

May 2022

SUNDAY 1st

Easter: "We Are Witnesses" with Communion

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Who Are You, Lord?"
Scripture: Acts 9. 1 - 9
Focus Scripture: Acts 9. 10 - 20

"Who are you, Lord?" is a question we need to ask as fervently as did the blinded, frightened Saul lying on the side of the road to Damascus.

He needed to listen to others who would help him know his own story or the new story that he was writing with his life even now. He was to be a witness to the one who called him, but he needed to learn that he finds that one by listening to many others. Those who will help him find his way on the journey begin with a question: "Who are you, Lord?"

SUNDAY 8th

Easter: "We Are Witnesses" – *traditionally, Mothers' Day*

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Get Up!"
Scripture: Psalm 23
Focus Scripture: Acts 9. 36 - 43

Sometimes miracles happen, and those we thought gone are returned to us. More often, the miracle is that the threads remain, but they grow and change and become something new, something holy. And we find we can continue on after all. I am who I am because of my mother a disease can't take that away, can't undo the threads of my being. And whatever the future holds, I will honor her for what she has stitched for me, stitched into me. We are the lives we touch and that touch us. We are the threads we wear. Thanks be to God.

SUNDAY 15th

Easter: "We Are Witnesses"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Where's the Beef?"
Scripture: Acts 11. 1 - 10
Focus Scripture: Acts 11. 11 - 18

Change is all around us, even in the church. And change is never easy. Our text this week is about a whole new direction for the beginnings of the church. It has to do with who was considered worthy to include and who should be avoided. Peter pushed the church to go further than they were comfortable going. Wait, no, it wasn't Peter. The Holy Spirit pushed the church to go further than they were comfortable. And that has been the church's story from then on.

SUNDAY 22nd

Easter: "We Are Witnesses"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Learning Liminality"
Scripture: John 5. 1 - 9
Focus Scripture: Acts 16. 9 - 15

It is interesting that in the story of the beginnings of the church there are frequent references to the idea of "vision"—specifically of hearing and seeing God's vision as it is relayed to the church through individuals. What does that say about how well we listen to God when we make our plans and plot our strategies for mission and ministry? Do we not only bathe all our work in prayer, but do we also take the time to listen to the voice of God however it might be discerned in our specific context? What might we learn if we listened first and planned afterward?

SUNDAY 29th

Easter: "We Are Witnesses"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

June 2022

SUNDAY 5th

Pentecost/Reconciling Sunday – with Communion

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: Multiple Presenters?

Focus Scripture: Acts 2. 1 – 21 [divide 4-5 parts w/ graphics]

Pentecost is the building of community. It is overcoming the differences and making connections. It is building up the body. Pentecost is about the church being the church. Pentecost reminds us that this is a small world, and wherever you go, you are likely to find members of our family gathered around the living Word and the winds of the Spirit.

SUNDAY 12th

"Living the Spirit Life"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

SUNDAY 19th

"Living the Spirit Life"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Spiritual Symphonies"

[The silence between movements is part of the music]

Scripture: I Kings 19. 1 – 15a

Focus Scripture: Luke 8. 26 - 39

God is at work in and through what happens around us, even when it doesn't seem like it. God is present, even when it feels like absence. God is acting, even when it feels like stillness.

Benediction: UMH # 580

"One Day as Jesus Traveled" by Carolyn Gillette
(tune: "Lead On, O King Eternal")

One Day as Jesus Traveled

1. One day as Jesus traveled to places wild, untold,
He met a man unraveled by evil's awful hold.
The demons that possessed him saw Christ and screamed in fear;
They knew, in their resisting, their days were numbered here.
2. That man knew only suffering, a life of grief and pain;
He could not yet imagine that he'd be whole again.
The demons cried to Jesus, "Just send us to those swine!"
When evil faces goodness, it seeks a new design.
3. When goodness meets great evil, when faith encounters sin,
The field is never level, for God's great love will win.
Yet legions cry in anger while clinging to their days;
They seek to trouble longer, to harm in other ways.
4. When churches seek to practice the faith with which we're blessed
By seeking love and justice and helping the oppressed,
So often there is tension that tears the heart and soul,
A struggle, a resisting of all that makes us whole.
5. The demons cried to Jesus, "Just send us to those swine!"
Yet soon those pigs stampeded right down a steep incline.
For things that bring destruction will one day fall away;
And God is surely bringing a new and joyful day.

SUNDAY 26th

"Living the Spirit Life"

10:00 AM Indoor/In Person and "Live Streamed" Worship Service

Message: "Not All Who Wander Are Lost"

Scripture: II Kings 2. 1-2, 6 - 14

Focus Scripture: Luke 9. 51 - 62

Our life is a journey of faith. And we may at times find ourselves retracing our steps, revisiting different stages on the journey. We may be all over the map, but we do indeed have a destination. We're heading home, and home is the relationships that we build with one another, and most importantly with God. We are brought home in the Spirit, the one who calls and the one who sends. Time to go home.