

OUR CHURCH FAMILY AT WORSHIP

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

11:00 A.M.

TIME OF GATHERING: Read through Announcements, Pray over Concerns, Meditate on Celebrations and the wonder and grace of God, and Thanksgiving to God....

Please sign the red pads and pass it onto the next person in your pew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Hanover"

Charles Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We gather as a community, looking for the leading of the Spirit.

People: We gather to celebrate who God is and all He has done for us.

Liturgist: We gather to remember that love is always more powerful than death.

People: We gather, trusting that peace will always be stronger than violence.

Liturgist: We gather as people of faith, living as God's light in the world

People: For we know that darkness cannot extinguish the light.

All: Welcome to worship.

*HYMN

O Worship the King

No. 73

OPENING PRAYER (seated)

Unison: **In times of fear and anxiety, we look to you, Holy Spirit, to commune with us. We ask you to convict us, equip us, strengthen us, and encourage us. Help us to become your church, holy and complete. We confess that we have pushed you aside, squelching your work within us because we are afraid of what a spirit-driven life will mean. We ask, Holy Spirit, that your power would be made known in your church and in your people. We pray that you would build the beloved community of God here in our midst. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Faith of Our Fathers
Nolan Fugate, piano solo

adapted by James G. Walton

GOSPEL LESSON

Acts: 2:42-47

Liturgist: The Word of God for God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*SUNG RESPONSE

See Ye First (verse 1)

No. 405

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH of the United Church of Canada

No. 883

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:12-16

MESSAGE

"Because Life is Better Connected: Witness"

Rev. Lisa Flory

*HYMN

Lord, Speak to Me

No. 463

AN INVITATION TO PRAY

+Prayer of Confession

Unison: **God of community, we are called to live as your people, walking in authentic relationships with other believers, pointing to the truth of the Lord. Forgive us when our community is really a clique, when we exclude others who are different, and when we feel superior to others. We are sorry for those times when our life "in community" does not change us and our witness is compromised. Help us to listen to your spirit as He directs us to change from exclusive to inclusive and genuine fellowship. Amen.**

+Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

+Sung Response

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breath on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

If With All Your Hearts

Felix Mendelssohn

*Congregational Response

Tune: *Hendon*

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

*HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

No. 664

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Let us all, by God's grace, shine like stars in the universe as we hold out the word of life so others can know Him and be saved.

All: Amen.

***ORGAN RESPONSE**

Peaceful Benediction

J. S. Bach / arr. L. Smith

***POSTLUDE**

A Joyful Trumpet

Patricia Lou Harris

*All stand if possible +All kneel or sit to pray

We thank all those who helped with the service this morning.

Liturgist: Terry Woodnorth

Thank you Nolan Fugate for our special music this morning.

Special thanks to Kathleen Herb for serving as our guest organist today.

Mission Statement for the Church of the Good Shepherd

We are committed to:

- ▶ Connecting persons to Jesus Christ
- ▶ Connecting with broken and hurting people
- ▶ Challenging persons to grow and celebrate their relationship with Jesus Christ
- ▶ Equipping persons and partnering with them to serve in God-powered ministry

2023 Mission Support

International

Heifer Int., Congo Partners in Mission, Africa University

Lebanon County

COGS in Motion, Gretna Glen Support, Habitat for Humanity, Celebrate Recovery,

Iglesia Nuevo Nacimiento, Lebanon County Christian Ministries (LCCM),

Jubilee Ministries, Lebanon Rescue Mission, COGS Care and Compassion Fund.



Reverend Janet Sadel, Lead Pastor

jsadel@umcogs.org

Reverend Lisa Flory, Pastor

lflory@umcogs.org

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 
Celebration of Faith



Because Life is Better Connected: Witness

August 27, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 A.M.

1500 Quentin Road / Lebanon, PA 17042

church: 717-272-7741 / www.umcogs.org

Sermon Outline:

Because Life is Better Connected: Witness
Acts 2:42-47; Philippians 2:12-16
Reverend Lisa Flory

We read in the Book of Acts about how the Church lived following the coming of the Holy Spirit in power. We read about the activities that defined their life together: study, prayer, worship, breaking of bread, fellowship, giving and sharing resources. We read about the qualities of their community, how they experienced the power of God, and had glad and sincere hearts. (Acts 2:42-46)

This way of life was very different from the culture of the day, and many were attracted by what they saw- they wanted to be a part of it. We read that “ they “enjoyed the favor of all the people”, and that “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Our local congregation displays many of the qualities we read about in the book of Acts, and we are also attracting new people. Three of our own members have agreed to share with us this morning: Ron Gilliam, Janelle Worcester and Claire McCracken. Their stories will help illustrate how the “flow” of Christian life works- the flow of welcoming, connecting and sending- and how this looks right here in our midst!

It isn't always easy to live into the reality described in this passage. But when we do- when we live as disciples of Jesus Christ, in authentic community, our witness will be powerful to the world around us. Instead of focusing on the problems and distractions around us, we are called to focus on God and His Word- shining like stars in the universe!

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God, without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”

Philippians 2:14-15a

Calendar for Week of 8/27/2023

SUNDAY

8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]

9:45 - Backpack blessing [WC]

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]

11:00 - SS Festival

Youth Grades 6-12 please see Youth Page in the Announcements

MONDAY

10-12 - Staff Meeting

5:00 - CR Praise Team Rehearsal [WC]

6:30 - Church and Society [youth room]

7:00 - Staff Parish Relations [lounge]

TUESDAY

6:30 - Community Group Huddle [Lounge]

7:00 - Finance Committee [Hall]

WEDNESDAY

5:00 - Celebrate Recovery

THURSDAY

9:00-4:00 - Pastoral Interviews [Lounge]

5:00 - Contemporary Design Team

5:30 - Traditional Design Team

FRIDAY September 1

SATURDAY

9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

SUNDAY

8:30 / 9:45 - Contemporary [Worship Center]

9:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Worship [Sanctuary]

11:00 - Parenting SS Class [Lounge]

Youth Grades 6-12 please see Youth Page in the Announcements

