**September 4, 2016 8:30 & 10:45**

Walking with Nehemiah

Summer Sermon Series

After learning the lessons of Nehemiah to “feel your heart break” for the needy, and to “take the risk” that is required to serve, our series concludes this week with the message, “Begin the Work.” In the words of an old adage, "first you plan the work, and then you work the plan." When it comes to seeking renewal, both in life and in the church, there is no substitute for getting down to the work at hand.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn 629** You satisfy the hungry heart *Gift of finest Wheat*

**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**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Those who place their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, never shaken, lasting forever.

**People: Mountains surround the holy city of Jerusalem, and the Lord continually surrounds and protects God’s people.**

Pastor: The Lord’s favor is ever with those whose hearts are in the right place.

**People: May peace be always with God’s people!**

*Psalm 125*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn of Praise 61** Come, thou almighty king (standing) *Italian Hymn*

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison, standing)

**God of compassion: We talk about being faithful to your love, while our hearts go after other desires. Our love for you and for others often fails, while we devise complex rules and regulations for judging others. We want to be yours, but harmful thoughts carry us away from your purposes. In spite of our faults, enable us to be people of your own heart. Cleanse the meditations of our hearts, that our thoughts may reflect your goodness. Keep us from envy, greed, and deceit, and remake us in the image of your love. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance (**standing)

Pastor: Jesus said, “Come to me all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**People: In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

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

**Sacrament of Baptism** 10:45 *Baptismal Covenant II, UM Hymnal #39*

Jude Amos Florian, Son of Derick and Lizzie Florian

 Godparents, Stuart Diller and Rachel Florian

 **People: With God’s help we will proclaim the good news**

 **and live according to the example of Christ.**

 **We will surround Jude with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others.**

 **We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple**

 **who walks in a way that leads to life.**

**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 …**

**Meditative Hymn 534** Be still, my soul (seated) *Finlandia*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay

 10:45 Stacey Rosleck

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scripture

 Nehemiah 2:11-18 The rebuilding of Jerusalem begins

**Prayer Hymn 494** Kum ba yah (stanza 1) (seated) *Desmond*

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah….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 10:1-12 Sending of the Seventy-Two

 **Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Offertory Solo** 10:45 O Lord most holy/Panis angelicus *César Franck*

O Lord most holy, O Lord most mighty, O living Father,

 Thee would we be praising always.

 Help us to know Thee, know Thee and love Thee;

 Father, grant us Thy truth and grace; Father, guide and defend us.

**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** “Begin the work” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The pastor will conclude in prayer.)*

**Prayer following Communion (in unison)**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn of Dedication 571** Go, make of all disciples (standing) *Lancashire*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The chancel flowers** are given by Gerry Oelschlager in honor of James D. Oelschlager.

**The altar flowers** are given by Betty Lou Albright in loving memory of Pat. September 5th would have been their 63rd wedding anniversary; September 8th would have been his 85th birthday.

**Special music at 10:**45 is provided by soprano soloist Kathleen Whittaker, PhD. Kathy teaches psychology at Chatham University, is the accompanist for the South Hills Chorale and serves on the music team for the Taizé services at the East Liberty Presbyterian 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**  Robert Richards **10:45**  Beth Santore

**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 2:11-18**

11So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. 12Then I got up during the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the animal I rode. 13I went out by night by the Valley Gate past the Dragon’s Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. 14Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool; but there was no place for the animal I was riding to continue. 15So I went up by way of the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest that were to do the work. 17Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.” 18I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us start building!” So they committed themselves to the common good.

**Luke 10:1-12**

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. 4Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. 5Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ 6And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. 7Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 8Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; 9cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 11‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’ 12I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

**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,

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

**An invitation from the W. PA UMC Conference Disability Concerns Committee:**

As the chairperson for the Conference Disability Concerns Committee I am excited to share information with you about our upcoming disability retreat, which will be September 11-13 at Olmsted Manor. The yearly disability retreat provides an opportunity for those living with a disability as well as those supporting individuals with a disability to engage in meaningful communication, build relationships, and grow spiritually together.

The theme this year is FINDING YOUR VOICE. We will focus on self-advocacy and advocating for those around us with different needs. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The link to register is: <https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/FindingYourOwnVoice>.

Thanks and blessings**,**

Anais

Rev. Anais Hussian

Christian Education Director

First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh

5401 Centre Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15232

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

**SUNDAY 9/4**

 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 Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

**MONDAY 9/5 LABOR DAY, OFFICE CLOSED**

**TUESDAY 9/6**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Parents Epworth

 7 pm SPRC Library

**WEDNESDAY 9/7**

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 9/8**

 9:30 am UMW Executive Board Room 105

6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 6:30 pm Webelo I Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 9/9**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Bear Den Epworth