

**August 21, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

14th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to our summer sermon series entitled, “Walking with Nehemiah: God’s Plan for Renewal.” We begin with the question, *What breaks your heart?* It isn't until you know for whom or what your heart breaks that God can reveal where in the community and with whom your ministry needs to be done.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

**Hymn 418** We are climbing Jacob's ladder *Jacob's Ladder*

**Greeting**

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me,

**People: Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

*Psalm 122:1*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: You are the salt of the earth.

**People: May we season the world with faithfulness, O God.**

Pastor: You are the light of the world.

**People: May your love shine through us, O Christ our Savior.**

Pastor: You are a city built on a hill.

**People: May your vigor make us bold witnesses, O Spirit of the living God.**

*Worship & Song*

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn of Praise 731** Glorious things of Thee are spoken (standing) *Austria*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison, standing)

**Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; let there be moments when your presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder: How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it: “Blessed is the Eternal One, the holy God!” Amen.**

*Worship & Song*

**… TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**The Sign of Peace** *Please pass the peace to your neighbors as a sign of reconciliation and love.*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.  
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song *James Ritchie*

This, this is where children belong,

welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.

Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer and song:

This is where children belong.

WORDS: James Ritchie MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

All children are invited. Please sing as children come forward. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise** in the Welcome Center. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to Asbury Center near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymn of Petition 463** Lord, speak to me (seated) *Canonbury*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Judi Phelps

10:45 Bob James

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scripture

Nehemiah 1:1-11 Mourning the loss of Jerusalem

**Hymn 488** Jesus, remember me (seated) *Remember me*  **Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.** *repeat*

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

Scripture Reading

A Lesson from the Gospels (standing)

Luke 13:10-17 Healing on the Sabbath

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Solo** Great is thy faithfulness *Runyan, arranged by Michael Burkhardt*

**Doxology 94** (standing)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Feel Your Heart Break” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn of Dedication 582** Whom shall I send (standing) *Deus tuorum militum*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** isprovided for worship today by Steve Stockton in honor of loved ones.

**The rosebud on the altar** is in celebration of the July 6th birth of Luca Anthony DiPietro, grandson of Liz and Tom DiPietro.

**Our guest pianist** is Joy Crummie, former pianist with the Mendelssohn Choir and present pianist with Gretchen's Seraphic Singers. Mrs. Crummie teaches private piano and voice lessons.

**Special music** is provided by the John Esaias, a member of the Chancel Choir and a very active leader in the life of this church

**Our hymnal** and the new hymnal supplement are rich resources. As we explore newer texts and tunes we will repeat them during the month so that we are more comfortable singing them.

**Greeters 8:30**  Judi Phelps **10:45**  Jean Lusk and Bonnie Amos

**Worship options for children** We encourage children to participate in the **Children’s Sermon** at both services, and in **Kids Praise** during the 10:45 service. **Nursery services** are offered in Room 204 of the Education Building. Ask ushers or greeters and follow signs for direction.

**Podcasts of Sunday Sermons** Would you like to share this morning’s sermon with a friend or did you miss a Sunday? Catch up on the messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons from the past three months are at

http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com. You can navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, www.mlumc.org, through the app, Stitcher or through iTunes

**Flower Donations** The church is in need of Sunday flower arrangements. Honor or remember a loved one or friend with your donation. Contact Sharon Slater, 412-343-1137.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Nehemiah 1:1-11**

1The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, 2one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. 3They replied, “The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.” 4When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; 6let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. 7We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. 8Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; 9but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name.’ 10They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. 11O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!” At the time, I was cupbearer to the king.

**Luke 13:10-17**

10Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” 13When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” 15But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” 17When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Jean Bouvy, McMurray Hills Manor

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Pat Seitz, Concordia

**Convalescing at Home**

Robert Fairgrieve, Tommilea Giegel,

Ann Hoyer, Andy Smith

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Capt. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz   
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick  
PFC Brendan Lamport   
Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda  
Lt. Col. Mark Patterson

Lt. Com. Scott Patterson

Lt. Col. Sean Patterson   
David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz   
Capt. Scott B. Rushe, Pastor Rick Townes   
Capt. Azizi Wesmiller

Capt. Matthew C. Wesmiller   
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**Sympathy**

Condolences are offered to Arlene Stewart on the death of her son, Bruce Kenneth Stewart. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to the following address:

Mrs. Arlene Stewart

Concordia Apt. 1126

1300 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**Looking to send a card? Here are some helpful addresses**

Asbury Heights

700 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

McMurray Hills Manor

249 W McMurray Road

McMurray, PA 15317

Concordia Health Center

1300 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**Expressions of Gratitude**

A thank-you card addressed to the congregation from the Coverdale family is imprinted with these words, “Your kindness really made a difference. Your thoughtfulness really touched our hearts. The gratitude we feel really can’t be put into words.” Inside the card is a letter:

*Dear members of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church,*

*The entire Coverdale family would like to thank each of you for all of the love and support extended to the family. Thank you for all of the beautiful cards, sent to both Claire and Elaine, and then to the family in remembrance of them both. Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers and your expressions of sympathy.*

*Claire and Elaine will be missed by all, but as a family we take comfort they are together in heaven. Elaine passed with Claire holding her hand - they received their wish of being together to the end.*

*May God bless each of you at Mt. Lebanon Church. Claire and Elaine loved and missed you all.*

*Scott and Marsha Coverdale*

*The entire Coverdale family*

Another card was received from the family of Ginnie Smith. The card, addressed to the UMW and the church, said, “Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.” A letter was included:

*To Mom’s dear friends in UMW and Rebecca Circle,*

*Thank you so kindly for your donation to the Food Pantry in her memory. Mom worked tirelessly for various activities in the church. I would constantly hear about the different projects going on, especially in the kitchen and rummage sale (synonymous with chicken salad – right?) She loved you all very much! We will all miss her. She certainly left her mark.*

*Most sincerely,*

*The family of Ginnie Smith*

*Katharine Fyfe, Cyndy Finniss*

*and Bill Smith*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 THRU SATURDAY, AUGUST 27**

**SUNDAY 8/21**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

9:30-10:30 am Kids’ Sunday School Room 204

9:30-noon Nursery Room 204

10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

Kids Praise Welcome Center

Noon Youth Group Asbury Center

6:30 pm Boy Scout Eagle Board of Reviews Various

**TUESDAY 8/23**

7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

7 pm Trustees Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 8/24**

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 8/25**

9:30 am Hands and Hearts Epworth Chapel

