



Stony Brook Community Church United Methodist

Connecting people to God, purpose, and each other.

**10:00 a.m. July 18th, 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Announcements for the Week of July 18th, 2021

Tag table registration forms for our October 2nd Harvest Festival are available on the welcome table. Stop by and pick one up!

Quarterly statements were emailed out last Monday. Please contact the office (after Wednesday!) if you have any questions or corrections.

Liz will be away this Monday through Wednesday. An effort will be made to check email but not the phone line. Thank you for your understanding while she goofs off in Maine. In case of a pastoral emergency, Pastor Chuck's phone number is in the church directory.

Please know that you can mail in your checks or go to the church website at www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org to make online offerings. You will get a prompt thank-you, so you will know we received your donation.

Thoughts for Personal Reflection

"God has not abandoned us any more than he abandoned Job. He never abandons anyone on whom he has set his love; nor does Christ, the good shepherd, ever lose track of his sheep."
~ J.I. Packer

"It takes some of us a lifetime to learn that Christ, our Good Shepherd, knows exactly what He is doing with us. He understands us perfectly."
~ W. Phillip Keller





Service of Worship

PRELUDE: "How Firm a Foundation"

Early American tune arranged by Dale Wood

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on Psalm 23)

The Lord is my Shepherd

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures

And leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul

And guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil, for thou art with me.

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Thou anointest my head with oil. My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

*HYMN no. 159: "Lift High the Cross," verses 1-4

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving God, you come to us today offering us new life and sustenance, yet we often turn away and miss what you have to offer. Often, we do not feel able to be your disciples. We think we have to be trained in a seminary or be a religious professional, so we choose to play it safe and shy away from your call on our hearts. But today you remind us that we are all learning to be your ministers in the faith. And because you call us, we can serve. Because you love us, we can love and offer compassion on your behalf. Too often, we look to the world for answers, O God. This day we turn to you, shepherding God, confessing our doubt, anxious to receive new life, forgiveness, and a fresh start so that we might know the joy of serving you in the world. Use us, O God, we pray. May we be channels of your peace. Amen.

Time of silent prayer and assurance of pardon

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Open our hearts and minds, O God, so that your word of love and faith may transform and guide the lives we lead day by day. Above all, let your will be done. Amen.

HEBREW BIBLE READING: Psalm 23 (Please see scripture page below)

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 2:11-22 (Please see scripture page below)

LEARNING WITH THE YOUNG (*after which children may leave for Sunday school*)

ANTHEM

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER

(Please email or contact the church office with your joys and concerns each week)

*(During this time of prayer, the pastor will offer a time for the people in God's church to mention prayer requests. After each request is voiced, the pastor will say, "Lord, in your mercy," to which the people will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")*

GOSPEL READING: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (Please see scripture page below)

MESSAGE: "Time With the Shepherd"

Pastor Chuck Van Houten

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND SELF:

Thank you, God of the humble, God of the upright, God of the poor in spirit. You lift us up, you accept our gifts, and you magnify those gifts for your work in the world. Use these gifts and our lives, we pray, for the healing of your world. Amen.



HYMN no. 577: "God of Grace and God of Glory," verses 1-4

God of Grace and God of Glory, on thy people pour thy power;

Crown they ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!

Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;

Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy
kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;

Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

CLOSING PRAYER:

You, O Lord, are full of compassion and love. We turn to you, Shepherd of our soul.

**Lead us to green pastures, we pray; teach us what is good and profitable in your sight. As
your Son has shown compassion to the people of Galilee, show also compassion to us.
Forgive our sins, cleanse us from all unrighteousness, heal our infirmities, and deliver
us from our trials. We ask these things in the name of our Savior Jesus and through the
power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING:

Today's reader: Michele Dexter



Scan for SBCC website.

**Scan for Sunday
worship service**



Scriptures

Hebrew Bible Reading: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

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