

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

OPENING WORSHIP SONG.....*"Here I Am to Worship"*

WELCOME.....*Jim Loeffler*

INVOCATION

PRELUDE.....*"The Solid Rock"*

LABOR DAY RECOGNITION

PRAISE & WORSHIP.....*"Great Are You Lord"*
"Offering"

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & DISMISSAL

OFFERING A PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS & THANKS TO GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #368.....*"My Hope Is Built"*

SCRIPTURE READINGSHebrews 10:19-25

MESSAGE.....*Pastor Keith*

"Giants of the Faith: Wrap Up"

LESSONS OF LIFE & FAITH – PRESS-ON

Hebrews 10:19-25; Hebrews 11 emphasis on 11:13-16

Noah, Abraham, David and Elijah

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE.....*"Life Song"*

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

EXIT SONG.....*"Sing to the King"*

9-5-21 --

Giants of the Faith: **Wrap Up**

LESSONS OF LIFE & FAITH – PRESS-ON

Hebrews 10:19-25; Hebrews 11 emphasis on 11:13-16

Noah, Abraham, David and Elijah

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE “GIANTS” OF THE FAITH?

HOW DO THESE LESSONS APPLY TO US?

CAN WE HAVE THE SAME ASPIRATIONS OF THESE GIANTS OF THE ANCIENT OF DAYS?

A LIFE OF FAITH – WHAT IS FAITH?

HEBREWS 11:1-3 “Faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see.”

HEBREWS 11:16 “... longing for something better – a heavenly place – the Kingdom of God that “THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN” ...

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS:

CAN WE TRUST GOD?

CAN WE TRUST JESUS?

DO WE MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY IT --- “**THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN?**”

DO WE MEAN IT WHEN WE SAY, “**SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE...**”

SO TODAY ---- GOD CALLS YOU AND ME AND WE (SHUMC) TO JOIN THE HALL OF FAME OF FAITH --- TO BE A GIANT OF THE FAITH

ARE YOU READY? ☺

ARE YOU WANTING & ASPIRING?

ARE YOU ASPIRING FOR ENOUGH?

ARE YOU PREPARED?

ARE YOU DETERMINED?

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. EACH EXHIBITED & EXPERIENCED EXTRAORDINARY FAITH, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING The CONTEXT OF their LIVING IN “PRE-HISTORIC” & “ANCIENT” OF TIMES ... TRULY PIONEERS IN KNOWING AND EXPERIENCING GOD THROUGH FAITH.
2. EACH WAS WILLING AND WANTING & ASPIRING OF GOD’S HEART AND GOD’S WILL.

THE HEART MATTERS!!!!!!!!!!
3. GOD’S DIRECTIONS ALWAYS INCLUDE GOD’S PROVISIONS
(ALTHOUGH OBEDIENCE OFTEN IS REQUIRED TO OPEN THE DOOR OF GOD’S PROMISES).
4. THE JOURNEY WAS CONTINUALLY “DAY-BY-DAY” and PROGRESSIVE – “Tests of Faith” are used by God NOT TO CONVINCE HIM, BUT TO HELP CONVINCE US --- TO ENCOURAGE US, PREPARE US, and AFFIRM US --- THAT WE’RE MOVING CLOSER TO THE HEART OF GOD.

5. EACH “CLOSED DOOR,” “DRIED UP CREEK,” or “SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE TASK” DOES NOT MEAN GOD’S REJECTION OR REPRIMAND BUT MORE LIKELY GOD’S APPROVAL AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT YOU’RE READY TO MOVE-ON.

WHAT ARE SOME OBSTACLES TO OUR JOURNEY OF A “GROWING FAITH?”

1. **PRIDE** --- We trust ourselves more than we can trust God, so we fight against God.
WE MUST ACCEPT AND EMBRACE GOD’S WILL.
JOHN 3:30 ---- I MUST DECREASE AND HE MUST INCREASE.
2. **FEAR** --- God uses our loss of control and those things upon which we depend to BUILD our FAITH.
WE MUST REASSURE AND REMIND OURSELVES --- THAT GOD LOVES US.
WE MUST LEARN TO WALK BY FAITH.
3. **RESENTMENTS & REGRETS** -- As God peels back the layers of our accumulated baggage and sin - we often relive buried hurts and angers that MUST BE LET GO - **WE MUST LEARN TO FORGIVE (& FORGET).**
4. **HABITS** ---- our life habits and ways MUST CHANGE --- NO LONGER, “LIFE AS NORMAL” SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE OUR HEARTS, MINDS, and SOUL TRANSFORMED TO BE AS GOD’S OWN HEART.
WE MUST LEARN HUMILITY SO THAT WE CAN ALLOW OURSELVES TO CHANGE.

WHAT IS YOUR FAITH LIKE?

WHAT IS YOUR FAITH UP AGAINST RIGHT NOW?

MAY I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THE FOLLOWING – EVERYDAY POSSIBLE:

1. AFFIRM YOUR FAITH AND RESOLUTION TO KEEP YOUR FAITH & TO LIVE ACCORDINGLY (OR ELSE YOUR FAITH MAY STUMBLE & YOU MAY FALL).
2. DAILY TIME OF REFLECTION & PRAYER FOR THE DAY TO COME, YOUR CONCERNS, AND THAT “THY KINGDOM COME, THEY WILL BE DONE” in me and around me.
3. ASK GOD for ONE OTHER to SHARE 2-3 times per week, if not daily.
4. ASK GOD FOR 2-3-4 OTHERS TO SHARE & ENCOURAGE 1x1 --- and to SERVE TOGETHER.
5. ALLOW FOR A TIME DURING YOUR DAY FOR AFFIRMING PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC.

BOTTOM-LINE:

WHEN WE ARE SURE THAT WE ARE IN THE WILL OF GOD --- WE ARE INVINCIBLE!!!! ☺

NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOTALLY DEVOTED LIFE.

AND REMEMBER:

- a. WE ARE HERE BY GOD’S APPOINTMENT.
- b. WE ARE KEPT BY GOD.
- c. WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND PREPARED BY GOD, FOR WE ARE GOD’S.
“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.”
- d. WE ARE NEVER ABANDONED OR LEFT ALONE --- GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US.
“FOR SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL FOLLOW US ALL THE DAY’S OF OUR LIVES.”

WE know that we're all excited to be gathering again 'In person.' And we are encouraging everyone to continue to come to church. However, the spread of the Delta variant is accelerating our need to be responsive, too.

As a leadership team, we are making decisions daily and will continue to do so over the next couple of weeks regarding COVID protocols here at SHUMC. We feel we should show our children a good example as they wear their masks so should we. We need to be mindful of the children AND ONE ANOTHER.

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.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING And, of course, we continue to offer 'online worship' and study opportunities.

With love and care, *SHUMC*



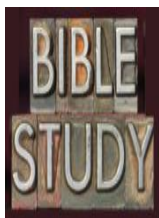
Some of our kids are moving up to the 3rd grade and SHUMC would like to present them with their first Bible. Would you please contact Elna Morton at 814-899-6809 or the church office at 814-899-5962 so that we know how many Bibles to purchase this year. Thank you!



On Saturday, Sept. 11th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a **BAND OF BROTHERS' MEN'S GAME NIGHT** with pizza, pop, corn hole, jarts, RC race cars and much more fun! Invite a friend – it's for all men in the community! Bring your favorite bag of chips to pass. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex – **please sign up so we know how much pizza to purchase.**



Youth in grades 6-12, please join in our SHUMY Fall Kick Off on September 19 from 6-8:00 p.m. at the parsonage. It'll be a fun night with tie dying, snacks, games and deepening our faith.



The Tuesday morning Bible Study with Elna Morton will be starting up on Tues., Sept. 14 @ 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The study will be: ***Christianity & World Religions*** by Adam Hamilton. If you would like to join in the group, please see or call Elna at 814-899-6809 so that a book can be ordered for you.

The Sweet & Salty Bible Study group meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday nights with Diane Senger. Anyone can join in. On Sept. 9, we begin the study, ***The Amor of God.*** All are welcome.



The Band of Brothers is **opening the group to ALL MEN (in our church & also the community)** in September. We will meet on a regular weekly basis from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Our 1st 6-week video study session (33 the Series) begins on Tues., Sept. 21! Remember to invite a friend. **Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can order materials. Sign up in the narthex.** Questions call Gordy at 719-640-7644.



September 22 has been slated as the date to begin our Wednesday night Bible Studies. Watch the Thursday Blast for more details!



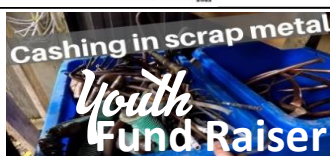
On Friday, Sept. 24 at 9:30 a.m. the Hill Toppers (anyone 55 yrs. & up) will meet in the church parking lot to car pool to St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin, PA. We have a guided tour set up for 1:00 p.m. The tour lasts about 1 1/2 hrs. The cost is \$5. On the way down we'll stop for lunch (Dutch, of course) but we'll need to make reservations. **Please sign up** in the narthex if you plan to go! See Gordy Locke or call 719-640-7644.

WOMEN'S ANNUAL DAY APART & ANNUAL MEETING @ Wesley Woods on Saturday, Sept. 18. Registration begins @ 9 am at McKnight Dining Hall. Each carload bring either 2 doz cookies, a dozen muffins, fruit or sweet breads for hospitality and dessert. The speaker is Rick King of CHOSEN. Cost of lunch is \$10. Make the check out to E/M UMW and send w/registration to: Cindy Hickernell, 26242 State Hwy. 89, Spartanburg, PA 16434 RSVP by Sept. 10. **ALSO:** the Rainbow Connection Thrift Store has a high demand for these items: dressers, sofas, love seats, microwaves, toasters & lamps.



Join us in a virtual RIDE to end homelessness. You can register at:

https://secure.ggiv.com/event/ride2021/?blm_aid=23574



Youth metal fundraiser will continue until the end of September. We are asking that you bring in your old metal which we will turn into cash. All proceeds will go towards future youth projects and events. Bring your metal to the dumpster in the SHUMC parking lot. We will, also, pick up items at your home. They must be on ground level. See or call Sue Fuller at 814-969-1649 so she can put you on the list.



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