**July 22, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**9th Sunday After Pentecost**

*A Celebration of Our Connectional Ministries*

**In describing the Holy Spirit’s coming at Pentecost, Jesus said, “***You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*  This morning, we celebrate the extension of our United Methodist witness throughout western Pennsylvania, and around the world!

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 467 Trust and obey** (stanzas 1-2, seated) *Trust and obey*

 **Hymnal 727 O what their joy** (stanzas 1-2) *O Quanta Qualia*

**Greeting**

Leader: In his final prayer before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion,

 Jesus prayed for his disciples saying, “My prayer is not for them alone.

 I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

**People: That all of them may be one, Father,**

 **just as you are in me and I am in you.**

 *John 17:20-21a (NIV)*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The church meets in different buildings; in different towns.

 **People: We speak different languages and sing different hymns.**

Leader: We wear different clothing and have different gifts and talents.

 **People: Yet, as we gather together for worship on Sundays, we become one body, one family in Christ.**

Leader: We join together on one journey,

 **People: the journey to unite with the Risen Christ.**

Leader: We join together with God as the Kingdom of God comes

 and as God’s will is done.

 **People: Let us join with all our sisters and brothers in worship and true communion with God this day.**

 **ALL: AMEN.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 559 Christ is made the sure foundation**  (standing) *Westminster Abbey*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**O God of all times and places,
we pray for your Church,
which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order,
and face to face with new tasks.**

**Baptize her afresh in the life giving spirit of Jesus.**

**Bestow upon her a great responsiveness to duty,
a swifter compassion with suffering,
and an utter loyalty to your will.**

**Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of your kingdom.**

**Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord.**

**Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny,
and with a Christlike tenderness for the heavyladen and downtrodden.**

**Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it.**

**Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity,
that, like her crucified Lord,
she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory;**

**through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

 *Walter Rauschenbusch (1861-1918)*

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3118 Take this moment, sign, and space** (stanza 5) *Take this moment*

 **Take my talents, take my skills, take what’s yet to be;**

 **let my life be yours, and yet, let it still be me.**

**… 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. Alyce Weaver Dunn

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 Scott Miller 10:45 Barbara Watson

 A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures, 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

**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.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the New Testament, Philippians 3:12-4:1

 **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 *Jay Althouse*

 I can see the river Jordan, river deep and river wide. I can see its muddy water.

 I must cross to the other side.

 I have walked through nights of darkness as I traveled on my way.

 Now the morning sun is rising. I can see a brighter day.

 I’ve come a long way on this journey. Now here on Jordan’s banks I stand.

 I’ve followed a road that leads to freedom. Now I’m bound for the promised land.

 I have climbed the highest mountain. I have walked the valley below.

 When I cross that river Jordan, then to heaven I will go.

 I can see the path before me. I can see the river run.

 When I cross the river Jordan, then my journey will be done.

**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** “Focused on the Goal” Rev. Alyce Weaver Dunn

 Western PA Conference UMC Director of Connectional Ministries

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 727 O what their joy** (standing) *O Quanta Qualia*

**Benediction**

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement** provided for worship today is given by Erma Henry in loving memory of the Reverend Robert Critchlow and his wife Bonnie.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir with soloists Noel and

Sharon Slater.

**Greeters 8:30** Rob and Jane Spicher **10:45** Bill and Lavisa Ward

**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**

**2 Samuel 7:1-14a(NRSV)**

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” 3Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;9and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 12When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

**Philippians 3:12-4:1  (MSG)**

**12-14**I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.

**15-16**So let’s keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you’ll see it yet! Now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it.

**17-19**Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I’ve warned you of them many times; sadly, I’m having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ’s Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.

**20-21**But there’s far more to life for us. We’re citizens of high heaven! We’re waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He’ll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

**4**My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don’t waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

**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

**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

**Thank You**

From Olivia Woods, who helps on Sunday mornings with our church’s Food Lift, our congregation and the Korean Church congregation:

I would like to thank the members of the church for their prayers, calls and cards that were sent while I was recovering from triple bypass heart surgery.

 Thank you,

 Olivia Woods

**Get Well Wishes**

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 wishes can be sent to the following:

11600 Cascade St.

 Apple Valley, CA 92308

**Pennsylvania Council of Churches**

**Advocacy Seminar in Pittsburgh**

**Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform/Gun Violence
August 5 and August 9, 2018**

**First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh**

**5401 Centre Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15232**

**Why You Should Attend:** Come to this program to learn why, as people of faith, we engage in advocacy. Come to learn more about this important legislation and why it is so important that people of faith support a bill that opens doors for our brothers and sisters who have served time. Come to learn how Pennsylvania governing structures work, and how to engage with your legislators and policy makers to support reforms Then join with your neighbors to visit your elected officials to make your case.

**Registration:** $20; to register, click on link under “Events” at [www.pachurches.org](http://www.pachurches.org). You may register online and pay by credit card or download a registration brochure and send a check to address provided. This program is jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and the Mennonite Central Committee.

**Sunday, August 5**

1:30-1:45 pm Welcome/Setting the stage

1:45-2:15 pm Why this seminar/Why we do advocacy—scriptural/ theological basis with specific emphasis on the Anabaptist perspective

2:15-3:45 pm What do we need to know about the US prison system and restorative justice? What do we need to know about gun violence?

4:00-5:15 pm PA governing structure/“nuts and bolts” of advocacy: How do we make our case for reforms with elected officials?

5:15-5:30 pm Wrap-up and instructions for advocacy meetings.

**Thursday, August 9**

Actual meeting times are subject to legislator/staff availability, but planners will strive to schedule meetings on Thursday morning

**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.

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

**SUNDAY 7/22**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

**TUESDAY 7/24**

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Divorce Support Group Welcome Center

7 pm BSA Board of Reviews Room 105

 7:30 pm Worship Team Meeting Asbury Center

**WEDNESDAY 7/25**

 6 pm Homebuilders’ Potluck Wesley Hall

**FRIDAY 7/27**

 9:30 am Women’s Bible Study Epworth