

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

The flowers are given by Bud Willey to the glory of God and in memory of those we loved who are no longer here.

June 26 through June 28, 9 am to Noon. **VBS.**

July 1 to July 8, **Mission Trip.** Please keep the Mission Team in your prayers for safe travels, safety on the worksite and for opportunities to share Jesus and his love.

July 2, 10 a.m. **Combined Worship Service with the River Churches at Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum.** Please bring a side dish to share and a comfortable chair.

July 17 to July 21, 9 am to Noon. **Summer Art Camp.** We are collecting paper towel and toilet paper rolls, cardboard egg cartons, clean gallon jugs and coffee cans with lids.

## Gloria patri

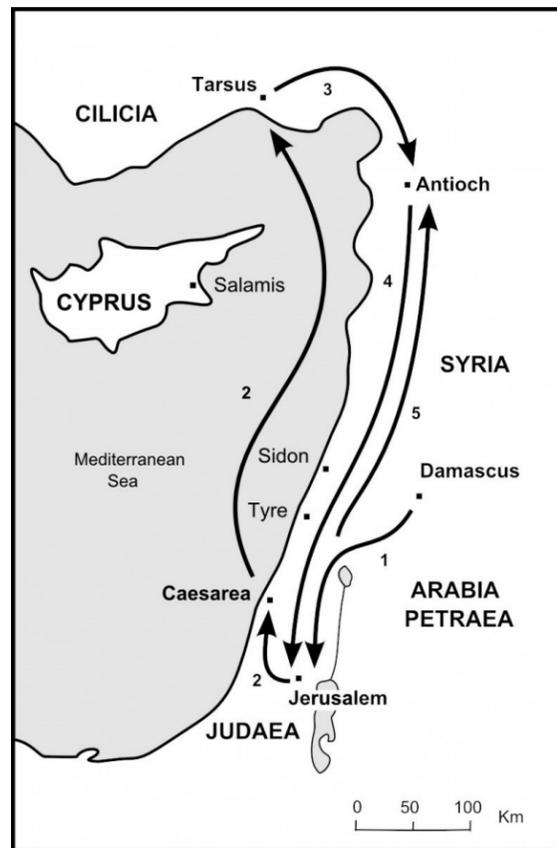
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be  
— world without end.  
Amen, amen.

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

## Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!



1: Acts 9:25-26

2: Acts 9:30

(taken from thebiblejourney.org)

### Session:

**Class of 2017**  
Barbara Matlack  
Randy Niederer

**Class of 2018**  
Patti Manz  
Tim Shaub

**Class of 2019**  
Mark Niederer  
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

### Deacons:

**Class of 2017**  
Judy Niederer, Secretary

**Class of 2018**  
Gail Butterfoss  
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

**Class of 2019**  
Chris Manz, Moderator

**Ministers:** All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Kristine Schmidt

Accompanist: Emily Atzert

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*

Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

June 25, 2017



Let us worship God!  
God is the supreme authority. All authority is God's to distribute. Scripture gives many accounts of God's works as very different from what people would do. Today, we come across two stories where God creates surprise within his redeeming work. First, God ordained a role change within the children of Isaac and Rebekah, that the older

(Esau) would serve the younger (Jacob). This is the opposite of the custom of the times. Second, God prepares the biggest threat of the early church to become her most tireless advocate. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let us welcome his sometimes surprising, always good, ways and works.



## Call to Worship (from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;  
Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases;  
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion;  
Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His loving kindness toward those who fear Him.  
As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.  
But the loving kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.  
Bless the Lord, all you works of His, in all places of His dominion;  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## Prayer of Confession

I asked for Peace-  
My sins arose,  
And bound me close,  
I could not find release.

I asked for Truth –  
My doubts came in,  
And with their din  
They wearied all my youth.

I asked for Love –  
My lovers failed,  
And griefs assailed  
Around, beneath, above.

I asked for Thee-  
And Thou didst come  
To take me home  
Within Thy heart to be.

Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...

found at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-answer-to-isaac-and-rebekahs-prayers>



## Order of Liturgy

Prelude

\*Call to Worship (below)

\*Opening Hymns (below)/ Prayer

Confession (below)

—call, prayer, assurance

\*Gloria patri (back page)

Scripture (below)

Message

\*Hymn of Response (below)

\*Apostles Creed (back page)

\*New City Catechism (inside, bottom left-hand)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Global Hymn sing "For the Cause"

Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology (back page)

\*Sending Hymn (below)

Benediction

\*Please stand if able

## Scripture

Psalm 131 (page 442)

Genesis 25:19-34 (page 18)

Acts 9 (page 777)

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

#128 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Hymn of Response

#343 "Amazing Grace"

Sending Hymn

#562 "Be Thou My Vision"

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## Notes on Morning Scripture

### Genesis

25:23 Third example of the younger sibling chosen by God: Seth, not Cain; Isaac not Ishmael; Jacob, not Esau

25:34 birthright in ancient traditions included the firstborn receiving double the inheritance, and the firstborn having the privileges of priesthood (before the Levites were chosen as Israel's priests).

### Acts

9:1 The name Saul means "prayed for". Interesting meaning in light of King Saul, and the Apostle, whom Christ meets on the Damascus Road.

9:2 The Way The term Christian is first mentioned in 11:26. Disciples of Jesus are first called followers of the Way.

9:4 fell to the ground Many paintings of Saul's conversion include him falling from a horse, but there is no mention of this in Scripture.

9:10 The name Ananias means "the cloud of the Lord"

9:25 II Corinthians 11:26 references Paul's near escape

9:27, Barnabas was first mentioned in Acts 4:36

9:39 "and their works followed them" Revelation 14:13

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### Web Link

<https://www.globalhymnsing.com/> over a million worshippers in 5,000 congregations are having "For the Cause" song as part of their worship today.

<http://www.gettymusic.com/> modern hymn writers who wrote "For the Cause". We have come to know much of their music through Jon and Helen; including "He Will Hold Me Fast".

<http://www.womeninthebible.net/bible-paintings/rebecca-isaac/> collection of paintings about Rebekah

<http://www.artbible.info/art/large/510.html> Saul's conversion

<https://eclecticlight.co/2016/08/06/the-story-in-paintings-the-road-to-damascus-and-the-conversion-of-saint-paul/>

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-answer-to-isaac-and-rebekahs-prayers-46844/>

<http://www.ccel.us/biblewomen.ch19.html> chapter on Tabitha from the Book Women Who Made Bible History by Harold Ockenga.

<http://www.learnthebible.org/sermon-outlines/the-inheritance-of-the-saints.html> an inheritance themed sermon outline with verses attached

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### New City Catechism

*A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>*

Part 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace

**Week 26** *Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?*

**Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.**

*To learn more about Question 27, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#27>*

### Editorial: Birthright

"So Esau despised his birthright" --Genesis 25:34

"See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done" --Hebrews 12:16-17

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you" I Peter 1:3-4

"Behold what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! I John 3:1

The end of Galatians 3:23-4:7: "God sent his Son...to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father". So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir"

The choice before us is to see that in Christ, we are God's children. "Here I am Lord, and the children you have given me" (Hebrews 2:13). We can sulk outside, like the older brother in the Parable of the Lost Son, whose Father attempts to reason with him: "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours" (Luke 15:31). Or, we can live in a way that hopes to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant...Come and share your Master's happiness" (Matthew 25:21). This comes by faith, by God's grace.

Did you know that "inheritance" is mentioned 220 times in the Bible?

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" John 1:12-13

How can we know for sure? "When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of God's glory" (Ephesians 1:14). Paul prays that this Holy Spirit will enlighten the eyes of your heart so that you will know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe" (1:18-19).

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**Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life**  
(offered in 6/25 worship by the congregation)

### Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

What is the background of this weekly column?

Wondering in West Amwell

Dear Wondering,

Obviously, you can see the pun of Dear Abby. Let me tell you my story. After all, surely you'd be interested in talking to someone who was raised from the dead!

My name is Tabitha, though in Greek it is Dorcas. The name means "gazelle", and believing in Jesus Christ hastened my desire to do good in this world. Scripture is kind in describing me, and it humbles me to know I can be an example of faith. The Bible teaches that "I was always doing good and helping the poor" (9:36). My faith in the Lord guided me toward those good works, and God always seemed to send people that I could provide compassion and mercy.

When I became sick, I had a feeling I would not get better. I did indeed expire from this world. Friends came along and prepared me for burial. But the news that Peter was in a nearby town inspired some to call for him to come at once. Apparently, he came into an upper room where my body lay (I wonder if he thought about the first upper room that he had been in), and all around him were people I had helped. Many were crying. Some were showing Peter clothes I had sewed them.

Of course, the whole experience seemed surreal. Peter had spoken my name and I awoke. Literally, I sat up and rose to my feet after returning to life. It was all very quick. Before I knew it, Peter had called in the believers, and several who I had helped and who were grieving. I was presented alive.

It is an honor that my story led others to turn to the Lord. The Scripture says that many turned to the Lord because of my resurrection. All glory to God! It is also an honor that my story was preserved in Scripture, so that all the generations might give praise to God.

All my good deeds were done for the glory of God. If anyone tries to give me too much credit, I simply act like a gazelle, and quickly and gracefully run thanks and praise to God. Having been raised back to life, my job is now to raise life issues, and to point people to the same Holy Spirit that worked through Peter long ago.