



OPENING WORSHIP SONG.....*"Here I Am to Worship"*
WELCOME & INVOCATION.....*Gordy Locke*
PRELUDE.....*"This Is Amazing Grace"*
PRAISE & WORSHIP.....*"This Is Amazing Grace"*
"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"
PRAYER.....*Sue Fuller*
SCRIPTURE (1 Corinthians 1:18-31).....*Gordy Locke*
KID'S TALK & DISMISSAL.....*Elna Morton*
HYMN #297.....*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*
MESSAGE.....*Rev. Harold Blair*

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE.....*"Thank You"*
BENEDICTION/BLESSING
EXIT SONG*"My Savior My God"*



In Sunday School TODAY:
Jesus and the Woman at the Well
Jesus helps people be friends.
 (John 4:1-42; Psalm 22:22-28)

TODAY!

PRAISE TEAM MEETING:
 There will be a brief meeting
 for ALL Praise Teams today
 after the worship service.



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who donated to the Men's Clothing Drive for Bethany Outreach Center. **February 6 (TODAY)** will be the last day to bring your donations to the church. The first batch was delivered January 31 and these clothes will bring warmth to many in need in our city of Erie.

TONIGHT!

SHUMY Valentine Party

Let's talk about LOVE today from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



WANTED

Summer Camp Coordinator – We are looking for someone who would co-captain with Sue Fuller to take care of camp registrations, finances, & fundraisers. See Sue if you are interested.



Sunday School Teachers and Aides Meeting: Monday, Feb. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. If you are interested in teaching Sunday school or would like to be an aide, please come to the meeting to see what it entails.



MEN'S CHOIR

CALLING ALL MEN!! We are planning a men's chorus to sing either Sunday, March 13 or March 20. Song choice is "Be Thou My Vision," an Irish hymn. Any man who enjoys singing with a choir is welcome. The song is two-part, bass and tenor.

Practices (whichever is more convenient for you) begin on **Thursday, Feb. 10-March 10 at 7:00 p.m. or on Sunday directly after worship starting on February 13-March 13.**



SHUMY Winter SNOW BLAST Retreat/COST: \$50 PER CHILD

February 18-20 @ Camp Findley - Findley Lake, NY

- Rev. Don & Chrissy Poole will be teaching our sessions on God's Power
- Saturday afternoon ski/snow tubing at Peek'n Peak & then Brandon Fox will lead us in a concert and worship Saturday night. Don't forget about our EPIC Nerf Gun Battle! Invite your friends!
- Cut off for Registration is February 13!

The **HILL**



TOPPERS (anyone 55 yrs. & up)

Potluck/Ice Cream Social on

Friday, February 25 at 6:00 p.m.



St. Patrick's Day



There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we know what you'll be bringing to the potluck as well as the need for different ice cream toppers. No need to bring ice cream – that will be provided.

REMEMBER to save the date and wear something red or green!

Give Gordy Locke a call if you have any questions: 719-640-7644.



SMALL GROUP UPDATE: Are you looking for a Bible Study? Are you thinking about becoming a Bible Study Leader? We have several Bible Studies ongoing in our church. Some are established with those who have been together for a long time and some are open and seeking new persons to join them. Also, coming in the near future will be a Bible Study Leader's training study to help those who could be and are interested in leading a Bible Study. Please speak with Small Group Chairperson, Linda Morey if you are interested in joining one or leading one!

COVID PROTOCOLS

As a leadership team, we are making decisions daily & will continue to do so regarding COVID protocols here at SHUMC. SO... We're asking a couple of things of you as you come to worship:

- 1) That people be mindful of responsible 'distancing' between family units
- 2) We're asking that everyone wear masks until the children are dismissed for Sunday School. Once the children are dismissed, you're welcome to take off your mask for the balance of the service.
- 3) We're asking that we all wear masks as we leave the sanctuary and return to our cars.

With love and care,

SHUMC



Please hit the "Like" button so we know that you are viewing! It helps us with our attendance to know who is watching.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NRSV)

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

NOTES:

To be foolish or not to be foolish – that is the question! (Apologies to Shakespeare)

This morning we begin with two stories of people, (one is me) who behaved foolishly even while thinking their logic and actions were rational.

We all, if we are honest, can be foolish and act foolishly at times. But the question for us as we read our scripture lesson for today is: **Does God ever act foolishly?** Of course, we know the answer to this is a resounding **“NO!”** Yet, when we as humans consider the message of Calvary’s Cross without a solid faith in Christ, we foolishly miss its holy and redeeming message.

Paul in our scripture lesson spoke of those who misconstrued the message of the cross. As was his tendency, Paul divided the world into three categories: 1) **The Jewish People**; 2) **The Non-Jewish People** (Gentiles); and 3) **Those Jews and Gentiles who believed in and followed Jesus the Christ.**

He then proceeded to show how each group perceived the message of the cross.

I. The Unbelieving Gentiles viewed the message as foolish

¹⁸“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing”

Corinth, a relatively new city, was known for its social-economic upward mobility. Its citizens viewed study as the way to wisdom and power. Once one possessed wisdom and power they had upward mobility and could rise from the bottom to the top of society.

Hence, they viewed the Roman Cross as foolish and an expression of suppressive authoritarianism and a destroyer of upward mobility. The cross, they reasoned, was reserved only for the basest of criminals and it was foolish to think of a god who would send his son to earth to die in such a manner; or indeed to die in any manner! So, to them the message of the cross was utter foolishness!

II. The Unbelieving Jews Viewed the Message as Scandalous (1 Cor. 1:23)

".....Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews"

In the Greek language the word for stumbling block is "scandalon." The scandalon is the kill bar on a trap and our word, scandalous, comes from this word. Scandalon spoke of something offensive, repulsive, shocking, disgraceful, outrageous and something which often resulted in death. For the Jewish non-believers, it was scandalous that their Messiah would come from heaven to be born in a feeding trough and to be crucified upon a cross. The Jews, who longed for signs and symbols, saw the cross as a symbol of Roman inhumanity and they were certain death by crucifixion had no redemptive power.

III. The Jewish and Gentile Believers Viewed the Message as Redemptive and Holy

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Redemption or salvation does not come through the search for early power, wisdom, or works, but rather it flows as grace from Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Nothing expressed this love any more clearly than the words of Christ, the Word of God, spoken from the cross at the apex of his agony and suffering: ***"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."*** The message of salvation from the cross is the grounds of our humility, for as a gift of grace, it is nothing to boast about, but rather grounds for our gratitude.

In I Corinthians 1:2, Paul spoke of God's message of the cross as one which **calls us to holy living**. The message of the cross is a call for us to be **sanctified saints** made holy through Christ's death on the cross. ***"To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,"***

Paul wrote elsewhere that ***"God was in Christ on the cross"*** and so the cross represents divine power that can both command us to be holy, as well as enable us to live holy lives. We should remember that a perfect holy life is a goal and is lifelong journey: a journey which begins with the message of the cross and is sustained by that message all throughout our earthly lives.

John Bunyan was an English clergy man in the 17th century whom many thought as most foolish. Though imprisoned for his passionate preaching, John Bunyan wrote the classic book, **Pilgrim's Progress**. In this wonderful allegory, the main character, **Christian**, made his journey by leaving the **City of Destruction**. Walking towards the light, Bible in hand, Christian came to the cross, finding deliverance from his burden of sin and finally entrance into the Celestial City.

Today, the "foolish" cross is our message and means of divine love, mercy, and grace. Beneath this cross we can again and again find grace to help in time of our need!