**June 17, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Questions swirl around our lives whenever we enter into a period of change and transition. Today's text from the Hebrew Scripture begins with a personal question of call and culminates with a collective challenge of inclusion. Responses to both are necessary for our participation in the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon this earth.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 463 Lord, speak to me** (seated) *Canonbury*

**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**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Are you feeling tired and worn out?

**People: Call on the name of the Lord.**

Pastor**:** Are past mistakes weighing heavily upon you?

**People: Come to the fount of living waters.**

Pastor: Are you the person you wish to be?

**People: Seek God’s help and it shall be granted you.**

Pastor: Are you looking for a better path?

**People: Ask Christ to show you the way.** *Inspired by Psalm 51*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 203 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed**  (standing) *Ellacombe*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**O God, you have built your Church
upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.**

**Save the community of your people
from cowardly surrender to the world,
from rendering unto Caesar what belongs to you,
and from forgetting the eternal gospel
amid the temporal pressures of our troubled days.**

**For the unity of the Church we pray,
and for fellowship across the embittered lines of race and nation;**

**to growth in grace, building in love, enlargement in service,
increase in wisdom, faith, charity, and power,
we dedicate our lives;**

**through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Harry Emerson Fosdick, 20th Century*

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3118 Take this moment, sign, and space** (stanza 3) *Take this moment*

 **Take the tiredness of my days, take my past regret,**

 **letting your forgiveness touch all I can’t forget.**

**… 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. Deborah Ackley Killian

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 393 Spirit of the living God** (seated) *Living God*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller 10:45 Sara Mercer

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, 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

 Mark 4:26-34 Parables of the Growing Seed & the Mustard Seed

 **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 *Fred Gramann*

 God bestows on each one a name as a gift and blessing,

 that we might be showered in grace evermore without ceasing.

 For the Lord has called us his friends, as a perfect gift of love,

 that we each might know God’s name, who reigns in heaven above.

 God bestows…without ceasing.

**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** “Questions and More Questions!” Rev. Deborah Ackley Killian

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 454 Open my eyes, that I may see** (standing) *Open my eyes*

**Benediction**

*All are invited to a ”Thank You” reception for Rev. Deb Ackley Killian following the 10:45 worship service in Asbury Center.*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given by Nancy Lutz in celebration of her wonderful husband Jim's 80th birthday.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir.

**Greeters 8:30** Erma Henry **10:45** Laura and Brad Shoff

**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 Samuel 15:34-16:13**

34Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. 35Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” 2Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” 4Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” 5He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” 7But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” 10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” 11Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” 12He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**Mark 4:26-34**

26He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

30He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

33With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**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**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

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,

Jane Casey, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, David Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, Bill Merchant,

Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard,

Betty Trout, Olivia Woods

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Adam Kmick

Sgt. 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**

Condolences are offered to the family of Bonnie Critchlow, who passed away last week at the age of 73. She was the wife of the late Rev. Robert Critchlow, a United Methodist minister. Words of sympathy and donations can be sent to:

 West Homestead UM Church

 515 E. 8th Avenue

 Homestead, PA 15120

**New Study Group Forming** As we continue to form small study groups, another opportunity is being presented. Scott Miller, a member of the congregation and a candidate for ministry, has agreed to lead an evening book study, “Making Life Work” by Bill Hybels. This book applies the Book of Proverbs to everyday life. Doris Trimble has opened her home in the Bridgeville area to host this group. It will meet on July 16, 23, 30 and August 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. You do not need to participate in all four sessions, but just attend when you can. Please call the church office or sign up at the table at the back of the worship space in Asbury Center if you are interested. More details to follow.

THANK YOU

From the Rummage Sale Committee Chair:

*How blessed I am to be in a congregation that is so supportive of the rummage sale.  Ninety congregants and twenty-five boy scouts turned out over the five-day period to sort, then sell approximately $6,500 worth of goods -- and even more people donated items for our sale.  The quality of those items has made ours one of the most impressive sales in the area.  We'll be able to continue to fund our work in Africa, Europe and even here in America.*

*But the rummage sale also benefits organizations here in southwestern Pennsylvania.  Books that are not sold are sent to the county jail.  We donated a lawn mower and a snow blower to a cash-strapped church.  We invited Debbie Killian to come to select some much-needed furniture and offered a table and chairs to Family Promise.  When the purchaser of a microwave learned that Family Promise needed one, they donated their purchase to a family in need.  Collectables that had not been sold through several sales were carefully boxed and taken to Goodwill.  And Washington City Mission took all the leftover clothing, furniture, electronics, housewares and children's items.  A generous benefactor purchased a pingpong table and donated it to our church for the enjoyment of our youth.  Please know that if the item you donated didn't sell by 2:00 on Saturday, it's been "re-homed" for a very worthwhile purpose.*

*Again, thank you for all your support,*

*Nancy Marshall*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JUNE 10 THRU SATURDAY, JUNE 16**

**SUNDAY 6/17**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 pm Reception for Rev. Killian Asbury Center

 5 pm Youth Group Youth Room

 6:30 pm BSA Eagle Board of Reviews Various

**MONDAY 6/18**

 6:30 pm Community Events & Outreach Picnic & Meeting Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 6/19**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Epworth

 7 pm Divorce Support Group Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 6/20**

 6 pm Homebuilders’ Potluck Asbury Center

 7 pm Koinonia Circle Welcome Center

 7 pm Trustees Wesley Hall

**FRIDAY 6/22**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Room 102

**SATURDAY 6/23**

 4 pmCommunity BBQ Asbury Center