

Announcements and Upcoming Events

The flowers are given by Tom Kennedy to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

June 21, 6:45 p.m., **Session**

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.

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

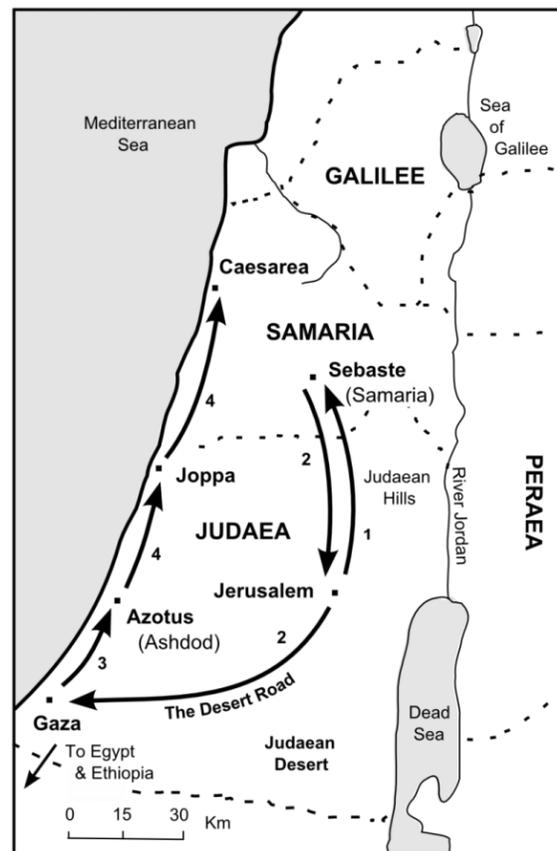
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be
— world without end.
Amen, amen.

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!



Philip's movement within Acts 8
(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

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

June 18, 2017



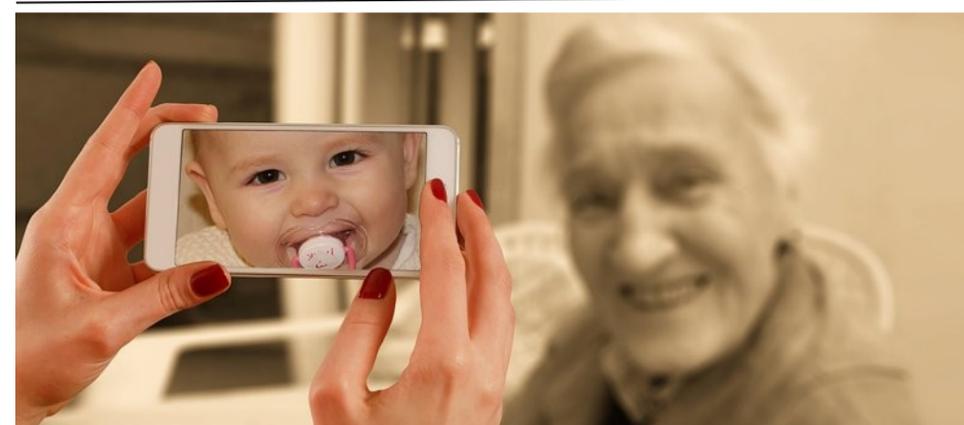
Let us worship God!

In this festive time of year, our extraordinary story observes the completion of Abraham's earthly days by celebrating God's faithful promise to him (see Genesis 15:15). We look forward to that day when we shall meet him, and worship the Lord together! On the church calendar, we begin Ordinary (or Common) Time. Our extraordinary God uses the ordinary for his purposes.

"You shall be my witnesses in

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In today's Acts reading, the message of the gospel extends into Judea and Samaria.

Our gathering today is a testimony that the gospel message has extended to the ends of the earth. Indeed, Abraham has become a father of many nations! Praise to the Lord!



Call to Worship (Psalm 130)

Out of the depths I cry to you;
O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.
O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love.
He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
You alone can bring order to our unruly wills and affections. Give us grace to love what you command and desire what you promise, that in all the changes and chances of this uncertain world, our hearts may be surely fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Taken from the *Book of Common Worship*



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

Offering

Offertory: "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

*Doxology (back page)

***Sending Hymn** (below)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "He Will Hold Me Fast"

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Genesis 25:1-18 (page 17)

Acts 8 (page 776)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

#3 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Insert: "To Abraham and Sarah"

Hymn of Response

Insert "He Will Hold Me Fast"

Sending Hymn

#143 "This Is My Father's World"

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Notes on Morning Scripture

Genesis

25:1 Keturah: hebrew for Fragrance. (interesting note: popular name among Post-Reformation Puritans)

25:8 good old age promised to Abraham in 15:15. The phrase also describes Gideon (Judges 8:32) and David (I Chronicles 29:28)

25:8 Gathered to his people also describes Ishmael (Ge.17), Isaac (35:29), Jacob (49:33), Aaron (Numbers 20:24) and Moses (Deuteronomy 32:50)

25:9 Machpelah: purchased by Abraham for Sarah in Gen. 23:19

25:18 hostility toward all the tribes, compare with Genesis 16:12

Acts

8:11 Sorcery in the Bible every mention includes a stern warning

8:17 Receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts, also 2:38, 10:47 and 19:2

8:26 Angel of the Lord said to Philip. There are 505 mentions of “God said”, 289 of “Jesus said”, 47 “the Spirit said”, 21 of “the angel of the Lord said” and 1052 of “the Lord said”.

8:27 Eunuch there are 21 references in the Bible, mostly in Esther and Acts. Describes both a physical condition, as well as an office appointed throughout various historical periods and cultures.

Web Link

<http://www.criovoice.org/cyordinary.html> good explanation of Ordinary Time

<http://www.thebiblejourney.org/> excellent pictures and simple maps to understand the story of Scripture

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/genealogy/did-adam-and-noah-really-live-over-900-years/?sitehist=1497379154670> a molecular geneticist makes her case for long years of life

http://biblehub.com/library/milligan/men_of_the_bible_some_lesser-known/philip_the_evangelist.htm

<http://religionnews.com/2013/11/21/makes-good-old-age-pain-free-doesnt-top-list/> Scripture teaches that Abraham died at a good old age

http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/A_good_old_age

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/newwineskins/7-ways-to-listen-to-the-holy-spirit/>

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 What else does Christ’s death redeem?

Answer: Christ’s death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen creation, as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation’s good.

To learn more about Question 26, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/26>

Editorial: Placing Your Hand

“Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” Acts 8:17

Paul teaches about the presence of the Holy Spirit: When someone calls upon the name of the Lord, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at that moment. The Spirit dwells in the heart of faith, and becomes a deposit, guaranteeing our salvation (II Co. 5:5).

In Acts 8 there is a story which speaks to people believing, and then later, receiving the Holy Spirit. In this story, it is when the Apostles lay their hands upon the Samaritans that the Spirit is received. This exception probably has to do with the Samaritans being a new mission field, with the Apostle’s confirming that the good news has been accepted and the Spirit has come.

There is something good about this instance with the Samaritans. The Apostle’s physically touched them. This act brings us back to Jesus Christ, who had the children come near to him so that he could bless them (Mark 10:45). He was angry when they were kept away. Jesus, after his resurrection, “breathed on the disciples and said ‘receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:22). In this Acts story of the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit, the Spirit comes near when the Apostles were near the people.

Eugene Peterson once counseled a friend that prayer should, if possible, be physical: to walk while praying, or canoeing, or washing dishes. The Scripture shows us this same idea for praying together: to lay hands upon a person in need of prayer, to lay hands upon a person being commissioned, to anoint the sick with oil when praying (James 5:14), to give the kiss of peace when blessing one another (I Peter 5:14). We can walk together while praying, or hold hands while praying in a circle as a sign of unity. These are good practices. In some sense, we experience the Holy Spirit when we are close to one another, including the power of human touch.

Human touch is so powerful because it models what God has done for us: He sent Jesus to be near, to be fully human, full of grace and truth. Let us be united in faith, which allows us to feel close to one another. The Holy Spirit is at work when his fruit is passed down the table to a family member who has gathered.

Paul cautions us to “keep in step with the Spirit”. There are times when we must be alone. In those times, the Holy Spirit remains a deposit, and times when we face isolation do not take away the power of God’s promise. But when we are together, we can experience the Holy Spirit together. Keep in step with the Holy Spirit, and bless someone near you today.

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 6/18 worship by the congregation)

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

Dear Tabby,

When I am in worship, I sincerely believe in what I am saying, singing, praying and participating. But I feel so uncertain about my Christian life throughout the week. Any advice?

Fixated in Flemington

Dear Fixated,

Acts 8 models living for God and obeying the Lord’s will outside the context of weekly worship.

The outcome of Stephen’s martyrdom is that the church is scattered, and “those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went” (vs 4). There is something to be said that the mission field is any place where you are. Your individual work outside of worship is to spread God’s word to the people around you: in your apartment complex, your street, campus, workplace, gym class, even in daily errands. In Acts 8, the Gospel message transitions from being within Jerusalem to being regional. This happens when people bring the message with them where they go.

Philip’s work and words came together to bear witness to the gospel. They were not inconsistent. They fueled one another towards the Lord’s mission.

The Apostles confronted an attempt to equate the Christian gospel with sorcery. Our message is to announce what God has said in Scripture. It is not to combine it with godless endeavors. Our work is to stay on message.

Philip was commanded by the Holy Spirit to “go to that chariot and stay near it” (vs 29). The Spirit put Philip near the Ethiopian Eunuch who was reading and contemplating the Scripture. By obeying the voice of the Spirit, and being in place to serve God, the message would now travel back to a new continent.

These four ideas seem relatively simple: speak where you go, combine good works and words, stay on message and follow the Spirit’s command to be present. They can fill our lives; never getting old or burdensome. Every day becomes an adventure in the Lord, with a plethora of opportunities to proclaim the gospel. Sunday worship should transform Monday through Saturday.