



MAY 2, 2021 – 10:00 AM

**OPENING PRAISE SONG.....***“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”*

**WELCOME.....***Jim Loeffler*

**INVOCATION**

**PRELUDE.....***“Revelation Song”*

**WORSHIP SONGS.....***“Unchanging”*  
*“Revelation Song”*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE .....***Adrianne Morton*

**OFFERING A PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS & THANKS TO GOD**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**HYMN #157.....***“Jesus Shall Reign”*

**SERMON.....***Pastor Keith*

***“The Ascension — Now What?”***

*Luke 24:45-53; Acts 1:1-11*

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE.....***“The Lion and the Lamb”*

**BENEDICTION/BLESSING**

**EXIT SONG .....***“This Is Amazing Grace”*



### GIRLS' DAY OUT

Sat., June 5 FROM 9 am – 5 pm

Here at SHUMC

"I Love to Tell the Story"

More info. in our May newsletter!



June 5

July 19

Aug. 13

Women's Retreat (Girls' Day Out!)

Vacation Bible School

Youth Retreat

## SHUMC LIBRARY



We'd like to thank the Sweet & Salty small group who took on the Hally VanSlyke Library project as a service to the congregation. The group is committed to keeping the library functional, clean, and organized.

They have found a few books that they have duplicates of and have displayed them in the narthex on the table & free to anyone who would like them.

They are also asking for your help in dropping off books – when donating, please give Diane Senger a call at (814) 392-5367 to make an appointment. Thank you!



SHUMC plays a supportive role in the Summer Camp Program! We believe Christian-based camps provide events that have the Gospel of Jesus Christ at their heart and that Summer Camp is a place for kids to find themselves, meet new friends,

and above all connect with God. Don't let finances deter you from registering as financial assistance is available for most campers. So please take a look at the brochures on the campership table in the Fellowship Hall & **REGISTER TODAY!**



### We are looking to add members to our sound

teams. We have currently four teams who serve once a month. Training is given during each Sunday service. If you would enjoy being a part of our streaming and sound teams, please speak with Linda Morey or Brian Senger.

**Can you lend a hand?** We are looking for help to weed whack the church ditches & push mow the grassy banks. We are not asking you to do it all – just one ditch/bank. We have the equipment. If you are willing and able, please contact Kim Peters or Barb at the church office.



We'll be having open auditions on Thurs., May 13 at 5:30 p.m. to add a few more singers or instrumentalists to our praise teams. You may speak to Linda Morey prior to this date or just show up!



Fee: \$15 (for the book)

**GRIEF SHARE** gives help & encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. There will be weekly topics, videos, discussion, journaling & personal study. This 13-week course is self-contained so you can join in any time. We meet at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room on Wednesdays.

**Contact:** Church Office (814) 899-5962; Gordy Locke (719) 640-7644; or Amy Beardsley (814) 572-2414



**Please hit the "Like" button** so that we know that you are viewing! It lets us know that you appreciate the Sunday Worship Service and Devotions. It also helps us with our attendance to know who is watching.



With the increasing guidelines from the State of Pennsylvania we must continue to be perseverant and aware of our compliance with these rules. For the safety and well-being of **ALL** of those choosing to worship with us 'in-person' we ask that everyone who attends 'in-person' worship be aware and follow these rules:

- 1) Masks and distancing apply to **ALL** (that includes the parking lot).
- 2) Post-service lingerings and gatherings in the narthex must be avoided.
- 3) Family units with children and that reside under one roof may sit together.

Otherwise, sitting groups must be limited to no more than 4 people.



**Live-streaming of the services can be seen on . . .**

- ❖ [www.facebook.com/southharborcreekumc](https://www.facebook.com/southharborcreekumc)
- ❖ You Tube @ south harborcreek umc

- ❖ Website: [southharborcreekumc.org](https://southharborcreekumc.org)
- ❖ SHUMC app

## SERMON TITLE: **“The Ascension – Now What?”**

SERMON TEXT: Luke 24:45-53; Acts 1:1-11 (same event; same writer; same message --- 2 different texts)

**Luke 24:45-53** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses of these things.** <sup>49</sup> **I am going to send you what my Father has promised;** but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, **he left them and was taken up into heaven.** <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

**Acts 1:1-11** In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: **“It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”** <sup>9</sup> After he said this, **he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.** <sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”

I imagine that the disciples and those closest to Jesus during the 40 days since the Resurrection included a whirlwind of emotions, thoughts and experiences. There were many encounters with Jesus that helped to establish irrefutable evidence that Jesus was indeed ALIVE and RESURRECTED from the dead.

The Bible tells us that Jesus spent much time explaining things and reminding the disciples of those things that will be most critical to their lives and future call to be ‘witnesses’ to the reality and significance of the life of Jesus.

The disciples were still not clear on all the specifics to come, but they were convinced and committed to be with Jesus as Jesus continued to minister, serve, and prepare the world for the coming Kingdom of Heaven. (which the Jewish disciples understood to include the freeing of Israel from Roman occupation AND the re-establishment of the state of Israel before all the world.

Jesus ‘opened’ the eyes of the disciples to see and to understand the most significant points of his teaching and life. The disciples grew in their convictions and commitments to explain and give witness to the world that everyone may be prepared to know and understand ... to believe and live according to the precepts of the Kingdom of Heaven to come.

And then, the Bible tells us, that a mere 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus shared a few final words ... and then disappeared into the clouds. The Bible tells us that Jesus ascended to the royal throne of God to reign with ‘God the Father’ and the ‘Holy Spirit’ to assume their rightful place over all of creation. The disciples could not believe their eyes ... and once again, I imagine, their emotions were thrown into anxious thoughts, filled with uncertainty.

### **SO --- NOW WHAT? -- WHAT ARE THE DISCIPLES TO DO? -- WHAT ARE WE TO DO?**

**THE FACTS:** (as clearly presented in and thru the Bible – The Holy Scriptures)

#### **A FINAL WORD:**

1. TRUST GOD FOR GOD THINGS ... and focus on those things that are set before you.
2. YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER (the SAME POWER that raised Jesus from the dead)
3. YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

#### **PRECIOUS TRUTH & ASSURANCE (PROMISE):**

1. TRUTH FOR TODAY
2. TRUTH FOR TOMORROW (and all eternity)

#### **BOTTOM-LINE:**

“He’s coming on the clouds, Kings and kingdoms will bow down AND every chain will break AS BROKEN HEARTS DECLARE HIS PRAISES --- FOR WHO CAN STOP THE LORD ALMIGHTY?”

AS WE STAND ON THE HILLSIDE --- LOOKING TO THE CLOUDS ... WANTING GOD’S BETTER DAY AND BETTER WAY RIGHT NOW ... WHAT ARE WE TO DO --- “NOW WHAT?”