



August 10, 2025 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

*please stand as you are able

*Have you checked in for worship today on the Church Center app? Please remember to also **sign** the Friendship pads in the pews and greet those seated near you. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin at 8:55 a.m.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #19: Accept and Don't Cast Stones

19. ACCEPT AND DON'T CAST STONES. God's love opens the doors of our church to all people. Just as Jesus did, welcome people as they are. It's not up to us to judge. Love unconditionally, and as Christ has received you, receive others.

Collect Prayer (unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, you open your arms to all who seek you, without condition or judgment. Teach us to see one another through the eyes of Christ – not with suspicion or superiority, but with deep compassion and open hearts. Keep us from casting stones of blame or exclusion, and instead shape us into a community of mercy and embrace. May your Spirit guide us to love as we have been loved, and to receive others as freely as Christ has received us. In the name of Jesus, our Gentle Teacher and Merciful Savior, Amen.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

God Himself is With Us

Harbach

* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Pam Engle

Come, all who hunger and thirst for righteousness

For we will be filled.

Come, all who are poor in spirit

For the Kingdom of God is ours.

Come, all who mourn, all who long for peace, and all who seek mercy

For God is near and God is here.

Let us worship the God whose Kingdom turns the world right-side up.

We come to be challenged and changed through God's Spirit at work in us.

* Prayer of Adoration

Elder Engle

* Hymn No. 107

Christ Be My Leader

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Engle

God of radical love, grace and acceptance, we confess that we often prefer the comfort of our own kingdoms – where power looks like domination, where wealth equals worth, and where being right matters more than being kind. Forgive us for how easily we fall in line with the way of the world. Forgive us for the ways we participate in systems that harm others, and for the inner postures that keep us from seeing your image in our neighbor. Re-teach us the ways of humility, peacemaking, and mercy. Break open our assumptions. Displace our arrogance. Reorient us toward love. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Engle

Hear the Good News: The same Jesus who speaks hard truths on the mountain also kneels to wash our feet. God's mercy is not transactional; it is transformational. Blessed are those who seek Christ's healing – for they will be made whole.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and being made new. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* Gloria Patri

Moment for Mission: Stephen Ministry

Peg Pierce

Stephen Ministers are specially trained to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person regularly. "Care receivers" are individuals in the congregation who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists. Stephen Leaders are congregation members with additional training to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. This year Stephen Ministry is celebrating its 50th Anniversary worldwide.

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Rev. Allen



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Offertory Music

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Just a Closer Walk with God

Southern Gospel/arr. Walters

Jennifer Wait, Soprano

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Richard Herman

The Heart of the Matter

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-48 (Pew Bible NT p. 4)

Sermon Series: *The Sermon on the Mount*

* Hymn No. 670

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

Music in Preparation for Service

He Leadeth Me

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

Jordan

* Benediction

Dr. Herman

~ ~ ~

Worship flowers are given by Lucy Rorke-Adams in loving memory of her parents Aram and Karzouhy Balian.

9:00 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Pam Engle; **Audio Technician:** Jonathan Nawrocki; **Live Stream Technician:** Michael Boone; **Ushers:** Dave Rebuck, Brett Couvillion, Joe Malloy; **Flower Arrangers:** Joann Reynik and Carol Morgan; **Trustee Greeter:** Pete Honeyford; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Barbara Lewis; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Audrey Drummonds and Owen Dietz; **Bagel Pickup:** Freh Budka or Sarah Dietz; **Coffee Hospitality:** Freh Budka and Sarah Dietz; **Nursery Care:** Chelsea Margerum



Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and Church Center app for details)



Beach for a Day – The Mission Committee is assembling volunteers to help support the Children's Fresh Air Home on **Tuesday, August 12**. We will be helping with a BBQ for youngsters from UrbanPromise. Our responsibilities will be meeting the children, helping with the BBQ, going to the beach (optional), or playing miniature golf. This group will be older children (teenagers). Please see our [Church Center event page](#) to SIGN UP and for full details of the day. Youth are welcome. **As the home is under renovation, we are hosting the day's events at the**

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, located at 111 N. Central Ave. in North Wildwood. Questions? Contact: Jean Kunkel at jeankunkel215@gmail.com.

Summer Youth Activities -- Rising middle schoolers (grade 7-8) through high school (grades 9-12) are invited to summer activities from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meet up with your friends and make new acquaintances. **UPCOMING: Wed. August 13:** Lawn Games @ Church; **Wed. August 20:** Movie Night @ Church. Contact: Cheryl Gaskill.

The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden welcomes harvesters! Just show up in the evening (Sundays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays) from 7:00-8:00 pm-ish to pick the produce and store it in the church kitchen. The produce grows through Sept./Oct. so come on out! Contact: Leslie Spencer.

Women's Morning Prayer Event -- **Saturday, Aug. 23** (8:00 am-noon) -- Please come for a special time of prayer. Bring your Bible, journal and a snack if you'd like. Coffee, hot tea, and water will be provided. Join other women on their prayer journey. Women of high school age or older and friends are welcome. [RSVP online](#).

Summer Adult Spiritual Formation - **"Drop In and Discuss" (Lounge)** – Stop in Sunday mornings this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather in the Lounge from 10:15-11:00-ish am. Get your coffee and drop in. Who is on the Hot Seat this week?

NEW: Undie Sunday August 17 -- Presbyterian Women invite you to participate in Undie Sunday on **August 17**! We're collecting new socks, underwear, and pajamas for Camden children ages 6–16 — specifically those with an incarcerated parent. As you shop for Back-to-School supplies, please consider picking up an extra package to help a child in need. Look for the donation box in the Commons Lobby. Let's make a difference — one pair at a time!



Holiday Schedule -- The office will be **CLOSED Monday, September 1** for the Labor Day holiday.

Sabbatical Presentation -- On **Sunday, August 31**, Stuart Spencer will present a review of his 16-week sabbatical to the congregation. That week is a combined worship Sunday due to the Labor Day weekend, so the presentation will *follow* the **9:30 a.m.** Worship. Stuart returns to the office on **Thursday, Aug. 21**.

Kickoff Sunday -- Our 2025-2026 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 7** as we welcome everyone back to church after busy and eventful summers. Your church staff has been active too! Special happenings are planned as we begin another joy-filled year in ministry.

NEW: Fall Prayer Retreat October 14-17 ([see event page or website to register](#) by **Sept. 21**; Stuart Spencer leads. Study Book: *World Turned Upside Down: The Psalms and the Spirituality of Pain – Finding a Way Through*; Holy Cross Monastery (West Park, NY).