**July 16, 2017 8:30 & 10:45**

6th Sunday After Pentecost

**The Parable of the Sower and the Seed is a basic lesson in key survival skills for the 21st century: roots, rituals, relationships, & realities.** It's time to reclaim our position as sons and daughters of God, created in the divine image. These “4-R's” can help us to do just that.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music** 8:30

 **Hymn 601 Thy word is a lamp** *Thy word*

**Greeting**

Leader: Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

**People: for the Lord has comforted his people.**

*Isaiah 52:9*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather this morning Lord, to hear your Word.

**People: May your Word take root in our spirits.**

Leader: We gather this morning Lord, seeking your anointing.

 **People: May your Word grow within us possibilities for our future.**

 Leader: We gather this morning Lord, seeking direction.

 **People: May your Word create within us a harvest of blessings.**

**ALL: COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!**

*Junias Dotson, The Africana Worship Book*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn 145 Morning has broken** (standing)  *Bunessan*

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

 O **God, like a baker you bring the leaven which causes our hopes to rise. With your strong and gentle hands, shape our lives. Warm us with your love. Take our common lives and touch them with your grace, that we may nourish hope among humanity.**

 **We pray trusting in your name, through Jesus our Christ. Amen.**

 *Ruth Duck, U.M. Book of Worship*

**… 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 344 Lord, you have come to the lakeshore** (seated) *Pescador de hombres*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro

 10:45 Sara Mercer

A Lesson from the New Testament

 Romans 8:1-11 No condemnation in Christ

**Worship & Song 3137** *Jésus le Christ*

**Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.**

**Let not my doubts nor my darkness speak to me.**

 **Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.**

**Let my heart always welcome your love.**

**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.**

**Celtic Alleluia** **Alleluia** (sing 4 times) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels (standing)

 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower and the seed

 **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 O Jesus, king most wonderful  *arranged by Wilbur Held*

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 *Herresthal, arr. Ellingboe*

 Seed that in earth is dying grows into ears of grain.

Grapes that are crushed in the vessel turn into golden wine.

God, through this mystery grant us faith in our deepest darkness,

life in our night and death.

 We were baptized in Jesus, into his death and grave,

to resurrection’s promise: praise and eternal life.

Heaven’s own praises begin here where you yourself are near us,

deep in our night and death.

 Seed that in earth is dying rises to bear much fruit.

Christ, as we meet at your table, give us the bread of life.

Lord, we do thank and adore you!

Unceasing praise of the ages rises from night and death.

**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** “The 4 R’s” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn 583 You are the seed** (stanzas 1 and 2, standing) *Id y enseñad*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given by Jean Sweeney and family in loving memory of Thomas R. Byrer.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir.

**Greeters 8:30**  Francie Robb **10:45**  Carolyn and Bishop George Bashore

**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. A month’s sermons are at <http://mlumc.buzzsprout.com> or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons older than a month will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** To donate an arrangement for the worship service, contact Sharon Slater, 412-343-1137.

**Thank You to our Congregation**

*I would like to thank the church for the beautiful cross necklace I received upon my retirement from Weekday Ministries. It will be a reminder every time I wear it of the wonderful group of people I had the pleasure of getting to know, from both the daycare and the church.*

*Thank you for the privilege of serving the families who utilize the church’s outreach to the community, through the daycare. God’s continued blessings on all your congregation’s efforts to serve those around you.*

 *With heartfelt appreciation,*

*Nancy Phillips*

*Weekday Ministries, Infant room lead teacher*

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Romans 8:1-11**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9Let anyone with ears listen!” 18“Hear then the parable of the sower. 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**Faith for Today 9:30-10:30 am Sundays Asbury Center**

**July 16 Dr. Todd DePastino *War Stories from Pittsburgh’s WWII Veterans*** Todd DePastino knows how to tell a good story. As an award-winning historian, that’s his job. But for the past six years, he's been focused on listening. And the stories he's heard—some beautiful and heartbreaking, others gut-wrenching—are largely about war. Todd is co-founder and director of the Veterans Breakfast Club, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to gathering veterans of all eras and generations together to share their stories of service.  Using photographs of the veterans he’s met and interviewed, Todd will tell the extraordinary WWII stories he’s heard from veterans living in the region and will also discuss his quest to preserve and celebrate them.

**July 23 Matt Haff *Working with the Prison Population***

**July 30 Dr. Jack Aupperle *Reflections on Tom Brokaw: A Life Well Lived***

**Early Response Team Training**

*A letter from the WPAUMC Pittsburgh District Response Coordinator, Fred Watts*:

Folks,

Here’s another opportunity to become certified as an UMCOR Early Response Team member to assist in disaster recovery. The group from Ingomar church who trained in January had opportunities to serve in their own community as well as recently assisting a homeowner in Brentwood. Individual assistance is often the greatest need until disaster strikes a wider area as it did in Connellsville last summer. Areas of the Carolinas, Virginia, and West Virginia are still calling for assistance. Now with a number of persons who missed the first training anxious to learn, we hope more can join in. Gather a group from your church and carpool. Those to whom I have spoken and any others interested, here’s the WPAUMC.org sign up page for July 29th:

ERT Training at Ingomar on July 29

<https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/ERT-7-29-17>

Another opportunity comes along in September:

ERT Training at West Washington on Sept. 16

<https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/ERT-9-6-2017>

Fred Watts

WPAUMC Pittsburgh District

Disaster Response Coordinator

UMVIM Coordinator

412-913-3631 fcwatts@verizon.net

**Time to Register for VBS**

**Vacation Bible School, Mon. July 31 - Fri. August 4,**

9:30—11:30 a.m. $5 per child, ages 4 -5th grade.

Register on-line at www.mlumc.org, or pick up a registration form.

To volunteer or for more info, contact

**Kim Rhoton: krhoton@mlumc.org**

**P & J for the Food Pantry** Calling all Adult Sunday School classes, the Choir, the Finance, Trustees, Outreach and all committees . . . if you have a picnic or meeting this month, consider charging admission. Ask members to bring jars of peanut butter and jelly to help stock the food pantry. The jars can be placed on the shelves right inside the food pantry entry door or in a drop-off box near the entry. Help the pantry keep the shelves stocked during these very challenging times for our Food Pantry members. .

**Rev. Darryl S. Lockie: Seminary Awards for Our Church Extended Family Member**

United Methodist pastor Rev. Darryl S. Lockie, husband of MLUMC’s Youth Ministry Director Bethany Lockie, was awarded prizes at this year’s Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduation ceremonies. The Rev. Darryl S. Lockie, pastor of College Hill UMC in Beaver Falls and provisional elder in the Western Pennsylvania Conference, received:

 The Jennie Rigg Barbour Memorial Prize, for second highest class rank

 The Henry A. Riddle Fund for Graduate Study

 The John Watson Prize in New Testament Greek

Congratulations to Rev. Darryl and Bethany Lockie.

*Rev. Darryl Lockie, at left in back row with members*

*of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Class of 2017*

**Keep in Prayer**

**In St. Clair Hospital**

John Rulong

Marianne Siersdorfer

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Tim Watters, Baptist Home

**Convalescing at Home**

Mary Caldwell, David Lewis,

May Frederick, Earl Killian,

Susan Lichtenfels, Betty Trout,

John White

**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

Sgt. Richard Okello, 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
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JULY 16 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 22**

**SUNDAY 7/16**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 2 pm Korean Worship Sanner Chapel

 6:30 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Various

**TUESDAY 7/18**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 7/19**

6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Asbury Center

**FRIDAY 7/21**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102