**August 28, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

15th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to our summer sermon series entitled, “Walking with Nehemiah: God’s Plan for Renewal.” Nehemiah’s message assures us that you don't have to be in a position of privilege in order to have your position count. When we surrender our agenda to God's agenda, God can use our position to turn things around for the better.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn 496** Sweet hour of prayer *Sweet Hour*

**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: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**People: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name,

**People: worship the Lord in holy array.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is upon the water.

**People: The God of glory thunders, the Lord upon many waters.**

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is powerful.

**People: The voice of God is full of majesty.**

**Let us praise the name of the Lord!** *Psalm 29*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn of Praise 57** O for a thousand tongues to sing (standing, stanzas 1-5)*Azmon*

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

**O God, our Guide and Guardian,
you have led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house.**

**Grant us grace to worship you in Spirit and in truth,
to the comfort of our souls**

**and the upbuilding of every good purpose and holy desire.**

**Enable us to do more perfectly the work to which you have called us,
that we may not fear the coming of night,
when we shall resign into your hands
 the tasks which you have committed to us.**

**So may we worship you not only with our lips at this hour,
but in word and deed all the days of our lives;**

**through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Karl Ludvig Reichelt*

**… 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 523** Saranam, Saranam (seated) *Punjabi*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Marcy Picardi

 10:45 Barbara Watson

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scripture

 Nehemiah 2:1-9 The Cupbearer’s Plea

**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 22:39-46 Jesus prays in Gethesmene

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Offertory Solo** 8:30 Near to the Heart of God *arranged by Martha Mier*

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 Amazing Grace *Spiritual, arranged by Benjamin Harlan*

**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** “Take the Risk” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn of Dedication 581** Lord, whose love through humble service (standing) *Beach Spring*

**Benediction**

***Join us for the 10:45 worship service next Sunday, September 4, in the Sanctuary.***

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** isprovided for worship today by Erma Henry in loving memory of her father, Frederick J. Kleylein.

**Our guest pianist** is Cori DeLuca, a member of this church who teaches piano in the area.

**Special music at 10:**45 is provided by John Esaias and Noel Slater, members of the Chancel Choir and active leaders of the 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**  Bob and Chris Murray **10:45**  Mary Birks

**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 2:1-9**

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. 2So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid. 3I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors’ graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” 4Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5Then I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors’ graves, so that I may rebuild it.” 6The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. 7Then I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; 8and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king’s forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

9Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent officers of the army and cavalry with me.

**Luke 22:39-46**

39He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. 40When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” 41Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, 42“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” 43Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. 44In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. 45When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, 46and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Rev. Robert Critchlow, St. Clair

**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, Earl Killian, 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

**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 28 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

**SUNDAY 8/28**

 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

7 pm Boy Scout Patrol Leaders Room 105

**MONDAY 8/29**

6 pm Community Events and Outreach Committee Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 8/30**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 8/31**

 6:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 9/1**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Kitchen

9:30 am Hands and Hearts Epworth Chapel

 12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

**SATURDAY 9/3** Food Distribution Food Pantry

