

Trinity United Church of Christ
60 East High Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325
717-334-7266 www.gettysburgtrinityucc.org



August 30, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Summer Biblical Character Series – **Rhoda**

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Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!

Please stand as you are able; **BOLD print - congregational response*

**All words provided on the screen*

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PRELUDE MUSIC “The Lord’s My Shepherd *with* The Lord is My Shepherd”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come to Christ, the living bread,
who satisfies those who hunger and thirst for what is right.

Come to Christ, who gives living water,
that we may never thirst again.

Come to Christ, that being filled yourselves,
you may minister to the hunger and thirst of others.

Come to God in worship and praise
through Jesus Christ, who gives us life.

***HYMN #421 “We Gather Together”**

***PRAYER**

**God of mystery and might, whose wonderful works
are to be remembered, move in our lives,
change our minds, soften our hearts, direct our feet,
that we may follow you more faithfully.
Yes, Lord, we seek to follow Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE “Sanctuary”**

***Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and Holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I’ll be a living Sanctuary for you.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples,
we set our minds not on divine things but on human things.
Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us that we may gain new life in you. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lenore O'Rourke

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life, and I shall dwell

in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Acts 12

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. ²He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

³After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.

(This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) ⁴When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵While Peter was

kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. ⁶The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. ⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell.

He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and

follow me." ⁹Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel

and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” ¹²As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. ¹³When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴On recognizing Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵They said to her, “You are out of your mind!” But she insisted that it was so. They said, “It is his angel.” ¹⁶Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, “Tell this to James and to the believers.” Then he left and went to another place. ¹⁸When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. ²⁰Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king’s country for food. ²¹On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. ²²The people kept shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!” ²³And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. ²⁴But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. ²⁵Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

PRAYER/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 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 forever. Amen.**

HYMN #247 “My Shepherd is the Living God” *(Remain Seated)*

*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

As we celebrate our gifts, may we remember that service strengthens our spirits.
May we now return to God a portion of what God has provided.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE #785

*We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Bless us Dear Lord, and bless these gifts that through them,
we may do your will, today, tomorrow and always. Amen.**

*HYMN #300 “Jesus Shall Reign”

*FINAL BLESSING

Hold fast to what is good;
Repay no one evil for evil.
Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; preserve in prayer.
God in the Peace Christ offers. Amen.

SERVICE INSTEAD OF SERMON
(Decorating Puppets for Trunk or Treat)

*POSTLUDE

(As we depart for Fellowship)

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Portions of today's liturgy have been adapted from the following:

UCC Book of Worship. New York. 1986.

Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion. John Knox Press. Louisville. 2014.

Touch Holiness. Duck and Tirabassi, Editors. Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2012.

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PRELUDE: *The Lord's My Shepherd with The Lord is My Shepherd.* Text/Tune: Jessie Seymour Irvine. Arrange: Heather Sorenson. ©2019 Lorenz Publishing Co.

HYMNS: *We Gather Together.* Text Netherlands folk hymn. Translation Theodore Baker. Adaptation: Lavon Bayler. Tune 16th-century Dutch Melody. Arrange: Edward Kremser. Word adaptations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press.

My Shepherd Is the Living God. Text composite: Thomas Sternhold and Isaac Watts. Tune: Southern Harmony. Harmonization: Erik Routley. Harmonization ©1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Jesus Shall Reign. Text: Isaac Watts. Tune attributed to John Hatton. Word alterations ©1993 The Pilgrim Press.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

ALTAR FLOWERS: In honor of our 60th Wedding Anniversary today by Ann & Buck Harvey

THANK YOU for the beautiful *Get Well* cards you sent. I love each and everyone of them!
Bonnie Smith.

PRAYER LIST: A list is available in the Gathering Area. Please call the office to be removed from the list.

****USHERS NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER** – please sign up in Gathering Area.

ALTAR CARE: “a few good people” are needed to Care for the Altar to prepare communion, change paraments and candles and order Altar Flowers. Please call Nancy MacMeekin 717-334-2111 for more information or if you would be interested in helping

****** FINAL SUNDAY FOR DONATIONS for 5th SUNDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION:**
Adams County Library System

BLESSING ROOM - Monday, August 31st from 11:00am - 1:00pm

(Help needed to set up 10:00am /tear down 1:00pm). A list of items needed is in the Gathering Area. **REMEMBER, if you use it, they use it! Please** keep the products coming. They have expressed their gratefulness for what we are doing. Thank you for your support! **Most needed items are diapers Sizes 4 & 5.** At the current time we **DO NOT NEED toothbrushes and toothpaste.** There is a good supply of those items.

DINNER CHURCH – Wednesday, September 2nd at 5:30pm. A gathering where all the most important things happen at the table. Please bring a dish or dessert to share with the larger group. No reservations needed. Just show up with food.

BOOK STUDY: Thursday, September 17th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. We will meet in the Gathering Area. The book we will be reading is “Memorial Days” by Geraldine Brooks. *A 2025 memoir by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. It explores the sudden death of her husband, journalist and author Tony Horwitz, who passed away after collapsing on a Washington, D.C., sidewalk on Memorial Day in 2019 .* **If you would like to join the group, please contact Jane Malone.**

POLISH POTTERY BINGO! October 10th. Tickets are \$25.00. Doors open at 5:00pm. Games begin at 6:00pm. Call the church office or the store to reserve your tickets. They go fast! We are asking the congregation to donate some desserts. They can be brought in Friday morning or Saturday morning.

HYMNALS! They are more than just songbooks. Stop by the History Cabinet to see what else our hymnals provide for our faith journey. **Trinity’s History Task Force.**

NEWS FLASH! In an effort to inform congregation members and/or the wider community of what is happening in our church, the Communication Committee is seeking information to pass on. If your committee is doing something you would like to share, please let the Communications Committee know. **The month of September’s “info gatherer” is Janet Sheely, jlsheely13@gmail.com or 717-357-1789.**

STAINED GLASS TOURS: Friday afternoons at 2:00pm and 3:00pm. The tours are free, donations accepted to help fund the Stained Glass Restoration project. **Greeters are needed at the door to welcome guests while Carl Barrick and/or Jane Malone are giving the actual tours.** Contact Jane or Carl if you would like to help.

SUMMER OUTREACH: The growing season is in full swing! Please bring in your excess garden goodies. Those of us with not-so-green thumbs can then share in your harvest by placing money in the jar as “payment” for the fresh produce. **Proceeds will go to the Independent**

Living Program of Adams County Children and Youth. More information on this program is available on the Summer Outreach table.

ATTENDANCE 8/23, 2026: 9:30am 50; On-line 131; Total 181

FINANCE REPORT 8/23/2026:

Envelope Offering Need: *\$126,208.00* Envelope Offering Rec'd: *\$107,232.50*
Property Fund Need: *\$13,090.00* Property Offering Rec'd: *\$11,537.50*

THIS WEEK

Today, 8/30: Bring scissors to worship! Cut fabric along the lines drawn; Decorate the cut fabric to make the face; Stamp the church's name on the fabric.

Monday, 8/31: DEB & BRUCE OUT through Wednesday, 9/2

11:00am – 1:00pm Blessing Room – *Fellowship Hall*

(need help at 10:00am to set up and 1:00pm to tear down)

Tuesday, 9/1: DEB & BRUCE OUT

Wednesday, 9/2: DEB & BRUCE OUT

5:30pm Dinner Church

7:00pm Choir - *Sanctuary*

Friday, 9/4: 9:30am Flutes – *Fellowship*

2:00pm & 3:00pm Stained Glass Church Tours

Next Sunday 9/6: Communion

Monday, 9/7: Labor Day. Church/office Closed

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Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young	Pastor
Suhua Dong	Liturgist
Sara Shank	Organist/Choir Director
Mark Luckenbaugh	Percussionist
Suhua Dong and Roberta Weiant	Greeters
Catherine Hammons, Janet Sheely	Ushers
Buck Harvey	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young,	Tech Team
George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Suhua Dong, Nina Redding, Cindy Kidd,	
Terry Krietz, Bette Bunce, Chris Swinn	

Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

1. We gath-er to-geth-er to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty, seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide and the wrong in us still.
2. Be-side us, for-giv-ing, en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior, to life that is new.
You draw us a-way from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.
3. All praise to the Spir-it, pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom, to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age to fol-low your way.

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My Shepherd Is the Living God

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. My shep-herd is the liv-ing God,
I there-fore noth-ing need;
In pas-tures fair, near pleas-ant streams
you set-tle me to feed.
You bring my wan-dering spir-it back
when I for-sake your ways,
And lead me for your mer-cy's sake
in paths of truth and grace.
2. When I walk through the shades of death,
your pres-ence is my stay;
A word of your sup-port-ing breath
drives all my fears a-way.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my ta-ble spread;
My cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows,
your oil a-noints my head.
3. The sure pro-vi-sions of my God
at-tend me all my days;
O may your house be my a-bode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a set-tled rest,
while oth-ers come and go—
No more a strang-er or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27–30

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

1. Je-sus shall reign wher-e'er the sun
does its suc-ces-sive jour-neys run;
God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. Through Christ shall end-less prayer be made,
borne by the Spir-it's cease-less aid;
Like sweet per-fume new hymns shall rise
with ev-ery morn-ing sac-ri-fice.
3. Peo-ple and realms of ev-ery tongue
dwell on God's love with sweet-est song,
And in-fant voic-es shall pro-claim
their ear-liest prayers in Je-sus' name.
4. Bless-ings a-bound where-e'er Christ reigns:
the pris-oners leap to lose their chains,
The wea-ry find e-ter-nal rest,
and all who suf-fer want are blessed.
5. Let ev-ery crea-ture rise and bring
trib-utes of praise for all to sing;
An-gels de-scend with songs a-gain,
and earth re-peat the loud a-men.

Ps. 72; Rev. 1:4b–8