**September 17, 2017 8:30 & 10:45**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

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. God places a very high value on our need to forgive, as we ourselves have been forgiven.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn Worship & Song #3172 a, b, and c Communion Setting**

**Hymn Worship & Song #3022 Peace of our praying** (stanza 1) *Pahoa*

**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**

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.**

From *Worship & Song*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymn 108 God hath spoken by the prophets** (standing)  *Ebenezer*

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

**O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back evil’s power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to your eternal kingdom. 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 AND MUSIC: James Ritchie ©1999 Abingdon Press

**Message for Young Disciples** Blessings of the Backpack 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 …**

**Reception of New Members** 10:45UMH pg. 33

 Erik Brown Lindsay Harkins

 David Seitz Chris Striebig

Pastor: Members of the household of God,

 I commend Erik, Lindsay, David and Chris to your love and care.

 Do all in your power to increase their faith,

 Confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you**

 **and we welcome you in Christian love.**

 **As members together with you**

 **in the body of Christ**

 **and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church,**

 **we renew our covenant**

 **faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church**

 **by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service,**

 **that in everything God may be glorified**

 **through Jesus Christ**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPietro

 10:45 Bob James

A Lesson from the Epistles

 Romans 14:1-12 Welcoming each other like 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, standing) *O’Carroll and Walker*

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels (standing)

 Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

 **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 Give me Jesus *Williams, arr. John F. Wilson*

**Anthem** 10:45 Make this church a welcome place  *Joel Raney*

 Refrain: Lord of mercy, Lord of grace, make this church a welcome place.

 To the hungry and the poor, may there be an open door.

To the weary and distressed, may this be a place of rest. Refrain

 Reaching out to others, serving both great and small,

sharing our abundance with one and all.

 Lord of mercy, Lord of grace, make this church a holy place,

where we come to seek the truth; fill our hearts and worship you

in our words and through our deeds, knowing you will meet our needs. Refrain

**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** “Saving Colonel Kappler” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymn 390 Forgive our sins as we forgive** (standing) *Detroit*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The chancel flowers** are given by Steve and Amelia Dean in honor of Betty Lou Albright’s birthday on September 20th and in memory of Pat Albright, whose 86th birthday would have been on September 8th.

**The flowers on the** altar are given by John and Donna College in loving memory of Johnathan Heath College and in honor of Shannon College.

**Special music at 8:30** is provided by soprano soloist Kathleen Whittaker.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chancel Choir with accompanist Mary Paine, a piano teacher in this area as well as a church member and handbell ringer.

**Greeters 8:30** Liz DiPietro **10:45** Priscilla Utzig

**Acolytes** Anna Rhoton and Max Siegert

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. 5Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. 7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” 12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Matthew 18:21-35**

21Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 22Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**Keep in Prayer**

**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,

Earl Killian, Don Langston,

Susan Lichtenfels, Betty Trout,

John White

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. 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
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski

Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

**In Sympathy**

Condolences are offered to the family of church member Nancy L. Elliott who died on Saturday, September 2, 2017, at the age of 84. Words of sympathy can be sent to the following address:

 The Family of Nancy Agnew

 2200 W. Liberty Avenue

 Pittsburgh, PA 15226-1504

**The Butterflies**

The Butterflies (schmetterlinge) will fly into western Pennsylvania on September 30, giving their first concert at Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 pm. A free will offering will be taken to defray the cost of the trip from Germany. Other concerts will be in the Erie area as well as the Johnstown - Indiana and Somerset areas.

The schmetterlinge choir, ages 8-16, began several years ago in United Methodist Churches in East Germany.  Since then, the choir has toured extensively in Europe and the United Kingdom.

They sing Christian and contemporary songs, some with music and some a Capella. They are a spirited group of young people. When they last visited our Conference in 2005, it was standing room only for their performances. It is a chance of a lifetime for these youth to visit the United States as well as some of our United Methodist churches.

**Informational Meeting to Discuss Hosting The Butterflies**

**Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 pm, following Terrific Tuesday in Asbury Center**

During the Butterflies choir tour, MLUMC is responsible for a few days of hosting the approximately 50 youth and adults of the youth choir. The choir will arrive in Pittsburgh on Saturday, September 30, and after performances, activities and local travel, will depart on Friday, October 13.

**Our church needs to provide housing for the group for two separate periods:**

**1. From Sat., Sept. 30 until the morning of Wed., Oct. 4 (4 nights)**

**2. From Wed., Oct. 11 until their departure on Fri., Oct. 13 (2 nights)**

**In addition to providing a bed, hosting will include breakfast and, when possible, local travel arrangements.**

The choir will perform in our church on Sunday, October 1, and again during Terrific Tuesday on October 3. In the interim between the group’s times in Mt. Lebanon, they will be touring and performing in the Erie and Johnstown areas.

**Attend the informational meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19 in Asbury Center and discover how you can help. For more information, see Mary Garber in the Narthex after Sunday services or email her at mgarber1989@aol.com**

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

**SUNDAY 9/17**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages Various

 9:30 am New Members Class Brookline Parlor/ Schulz Room

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 noon Education Welcome Center

 2 pm Korean Worship Sanner Chapel

 5 pm Youth Group Kick Off Asbury Center

 6:30 pm BSA Eagle Board Review Various

**MONDAY 9/18**

 7 pm Missions Welcome Center

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 9/19**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Butterflies Informational Meeting Asbury Center

**WEDNESDAY 9/20**

 6 pm Homebuilders Picnic Wesley Hall

 7 pm Trustees Welcome Center

**THURSDAY 9/21**

 9:30 am UMW Faith Circle Wesley Hall

 12 pm UMW Rebecca Circle Reichard’s House

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 9/22**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Bear Den Epworth