**January 21, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Escape Rooms are the latest group gaming and team-building craze. Have you ever visited one? Game designers develop crazy scenarios that force a team of people to work together in gathering clues so that they can find the exit before time runs out. In this week's text, Jonah tries to escape a nightmare scenario of his own but discovers there's no escape from the call of God.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymn 404** **Every time I feel the Spirit** *Afro-American Spiritual*

**Hymnal p.19 Musical Setting B**  *James A. Kriewald*

**Greeting**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**People: Declare God’s glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people.** *Psalm 96:1, 3*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45 Psalm 100: 1-2 *Karle Erickson*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, and come into his presence with singing!

**Call to Worship**

Leader: What a beautiful thing to be called to worship!

**People: What a gift to come together in praise!**

Leader: We are different people with different lives and stories.

**People: But, in Christ, we all are one.**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 674 See the morning sun ascending** (standing) *Unser Herrscher*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**God of creation, your heavens and earth shout out the amazing news of your power and glory. God of justice, your laws of mercy and goodness reveal your vision of harmony for all people. God of love, your Son Jesus Christ proclaims the amazing news of your liberation for all who are hungry, poor, or oppressed. May we join with all of creation to become your message of love to the world. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3131** *Hymn Chant*

**Hear my prayer, O God, and listen to my plea;**

 **faithful, righteous One, give ear and answer me.**

 **Judge me not, I pray; no merit dare I claim;**

 **knowing my own faults, I trust in your just Name.**

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

**Sacrament of Baptism** 10:45 *Baptismal Covenant II, UM Hymnal #39* Emersyn Reese Rossman, daughter of Mike and Kiley Rossman

 **Pastor:** Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

 and include *Emersyn Reese* now before you in your care?

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

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

 **We will surround *Emersyn Reese*** **with a community**

 **of love and forgiveness,**

 **that she may grow in her service to others.**

 **We will pray for her that she 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 and 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, and parents may meet them.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Anthem** 10:45 The king of love and grace *arranged by Christopher Aspaas*

 The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;

 I nothing lack if I am His and He is mine forever.

 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul He leadeth,

 and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me,

 I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

 And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;

 Good Shepherd may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Scripture Reading 8:30 Kathy Tremblay 10:45 Bob James

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Jonah 3:1-10 God sends Jonah to preach to Nineveh

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 Pastoral *Bach, arranged by Barbara Kinyon*

**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 Gospel

 Mark 1:14-20 Jesus introduces his message, and calls his first disciples

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**.

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

**Offertory Anthem** 10:45 Total Praise *Richard Smallwood, arranged by Joel Raney*

 Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you.

 Your peace you give in time of the storm.

 Refrain: You are the source of my strength; you are the strength of my life.

 I lift my hands in total praise to you.

 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee.

 Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity! Refrain

**Doxology 587** *Tune: Tallis’ Canon, Hymnal 682*

 **Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;**

 **bless thou the work our hearts have planned.**

 **Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;**

 **the rest, O God, is in thy hand.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “Jonah’s Escape Room Strategy” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 436 The voice of God is calling** (standing) *Meirionydd*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by the Lonsinger family in loving memory of Dick Lonsinger, who died January 21, 2015.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Keith D. Will, Cheryl Lynn Graunke and Cynthia E. Argyle in loving memory of their parents, Ralph Doll Will and Ethel Gloria Smith Will.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir, with pianists Mary Paine, who teaches piano in the area and plays with the Chapel Bells, and Kathleen Whittaker. The anthem, “The king of love and grace,” is sung by the men of the Chancel Choir in celebration of the birthday of Bishop George Bashore.

**Acolytes** Lydia Slater and Anna Rhoton

**Greeters 8:30** Joe Catalano **10:45**  Priscilla Utzig

**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**  Catch up on messages from MLUMC with a podcast of Pastor Tom’s and others’ Sunday sermons. Sermons can be found at http:// mlumc.buzzsprout.com or navigate to the site from the link on our webpage, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org). Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

**Flower Donations** Honor or remember a loved one or friend with a Sunday flower arrangement donation. Contact Lizzie Diller, 412-860-3614.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Jonah 3:1-10**

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

5And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. 6When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. 8Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. 9Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.” 10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

**Mark 1:14-20**

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” 16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**Small Study Groups**

**Book Study** - Please join Rob and Jane Spicher, beginning Friday, January 26th at 6:30 pm, for a 5 session study. The focus of discussion will be “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado, an insight from Phillippians 4:4-8. Dinner will be served. The study will meet at 1803 Cambridge Drive, Presto (Collier Township) PA, 15142, and the group will continue to meet monthly in the homes of group members. There is room for 10 to join. Please call Rob (412-720-4589) or e-mail Rob (robert.spicher@pnc.com) if you would like to join.

You may sign up for the Spicher's Study Group at the Welcome desk in the narthex. In addition, Cindy Biery will be leading a book study in the spring. More details will follow.

**Become a Greeter: Extend a Welcome Hand**

The Sunday morning greeter is often the first person a visitor or member contacts on entering the church. A greeter’s smile, handshake and cheerful words may set the tone for not only a church goer’s worship experience, but also an entire day. MLUMC is in need of Sunday morning greeters. Consider serving at one of the two worship services. You’ll become a vital part of the church’s ministry of hospitality and make new friends. If you can offer this service once or twice a year, fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or deliver it to the office.

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**Greeter Volunteer Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Worship service choice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_8:30 \_\_\_\_\_\_10:45**

**Phone # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Charles Hohing, St. Clair

John Katshir, Mercy

Wilda Kietz, St. Clair

Gerald Raubaugh, St. Clair

Virginia (Jinny) Sheppard, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Lois Colley, Concordia

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Manor Care, Bethel Park

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Carolyn Dagg, Earl Killian,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

George Lindow, Robert Murray,

Betty Trout

**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
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

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 27**

**SUNDAY 1/21**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

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

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review Various

**MONDAY 1/22**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Community Events & Outreach Committee Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 1/23**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

**WEDNESDAY 1/24**

 7 pm Wolf Den Cub Scout Room 105

 7 pm Tiger Den Epworth

 7 pm Bear Den Room 104

**THURSDAY 1/25**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 1/26**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

**SATURDAY 1/27**

 11:30 am “A Taste of Winter” Community Lunch Asbury Center