**July 15, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**8th Sunday After Pentecost**

Midwives usher new life and new promise into the world.  In the Exodus text today, the midwives disobey the Egyptian king in order to save the Israelite children they were ordered to kill.  Through this act of defiance, they ushered in a whole new reality for the Israelite people that led  to Moses and the escape from slavery in Egypt.  How can we too be midwives of courage?

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 472 Near to the heart of God** (seated) *McAfee*

 **Worship & Song 3161 Gracious Creator** (stanzas 1, 2) *Mona West*

**Greeting**

 Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

 **People: who made heaven and earth.**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

 Leader: In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

 **All: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,**

 **and give thanks to God’s holy name!**

 Leader: I will extol you, my God and King,

 and bless your name for ever and ever.

 **All: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,**

 **and God’s greatness is unsearchable.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 88 Maker, in whom we live** (standing) *Diademata*

**Psalm 124** *Response by Charles Albert Tindley, UMH #846*

**All** (sung): **When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.**

Leader: 1If it had not been the Lord who was on our side -

 let Israel now say -

**People:  2if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,**

 **when foes rose up against us,**

 **3then they would have swallowed us up alive,**

 **when their anger was kindled against us;**

Leader: 4then the flood would have swept us away,

 the torrent would have gone over us;

**People: 5then the raging waters**

 **would have gone over us.**

Leader:6Blessed be the Lord,

 who has not given us

 as prey to their teeth!

**People:  7We have escaped as a bird**

 **from the snare of the fowlers;**

Leader:the snare is broken,

 and we have escaped!

**People:  8Our help is in the name of the Lord**

 **who made heaven and earth.**

**All** (sung): **When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.**

**Silent Prayer**

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

 **Take the little child in me, scared of growing old;**

 **help me here to find my worth made in Christ’s own mold.**

**… 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. Kimberly Greway

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 Asbury Center near the end of the service.

 **… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Worship & Song 3161 Gracious Creator**  *Mona West*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Judi Phelps 10:45 Dovey Alexander

 A Lesson from the Old Testament

 Exodus 1:8-22

**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** (standing) *James Chepponis*

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

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the Gospels

 Matthew 10:16-20

 **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 Leaning on the everlasting arms *Eric Nelson*

 What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;

 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;

 oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.

 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.

**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** “Midwives of Courage” Rev. Kimberly Greway

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 529 How firm a foundation** (stanzas 1-3, standing) *Foundation*

**Benediction**

*Presiding over the services today is Rev. Kimberly Greway, formerly our Associate Pastor. Rev. Greway now serves as the Director of Chaplaincy Services at the Allegheny County Jail and is the Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation of HOPE.  She is also the president of the Downtown Pittsburgh Ministerium and vice president of the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains Association which will be holding a conference in September for prison and jail chaplains from across Pennsylvania.*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given by Jean Sweeney and family in loving memory of Thomas R. Byrer.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with pianist Cori DeLuca, and cellist Elisa Kohanski, and flautist Craig Johnson. The presence of Ms. Kohanski and Mr. Johnson is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund. To contribute, make your check payable to MLUMC/Friends of Music Fund.

**Greeters 8:30** Joeta D’Este **10:45** Gloria Barber

**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 Tuesday evenings July 17, 24, 31 and August 7 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 12 people have already committed to attending and others are welcome. 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. The book is available in the office at a cost of $7 or you can obtain the book when you attend.

**Today’s Scriptures**

**Exodus 1:8-22**

8Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” 17But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” 19The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.”20So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

**Matthew 10:16-20**

16“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; 18and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 19When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; 20for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Pat Seitz, St. Clair

**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

**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

**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

**Get Well Expressions**

Many of us may remember Steve and Donna Howard who attended MLUMC before moving to California. Steve was often seen with his camera, taking pictures of people and church special events. Steve will be undergoing heart surgery. Get well expressions can be sent to the following:

11600 Cascade St.

 Apple Valley, CA 92308

**FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING**

In an effort to simplify and reduce the number of special offering appeals that are made in the course of a year, our Finance Committee has limited such offerings to the four months of the year that have a fifth Sunday. The first is this month, with the fifth Sunday, July 29th. Those who receive the monthly offering envelope mailing will notice an additional envelope for that particular Sunday. By using this envelope, you will have the opportunity to offer a special gift to the following funds – permanent building fund, Christian education fund, and Connectional Contribution.

 The building fund supports the ongoing maintenance of our church facilities.

 The education fund supports the Western Pennsylvania Conference’s Christian Education Sunday offering.

 The connectional contribution supports ministry beyond the local church, through the Western Pennsylvania Conference.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JULY 15 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 21**

**SUNDAY 7/15**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 6:30 pm BSA Board of Reviews Various

**MONDAY 7/16**

 7:30 pm Community Events & Outreach Wesley Hall

**TUESDAY 7/17**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Divorce Support Group Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 7/18**

 6 pm Homebuilders’ Potluck Asbury Center

 7 pm Trustees Wesley Hall

 7 pm Cub Scout Pack Asbury Center

**FRIDAY 7/20**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Epworth

**SATURDAY 7/21**

 10 am Food Distribution/Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry