

Join us for the rest of our Summer Preaching Series, Faces of Our Faith:

July 31st: Lydia
August 7th: Judas Iscariot
August 14th: Eutychus
August 21st: Joseph of Arimathea
August 28th: Bartimaeus
September 4th: Daughters of Zelophehad

July 24th, 2022

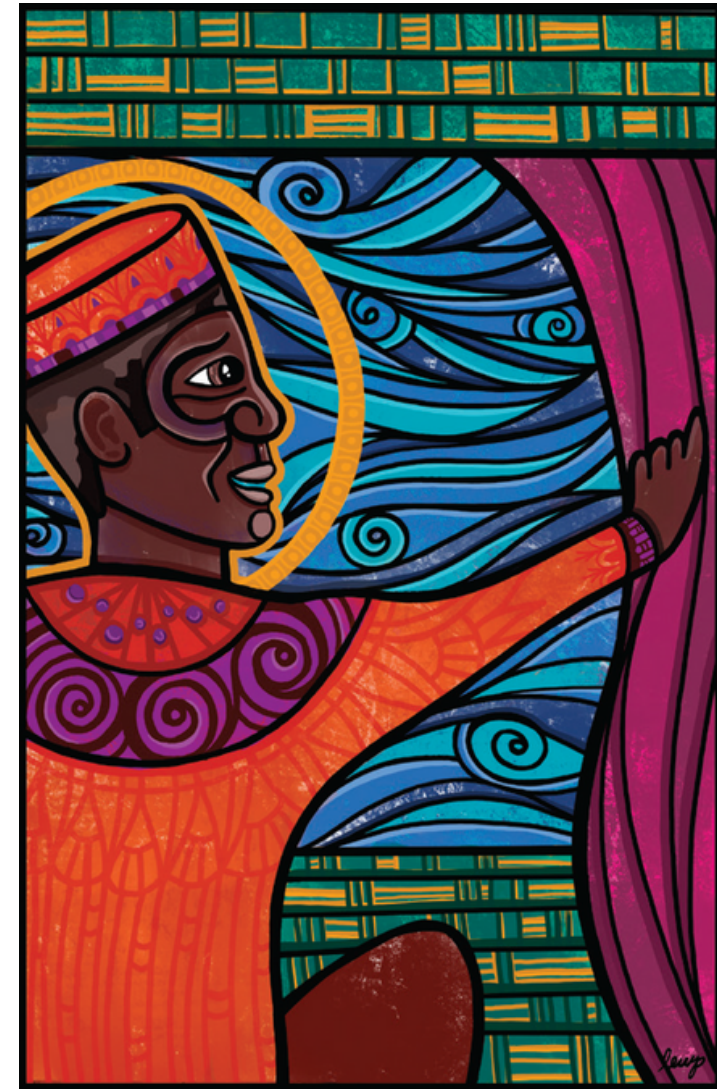
About the Cover Art:

I struggle with this image I created. I think I struggle because compositionally the image doesn't seem to have a focal point. The more I look at the image, however, I realize that what I was most drawn to in this text was the water. The focus ended up being the background of swirly, energetic waves of water. In this text we meet a eunuch who is a court official of the Queen of Ethiopia. I imagine the eunuch is surrounded by opulence in the comforts of his chariot, but within this space he is wrestling and confused. His eyes wander through the theological quandaries of Isaiah—the prophecy, the metaphor, the language, the words, the letters, the punctuation—and he invites Philip to join him in this questioning space. What does it all mean? He asks Philip questions and Philip answers them, but the point of clarity comes when the landscape shifts. Instantly, the eunuch moves from questioning to a sense of awe, excitement, wonder, and maybe even a bit certainty. “Look there is water! What is to keep me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:37). The answer is nothing—not his status, not his questioning, not even his position in society as a sexual minority. Absolutely nothing keeps him from the water, and it seems as though he knows this truth deep into the very cells of his existence. Nothing holds him back from baptism. Courageously diving headfirst into a wonderfully mysterious and certainly uncertain life of following Christ, the eunuch emerges from the water drenched in the truth that nothing will keep him from the love of God.

—Lauren Wright Pittman

Staff

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





THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH - dive in
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Graphic image | Inspired by Acts 8:26-40

Wayne Presbyterian Church

Sharing the Ministry of Jesus Christ through Worship, Education and Mission



Welcome! What to expect in worship ...

-  **Liturgy** | Liturgy literally means “the work of the people.” We think worship should be interactive. It is designed to engage the whole person—heart, mind, soul, and body. Therefore, we sing, speak, stand, sit, eat, watch, think, and sit in silence. If worship is a performance, it is the church’s performance for God. Each week we do our best to make sure that God is praised using everything we have.
-  **Prayer** | Our lives are full of lament and celebration. We therefore come to God with honesty recognizing that God wants to hear our deepest pain and most pressing questions, and loves to see the Church joyfully celebrate God’s great gifts.
-  **Offering** | We give tithes and offerings as a response to God’s grace in our lives. Knowing that all good blessings come from God, the offering is an opportunity to joyfully spread that blessing throughout the world. Guests are not expected or obligated to give.
-  **Communion** | Christ is the host of the communion feast. Everyone who is searching to know Christ is welcome at the table.
-  **Childcare** | We love children. As a child-cherishing church, we provide a variety of educational opportunities for children. They are welcome in the worship service or in Sunday school. We also have a lovely nursery staffed by professional childcare workers if you need a break.
-  **Masks** | Masks are now **OPTIONAL** for all services and events.

Christian Education

today

PRESCHOOL & UNDER
Sunday School in Room 103
Childcare available in the nursery

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
Children will be dismissed to the
Fireside Room following Time with
Children. They will return during the
Closing Hymn.

this week

TUESDAY PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
1:00 - 3:00 pm- Library

WEDNESDAY PSAD GROUP (ZOOM
only) 6:45 pm - Contact
psadfacilitator@gmail.com

Prayer Requests & Mission Partners of the Week

Prayers for all who are suffering from violence, particularly our Ukrainian siblings, the people of Buffalo, and the families and community of Uvalde. If you feel called to financially donate to help relieve the suffering of these communities:

Support for Ukraine can be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: bit.ly/pres-ukraine

Support for Uvalde can be sent directly to Mission Presbytery: www.mission-presbytery.org

- PC(USA) Mission Partners of the Week: Lynn and Sharon Kandel – As the regional Liaison for the Horn of Africa, Sharon facilitate support for the relationships, programs and activities of PC(USA) partners in Ehtiopia, Sudan and South Sudan. She also mentors and supports other mission co-workers in South Sudan with logistical needs. lynn.kandel@pcusa.org
- WPC Partner of the Week: Dr. Kristen E.M. Gay and Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE, of Gemma Services. Kristen serves as President and CEO and Lynn as Chief Development Officer. Gemma Services (formerly theVillage and Silver Springs) promotes hope and healing through mental health services, education, and specialized support for vulnerable and at-risk kids, teens, and families. Address: 512 W. Township Line Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Church Office Updates:

- Rev. Richard Miller is on vacation and returns to the office on August 5th. Tim Evers is on vacation and returns Sunday, July 31st.
- Welcome New Staff: Angie Dahlman, Accounting Assistant, began on Tuesday. She will be supporting Liz Wagner, Director of Finance, part-time and can be reached at accountingassistant@waynepres.org.
- Summer Office Hours: The church office is open Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm.

Sermon

Heather Shortlidge

Orison

Let the Words of My Mouth
Summer Choir

Hamill

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion of the People

Prayer

+ **Hymn 226** *There in God's Garden*

SHADES MOUNTAIN

+ **Benediction**

To Do the Work of God
Summer Choir

Lewis

Postlude

Divertissement
Kirsten Santos Rutschman, Organ

Craig A. Penfield

Announcements & Notes:

SUMMER BREAK FOR COMMUNICATIONS: The New and Views weekly email and the Wayne Pres monthly newsletter will be taking a brief break for the rest of the summer. We will also be responding to limited Creative Requests during this brief summer break. To stay connected with all that is happening here at the church, check out the website (waynepres.org) and the weekly worship bulletin.

SUMMER CHOIR: Choir rehearsals will be at 9 a.m. in the Music Room for the summer.

WE ARE COLLECTING KITS FOR OUTLEY HOUSE men's shelter in Philadelphia. Kits should include: deodorant, soap, toothbrush/paste, disposable razor, foot powder, wash cloth, & 2 pairs of socks. Other items greatly needed (new) are: towels, t-shirts, boxers. Please place items in plastic bags, label "Outley House" and bring to the City Lights Table in the Connector on Sunday mornings or the church office. For more info, contact Carmela Curatola at cncuratola@yahoo.com or Susan Aggarwal at vnsagg@aol.com.

WPC BOOK CLUB: Book Club will meet August 21st at 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room. They are reading *The Body Keeps the Score*; discussion will be facilitated by Rev. Heather Shortlidge. Lunch will be served. RSVP at bit.ly/wpcbookclub

BIG LESSONS FROM SMALL CHURCHES: Lunch and Discussion with Rev. Katy Shevel, Sunday, August 14, 2022, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Register at bit.ly/WPC-smallchurches to attend via Zoom. No need to register for in-person attendance.

+ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude

Allegro con spirito from Drottningholm Music
Kirsten Santos Rutschman, Organ

Johan Helmich Roman

Introit

Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Dwelling Place
Summer Choir

Thiman

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Welcome to this holy place:
house of prayer,
home to all who enter.

Welcome to this gathering place:
friend and stranger, saint and sinner.

Come with hope or hesitation,

come with joy or yearning,
all who hunger, all who thirst
for life in all its fullness.

+ **Hymn 403** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

UNSER HERRSCHER

+ **Prayer of Confession**

Let us in silence, confess our faults and admit our frailty.

- Silent Prayer -

Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

+ Assurance of God's Grace

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+ Response of Praise: (Hymn 614)

*Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just; by your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true; by your mercy you prove you are love.
Great are you Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice: great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!*

+ Affirmation of Faith *Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and re-newer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit, who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in the Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

+ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Time with the Children

Children will be invited to the chancel steps for a message and then dismissed to the Fireside Room for Sunday School. They will return to the sanctuary during the closing hymn.

Offering

Text the word GIVE (not case sensitive) to our church's Giving Number (610 819 4483), or scan this QR code on your smart phone.



Offertory Anthem

Who At My Door is Standing
Summer Choir

K. Lee Scott

Who at my door is standing there patiently drawing near? Who entrance is demanding? Whose is the voice I hear? Sweetly the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee." Within, the rooms are darkened, all filled with dust and sin; how shameful, how unworthy for Christ to enter in. Yet, the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee." Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide. Though he rebuke and chasten, he shall with me abide. Sweetly the tones are falling; "Now open the door for me!" Lord God, I hear thee calling, come now, abide with me.

+ Doxology and Prayer of Dedication (Hymn 606)

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.

First Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-33

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Come and Taste
The Quartet

Alice Parker

Come and taste along with me consolation flowing free, from the Father's wealthy throne, sweeter than the honeycomb. I'll praise God and you praise God, and we'll all praise God together; We'll praise the Lord for the work that he has done, and we'll bless his Name forever. All that come with free good will make the banquet sweeter still; Now I go to Mercy's door, asking for a little more. Goodness, running like a stream through the new Jerusalem, by a constant breaking forth sweetens earth and heaven both. O, return, ye sons of grace, turn and see God's smiling face. Hark, He calls backsliders home, then from Him no longer roam.

Second Scripture Reading: Acts 8:34-40

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.