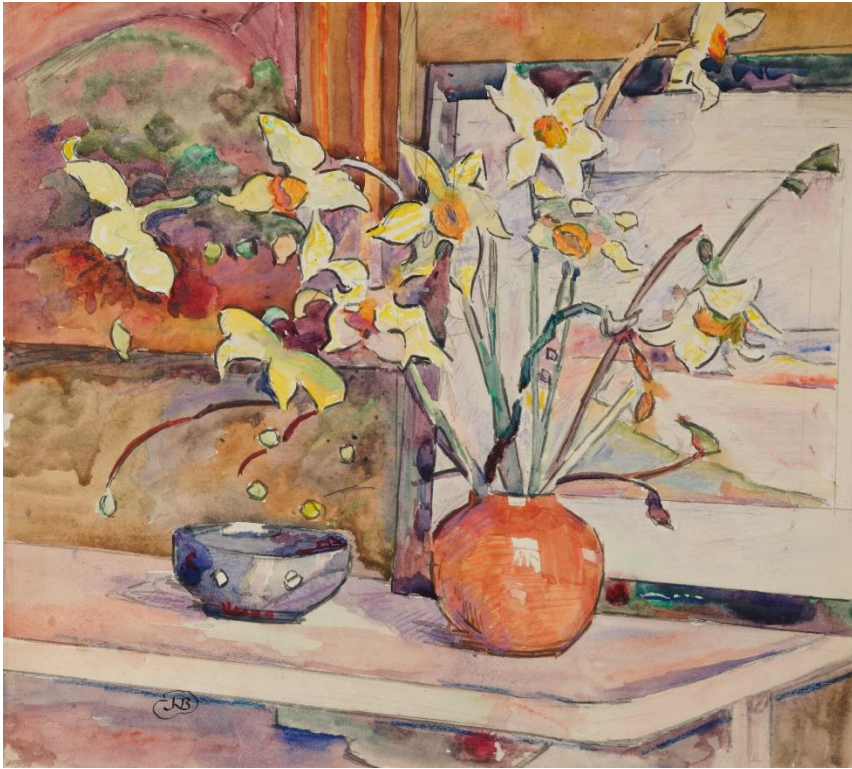




Hershey Presbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

April 27, 2025

Front Cover Artwork

James Brown (1863-1943), *Daffodils*, watercolor with crayon and graphite, 1912-1943, 27.8 cm. x 31 cm., signed in black ink at lower left: "JB" (encircled). Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, Presented by Sebastien Brown, 1984. On location in the Western Art Print Room (not on display), Accession No. WA1984.140. Image © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. A special thank you to Amy Taylor, Picture Library Manager, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, for specific permission for use. www.ashmolean.org/collections-online#/item/ash-object-93220

James Brown (1863-1943) was born in London. He was both a painter and a musician. As a musician, he was an authority on string music and the originator of the Polychordia String Melodies (1920s), a teaching method and repertory for young string players. It was not until late in life that he began to paint seriously.

He was already in his fiftieth year when in 1912, his work was noticed by the distinguished critic Frank Rutter in an exhibition in Richmond. Rutter sought him out and took him to meet Lucien Pissaro. A close friendship developed between Pissaro and Brown and on many occasions the two went painting together. As a result of Pissaro's help and encouragement, coupled with the stimulus of meeting J. B. Manson, Ludovic Rodo Pissaro and Maurice Asselin, Brown became fired with an immense enthusiasm for painting. He endeavored to understand the principles of impressionism and developed his own interpretation of it.

Apart from one or two early attempts, Brown never showed his work in public. Hence it has been...known only to a small circle of friends. Many of the paintings are signed with the pseudonym "P. Conway" which Brown used for some years, but later he returned to his own name.

The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology, founded in 1683. It holds a wide-ranging collection from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art, telling human stories across cultures and across time. You can browse their collection online, as well as explore the Ashmolean from home. Home learning activities can also be found on their website at <https://www.ashmolean.org>.



Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) desires to be a welcoming, grace-filled, all-nations community of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian tradition. We seek to love God and our neighbor as we make disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning to *worship God, proclaim Christ, and love others.*

Preparing to Worship God

Welcome

Welcome to Hershey PCA! We are glad you have come to worship God with us as we come to him through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

A **Nursery** for children age infant through 3 years old is provided in Room 110. Today's Nursery Workers are Bev Cox and Lauren Sanabria.

A **Junior Church** for children aged 4-Grade 2 is offered in Room 111 during the sermon and communion time for our young worshippers. This time begins during the hymn before the sermon. Children participating in Junior church will return to their parents during the final hymn. Today's Junior Church Teacher is Leah Gible.

Thank you to all those who participate in making this worship service possible (worship service participants may include in alphabetical order): Ephraim Church (violin), Isaiah Church (violin), Jericho Church (sound), Laura Church (vocals), Thaddaeus Church (viola), Peter Gible (viola), Paul Hepperle (leading worship), Joe Kearns (tin whistle), Jeff Hooker (preaching), Mark Linstedt (vocals), Pam Linstedt (vocals), Nathanael Marengo (clarinet), Anita Wood (piano), and Don Wood (vocals).

Today's Communion Servers are Greg Moore and Nick Yingst.

Prelude

Missions Moment: Today we welcome **Rev. Jeff Hooker**, Regional Director of Development for **Covenant College**, our denomination's college. Pastor Hooker will take a moment before the service to talk about Covenant College. He will also fill the pulpit today.

Praising God

***Call to Worship:**

Psalm 99:1-3

The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!

He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² The LORD is great in Zion;

he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name!

Holy is he!

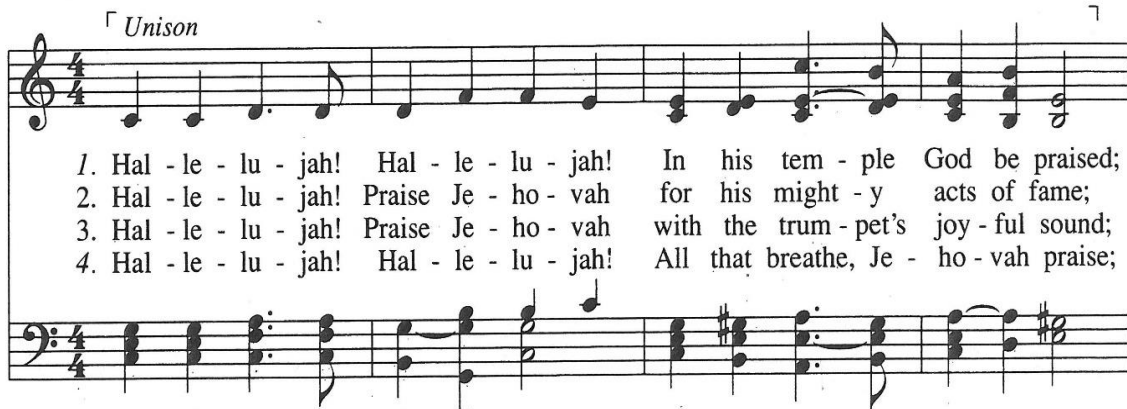
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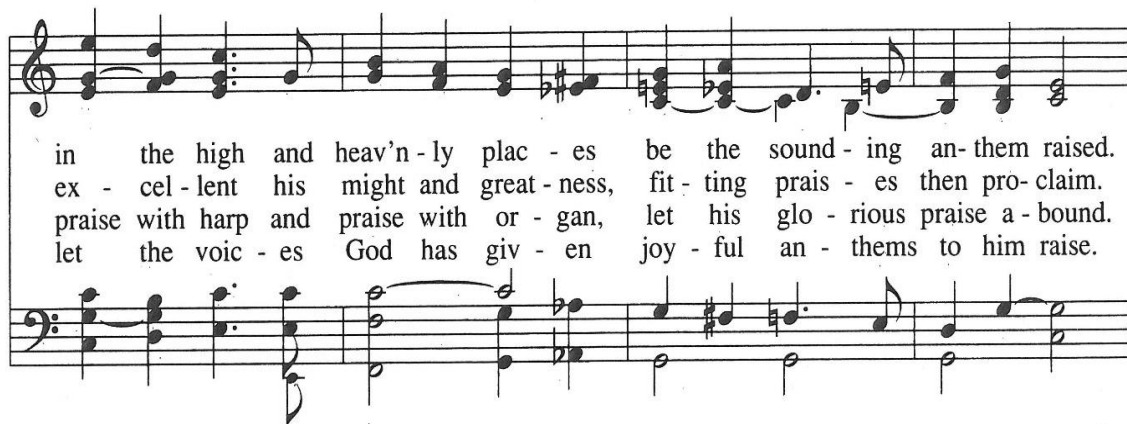
*Response of Praise:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Unison



1. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! In his tem - ple God be praised;
 2. Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise Je - ho - vah for his might - y acts of fame;
 3. Hal - le - lu - jah! Praise Je - ho - vah with the trum - pet's joy - ful sound;
 4. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! All that breathe, Je - ho - vah praise;



in the high and heav'n - ly plac - es be the sound - ing an - them raised.
 ex - cel - lent his might and great - ness, fit - ting prais - es then pro - claim.
 praise with harp and praise with or - gan, let his glo - rious praise a - bound.
 let the voic - es God has giv - en joy - ful an - thems to him raise.

Harmony



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men.

From Psalm 150
 The Psalter, 1912

ALLELUIA (LOWE) 8.7.8.7.al.
 Albert Lowe, 1868

***Prayer of Adoration & Invocation**

***Confession of Faith**

Hebrews 1:1-4

Today's confession of our faith is from the book of Hebrews. By it, we confess Jesus's superiority over all things.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

***Gloria Patri**

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther,
and to the Son,
and to the Ho-ly Ghost:
as it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be,
world with-out end.
A-men, a-men.**

Facing Up to Our Sin before God

Reading of God's Standard

Philippians 2:14-16a

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life....

Confession of Sin

Declaration of Pardon in Christ

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Offering Our Prayers to God

Prayer of Intercession & the Lord's Prayer

Hershey PCA Prayer Requests for the Week of April 27-May 3, 2025

Intercession *for the World*:

- **Hershey Community:** Derry Township Director of Public Works Thomas Clark
- **Civil Government:** Vice President JD Vance
- **Unreached People Group:** Ziban Bedouin of Algeria

Population: 21,000; Language: Arabic; Religion: Islam

"...pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)

Intercession *for the Church (God's People)*:

- **Health issues:** Ken K.
- **Leaders of Our Congregation:** Set-up Team
- **Supported Missionary or Organizations:** Covenant College

The Lord's Prayer: We will close with this version of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

"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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

During this song, children from 4 years old through Grade 2 are welcome to attend Junior Church in Room 111. The Junior Church teacher will meet the children at the door to the right when facing the stage.

***Song of Preparation: Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness**

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The first system includes two verses of lyrics. The second system continues the melody with more lyrics. The third system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

1. Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righ-teous-ness, make thy way
2. Teach me, Lord, teach me tru - ly how to live, that I may

plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord,
come to know thee, and in thy pres - ence serve thee with

on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.
glad - ness, and sing songs of praise to thy glo - ry.

St. 1, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876
St. 2, George F. Strickling
Tune © E. C. Schirmer, Inc. Used by permission.

LEAD ME, LORD 10.8.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Listening to God's Word

***Prayer for Illumination**

In this prayer, we ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to his Word.

***Reading of Scripture**

Hebrews 12:18-29

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon:

“The Better Gathering”

Today's Text: Hebrews 12:28-29

Jeff Hooker

Prayer of Application

The sermon concludes with a prayer asking the Lord to help us to be those who listen to his word and obey it. “...be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

Receiving Provision from God

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning (see below)

Prayer

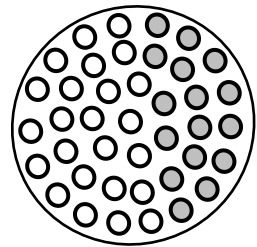
Words of Institution:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

"[T]he Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he 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.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Receiving of the Elements

About the elements: Our communion servers will be handing out the elements, which are in two stacked communion cups. The top cups have the juice or wine, and the bottom cups all have gluten-free bread. As a server comes to you, please take a cup of your preference. The clear cups are filled with grape juice; the purple-tinted cups are filled with wine.



white circles = grape juice in clear cups
gray circles = wine in purple cups

Prayer

Hershey Presbyterian Church (PCA) welcomes to receive the Holy Supper all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and obey Christ, and who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that proclaims the gospel or who have been approved by our Session after indicating a desire to participate (BCO 58-4). Children should await communicant membership before participating.

Let this table, and our communion together, point you to Jesus—to hold out your empty and faltering hands to him, to receive grace from him, to allow him to feed and strengthen you, and to remind you that, if you are in Christ, He is *for you* and *will help you* as you seek to follow him this week.

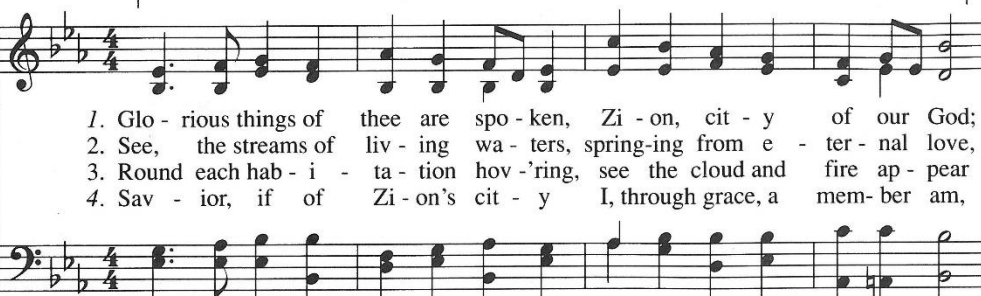
If you are not a believer in Jesus today, we are glad that you are here with us this morning! We invite you to stay and observe this part of the service, but ask that you do not participate. It is a celebration of the Christian's union with the risen Jesus. As the bread and wine are received by the congregation, we invite you to cry out to Jesus and pray the following prayer (or one like it):

Prayer of Belief: "Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared to admit, but in Jesus I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you and rest on you alone for my salvation."

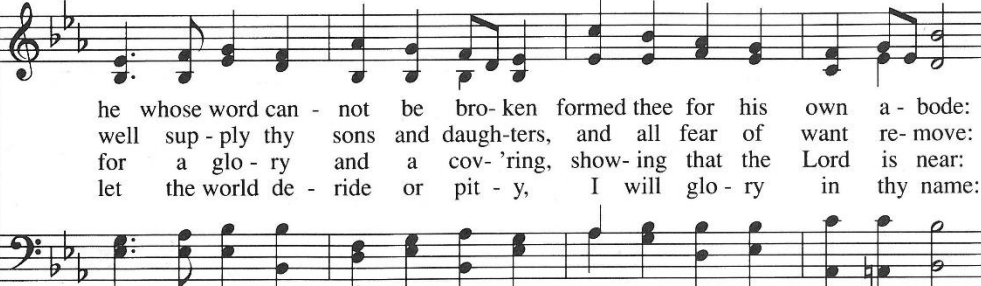
Have you prayed this prayer for the first time this morning? If so, let someone near you know! Also, feel free to talk with our pastor who can suggest ways for you to take next steps in the faith.

Receiving God's Blessing

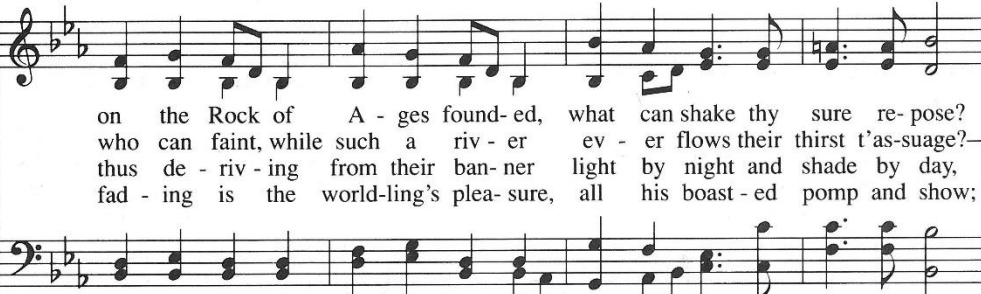
*Song of Dedication & Service: Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



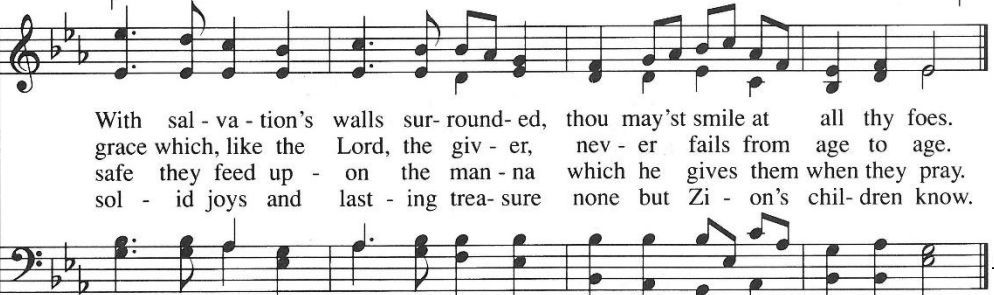
1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 4. Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y I, through grace, a mem - ber am,



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode:
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move:
 for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing that the Lord is near;
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in thy name:



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage?—
 thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure, all his boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sure none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
 Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

John Newton, 1779

Receiving God's Blessing

*Benediction:

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*

*Postlude

To our guests this morning: We are glad that you have joined us for worship today. We hope you can stay a little while for conversation with our pastor and other Hershey PCA members and friends.

After the service, greet someone you don't know. If you see someone sitting or standing alone, welcome them in the name of Christ! The time after worship is a great time for mutual, one-another ministry in Christ, feel free to sit down with someone for conversation or prayer.

Today's Service Information

- 1) **Artwork:** James Brown, *Daffodils*, WA1984.140, Image © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, specific permission for use given by Amy Taylor, Picture Library Manager, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford on 04/02/2025.
- 2) **Music:** "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" (10), "Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness" (727) and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" (345) are reprinted from *The Trinity Hymnal* (Great Commission Publications, Atlanta, GA, 2000). Music used by permission: CCLI License #20711820 and CCLI Streaming License #20711837.
- 3) **Quotes:** Page 2: about the artist: <https://www.parkinfineart.co.uk/james-brown>; about The Ashmolean Museum www.ashmolean.org. Both descriptions with slight modifications. Some of the quotes describing worship elements are from: *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). Biblical quotes are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted.
- 4) **The "Invitation to the Lord's Supper"** and the communion page information was, in part, modified from the practice of Redeemer PCA in NYC (2008) and Westminster PCA in Lancaster, PA (2015).

* Congregation standing, as personal ability allows.

2025 Vacation Bible School Is Coming!



“UPWARD BOUND”

“FURTHER UP & FURTHER IN!”

Dates: Monday, June 30 - Thursday, July 3

Place: 850 Hill Church Road!

Time: 5:30 -7:30 PM

For: age 3 through completed Grade 5

Activities: Bible stories, crafts, games, & snacks





Hershey Presbyterian

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

is a member congregation of the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America (www.pcanet.org).



The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), was formed in 1973 to be a denomination that is ***“Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission.”*** Various organizations of the PCA include:



Mission to the World (www.mtw.org): international missions in keeping with the Great Commission



Mission to North America (www.pcamna.org): North American missions in keeping with the Great Commission.



Committee on Discipleship Ministries

(www.pcacdm.org, www.cepbookstore.com, www.gcp.org): Curriculum and other resources to assist leaders in the local church as they make disciples (Matthew 28:19) among children, youth, and adults in the congregation.



Covenant College (www.covenant.edu):

our denominational college on Lookout Mountain, GA (overlooking Chattanooga, TN)



Covenant Theological Seminary

(www.covenantseminary.edu): our denominational seminary in St. Louis, MO.



PCA Administrative Committee (www.pcaac.org): promotes the unity, purity, and mission of the PCA.



Reformed Universities Ministries (www.ruf.org): the PCA college campus ministry



Ridge Haven Camp, Conference Center, Retreat Center, and Residential Community (www.ridgehaven.org): providing camps, retreats, conferences, and etc.



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HersheyPresbyterian
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (PCA)

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