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

August 7th: Judas Iscariot
August 14th: Eutychus
August 21st: Joseph of Arimathea
August 28th: Bartimaeus
September 4th: Daughters of Zelopehad

About the Cover Art:

As the reach of the apostles expands, Paul, Silas, Timothy, and their companions make their way through Asia Minor to Europe, stopping briefly in Philippi, part of modern-day Greece. Since there may not have been an established synagogue in Philippi, on the Sabbath they find a prayer-house on the river, a space filled not with men and high priests, but women. They join them and as Paul speaks, one woman in particular—Lydia of Thyatira, a Gentile devoted to Jewish worship, a dealer of purple cloth—listens intently, her heart expanding with every word.

Despite her outsider status (Thyatira was part of Asia Minor) and how women are typically portrayed in scripture, Lydia is a woman of power, influence, and dignity. Purple dye was a luxury item for the elite, so we are to assume that Lydia is an established businesswoman. She is also, surprisingly, the leader of her household. After being stirred by Paul's message, she and "her household" are baptized. No patriarch is named—no man gets credit or gives permission. Lydia's first act as a new disciple is hospitality. She welcomes the apostles into her home (without the permission of a patriarch). Later, after Paul and Silas are released from prison, her large home becomes the meeting place for the apostles and the growing Christian community in Philippi.

As the only Philippian convert named in Acts, Lydia was quite possibly the leader and patron of the Philippian church. She used her wealth to establish the community, she risked her reputation as a businesswoman to house foreigners released from prison, she sanctified her conversion with acts of radical hospitality. In this image, I wanted her eyes to be the focal point. I hope they draw you in, radiating her warmth.

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Staff

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July 31st, 2022

Lydia of Acts
by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
acrylic on wood panel | inspired by Acts 16:11-15, 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.

Children 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.

Events this week...

MONDAY
~BIBLE IN A BOOKBAG
5:00-7:00 pm, Chapel.
TUESDAY
~COMMUNICATIONS & TECH MEETING, 6:00-8:00 pm, via Zoom.
~PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING, 6:30-8:00 pm, Counting Room.
~FAITH IN ACTION MEETING, 7:00-9:00 pm, Fireside Room.
WEDNESDAY
~CENTERING PRAYER & LECTIO DIVINA, 7:00-8:00 pm, via Zoom.
~BUDGET PLANNING MEETING, 7:00-9:00 pm, Fireside Room.

Prayer Requests & Mission Partners of the Week

Prayers for all who are suffering from violence, particularly our Ukrainian siblings and those reeling from gun violence. If you feel called to financially donate to help relieve the suffering of these communities.

PC(USA) Mission Partners of the Week: Dr. Larry and Inge Sthreshley - Larry works with partner churches and organizations to help them develop their capacity and technical approach to do health ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This has enabled our partners to run large internationally-funded health programs that have greatly impacted health in these countries. Larry says his goal is to help the church "effectively demonstrate the love of Christ through health ministry." Inge gives oversight to the Methodist Presbyterian Hostel, which is a mission guest house and small conference center providing a much needed service to Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries, national and international church groups, work teams and individuals working in partnership in Congo. Email: larry.sthreshley@pcusa.org

WPC Mission partner of the Week: Rena Counsellor, Chairperson of the Main Line Refugee Resettlement Group's steering committee. This group is a collaboration of several churches in Radnor, including WPC, working to enablean Afgham family to live a sustainable life here in Radnor Township. Rena is the glue which holds the Group together and helps it function effectively. Address: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 104 Louella Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087

Flower Dedication

To the glory of God and in memory of Pete Hyser who died on July 21. The flowers dedicated by the Lectors of the Worship & Music Committee. Memorial service will be held here on Saturday, August 6, 11:00 am.

Church Office Updates:

- Heather Shortlidge, Tim Evers and Austin Ricketts will be out today.
- Rev. Richard Miller is on vacation and returns to the office on August 5th.
- Summer Office Hours: The church office is open Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm.

Sermon
Katy Shevel

Orison
Spirit of God — Lole
Summer Choir

Prayers of the People and 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 295 *Go to the World!* — SINE NOMINE

+ Benediction
May God Bless You and Keep You — Hamill
Summer Choir

Postlude
Allegro maestoso from *Water Music* — George Frederic Handel
Kirsten Santos Rutschman, Organ

Announcements & Notes:

SUMMER BREAK FOR COMMUNICATIONS: The News & 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.

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.
Rev. Katy Shevel led a Zoom webinar for The Center for Healthy Churches this week as part of their "Strengthening the Small Church" series. Visit https://chchurches.org/webinar/ to watch Katy's presentation.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, July 31st, 2022

Proper 13

+ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Prelude
Petricor — Ludovico Einaudi
Katy Shevel, Piano

Introit
We Come to Worship God — Lewis
Summer Choir

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship
Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Come to me and never be hungry."
We gather with hands that are open—ready, waiting, yearning for the manna of mercy and the dawn of a new day.
Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Abide in me as I abide in you."
We gather with arms that are open—ready, waiting, to embrace one another as our Lord embraces us.
With open arms, stretched wide in welcome, our Lord bids us, "Come."
We gather in the sacred name of the Triune God, in whom we find rest for our souls.

+ Hymn 341 *O God, Show Mercy to Us* — THAXTED

+ Prayer of Confession

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

- Silent Prayer -

Holy God, we are made in your image. When we behold the face of our neighbor, we are looking upon the very face of Jesus. Yet we deny the sanctity of our created identity and defy your good vision for creation. We turn away from our neighbors and friends in need. We diminish the worth and value of your beloved children. We deny the dignity of strangers, forgetting that they, too, are reflections of your image and bear the imprint of your sacred love. Show us mercy, Lord Jesus. Heal us and bind us together as one family of faith in your name. Help us to live into the goodness of our created identity and the sacred calling for which you intend for our life together. For the sake of our Savior, we pray.
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 *From the Confession of 1967 (9:36-9:37)*

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.
The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or at play, in private or in the life of society. The people's prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relationships with others is in the measure of the church's faithfulness.

+ Passing of the Peace

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

Time with 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. Please feel free to give in-person as well.

Offertory Anthem

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need — Virgil Thomson
Summer Choir

My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his Name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake his ways. He leads me for his mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace. When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay. One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away. Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread. My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days, O may thy house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come, no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.

+ 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: Psalm 67

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.
May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Take Me to the Water — Rollo Dilworth
The Quartet

Take me to the water. Take me to the sea. Take me to the river so that my spirit can be free. Gonna lay my burden down, down by the riverside. Gonna wade in the water, the water that flows both deep and wide. Oh, take me to the water. Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside. Wade in the water, children. God's a gonna trouble the water.

Second Scripture ReadingActs 16:11-15, 40

We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.
After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home, and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.