

# 2024

 **Susquehanna  
Conference**  
The United Methodist Church

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**Opening Worship**  
Community Arts Center - Williamsport, Pa.

# The Harvest is Plentiful

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## The 2024 Susquehanna Annual Conference Opening Celebration

Thursday, May 30, 2024 1:30 p.m.

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Note: All hymns and responsive readings will be projected on the screens.

\*You are invited to stand.

### PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

### OPENING REFLECTION: SEASONS

Trina Miller  
Written by Rev. Mindi E. Gochnaur

### CONFERENCE CHOIR

**“Gather Us In”**  
(#2236 - The Faith We Sing)

### \*OPENING SONG

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness/Beginning To End”**  
(One Sonic Society)

### CALL to WORSHIP

Written by Pastor Bobby Jones Jr.

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi: Welcome, beloved community, to this time of worship. Today, we gather to celebrate the abundance that surrounds us, recognizing that the harvest is plentiful.

**Congregation: As we come together, let us open our hearts to receive the blessings of the season.**

Bishop Steiner Ball: In the fields of life, in the gardens of our souls, the fruits of our labor are ripe for the picking.

**Congregation: We rejoice in the abundance that sustains us and fills our lives with richness and joy.**

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi: Let us turn our attention to the words of scripture, as they remind us of the bountiful harvest that awaits those who tend the soil of their spirits.

Bishop Steiner Ball: Mathew’s Gospel states, “Jesus said to his disciples, *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

Bishop Moore-KoiKoi: May these words inspire us to be diligent workers in the fields of compassion, justice, and love.

**Congregation: May our hearts be open to the call of the harvest, ready to sow seeds of kindness and reap the fruits of generosity.**

Bishop Steiner Ball: Let us lift our voices in gratitude for the abundance that surrounds us and commit ourselves to sharing that abundance with all who are in need.

**ALL: Amen.**

### PRAYER

Bishop Cynthia Moore-KoiKoi & Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball  
Resident Bishop of the Harrisburg Episcopal Area

### SONG

**“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”**

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:1-9  
Wesley Bealla

2 Timothy 1: 8 - 14  
Carole Procope

### SERMON

**“Harvest Begins with Seed”**

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball  
Resident Bishop of the Harrisburg Episcopal Area

### CALL for OFFERING

Rev. Jason M. Schwartzman & Lindsay Barker

Offering will benefit **“Camp & Retreat Ministry” - Advance #8050**

*The Susquehanna Conference camp and retreat ministries serve as a crossroads of meeting in the wider world and an oasis away from distraction. Guests and participants can focus on valuing each other, hearing the voice of God in new ways, and discerning fresh possibilities for their giftedness and leadership. They then go forth far and wide embodying greater awareness, gratitude, and hearts for love and justice. This is just one aspect of what the Susquehanna Conference does to participate with God in the transformation of the world. Give to our Camp & Retreat Ministry Fund through baskets that are passed or online at <https://susumc.org/donations/crm/>*

### COMMUNION

Rev. Karen L. McCachren  
Pastor Christopher E. Weems

### \*CLOSING SONG

**“Spirit of the Living God”**

### \*BENEDICTION

### POST-WORSHIP MUSIC