

you have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”

On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-588-6940

Church e-mail: info@zionsucc.org

Julie's cell: 724-815-3291



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

Stewardship
a way of life



Welcome to Zion's Reformed Church!

*We're glad you're
here!*

We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison to the pulpit. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are in memory of Frank, Frances and Bob Reimold, by the Reimold Family.

The Chancel Flowers are in memory of Bruce Wolff, by Gayle and Family.

Ushering today are Bill Henry, Linda Henry, Linda Allison, and Liam Adams.

The children are invited to the Youth Center after Word for the Family for an activity.

Everyone is invited to the Anderson Lounge after the service for refreshments.

Large Print Bulletins and Children's Activity Books are available in the back of the sanctuary. Also, seat cushions and copies of the sermon. Please help yourself or ask an usher.

Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-25

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people; "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your forefathers, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshipped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants.

"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. 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."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God." Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that



The Cooper and Forsyth Scholarships will be presented during worship on November 26.

Thank you to all the helping hands in the kitchen for the 2023 Craft Show. We couldn't have had a better kitchen crew! (We had a lot of laughs!) Special thanks to Alex and Gianna who pushed their young backs into it and managed to clean the nasty Mac 'n Cheese roaster! The preppers, the check-out girls, the servers and clean-up crew were all just fantastic! Thank you and bless you for giving your time to help out!

-Kelly Bielata



The Good Shepherd Center is requesting

BOXED POTATOES

For the Christmas meal for their clients.

Our goal.....125 boxes

Please place your donations in the barrels by December 1.

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison
Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.
 November 12, 2023 10:30 a.m.

Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Ruth Herrick, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT Zachary Suntheimer, Acolyte

~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~

PRELUDE "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Barbara Boertje

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in worship today to celebrate all that we are and all that we offer to God.

People: We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.

Leader: We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.

People: We celebrate the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today and the visions that we see today for the future.

All: Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN "We Gather Together"

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, our lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be;

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:
 let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his name: he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR
 GOOD SHEPHERD CENTER
 and THE SALVATION ARMY
 CLIENTS

Once again this year, we will provide Christmas presents for the children of the GSC and Salvation Army clients. The tags are on the tree in the front lobby, so please help yourself and provide a Christmas gift for someone in our community who may not get many gifts.

Please print your name beside the tag number on the list beside the tree so we know who has the tags.

Each child will receive a toy and clothing. Feel free to double up and share a tag with a friend if you don't want to buy both items.

**YOUR HELP WILL BRING COMFORT
 AND JOY TO A CHILD THIS
 CHRISTMAS**



ALL-CHURCH THANKSGIVING FEAST POTLUCK

**NEXT SUNDAY
(after worship)
ANDERSON LOUNGE**

**Bring a side dish to share. The Ministry
of Welcoming and Fellowship will pro-
vide ham, table service and drinks.**

**After dinner, Julie
Enterline Scott and
Elaina Scott will talk
about their recent trip
to Tanzania.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Sinners we are and sinners we will always be.

People: But we know of the grace of Jesus the Christ.

Leader: We acknowledge we have neglected and rejected gifts that have been provided by God.

People: Together let us confess our sins and seek God's abiding grace.

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you have called us to give ourselves completely to you. Yet, we often hold back part for worldly pursuits. You have given us the gift of time to serve, time to learn, to grow, to share. We spend our time serving self. You provide us with opportunity to serve in numerous ways using the talents and abilities we have been given. We tend to hide our gifts. You have provided even the least among us with more financial resources than most of the world. We resist sharing because of fear for the future. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us. Set us free. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: While God knows our sin, God also hears our cries.

People: God still reaches out to forgive and restore us.

Leader: We rejoice in the forgiveness God grants us.

People: Thanks be to God.

*A SONG OF PRAISE "God is So Good"

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, God's so good to me.

God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me.

God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God's so good to me.

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

WORD FOR THE FAMILY "What Sophie and Sydnie Did"

RESPONSIVE READING/PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to one another:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: As we honor our veterans of wartime, teach us how to care for those who have borne arms in our names.

People: Guide us in your ways, O God.

Leader: We seek to honor our veterans of peacetime. Teach us to care for all who step forward even without the certainty that all will remain calm.

People: Guide us in your ways, O God.

Leader: O almighty God and most merciful Father, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 448 "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

SCRIPTURE READINGS (bulletin pages 11 and 12)

Hebrew Lesson Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Epistle Lesson James 2:14-17

CHOIR ANTHEM "The Greatest Truth" Tune, Buachail on Eirne

SERMON "Do We Believe the Story?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "Be Still" arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

*Doxology No. 780

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, you have given us life and freedom. Everything we have and everything that we are is a gift from you. We dedicate these gifts to you. Bless this offering. Bless our lives. Lead us as we seek to serve others in word and deed as well. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 522 "I Love To Tell the Story"

*BENEDICTION and TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,
Let there be peace on earth; and let it begin with me.**

*THE POSTLUDE "Great is the Lord" arr. by Carol Tornquist