



14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

OPENING WORSHIP SONG.....*"Battle Belongs"*

WELCOME.....*Jim Loeffler*

INVOCATION

PRELUDE.....*"Days of Elijah"*

PRAISE & WORSHIP.....*"Our God"*

"You Are God Alone"

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & DISMISSAL

OFFERING A PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS & THANKS TO GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #73.....*"O Worship the King"*

SCRIPTURE READING (1 Kings 18:22-39)

MESSAGE.....*Pastor Keith*

"Giants of the Faith: ELIJAH"

WHOSE GOD IS GREATER?

1 Kings 18:22-39

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE.....*"Days of Elijah"*

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

EXIT SONG.....*"Only A God Like You"*

Giants of the Faith: ELIJAH

WHOSE GOD IS GREATER?

1 Kings 18:22-39

²² Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs^[a] of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

³⁴ “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

I. WHY ELIJAH?

II. FOUR MOVEMENTS OF THE STORY

A. THE BEGINNING:

- * FACE-OFF & CHALLENGE
- * TIMES OF DROUGHT & FAMINE
- * LEARNING FROM & UNDERSTANDING TOUGH TIMES

B. SHOWDOWN — THE BIG CLIMAX!

- * DIRECTION FROM GOD
- * A MODEL PRAYER
- * FIRE FROM HEAVEN
- * TORRENTS OF RAIN

WHOSE GOD IS GREATER?

C. THE AFTERMATH

- * LET-DOWN & DEPRESSION
- * RESTORATION OF LIFE AND MINISTRY

D. THE DRAMATIC “TAKE-AWAY” ... PASSING THE BATON TO ELISHA

- * A REQUEST TO PICK UP THE MANTLE
- * THEN, CHARIOTS OF FIRE!!!!

III. LESSONS LEARNED

- A. GOD’S LEADING IS OFTEN SURPRISING – DON’T OVER ANALYZE
- B. THE BEGINNING DAYS ARE OFTEN THE HARDEST
- C. GOD’S PROMISES, PROVISIONS, & BLESSINGS OFTEN HINGE ON OBEDIENCE
- D. GOD’S PROVISIONS ARE OFTEN, ‘JUST in-TIME’ and ‘JUST ENOUGH’

IV. APPLICATIONS FOR YOU, ME, and SHUMC

- A. I AM HERE BY GOD’S APPOINTMENT
- B. I AM HERE IN HIS KEEPING
- C. I AM HERE UNDER HIS TRAINING
- D. I AM HERE TO PROCLAIM THE GLORY, WONDER AND PROVISIONS OF GOD – OFTEN MOST NEEDED DURING THE DARKEST OF TIMES ...

BOTTOM-LINE: These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the words of the Lord ...

These are the days of great trials...
Of famine and darkness & sword ...

PREPARE YE THE WAY FOR THE LORD —
FOR BEHOLD HE HAS COME AND
WILL BE COMING AGAIN ... SO,
PREPARE YE THE WAY FOR THE LORD.

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



Families are welcome to a picnic at the parsonage TODAY from 5:00-7:30 p.m. We'll have a campfire, hot dogs, s'mores and more!



On Mon., Aug. 30 come to the church parking lot between 6-8 pm for the Drive-Thru Blessing of the Kids going back to school!



Labor Day
Sept. 6

Join us in a virtual RIDE to end homelessness.

You can register at: https://secure.ggiv.com/event/ride2021/?blm_aid=23574



On Saturday, September 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! We want you to bring a friend whether they have a home church or are unchurched – it's for all men in the community – so feel free to bring a friend or two! 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.**

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.



Sweet & Salty Bible Study with Diane Senger meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. On Thurs., Sept. 2 – Dinner/Devotion/Prayer @ Diane Senger's home. Sit around the fire; bring a chair!

WOMEN'S ANNUAL DAY APART & ANNUAL MEETING @ Wesley Woods on Saturday, September 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 check and registration to: Cindy Hickernell, 26242 State Hwy. 89, Spartanburg, PA 16434 Reservations have to be in by Sept. 10. ALSO: the Rainbow Connection Thrift Store has a high demand for these items: dressers, sofas, love seats, microwaves, toasters and lamps.



BUS TRIP TO CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER -- October 20-21

The cost is \$419 per person/double occupancy. Register on your own directly with Anderson Travel (space is limited) 1-800-345-3435 or GoAnderson.com Please remember to identify yourself as part of the S. Harborcreek UMC group!



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 lets us know that you appreciate the Sunday Worship Service & Devotions. It helps us with our attendance to know who is watching.