**February 18, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Lent is a season for spiritual reassessment and renewal. It is an appropriate time to consider the state of our Christian stewardship. Are we faithfully using the many gifts that have been entrusted to us? If not, then now might be the perfect time to start!

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music Sanctuary** (seated) *Sanctuary*

 **Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.**

 **With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you**. (repeat twice)

 **Worship & Song 3105 In Christ alone** *In Christ alone*

**Greeting**

Leader: You who are righteous, rejoice in the Lord and be glad!

**People: All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!** *Psalm 32:11 (CEV)*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45Psalm 19: 14 *Karle Erickson* Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts

 be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, Our rock and our salvation.

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

**People: God has blessed us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

Pastor: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**People: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

Pastor: Let them return to the Lord.

**People: Let them return to the Lord. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 580 Lead on, O King eternal** (standing) *Lancashire*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you.**

**Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
and no weakness from doing it.**

**In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Hymnal 402 Lord, I want to be a Christian** (stanza 3)*Afro-American Spiritual*

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;**

 **Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

 **In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**… 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 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.

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 **\***Every time I feel the Spirit *Spiritual, arr. by Valerie Stephenson*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Judi Phelps

 10:45 Hazel Cope

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Genesis 9:8-17 God’s covenant with all life

**Handbell Anthem** 10:45 **\***I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger  *Spiritual*, *arr. by Tammy Waldrop*

**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

 Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the valuable coins

 **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 *Walter L. Pelz*

 Show me thy ways O Lord, teach me thy paths;

 Lead me in thy truth and teach me:

 For thou art the God of my salvation.

 And on thee do I wait all the day. Psalm 25: 4-5

**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** “The Coin of the Realm” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**  *The Apostles’ Creed (ecumenical version)*

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 269 Lord, who throughout these forty days** (standing) *Land of Rest*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Beth, Pete, and Trevor Santore in loving memory of Marilyn Santore and Linda McKendry.

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

**The flowers at the columbarium** are given in loving memory of Philip Sweeney by the Sweeney family.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Promise Bells and the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir, with oboist Renate Sakins and guitarist Thomas Godfrey.

The presence of the instrumentalists is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund.

**\*For music notes on the handbells’** program this morning, see the announcements.

**Greeters 8:30**  Rob and Jane Spicher **10:45**  Betty Lou Albright and Frances Graham

**Acolytes** Lydia Slater and Logan Walters **Cross Bearer** Noel 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.

**Honor or remember a loved one with a flower donation.** The flowers that grace the Sanctuary each week are generously donated by our church family members. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a special person, event, or milestone in your personal life or in the life of the church. If you are interested in donating flowers on a particular Sunday, contact Lizzie Diller , 412-860-3614. The cost is $30 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium, and $60 for the chancel. The church is currently seeking flower donations for April.

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Genesis 9:8-17**

8Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

12God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**Matthew 25:14-30**

14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Studies with Pastor Tom Strandburg and Bishop George Bashore**

**Book/DVD Terrific Tuesday Study with Pastor Tom Strandburg** In captivating DVD video sessions, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens our eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best-known - and least understood - parable. *The Prodigal God* is a revelation of the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for sinners of every kind. **Join us on the following Terrific Tuesdays for this Lenten Study: February 20 & 27, March 6, 13 & 20. 6 pm is dinner for the whole family, and at 6:45 pm the adult discussion begins**

**Bible Study with Bishop George Bashore, Handel’s *Messiah*** During Lent, members and friends of Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church are invited to experience the ministry of Messiah, the suffering, death and resurrection of Messiah, and the Messiah's exaltation and eternal reign through the inspired music of Handel's astounding work and the Scriptural foundations. **For Wednesdays in lent through March 21st, at 9:30 am we will listen to the moving music and study the life-transforming texts.  Classes will be held in Wesley Hall under the leadership of Bishop George Bashore. Everyone is invited to attend individual or all studies.**

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

Lois Colley, Concordia

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Concordia

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Carolyn Dagg, Earl Killian,

Wilda Dietz, David Lewis,

Charles Hohing, Susan Lichtenfels,

Betty Trout, Virginia (Jinny) Sheppard

**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

**Sunday Greeter Coordinator**

The church is in need of a new Sunday Greeter Coordinator. This person would call members to arrange the schedule for greeters for the 8:30 and the 10:45 services. Greeters are asked to be at the church approximately 15 minutes before service starts and, as the name suggests, greet worshipers as they come to services. If you are interested or want more information on this significant volunteer position, call the office at 412-531-7131.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 24**

**SUNDAY 2/18**

 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

 11:45 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review Various

**MONDAY 2/19**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Community Events and Outreach Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 2/20**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 2/21**

 9:30 am Lenten Study, “Messiah” Wesley Hall

 6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack Asbury Center

 7 pm Koinonia Evening Circle Welcome Center

 7 pm Trustees Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 2/22**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 2/23**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 7 pm Arrow of Light Meeting Epworth Chapel