

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP will be hosted by the Sandbergs and the Fellowship Committee on the front lawn today. Refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30 AM.

EXPLORING PRESBYTERIANISM CLASS: Join us today, July 22, in Armitage Hall at 11:15 AM for a class entitled, 'Celebrating the last 25 years of Valley Community.' We have a lot written down about the beginnings of Valley Community, but what has been part of our more recent history? Join us for a time to share photos, memories, and help tell the ongoing story of the last 25 years, as we look ahead to the future! Well mannered pets are welcome to attend!

SIGN UP ONLINE for our new church pictorial directory! There is no cost to you or the church for the directory or to have your photographs taken. You will receive a complimentary professional 8x10 portrait and a church directory. Current dates that are available are August 8-11. This is a great opportunity to have your college student included in your photo while they are home for the summer. Go to: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yddqb194/> and sign up today! Contact Glenys Craig or the church office with questions.

THE COMMUNITY PICNIC is Sunday, July 29 after worship! This year the theme is **Game On!**, following the adventures that were enjoyed by all during Vacation Bible School the week before. Be ready for good food and refreshing beverages, great fellowship and games for everyone to enjoy. To carry the theme of picnic just a little further, please dust off your favorite picnic basket and **decorate it with SPORTS decorations**. Everyone will vote on his or her favorite **sports themed décor**. There will be a prize for the winner! Load that picnic basket up with your own plates, cutlery, napkins and drink containers, so that we can keep our planet green a little longer. (Don't worry! If you forget, there will be disposables available for you.) Both fried and roasted chicken will be provided for everyone, as well as lemonade and cold water. Congregants are being asked to contribute the rest: **A through H are asked to bring desserts. I through Z are asked to bring a salad or side dish.**

SERVICE OF WORSHIP



JULY 22, 2018 ✠ 10:00 AM

❖ *Please stand as you are able*
Bold Text is spoken by everyone

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

Oak Street Ramblers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ OPENING SONG *I Love to Tell the Story*

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. **Refrain**

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Refrain**

❖ OPENING PRAYER

Zachary Graham, liturgist

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Rev. Jeff and friends

MESSAGE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:26-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

What We Learn From Pets

Rev. Jeff Binder

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

❖ SONG

When Peace like a River

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul); it is well; it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul. **Refrain**

3. He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We gather here today in the beauty of creation and give thanks that we have been made partners in the caretaking of this world. We gather here today alongside the creatures of the earth; those that fly overhead, those that creep below on the ground, those who bring joy to our homes, those that fill us with awe and delight.

We gather here today as a part of creation, filled with the breath of God and made of the dust of the earth. May God bless all creatures of this universe.

May God bless the animals that work and provide service. Protect animals that assist us in our daily work, our police and armed forces animals, as well as those who serve the blind and those service and therapy animals.

May God bless companion animals and pets. We give thanks for the comfort, play, and joy they bring us; pets with us today, and those who have faithfully passed on.

May God make us instruments of God's peace; Where there is hatred, let us sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

Let us be a consoling, understanding, loving, and forgiving people toward all of God's creation.

All are invited to bring a pet forward for a blessing at this time. You are invited to introduce your animal if you are comfortable.

OFFERING & PRAYER

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

❖ CLOSING SONG

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

❖ FINAL BLESSING

May we go from this place knowing how much God loves us and calls all of creation into community.

May we go from this place assured of God's love and grace as we share our lives with our animals and with one another.

Alleluia. Amen.

MORE MUSIC

Oak Street Ramblers