

JULY 2023 WORSHIP GUIDE

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of July 2023.

Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

Where Is Your Faith?

You know, you're only afraid of the presence of God if you are not ready to face God. Jesus asked His disciples, "Where is your faith?" Truly, faith is tested not in the good days, not in the peaceful days; faith is tested in the bad and troublesome days. That's when people around you will look at you and see if your faith really is solid. Jesus asked the disciples, "Where is your faith?"

He told them, "Everything is fine when I'm walking with you, and everything is great, but now it's time to trust. Now is the time to believe, when the storm comes, and where is it? How come you failed now? How come it disappeared? How come I'm here with you yet you're so afraid?" Where is your faith? So when the heat comes, or when drought comes, when the bad times come, then you're going to flourish, then you're going to yield fruits, then your leaves will be green, and everybody will see that you're doing great – if you trust in the Lord. So to trust in the Lord is important, mostly in bad times. And Jesus was asking them, "Where is your faith?" When Jesus is on the boat with us, we can cross the lake. We can cross any lake in the chapters of our lives. In fact, we need to remember that the presence of Jesus is what Christianity is all about.

Luke 8:22-25

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

While the body of Christ is diverse in many ways, there is one thing we all share in common. No one likes the storms of life. The disciples on Lake Tiberius (Sea of Galilee) were in the boat with Jesus. They could see Him; they knew they were not alone. The One they watched heal the sick, cast out demons, and even raise the dead was asleep. Mark's gospel records a detail Luke's did not:

Mark 4:38

But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

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July Worship

Worship July 2

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 22:1-14; Ps 13; Rom 6:12-23; Matt 10:40-42

Call To Worship

Welcome all who Christ brings. This is a place of love and grace. Welcome all who are thirsty. God offers cold water to drink. Welcome sinners and saints, seekers and saved. We come as disciples ready to serve. We come together as one people, to praise the God whose love is reigning over us.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, We confess that, though we claim to love you, our lives do not always reflect that love. We offer hospitality out of obligation instead of love, out of care for our own well-being instead of that of others. We hesitate to welcome others out of fear of rejection instead of extending compassion as the fruit of your love for us. In our relationships at work, home, and even church, too often we choose convenience instead of reliability, believing the ends justify the means. Help us, we pray. Free us to live as your children who welcome, nurture, and love our neighbors as we learn to grow as disciples of Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mighty God, you have poured down on us all manner of gifts and blessings; the ledger of our lives is so overwhelmed with your goodness that we struggle with how small our offerings to you seem in comparison. The gospel reminds us that not even the smallest act of mercy and compassion – a cup of cold water – will go unnoticed by you. Give us the eyes to see those in need, the ears to hear those who cry for justice, and the hearts to comfort those hurting and grieving. If we all were to offer a cup of cold water, the world would be flooded with compassion. We ask this in Christ, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen.

Worship July 9

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Ps 45:10-17; Rom 7:15-25a; Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

Call To Worship

Come on ya'll, let's worship the Lord! Come to Jesus, all you who have suffered a beat down this week. Come to Jesus, all you who have experienced family turmoil this week. Come to Jesus, all you who are tired of conflict all around, tired of high gas prices, tired of glass ceilings, quotas, minimum wage jobs, and limited family values. Come to Jesus, all you who have a job that is getting on your last nerve. Jesus said, "I'll give you rest. I'll bring you relief. I'll provide your deliverance. I'll make a way." And Jesus will give us wonderful rest! Come on ya'll, let's worship the Lord!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of compassion and mercy, you claim each one of us as your children. Like a parent, you are joyful when we find joy and your heart aches when we fall, fail, or feel less than the beloved heirs to the kingdom you meant us to be. The yoke the Bible describes doesn't burden us but reminds us that you yearn for us to be a church, a community, that supports, steadies, and sustains when life makes us weary. The gifts we give this day we give in gratitude for this yoke that helps us finish the race in faithfulness. Bless our giving and its use, we pray in Christ's name. Amen

July Worship

Worship July 16

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 25:19-34; Ps 119:105-112; Rom 8:1-11; Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

Call To Worship

Come, let us worship God! Come, let us worship our Creator! God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth. We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love. God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace. We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil. God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life. May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, Sower and Reaper of love, we admit to you that we are like stony fields, capable of growing goodness and sharing it around, but we have allowed goodness to wither and weeds to flourish. Your mercy has taken root in us, but we do not share enough of it with others, your justice has grown on us, but we have poorly carried it out. Your truth has showered on us, but we have let it run to waste. Your love has blossomed among us, but we have been slow to produce fruit. Open the furrows of our lives to receive again the seeds of your Gospel. Rain your mercy upon us. Shine your warmth and light into every dark place. Bring forth in us, not the harvest we deserve, but the harvest, that in your glorious love, you have given to us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Worship July 23

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 28:10-19a; Ps 139:1-12, 23-24; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

Call To Worship

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, how easy it is for me to distinguish myself from "them". For the times I believe I am better than others – forgive me. For the times I put my ways on a pedestal to the neglect of others – forgive me. For the times I feel no discomfort in judging others before I even know them – forgive me. For the ease with which I label people "them" or "other" – forgive me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we thank you that all that we have was given by you. We thank you for the opportunity to return to you a part of what you have provided. We thank you that you have called us to live as good seed among the weeds in the world. Help us to share your love and grace wherever we go. May all that we do bring glory and honor to your name. Amen

July Worship

Worship July 30

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Gen 29:15-28; Ps 105:1-11, 45b; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33, 44-52

Call To Worship

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Prayer of Confession

Master and Creator of the universe, thank you that your work does not depend on my power. I offer myself and my meager resources to do your work in the world. But Father, I realize that the power to do this work, the resources to accomplish the tasks, and the time necessary to complete your ministry must all come from you. Today God, I confess to you my weaknesses and my sins, knowing that all your power needs to work in our world is a willing heart and an available vessel. Please use me not only today, but each day, to do your work. In Jesus' name, I pray.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, thank You that you let us be a part of providing for this church and its ministries by giving back to you. Thank you that we are a part of Your Body. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus and be used by You to forward Your kingdom as You see fit. Thy will be done. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Where Is Your Faith?

Continued from front cover.....

If there was anything the 12 should have been sure of, it was that Jesus cared for them. He called them to follow Him. He taught them, corrected them, sent them out with the power over unclean spirits and disease. Yet, when a storm arose, they were afraid and wondered if He even cared.

This is what a lapse of faith looks like, and most, if not all, of us have had them. The storms of life come, but we don't have a sleeping Jesus nearby to look at. We have read His teaching but not heard His audible voice. We have experienced the miracle of salvation, having been born again. He has given us exceedingly great and precious promises, and, yet, at times, we wonder where is He in what we're going through? Does He not see? Does He care about our pain and suffering? Many times the question arises, "Why would He even allow this?"

The most important aspect of this story of the disciples' faith failure is the opening statement by both Mark and Luke: And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." Before they ever left the shore, they had been given a destination. If Jesus said, "Let's go to the other side," that is where they were going to wind up. It didn't matter what happened in the middle. Satan could stir up a storm, run the boat into a rock, or draw in an enemy to try and sink the boat. Whatever happened in the middle may not have been fun and even a bit frightening, but none of it could change their destination. They were going to the other side!

The same is true for us. He has given us a destination:

John 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

He also said that in between here and there will be some rough seas:

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

For those who may currently be in the midst of a storm, remember, no amount of tribulation can change our destination. He said we would someday be where He is, and we will. Nothing can alter our course. Nothing can separate us from His love, and no one can snatch us from His hand.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

It has been said: Without a test, you have no testimony. We all go through trials and the storms of life. Faith is remembering our promised, unalterable destination, even though it is yet unseen, and living like it is true, especially during a storm.

If you feel like you are in a storm on the Sea of Galilee right now, remember, the middle is not the end. You have a promised destination given by the One whom you do not now see, but will someday. No storm can alter that, and what lies on the other side of this life and its storms, trials, and tribulations, is a place of unimaginable peace and beauty where death, pain, and sorrow, and all their causes, are banished forever. Until then, we walk by faith and not by sight knowing that someday we'll get to other side.

5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch after Service

July 30, 2023

The theme is summer picnic - family style.

Invite a friend to church and stay for lunch afterwards.

Contact Alison Painter with any questions.

Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 13 - Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

E J N X P O O S T T D C T Y I A D P I N D D H T Z Z Q N R A
Z R W E R M E J H I X L F N F B E Y P U O N I U B U G D P T
S O O U V L L E R G B M F Z A L L K B K O S L S T G K U U H
T R A H L A S H O U N B N V O H T N Q M T K E Z C L A M D E
H C E S S E E B W J E R V K H C C H N O S H D L E I F W G O
Y C A A A A V H N C D F O U N D B R G P R I V Y B O P A F H
H L E V Z Q T B P L D A N G E L S R E H E S U H R A E L T A
L S F R Q D X I E O I J R T O O G Y E M D J S N U H R X E V
Z T N M I K Z I W H H U I I Z D H K J B N O G Z T I D A T Y
D E T L Q K F H F E E S I F D R H D P L U Y S F Q Z I X P R
D K P X C R A Q Z U R H S I F T H G U A C R O E I S X X R I
T S W C T K J T L R U D M N E C F Z E X Q D I X P H H O Y U
L A T P W O U A U I S S N H S D E J Q K N D V E O A D I V D
S B R L W U V O S A A L P N U P O S C E R S R U D C R J U F
H L W H S T J L Z D E R L I O X G Y Q C I V S L W H C A U W
P T Z N A Q V G K O R A S O L D A L L Y G E V T D H N R T C
H O E E H A V G Y F T E R N T N W A J F H W L A U W N J S E
U X R E M O D G N I K P M S U S E J W O T A O L A A B E G T
M G U F T T H O H N M D A P Y F P X L H E O H N C S P A F R
N P D J K F T P J V A G S K H F B D R W O I L E S C R I B E
D M J E E L O L F C Z M T G V B A I X X U R O I N F E A R E
G N I P E E W G E U S S E L L Q R Q P Q S F X V K Z U O L U
X D T B S D A R N C R E R Z E O K I V U F T C E R E I E Z L
R Z P X C R O Z B I A I N W P D D A Z I D Y D S V X A Q K O
I B S M D F E B P B H N O Y D J B Q R N B T D S V N C N F K
E F H F E W J U M G Q S A R B P U E X H Z T L W K V M U E H
O V B R K D M G H O C B A J U T P V G Y N R V W T G R V N T
K B E R V H Y K K Q D S Q N D B G N J G U H E E U J P D E I
O H A W P Z F K U I O X T J G Q D S C Z H Y E A R O T E R N
T X I B H V K I P Q F D N B A H Y N Q T Z C B O Y P V J F F

Find the **34 bold** words or phrases from Matthew 13: 44-53

“The **kingdom** of **heaven** is like **treasure hidden** in a **field**, which a man **found** and **reburied**; then in **his joy** he goes and **sells all** that he has and buys that **field**. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a **merchant** in search of fine **pearls**; on finding one pearl of **great value**, he went and **sold all** that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is **like a net** that was **thrown** into **the sea** and **caught fish** of every kind: when it was full, they **drew it ashore**, sat down, and put the good into **baskets** but threw out the bad. So it will be at the **end of the age**. The **angels** will come out and **separate** the evil from the **righteous** and throw them into the **furnace of fire**, where there will be **weeping** and **gnashing of teeth**. “Have you **understood** all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “**Therefore** every **scribe** who has become a **disciple** in the kingdom of heaven is like the **master** of a **household** who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” When **Jesus** had finished these **parables**, he left that place.

Verona Food Pantry

This list is a guide line, any item you can give is welcomed.

Drop off at the office before the end of the month.

January - Cereal
February - peanut butter
March - canned fruit
April - mac 'n' cheese
May - canned meat / fish
June - canned veggies
July - staples, rice, beans, pasta
August - cereal
September - peanut butter
October - canned veggies
November - canned 'thanksgiving'
December - Pot Luck

The following list was shared by a food bank volunteer.

These are some excellent suggestions if you are unsure what to give, or if you see these items on sale.

Fresh items should be taken directly to the food pantry.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac & Cheese in the box, but it needs milk & butter which is hard to get from food banks.
2. Boxed Milk is a treasure. Kids need it for cereal, which they get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce & spaghetti noodles.
4. Canned Foods should be Pop Tops OR donate Can Openers.
5. Oil is a luxury needed for Rice a Roni which they get a lot of.
6. Spices, Salt & Pepper are a real gift.
7. Tea bags & Coffee are caring gifts.
8. Sugar & Flour are treats.
9. Important are fresh produce donated by farmers & grocery stores.
10. Seeds are great in spring & summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. Rarely is there fresh meat.
12. Tuna & Crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but NEED sandwich bread.
15. Butter or Margarine are good.
16. Eggs are a commodity!
17. Cake mix & Frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing Detergent is very expensive & is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury & women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.