

Order of Worship for August 30, 2026 14th Sunday After Pentecost

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 God still speaks in unexpected places and through lives set ablaze by grace. May God give us eyes to notice, ears to hear, and hearts willing to turn aside and discover what God would show us today.

† 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: Moses turned aside when he saw something he could not explain.

P: God, give us eyes to notice where you are at work.

L: Jesus calls us beyond the ways of the world into the ways of God.

P: Teach us to hold fast to what is good.

L: When the world expects anger, retaliation, and division—

P: Teach us to answer with grace, courage, and love.

L: May our lives point beyond ourselves to Christ.

P: Set our hearts on fire with your love. We are ready to worship!

† OPENING PRAYER

God of holy fire, you called Moses to turn aside and look, you challenged Peter to see beyond human expectations, and you call us to live differently because we belong to Christ. Turn our attention toward you this morning. Quiet the noise that distracts us and soften whatever has hardened within us. Teach us to recognize evil without becoming like it, to hold fast to what is good, and to respond to the people before us with courage, grace, and love. May what you kindle within us here become visible in the way we live when we leave. Make our lives faithful witnesses that point others toward Jesus. In his name we pray. AMEN.

† OPENING HYMN Be Thou My Vision UMH #451

† 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]

HYMN OF PREPARATION Wonderful Words of Life UMH #600 v. 1 only

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:1-15 // Romans 12:9-21 // Matthew 16:21-28

MESSAGE Becoming the Burning Bush

† CLOSING HYMN Pass It On UMH #572

† COMMISSION & BLESSING

Reflection: Would the way I choose to respond this week make someone curious about Jesus?

PENNS VALLEY CHARGE ANNOUNCEMENTS – Calendar also on PennsValleyParish.info

* To help us update our church directory, please fill out a "connection card" found in the pew racks with your current information and place it into the offering plate before you leave.

* Consider deepening your understanding and appreciation for our Methodist faith by taking the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course. Read the preparatory booklet and join us Sept. 18 & 19 here at Sprucetown Church. Details available on the bulletin board flyer or ask Pastor Theresa.

Registration is due NEXT SUNDAY.

- 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 - Ladies Coffee & Conversation at 9:30am for conversation and refreshments.

- September 17 – Penns Valley's Homecoming Parade at the Grange Fairgrounds and the Chicken Corn Soup with Rivals sale near the grandstand. Ask the pastor how you can help.

- September 23 – The 3rd Quarter Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 23rd 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.