February 7, 2021
10:00 a.m.

PRESERVICE MUSIC.....*"Waymaker"*

WELCOME.....*Jim Loeffler*

INVOCATION

PRELUDE.....*"Holy Spirit"*

OPENING SONG.....*"Holy Spirit (You Are Welcome)"*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE .....*Adrianne Morton*

PRAISE SONGS.....*"Love the Lord"*
"We Believe"

OFFERING A PRAYER OF OUR GIFTS & THANKS TO GOD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC.....*"Waymaker"*

SERMON.....*Pastor Keith*

"A God You Can Believe In"

2 Corinthians 13:14; Joshua 24:14-15

SONG OF RESPONSE.....*"The Family Prayer Song"*

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

EXIT SONG .....*"Your Grace Is Enough"*

A GOD YOU CAN BELIEVE IN ---
CONSIDERING SOME OF THE DISTINCTIONS OF THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

PRMIARY TEXTS:

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Psalms 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. **2** Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. **3** They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. **4** Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

Mathew 2:16-17

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled

Acts 17:16-34

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. 18 A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19 Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." 21 (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

22 Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. 26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. 27 God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 28 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

29 "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

[32] When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject." [33] At that, Paul left the Council. [34] Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

Romans 1:20
For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Joshua 24:14-15
[14] "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. [15] But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

KEY QUESTION: WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE GOD OF THE BIBLE?

MY DECLARATION: I BELIEVE THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD – FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT.

SOME BIBLICAL / CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIONS:

- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS SOVEREIGN – OVER ALL
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS ALL POWERFUL
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS ALL KNOWING
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS ALL PRESENT
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT BEGINNING OR END
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS TRANSCENDENT – OVERALL YET, ALSO, INTIMATE – capable of a desiring PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH & EVERY PERSON
- THE GOD OF THE BIBLE CARES FOR ALL OF CREATION

Several points regarding TRINITARIANISM OF THE BIBLE:

- GOD is not 3 separate gods (tritheism, modern day Mormonism)
- GOD is not one God who manifests himself in 3 different modes (modalism, modern day Oneness Pentecostalism)
- JESUS is not subordinate to God the Father (subordinationism; modern day Jehovah Witness)

SOME CONCLUSIONS:

1. BECAUSE GOD IS GOD, I AM NOT
2. I CAN BE SURE THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE and IN CONTROL
3. I WANT TO KNOW AND FOLLOW GOD's WILL FOR MY LIFE

BECAUSE I WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AS, AND FOR COMMUNITY (Genesis 1:27-28)

1. I RECOGNIZE THE FULL PERSONHOODS OF OTHERS & RESPECT BOUNDARIES
2. I LOOK OUR FOR THE RIGHTS, PREFERENCES, and COMFORT OF OTHERS – FOR GOD's BEST FOR THEM
3. I VALUE AND ENJOY OTHERS --- ESPECIALLY THE COMMUNITY OF BEING A PART OF GOD's FAMILY, THE CHURCH.

CAN YOU HELP?

As the Digital Ministries of SHUMC continue to grow and expand , we need a growing number of people able to help us, especially if you have experience in the video and audio arenas—Would you please let Pastor Keith know of your possible interest and ability to help us?

DATA SUPPORT

We have a growing need for someone to help assemble, organize and help interpret the variety of metrics that Facebook, You Tube and other digital platforms provide. We need to customize and develop the growing digital ministries of SHUMC – so to better understand and know who is watching, how many are watching and how we might more effectively minister to their needs. Please see Pastor Keith if you'd like to know more.

WATCH FOR A SPECIAL
THURSDAY MORNING
LENTEN SERIES
TO BEGIN ON
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18!
MORE DETAILS WILL BE IN
THE THURSDAY BLAST!

Support Our Active Military

For our active service men and women, we thought it would be a great idea and a great honor to write them letters and messages of appreciation, support, or just send some news from their hometown (send them a newspaper or newsletter to keep them connected here at home). **BUT** -- We need your help with **NAMES**. If you have a son, daughter, relative, friend, neighbor who you may think could use a warm word, news from their hometown, or a note of gratitude. You can contact Gordy Locke or give Barb a call at the church office or e-mail us at: SHUMHH@aol.com

---

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

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

- **www.facebook.com/southharborcreek umc**
- **You Tube @ south harborcreek umc**
- **Website: southharborcreekumc.org**
- **SHUMC app**