved, this is the moment to say yes.

August Birthdays:

7th Thomas Huey
20th Jerelene Reish

Curious about what roles are available? Reach out to **Pastor Theresa Heiser** (theiser@susumc.org or 814-883-9510) with any questions about **open positions** or how your talents might fit.

Let's step boldly into 2027 together!

OUR CHURCHES ARE CURRENTLY COLLECTING:

- The East Penns Valley Food Bank item of the month changes every month. Watch the weekly bulletins for updates.
- We are a collection partner for Angel Packs items for victims of human trafficking. The list of items needed is available by clicking [here](#) OR near the collection bin. Thank you for supporting FierceLove4Good!



AUGUST CALENDAR:

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 for conversation and refreshments.

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

August 21 to 29: Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair

Most current calendar available at www.PennsValleyParish.info



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Penns Valley Home Coming Parade The homecoming parade will be held on **Sept. 17th** at the Grange Fair Grounds. St. James will be making and selling chicken corn soup for this event. Veggie chopping party will be held on **Sept. 16th** at St. James-Coburn, starting at 6pm. Help will be needed on **Sept. 17th** to make the soup at the Spring Mills Fire Hall (note new location) AND before and during the parade to sell the soup. For additional details, see the weekly bulletin announcements or contact Colleen Snook (814-933-8818) or Kathy Highbaugh (814-574-0907).

Ladies Coffee & Conversation will be canceled on September 17th due to the Penns Valley Homecoming Parade Soup Sale. Thank you for your understanding and support of this community event!

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course has been rescheduled for **September 18 & 19, 2026**. Consider taking this course to learn more about the church, our Methodist tradition and how church life is ordered. You will find registration information on our website and details on a flyer on the bulletin board. Anyone attending a Methodist Church is invited to take the course.

Woodward Fall Hayride & Picnic: This event will be held Sunday, **September 27th** starting with the hayride through the countryside at 3pm followed by a meal at 5pm. Hot dogs will be provided. Bring a covered dish to share. All are welcome and we encourage the community to come out and enjoy the hayride, playground and picnic pavilion with us! Bring a lawn chair for comfy seating. Plenty of picnic tables for dining and lots of power for crock pots. Rain date for this event is October 4th.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

Sept. 2: St. James Trustees meeting at 6:30pm, Admin. Board meeting at 7pm.

Sept. 3: Ladies Coffee & Conversation, 9:30am at St. James, Coburn

Sept. 5: Crickfest at Coburn Park, 10am-4pm.

Sept. 16: Veggie chopping party for soup sale at St. James, 6pm.

Sept. 17: PV Homecoming Parade/St. James Soup Sale

Help needed to make & sell soup!

Sept. 22: Historic Paradise Church Cemetery Assoc. Mtg, 7pm @ St. James

Sept. 27: Fall Hayride at Trinity Woodward, Hayride at 3pm, followed by covered dish meal at approx. 5pm.

Sept. 28: Trinity Trustees and Admin. Board meeting, 7pm.

Sept. 30: 3rd Qtr. Penns Valley Charge SPRC meeting at Woodward, 7pm.

Most current calendar available at www.PennsValleyParish.info



September Birthdays:

8th Jon Foltz

9th Pastor Theresa
Heiser

18th Delores Rishel





Remember our Shut-ins with cards and prayers

Kay Boob

909 Pine Creek Road
Woodward PA 16882

Betty Creeger

Valley View Retirement Community
Memory Care Unit
4702 E. Main Street
Belleville PA 17004

Regina Fisher

6306 Highway 84
Bismarck AR. 71929
Phone #501-865-3851

Gretchen Hosterman

301 Rolling Ridge Drive, Apt. 415
State College PA 16801
Phone #814-954-4143

Delores Rishel

386 Old Mountain Road
PO Box 76
Coburn PA 16832
Phone #814-349-8389

Connie & Warren Sasserman

647A Lingle Valley Road
Spring Mills PA 16875



Labor Day offers an opportunity to thank God for the gift of meaningful work and for the talents and abilities He has entrusted to each of us. Whether our work is done in an office, a classroom, a field, a factory, or in the home, Scripture reminds us that all honest labor can be offered to God as an act of service. As we celebrate this holiday, we can pause to give thanks for those whose daily efforts strengthen our families, communities, and nation.

Labor Day also calls us to remember the Christian values of dignity, justice, and compassion in the workplace. We pray for those seeking employment, for those working under difficult conditions, and for employers and leaders to make decisions guided by fairness and respect for every person. May God bless the work of our hands, grant us times of rest and renewal, and inspire us to serve others with faith, integrity, and love.



Our Church Conference is scheduled for Saturday, **Nov. 7th, 1pm**, at Sprucetown UMC, Spring Mills, PA. Full members of the church, please attend to voice your vote on our conference reports.

From the Pastor's Desk: From Summer Fruit to Firm Foundation

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." - Philippians 4:8 NASB 1995

As summer draws to a close, I've found myself reflecting on who we are becoming. We're spending time exploring the Fruit of the Spirit through our series "Weaponizing the Fruit." Each fruit can be misunderstood or even counterfeited. Yet Scripture reminds us that the fruit of the Spirit is not something we manufacture through greater effort. It grows as we remain connected to Christ. The more His life shapes ours, the more His character becomes visible in us.

That naturally brings us to where we're headed this fall. Beginning in September, we'll share a new series called "What Jesus Wanted to Change First: Rethink Everything" based on Philippians 4:4-9, where the Apostle Paul shows us that the Christian life is deeply connected to the way we think. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly invites His people to renew their minds, replace fear with trust, bitterness with gratitude, anxiety with prayer, and lies with truth.

Jesus did not simply come to improve our behavior. He came to transform our hearts and renew our minds. When our thinking changes, our actions begin to as well. When our actions change, our habits change. Over time, our character begins to reflect the character of Christ. In many ways, this new series asks the question beneath every other question: *What would happen if we allowed Jesus to reshape the way we think before we asked Him merely to change what we do?*

My hope is that these weeks together will be practical, encouraging, and deeply rooted in God's Word. It will be an excellent time to invite a friend or family member to church as we explore not only what Scripture teaches but also everyday ways to recognize unhealthy thought patterns, respond to conflict with wisdom, find peace in anxious moments, and cultivate minds that are fixed on Christ. The conversations it may spark could be life giving for you as well as them.

Whether one has been walking with Jesus for many years or are just beginning to explore faith, I believe this journey will offer tools all can carry into everyday life. That is what makes it a great time for guests.

Thank you for growing alongside one another this summer. It is a privilege to open God's Word together each week, and I look forward to discovering what He will continue to teach us in the months ahead.

Lord Jesus, thank You for patiently shaping us into Your likeness. Continue the work You have begun within us. Renew our minds, soften our hearts, and help us see the world through Your eyes. May our thoughts, our words, and our lives increasingly reflect Your truth and Your love, so that others may see You in us. Amen.

With hands to the plow,

Pastor Theresa