**April 22, 2017 8:30 & 10:45**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). That statement says something about both the shepherd *and* the sheep. The shepherd is good because he will lay down his life. He loves his sheep. The sheep, on the other hand, are valued and loved — each one — by the shepherd.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 138 The King of love my shepherd is** (stanzas 1-2, seated) *St. Columba*

**Hymnal 443 O God who shaped creation** (stanzas 1-2) *Tuolumne*

**Greeting**

Leader: Praise the Lord from heaven!
 Praise God on the heights!

**People: Let us praise the name of the Lord,**

 **who alone is exalted;
 whose name is above earth and heaven.** *Psalm 148:1, 13*

**Announcements**

**Introit** 10:45*Karl Erickson*

 Alleluia! Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death

 and brought life and immortality through the Gospel. Alleluia!

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The day has dawned.

**People: Sing a new song!**

Leader: Christ is alive.

**People: Rejoice in new life!**

Leader: With receptive hearts and Easter faith,

**People: come to worship God!**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 150 God, who stretched the spangled heavens** (standing) *Holy Manna*

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Feed us with your word, O God. As sheep in your own fold, enable us to tend to the needs of others. With new perspectives, and a vision of your presence, refresh our hearts this day. Be present in our midst that we night hear your voice and respond to your call. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3119** *Take, O take*

 **Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;**

 **Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

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**… 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.

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**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 …**

**Hymnal 381** 8:30 **Savior, like a shepherd lead us** (seated)  *Bradbury*

**Solo** 10:45 The Lord is my shepherd *Abraham Kaplan*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller 10:45 Linda Minnotte

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 1 John 3:16-24 Christ, the measure of 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.**

**Gospel Acclamation Alleluia**  *James Chepponis*

 (sing “Alleluia” 6 times following the pastor/choir, standing)

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels

 John 10:11-18 I am the Good Shepherd

 **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 *American Folk Hymn, arr. Mack Wilberg*

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His Name;

in pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways,

and leads me for His mercy’s sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, Thy presence is my stay;

one word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;

my cup with blessings overflows; Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my god attend me all my days;

O may Thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise!

There would I find a settled rest while others go and come;

no more a stranger, nor a guest; but like a child at home.

 *Psalm 23 paraphrased by Isaac Watts (1674-1740)*

**Hymnal 94 Doxology** (standing)*Lasst uns erfreuen*

 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 Good Shepherd” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**A Modern Affirmation**  UMH #885

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is,

 there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal,

 whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: We believe in God the Father,**

 **infinite in wisdom, power and love,**

 **whose mercy is over all his works,**

 **and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

 **We believe in Jesus Christ,**

 **Son of God and Son of man,**

 **the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,**

 **the ground of our hope,**

 **and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

 **We believe in the Holy Spirit**

 **as the divine presence in our lives,**

 **whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance**

 **of the truth of Christ,**

 **and find strength and help in time of need.**

 **We believe that this faith should manifest itself**

 **in the service of love**

 **as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,**

 **to the end**

 **that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 443 O God who shaped creation** (standing) *Tuolumne*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers in the Chancel** are given by Lee Van Sickle and Lori Barr in loving memory of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Higginbotham.

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Linda Nixon in loving memory of her husband, Bud Nixon.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by soloist Kathleen Whittaker, pianist Cori DeLuca, flautist Jennifer Barnabei, clarinetist Milt Barney and the Chancel Choir. The presence of the instrumentalists is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30** Joeta D’Este **10:45**  Alan and Donna Chesleigh

**Acolytes** Xavier Sanchez and Hannah Baker

**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.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**1 John 3:16-24**

16We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? 18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

20whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

23And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**John 10:11-18**

11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

**New Divorce Recovery Group Forming** Kim Rhoton is piloting a new group for women who are in need of support in dealing with divorce and marital separation. We will share experiences, lend support, and use Bible study as a tool for dealing with the challenges women face in divorce. All ages and faith traditions are welcome, but we do ask that everyone is respectful of one another's beliefs. Initial meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings at Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church beginning on April 24 at 7 PM in the Welcome Center. Child care can be provided with advanced notice.  Please RSVP directly to Kim Rhoton krhoton@mlumc.org or join the group on Meetup.com: <https://www.meetup.com/Christian-Women-Divorce-Support-Meetup/>

**Conversations Book Club** 4 weeks beginning Tuesday, May 8, 2018, from 1:15 to 2:30 pm in Brookline Parlor, reading ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*** by Jeanne Guyon. The book is a modern translation of *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer; Praying the Heart of the Father.*

Have you ever been curious about the dynamics and balance between meditation as prayer, praying without thoughts, as compared with thought-based prayers of words? Author and theologian Dallas Willard recommends a book written in the 17th Century by Madam Guyon of Lyons, France, ***Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ***. According to the book jacket, John Wesley recommended it to his contemporaries. Our purposes will be to investigate, reflect, and, discuss our thoughts together. A variety of teas will be offered.

Questions? Wish to participate? Please email or call Cindy Biery cbiery1018@gmail.com

412-831-7675. If you plan to participate, please let her know so that a book can be ordered in time for advance reading. Pick up will be at the church office.

**Work with the Children of Weekday Ministries** Weekday Ministries needs two staff persons: a teacher to work with preschool age children from 10 am to 6 pm every day and a 3 pm to 6 pm person to work with one-year-olds. Please contact Mettelise at 412-531-5790 or email mziegler@mlumc.org today for more information!

**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.

**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.

**Keep In Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Warren Timmons, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Marda Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Fred Siersdorfer, Friendship Village

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,

Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout

Keith Will

**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

**Sympathy**

The congregation sends its condolences to the friends and family of church member Julie Dean, wife of Ken Dean, who passed away Thursday, April 12. A funeral service will be help on Saturday, April 21 at 3 pm at the Nation Funeral Home in McDonald.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to:

 Ken Dean

 216 Washington Ave., Apt. 1

 McDonald, PA 15057

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, APRIL 22 THRU SATURDAY, APRIL 28**

**SUNDAY 4/22**

 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

 12 pm Youth Choir rehearsal Choir Room

 5 pm Youth Group Asbury Center

 6:30 pm Eagle Board of Review Various

**MONDAY 4/23**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

**TUESDAY 4/24**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

**WEDNESDAY 4/25**

 7 pm Bear,Tiger and Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 4/26**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

 7 pm Missions Committee Welcome Center

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 4/27**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

**SATURDAY 4/28**

 1 pm “Time for Tea” UMW fundraiser Wesley Hall

 4 pm Children’s Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary