

Palmyra First Church Staff

James D. Anderman, Pastor
pastorjim@palmyrafirst.org

Jackie Lutz, Pianist

Jill Funck, Preschool Director
noahslittlearkpa@gmail.com

Heidi Reinbold, Administrative Assistant
admin@palmyrafirst.org

Focus for Next Service

August 23rd, 2026

"Who Do You Say Jesus Is?"

Isaiah 9:2-7 Matthew 16:1-20

Public WIFI Log-in

PFUMC-Guest Password: ConnectMe!

Let us know you are worshipping with us,
whether you are in the Sanctuary or on YouTube.

Please fill out a connect card in your bulletin
or use the comment section on YouTube
to make your prayer request known to the pastor.

He will include your thanks to God
and your prayer concerns in our pastoral prayer.

If you would like to add your prayers to the weekly prayer chain,
contact Karen Lynch at 717-571-5903 or karen_lynch@me.com.

9:00 AM Non-Traditional Service

10:30 AM Traditional Service

All services are both in person and live-
streamed on our website and YouTube.

Music that is not in the public domain is used by permission under CCLI#1748683cv

Palmyra First **United Methodist Church**

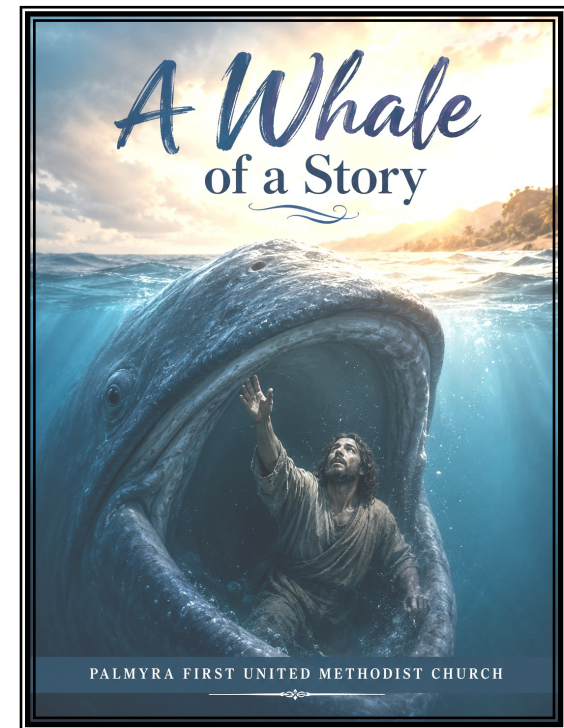


520 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078

717-838-2551

www.palmyrafirst.org



August 16th, 2026

"A Whale of a Story"

10:30 AM Service

Serving Christ, Changing Lives!

*Congregation standing, as able

A Whale of a Story

The books of Jonah and Ruth are two of the more significant books of the Hebrew scriptures because they challenged the long-held belief of the Jewish people then and many of us today that God loves and belongs only to us. This theological belief is known as religious exclusiveness. Today, we look at Jonah and the radical message that it proclaims.

Prelude

*Choral Call to Worship #174 "His Name is Wonderful"

*Call to Worship

Leader: The God all creation calls us.

**People: We come, knowing that our deliverance and honor
rest in God.**

Leader: Power and steadfast love belong to God.

**People: We come to sing and pray,
celebrating the presence of this mighty, loving God.**

*Opening Hymn #185 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Opening Prayer

Holy One,

God of all Creation,

you call us to be your people,

to carry your vision in this time and place,

to go where you send us

to help welcome your amazing, good news

that your realm is near.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit,

O God of all Creation.

Fill us with your glorious Spirit,

so that we can share your good news. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confessions Words of Pardon and Assurance

The Lord's Prayer "using the word *sins* instead of *trespasses*"

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Reading #787

Psalm 62:5-12

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Jonah 1:1-10; 3:1-5, 10

Sermon Rev. Greg Myers "A Whale of a Story"

Prayer of Confession

Holy Fountain of Forgiveness

The tale of Jonah reminds us

of your never-ending love for all creation.

May we, like the people of Ninevah,

be able to acknowledge our sin

and open our eyes to your healing presence.

Though you stand ready to forgive our sins,

we find it easier to bite our tongues,

clench our fists,

and cling to our hurts and resentments

rather than let you open our hearts.

We trust you, Holy One;

we pour out our hearts to you.

Receive the pain that lurks in our humanity

as we offer up what we have hidden from ourselves

and from the world-

those words and needs

that keep us separated from your love.

*Hymn of Response #365 "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

Offering

*Offertory Response #95 "Praise God For Whom...."

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

*Closing Hymn #560 "Help Us Accept Each Other"

*Benediction

*Choral Response #666 "Shalom to You"

Postlude