**September 18, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

**18th Sunday After Pentecost** Christian Education Sunday

Welcome back to Sunday School, and to a new year of Christian education in our church! Learning to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is not an easy task. It requires a forsaking of worldly values in order that we might adopt God’s values. The wisdom of Christ’s words to us is timeless – *No one can serve two masters*.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn 467 Trust and obey** (stanzas 1-2)*Trust and obey*

**Hymn** **60 I'll praise my maker while I've breath** (stanzas 1-2)*Old 113th*

**Greeting**

Leader: But I thank the Lord for his righteousness;

**People: I will sing praises to the name of the Lord Most High.**

*Psalm 7:17 (CEB)*

**Announcements**

**Choral Introit** 10:45 Psalm 68: 32 *Richard C. Baker*

Sing unto God ye kingdoms of the earth;

O sing praises unto our God.

**Call to Worship (standing)**

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: Day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.**

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold.

**People: Sing to the Wisdom of the ages.**

Pastor: Join the heavens in telling the glory of our God.

Psalm 19

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn of Praise 60 I'll praise my maker while I've breath** (stanzas 1-2, standing)*Old 113th*

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

**Eternal God, the voice of the heavens declares your glory and rejoices in your precepts. As we proclaim our faith in you, help us to embrace the more difficult journey of turning our minds from human things to focus on heavenly matters. Enable us to obey the call of Jesus – to pick up our cross, and to follow you. May we be found to be faithful when the Son of Man returns in glory, for with your strength all things are possible. Amen**

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

**Recognition of Teachers and Other Christian Education Volunteers**

**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 the Sanctuary near the end of the service.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Hymn of Prayer 465 Holy Spirit, Truth divine** (stanzas 1 and 4, seated) *Canterbury*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller

 10:45 Mary Birks

A Lesson from the Epistles

 1 Timothy 2:1-7 A call to prayer and thanksgiving

**Prayer Hymn 494 Kum ba yah** (stanza 3, seated) *Desmond*

**Someone's crying’ Lord, kum ba yah (repeat 3 times)**

 **Oh, Lord, kum ba yah.**

**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 16:1-13 No One Can Serve Two Masters

 **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 There is a balm in Gilead *setting by John Carter*

**Anthem** 10:45 Halle, halle, halle *Traditional Caribbean arr. by Bell, Maule and Haugen*

 Refrain: Halle, halle, hallelujah.

 1. O God, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life.

 Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing: Hallelujah, hallelujah.

 2. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. When I call them, they follow me.

 I will lead them to rest by the restful streams: Hallelujah, hallelujah.

 3. I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Walk in the light of life.

 All who follow my words shall have life indeed: Hallelujah, hallelujah.

**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** “On Divided Loyalties” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn of Commitment 438 Forth in thy name, O Lord** (standing) *Duke Street*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The chancel flowers** are given by Steve and Amelia Dean in honor of Betty Lou Albright’s birthday on September 20, and in memory of Pat Albright, whose 85th birthday would have been on September 8.

**The altar flowers** are given by Robert and Beverly Festor in loving memory of their parents: Ed and Rita Schwarz and Samuel, Betty Jane and Violet Festor.

**The roses in the narthex** are given in loving memory of Johnathan Heath College by John, Donna and Shannon College and Lauren Stull.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir with soloists Kenneth Hendrata and the Rev. Kimberly Greway; and Kathy Whittaker and Kirby Dilworth; and guest percussionists Patrick McKnight, Carolyn McKnight, Nico Ricciuti and Will Buerger. The presence of guest musicians is made possible through the Friends of Music Fund. Contributions are always welcome - mark your check Mt. Lebanon UMC/Friends of Music Fund.

**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** Joeta D’Este **10:45** John and Shirley Baker

**Acolytes** Juliana and Lydia Slater

**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

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, 6who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. 7For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 10“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Rev. Robert Critchlow, St. Clair

Earl Killian, Montefiore

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Jean Bouvy, McMurray Hills Manor

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Tim Watters, Baptist Home

**Convalescing at Home**

Robert Fairgrieve, Tommilea Giegel,

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:**

UPMC Montefiore Hospital

3459 Fifth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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

 St. Clair Hospital

 1000 Bower Hill Road

 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

 Baptist Homes

 489 Castle Shannon Blvd.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15234

**Hoyt Leon Hickman**

**May 1927 – September 2016**

Rev. Hoyt Leon Hickman of Los Altos, CA, was born in Pittsburgh to Leon and Mayme Hoyt Hickman and raised in Mt. Lebanon. He was a United Methodist minister, author and recognized authority on worship and liturgical traditions. He died at age 89 earlier this month. Growing up, he and his family were members of this church. He was a graduate of Haverford College, Yale Divinity School and Union Theological Seminary.

As a pastor in the Western PA conference, Hoyt served churches in Windber, Claysville, Beaver Falls, and Erie. As Director of Worship Resource Development for the General Board of Discipleship, he played a pivotal role in developing hymnals, services, and other resources which continue to be used throughout the world. He wrote many of the worship texts that appear in the United Methodist Hymnal and Book of Worship, and is the General Editor of "The Faith We Sing." Hoyt loved teaching and scholarship as well, and wrote a number of published books on Methodist liturgy and worship and was a visiting professor of worship both at Drew University and at Vanderbilt University.

Rev. Hoyt’s family has suggested that memorial donations be made to his Nashville church, The Edgehill United Methodist Church, and perhaps in acknowledgement of his western PA United Methodist roots, to Jumonville Camp and Retreat Center.

**Expressions of gratitude have been sent to the church. This one is from Arlene Stewart:**

 *Personal Thanks to the Congregation****:*** *I am very appreciative for your sharing and caring thoughts concerning the sudden death of our son, Bruce Kenneth Stewart. Bruce and his brother, Mark, grew up with this wonderful church membership.*

 *When I needed you – you were there! Your cards and telephone calls gave me support.*

*Many thanks!*

 *God bless you “All,”*

 *Arlene Stewart*

**Former custodian Nancy Romano also has expressed her gratitude:**

 *To all of those special people who offered their prayers, money and kind words – my family and I thank you. It has been my pleasure to work for all of you and to get to know all of you. I will never forget you.*

 *It is my hope you will find someone who cares and loves you as much as I have. Thanks so much for the gift card and the heart-felt messages.*

 *Love,*

 *Nancy Romano and family*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

**SUNDAY 9/18**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café Various/Brookline Parlor

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 noon Confirmation Class Parents’ Meeting Welcome Center

 5 pm Youth Group Kick Off Asbury Center

 6:30 pm BSA Eagle Board Review Various

**MONDAY 9/19**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Welcome Center

**TUESDAY 9/20**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 9/21**

 6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

 7 pm Church Council Asbury Center

 7 pm Education Committee Brookline Parlor

**THURSDAY 9/22**

 9:30 am Hands and Hearts Epworth

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 6:30 pm Webelos Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 7 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting Asbury Center

**FRIDAY 9/23**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Bear Den Epworth

**SATURDAY 9/24**

 10 am New Member Orientation Wesley Hall