

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book located in the Narthex.

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**Calendar of Events**

**Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary**  
7/12

Sat. (7/18) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in the Grove**  
7/19

**Sun. 9:00AM Worship Service in**  
7/26 **the Sanctuary**

**Mon. (7/27) - Thur. (7/30) 6-8 p.m.**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**“Rainforest Falls”**

Fri. (7/31) Reading Phillies Game



**“Bellemans Night**  
**at the Reading Phillies”**

**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2026

**Gametime:** 7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$12 each

Please, signup in the narthex or contact James in the church office with any questions.



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Acknowledgements:

Permission by CCLI license #2391601

The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978

Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986

The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004

Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021 (p. 157-161).

Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

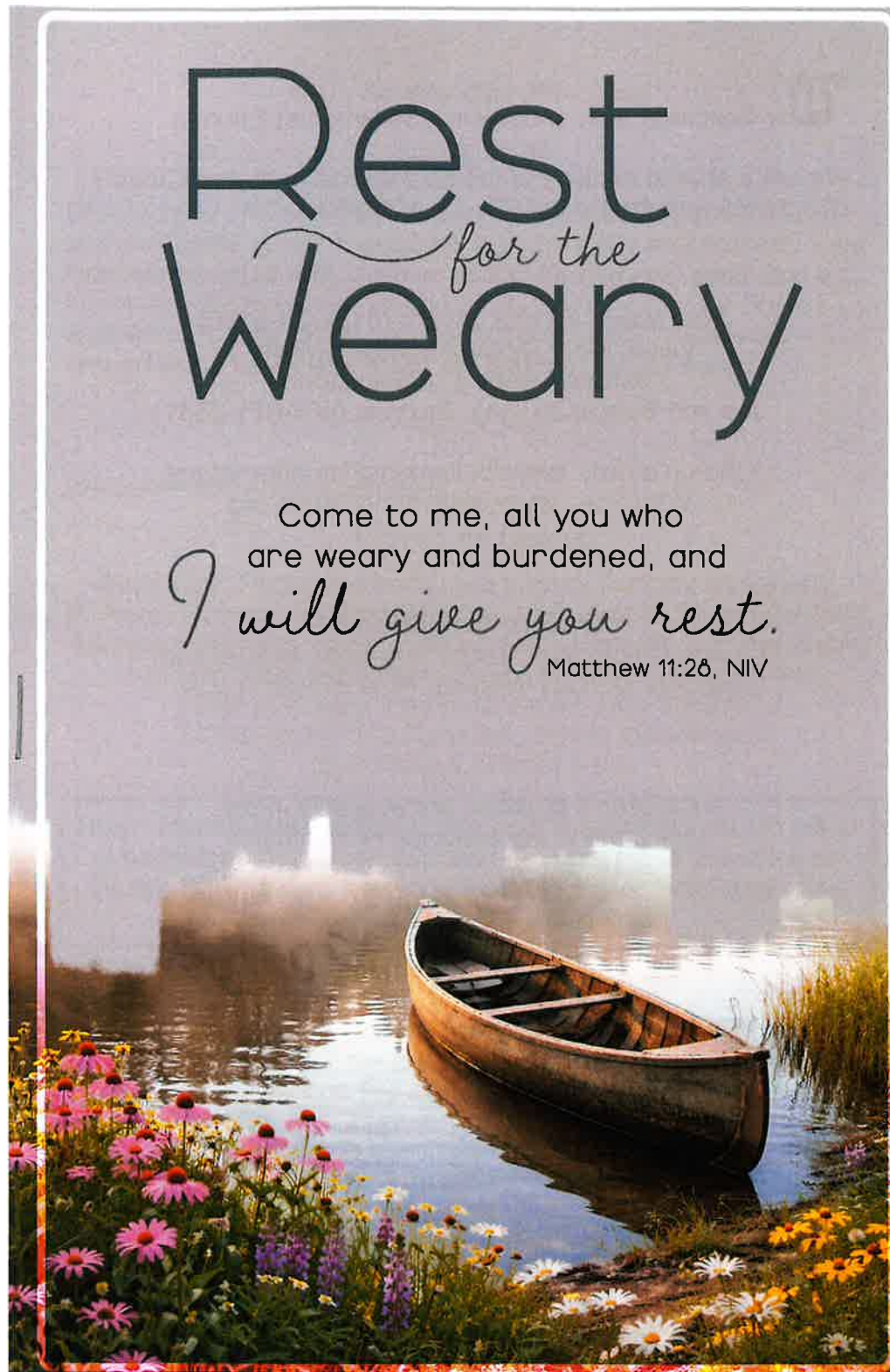
Touch Holiness ed. by Ruth C. Duck

Rest *for the* Weary

Come to me, all you who
are weary and burdened, and

I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28, NIV



We welcome you to Salem (Bellemans) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

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Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor (610-334-5130)  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net  
Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Summer Sunday Worship Time is at 9:00 a.m.

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*Children's Bulletins are available in the pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

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Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water and meal, we find rest for our souls.

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*Welcome and Announcements*

*Prayers for Healing*

Mark Zipp, Peggy Hartman, Maya Hein, Dorothy Dougherty, Richard Hartman, Richard Bausher, Livia Kiwak, Sindy Bachman, Mathew Machmer, Xavier Shaffer, Larry Blatt, Brenda Anderson, Joe Barton Sr., John Geib, Donna Rueppel, Robert Elliott, Batdorf Family, Laura Schoeller, Deb Steffey, Lester and Gloria Gambler, Dennis Linderman, Rick Phillips, Shirley Felix

Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

*Military*

Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner, Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman, Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman, MSgt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts, Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey, MAJ Michael Kufro, SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and women serving our country.

*Prelude*

*\* Please stand if you are able.*

*\*Gathering Hymns*

"Shout to the Lord"

**My Jesus, my Savior; Lord, there is none like You  
All of my days; I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love**

**My comfort, my shelter; Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath  
All that I am; Never cease to worship You**

**Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You**

"You are my King"

**I'm forgiven because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted, You were condemned  
I'm alive and well; Your Spirit is within me  
Because You died and rose again**

**Amazing love, how can it be  
That You, my King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do I honor You  
You are my King; You are my King  
Jesus, You are my King; Jesus, You are my King**

**Amazing love, how can it be  
That You, my King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do I honor You**

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*\*Call to Worship*

Take a moment to find God's image within you.

**For some of us, the image may seem unfamiliar.**

Take a moment to silently name your insecurities.

**For some of us, these weaknesses seem intense.**

Take a moment to prayerfully claim your identity in God.

**God walks alongside of us.**

Whether we are fragile or robust,

**God's steadfast love shines brightly in our hearts.**

*\* Call to Confession*

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God, if we carry excess baggage on life's journey, teach us to travel more simply. If our possessions own us, free us to trust you and share with others. If our need for control keeps us anxious and demanding, help us to relax. If we carry loads of guilt, may we hand them over to you, trusting you to forgive us. God, make us simple: simple in trust, simple in life, simple in commitment to you. Prepare us for your mission. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who sends us out into the world. Amen.**

*\*Acknowledgment of God's Forgiveness*

Praise the Lord!

**The Lord's name be praised.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!  
(The sharing of hands/hugs are optional.)*

*\*Praise Hymn (Sung)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks, give thanks.**

*\*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**With each breath we take, our spirits breathe in God's Spirit. Our souls rejoice in the one who fully knows our hearts. God's grace sustains us, even in the midst of our weaknesses. Pondering God's steadfast love, may we see the ways that God is calling us in this space and time.**

*Proclaiming The Word - Read by Eileen Fruchtl*

*SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 7:15-25*

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup> And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do

not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

*RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 145:8-14*

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

<sup>9</sup> **The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.

<sup>11</sup> **They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,**

<sup>12</sup> So that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*\*The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. <sup>27</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Children's Message*

*Jingle Offering: Reid Schrack and Family*



Hymn

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of  
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the  
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are  
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

*Sermon*

*\*A New Creed—United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

*Offering*

Offertory Selection

*\*Offering Response (Sung)*

**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.**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Holy Communion*

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Luke the evangelist wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**In company with all believers, in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

**\*COMMUNION PRAYER**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

In our times of victory or vulnerability, there are seats for us all. Regardless of our painful pasts, the thorns in our bodies, or the insults plunged into our souls, there are places for each of us at this meal. No matter which neighbor or kin have turned their backs on us, no matter how many tears have fallen from our eyes, we each are welcome here. At this meal, we once again find our strength. At the table of Christ, we renew our energy.

*(Sung)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The night before Jesus faced rejection and desertion, persecution and insults, he joined with friends to share a meal. This meal fed Jesus, not only in body, but also in mind and soul. "Remember me," he instructed his companions. "Remember me," he spoke, as he shared the bread and cup. In this time and space, as God's Spirit encircles us, Christ continues to abide with us. Christ stirs us to widen the table, nudging us to add a chair, or to take this feast to someone missing today. And as we expand the sacred meal of Christ, we remember him. We remember the night he celebrated with friends. We remember the day he was rejected and deserted. We remember the morning he emerged from the tomb. And we find our strength in his resurrection. Amen.

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

By eating the bread and drinking of the cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

Consecrate now by your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and cup, and bless us, that as we receive them here at this table, we may offer you our faith and our praise, we may be united with Christ and with each other, and we may continue faithful in all things.

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

## INVITATION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

*(Sung)*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God  
You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.**

## *Sharing of the Elements*

*All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.  
Holy Communion will be offered at the altar.*

*(Grape juice is provided in the center of the trays)*

*(Gluten-free bread is available from the cup-station.)*

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of your son Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and in peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!**

*\*The Benediction*

*\*Sending Hymn*

*One Nation Under God -*

*A Medley from Pew Hymnal Numbers 570—573*

*(Stanzas marked with an arrow are to be sung)*

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*



## The Covenant Association

of the Keystone Conference UCC  
News from around the Association

July 05, 2026

**Greetings!**

Hello, I'd like to share a few reflections on the Covenant Association from the perspective of a layperson.

I joined Epler's UCC in Leesport about 25 years ago. It didn't take long before I became active in the life of the church and eventually served on Consistory. I still remember the night our pastor mentioned an upcoming Association meeting and said Epler's needed delegates. I had no idea what that meant — and I knew immediately I had no interest in finding out.

But the more deeply I became involved at Epler's, the more I realized that being a member of the church is bigger than what happens within our own walls. Our mission teams were doing meaningful work in the community, and that stirred something in me. I began to wonder about the wider church — the Association that connected us to other congregations.

In 2016, when the Covenant Association was formed through the merger of the Reading, East Berks, and Heidelberg Associations, I decided to attend its first meeting. That gathering changed everything for me. It opened my eyes to the way the Association brings local UCC churches together, and it awakened a desire in me to belong to something larger. I discovered that my voice mattered — not only at Epler's, but in the wider church.

Through the people I met in the Covenant Association, I learned that I had gifts I hadn't recognized in myself. Others helped me nurture those gifts, and none of that would have happened if I hadn't shown up at that first meeting.

I believe every one of you reading this has gifts that can help share God's love in powerful ways. The Covenant Association helped me discover and develop mine, and it may do the same for you. Serving within the Association — and now within the wider life of the new Keystone Conference — has been a blessing that has enriched my faith and my life.

So, I invite you to reflect:

- What questions do you have about the wider church?
- How might the Covenant Association help strengthen relationships among our congregations and members?
- What gifts do you feel called to share — or what gifts might you want to explore?

The theme of the Keystone Conference's Annual Meeting was "Joy at the Table Together." We welcome you to join us as we bring that joy to the table of the Covenant Association — and as we continue to expand that table for all

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

May you feel the blessings of God's love in your life,  
Rick W. Deerfield  
Epler's UCC  
Covenant Association Executive Committee Secretary  
Keystone Conference Transitional Board of Directors  
rickdeer@rocketmail.com

### **REMINDER:**

The Fall Association gathering will take place on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Huff's Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis, PA. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Spread the word in your congregation! Your Executive Committee stands ready to answer any concerns or questions that you or your congregation may have. Please feel free to contact us at [covenantassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:covenantassociation@yahoo.com)

**Today's Communion Assistants (Altar Communion)**  
*Altar Assistants:* Carla Rozsitch, Linda Henne, Maura Wesner  
*Cup Stations:* Roxanne McMurtry, Carlene Kissinger  
*Ushers:* Larry Henne, Sam Stump