**February 25, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

Many people today are curious about their ancestry. They want to know who they are, where their ancestors came from and whether they have any fascinating or mysterious relatives. A quick test of our spiritual DNA takes us back to the beginning of our covenantal relationship with God. That covenant proves that we really are a part of God's family!

**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*

 \***Hymnal 95 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** *Old 100th, arr. Sowash*

**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**

Leader: Look, here is our God, the One we have waited for.

**People:** **Let us be glad and rejoice in our salvation.**

Leader: Come feast on the bread and the cup.

**People:**  **Enjoy the blessings of the Lord, the vindication from our God.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord. *Adapted from Isaiah 25 and Psalm 24*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 100 God, whose love is reigning o’er us** (standing) *Lauda anima*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**God of all peoples, we come together as a family. Some of us are just infants in our faith journey, while others are seasoned through years of following you. Today we gather to be fed — fed by your Word and fed through fellowship with one another. Help us in this time of worship to set aside the things in our lives that distract us. Help us to be able in this moment to re-center our lives so we can clearly hear you and continue to grow into the fullness of the calling of Christ. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Hymnal 402 Lord, I want to be a Christian** (stanza 4) *Afro-American Spiritual*

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;**

 **Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

 **In my heart, in my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart**

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

**Anthem** 10:45 The Children of the World *Terre Johnson*

*The children’s choirs from the Southminster Presbyterian, the Westminster Presbyterian*

*and the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist churches*

 If somewhere a child is hungry or isn’t tucked in, safe and warm;

 if somewhere a baby’s crying, longing for a parent’s arms;

 that is where the love of Jesus must be shared by you and me,

 for if we have plenty, love and safety, we must share with the least of these.

 *Refrain: The children of the world are our children, made by God, just like you and me.*

 *The children of the world must be fed and held and loved, for if one of them is hungry, so are we.*

 In a world so rich with blessings, where there is plenty to be shared;

 from our lives of such abundance, we can offer love and care.

 For we know the love of Jesus can be shared with our own hands,

 we can share our blessings, help our neighbor, be the hands of Christ to them. *Refrain*

**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 …**

**Hymnal 404 Every time I feel the Spirit** (seated)  *Pentecost*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Liz DiPieto

 10:45 Jane Casey

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 God’s covenant with Abraham

**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 8:31-38 Jesus predicts his death

 **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 God’s Peace *Text by Marva J. Dawn; setting by C.J. Adams*

 Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God’s peace;

 from our vain ambition’s worry, come to Christ and find release.

 Come away from noise and clamor, life’s demands and frenzied pace;

 come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God’s grace.

 In the pastures of God’s goodness we lie down to rest our soul.

 From the waters of God’s mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.

 At the table of God’s presence all the saints are richly fed.

 With the oil of God’s anointing into service we are led.

 Come, then, children, with your burdens, life’s confusions, fears, and pain.

 Leave at the cross of Jesus, take instead his kingdom’s reign.

 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them, he alone will satisfy.

 All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.

**Hymnal 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** “Your Spiritual DNA” 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 710 Faith of our fathers** (standing) *St. Catherine*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel**  are given by Kathy and Rich Tremblay and family in loving memory of Dorothy and Dan Nesbit.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Rob and Jane Spicher in loving memory of our parents: Howard and Marie Spicher and Richard and Bonnie Greene.

**Special music at 10:45** is provided by the Cherub Choir, directed by Beth Ketterman, and the Junior Choir, directed by Holly Jones from Westminster Presbyterian Church; the Children’s Choir from Southminster Presbyterian Church, directed by Cecile Usner and Rich Pinkerton; and our Children’s Choir, directed by Courtney Heath and Kim Rhoton; and the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cori DeLuca.

**February is Black History month** which we are celebrating by singing Afro-American Spirituals.

**\*Hymnal 95** is sung as a very slightly altered version of the original, dated 1551. The altered version will be sung **March 4th** when the Chancel Choir sings “Jazz Missa Brevis” by Will Todd during Communion with saxophone, two trumpets, bass, drums and piano.

**Acolytes** Anastasia Sunder and Jacob Lowe **Cross Bearer** Ken Hendrata

**Greeters 8:30**  Jeff Thayer **10:45**  Jane Casey and Luann Minnick

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. 2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” 3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. 6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Mark 8:31-38**

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

**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.

**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 greet worshipers coming to services. For more information on this significant volunteer position, call the office at 412-531-7131

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**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, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

Carolyn Dagg, Earl Killian,

David Lewis, 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

**In Sympathy**

The congregation offers its sympathy to the family of church member Dr. Charles C. Hohing, who passed away this week. A service will be held today, February 25 at

4 pm in Laughlin’s Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent to his daughter:

 Ms. Leslie Denton

 26 Carleton Dr.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Condolences are expressed to the family and friends of Marjorie Lewis, who passed away. Marjorie was remembered in a small committal ceremony in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery this past Thursday, February 22, 2018.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 3**

**SUNDAY 2/25**

 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 Youth Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

 12 pm UMW Soup & Salad Luncheon Asbury Center

 12 pm Youth Service Day Various

**MONDAY 2/26**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 2/27**

 6 pm Terrific Tuesday Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

**WEDNESDAY 2/28**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:30 am Bishop’s Lenten Study Wesley Hall

 7 pm Bear, Tiger and Wolf Den Meeting Various

**THURSDAY 3/1**

 9 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Kitchen

 9:30 am Hearts & Hands Epworth Chapel

 12 pm TNT Asbury Villas

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 3/2**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

 4 pm Fish Fry Asbury Center

**SATURDAY 3/3**

 10 am Food Distribution Food Pantry