**July 1, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**6th Sunday After Pentecost**

The famous novel, A Tale of Two Cities, begins with the words “it was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” Modern human society can well identify with that sentiment. Sociologists warn us that while houses are expanding, incomes are growing, and health is improving, people are feeling worse about their lives. Perhaps we have forgotten that money can’t bring happiness, but generosity can!

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 496 Sweet hour of prayer** (seated) *Sweet Hour*

**Greeting**

Leader: Let God grant us grace and bless us; let God’s face shine upon us, so that

 God’s way becomes known on earth, and God’s salvation among all the nations.

**People: Let the people thank you, O God! Let all the people thank you!**

*Psalm 67:1-2*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor: Call on the name of God,

**People: For God has called us by name.**

Pastor**:** Lift your eyes and see,

**People: For Christ is in this place.**

Pastor: Know that God is near,

**People: For the Spirit lives in each of us gathered here.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 117 O God, our help in ages past** (stanzas 1-3, 6, standing) *St. Anne*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Dear God of soil, seed and harvest,
We are your richly planted, ripening people in various stages of faith.
We pray that in this hour you will water our souls,
Brighten our minds, lengthen our roots,
Stretch our stems,
And touch our hearts,
That we might be strengthened
With a generosity to sow your seeds as needed.
Through Christ our Lord . . .**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3118 Take this moment, sign, and space** (stanza 4) *Take this moment*

 **Take the little child in me, scared of 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**

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 …**

Scripture Reading 10:45 Vera Jane Cornes

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Psalm 130:1-8 My soul waits for the Lord

**Pastoral Prayer and 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.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Following Jesus through generosity

 **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 How can I keep from singing *Robert Lowry, arr. Timothy Shaw*

 My life flows on in endless song; above earth’s lamentations.

I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

 What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I’m clinging,

Since Christ is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

**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 Stewardship Paradox” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3167 Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1, seated)*Feed us*

**Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the broken bread, be revealed again.**

 **Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The pastor concludes in prayer.)*

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer following Communion (in unison)**

**Thank you, God, for uniting us with yourself and with all your people everywhere in sharing the body and blood of Jesus. Now send us forth by your Spirit to build and to plant and to work for the welfare of everyone around us. Amen.**

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Benediction**

**Worship & Song 3174 Christ, we are blest** *Slane*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given by Sharon Diller and family in celebration of Mary Garber’s birthday tomorrow.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with pianist Mary Paine and saxophonist Milt Barney. The presence of Mr. Barney is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund. To contribute, make checks payable to MLUMC/Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30** Fran Travis **10:45** David Seitz

**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.

**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.

**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 p.m. Five people have already committed to attending so the group will definitely meet and others are welcome. The maximum size will be 12-15 participants. 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.

**Memoirs on Summer Hiatus.** The Memoirs group that normally meets in Wesley Hall on the second Friday of the month will not be meeting this summer, but will resume in September.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Psalm 130:1-8**

1Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

2Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

3If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

4But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

5I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

6my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

7O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

8It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

7Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others

9For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

10And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—

11now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.

12For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

13I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between

14your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance.

15As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

**KEEP IN PRAYER**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Leila Berkey, Asbury Heights

Ed Clarke, Asbury Place

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Fred Siersdorfer, Friendship Village

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, 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

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell, Jane Casey,
John Dean, Joseph Festor, Drew Harvey, David Lewis, Susan Lichtenfels,
Bill Merchant, Diane Shaw, Jinny Sheppard, Betty Trout, Olivia Woods

**Sympathy**

The congregation sends its condolences to the friends and family of church member Marda Katshir, wife of John Katshir. Marda passed away early in the morning, June 20. Notes of sympathy may be sent to John and their daughters at

923 Country Club
Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

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| **MLUMC Staff**Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg, PastorKim Rhoton, Director of Christian EducationBethany Lockie, Youth Ministry DirectorDr. Gretchen Franz, Director of MusicMettelise Ziegler, Weekday Ministries DirectorVirginia Katinsky, Business AdministratorMonica Kao, Communications CoordinatorJuliette Mariani, Administrative SupportMichael Drabick, Maintenance ManagerMichael Staab, Facility Prep and Setup | **MLUMC Volunteer Staff**Bishop George Bashore, Bishop-in-ResidenceDr. David H. Watson, Pastor EmeritusScott Miller, Assistant to the PastorNancy R. Lutz, Director of HandbellsJoanne Dempe, Financial SecretaryKevin DeLuca, MultimediaKirk Lowe, Multimedia/SoundSteve Stockton, Ethan Zirpoli, SoundMichael Dempe, Financial Consultant |

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JULY 1 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 7**

**SUNDAY 7/1**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12:00 pm Blood Pressure Screening Wesley Hall

**MONDAY 7/2**

 10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting Welcome Center

**TUESDAY 7/3**

 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7:30 pm Coin Collectors Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 7/4**

 Office Closed for 4th of July

**THURSDAY 7/5**

8:30 am Northside Lunch Program Prep Asbury Kitchen

 9:00 am Hearts and Hands Epworth Chapel

**FRIDAY 7/6**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Epworth

**SATURDAY 7/7**

 10 am Food Pantry Distribution Food Pantry