

**September 9, 2018 8:30 & 10:45**

**16th Sunday After Pentecost**

Because of medical life-support procedures, the cessation of heartbeat and breathing is sometimes not sufficient to say definitively that death has occurred. The same can be true in the life of the spirit. One can be alive, and yet spiritually dead. The Book of James calls us to pursue an active, resurrection faith.

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

**Gathering Music**

 **Hymnal 432 Jesu, Jesu** (seated) *Chereponi*

**Greeting**

Leader: But I thank the Lord for his righteousness;

**People: I will sing praises to the name of the Lord Most High.**

*Psalm 7:17 (CEB)*

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship** (standing)

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: Day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.**

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

Pastor: More to be desired are they than gold.

**People: Sing to the Wisdom of the ages.**

Pastor: Join the heavens in telling the glory of our God. *Psalm 19*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**Hymnal 57 O for a thousand tongues to sing**  (stanzas 1-3, 5 standing) *Azmon*

**Opening Prayer** (in unison, standing)

**Eternal God, the voice of the heavens declares your glory and rejoices in your precepts. As we proclaim our faith in you, help us to embrace the more difficult journey of turning our minds from human things to focus on heavenly matters. Enable us to obey the call of Jesus – to pick up our cross, and to follow you. May we be found to be faithful when the Son of Man returns in glory, for with your strength all things are possible. Amen**

**Silent Prayer**

**Worship & Song 3131 Hear my prayer, O God** (stanza 3, seated)*Hymn Chant*

 **Answer soon, O God, my spirit faints in me;**

 **do not hide your face, or I will cease to be.**

 **When the morning dawns, make known your love anew;**

 **show me how to walk, for I will trust in you.**

**… 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. 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 434** 8:30 **When the poor ones**  *El Camino*

**Duet** 10:45 Love Divine! All loves excelling *Sir John Stainer*

Scripture Reading 8:30 Betsy Harkins 10:45 Sally Munro

A Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 Proverbs 2:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Wisdom for living

 **Response**

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

**People: Thanks be to God**.

**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, the power, the glory forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

 A Lesson from the New Testament

 James 2:1-17 Demonstrating true faith by our actions

 **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  *Paula Foley*

 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee,

 Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love,

 Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

 Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King,

 Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its store,

 Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

 Shall we gather at the river.

**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** “Dead Faith” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**Hymnal 592 When the church of Jesus** (standing) *King’s Weston*

**Benediction**

**Hymnal 664 Go now in peace** (standing) *Go in peace*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,**

 **may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Tommilea and Dave Giegel in celebration of their new grandson and their 35th wedding anniversary

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Steve and Amelia Dean in loving memory of Rev. Dr. H. Pat Albright, whose 87th birthday would have been yesterday.

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by the Chancel Choir; flautist Craig Johnson; pianist Cori DeLuca; and soloists Kathy Whittaker, soprano; and Timothi Williams, mezzo-soprano. Kathy is our soprano section leader. Our special guest, Timothi Williams, is a West Virginia native and a recent graduate of the Vocal Performance and Pedagogy Masters program at Penn State. Ms. Williams has performed several operatic roles on stage such as Jo in Mark Adamo’s *Little Women*, Rosina in Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* and most recently Dido in Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas .* Timothi sings with many chamber and orchestral groups in the State College and Pittsburgh areas.

**Greeters 8:30**  Fran Travis **10:45**  Bob & Chris James **Acolytes** Cary Young & Xavier Sanchez

**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**

**Proverbs 2:1-2, 8-9, 22-23**

2 My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,
2making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
8guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.
9Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
22but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.

**James 2:1-17**

2 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” 4have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 9But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**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

Grace Gullborg, Providence Point

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,

John Dean, Joseph Festor,

Leon Grant, Jr., David Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

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

***Peace in the World***

Please join the Pittsburgh United Methodist Women for our Annual Fall Meeting on September 15 and find hope for peace.

Christ United Methodist Church, Otterbein Room

44 Highland Road

Bethel Park, PA 15102

8:00 am Registration, Continental breakfast and Networking

9:00 am Program

We will end by 11:30 am in order to have time to attend our new District Superintendent’s installation being held at St Paul’s United Methodist Church in Allison Park.

All are Welcome! Come hear Mrs. Tina Whitehead share her experiences in Palestine, her thoughts about peace around the world, and her thoughts and experiences here in the United States. Tina is a volunteer WPA Conference Missionary in the Holy Land for several months each year for the last twelve years. She shares her experiences at Mission U, Lay Academy, University of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Mellon University Osher Institute.

Please RSVP by September 8 by email to cmetting@consolidated.net or mail to: Carolyn Meeting, 4973 Oakhurst Avenue, Gibsonia, PA 15044. Questions call Carolyn at 724-449-2595.

The Pittsburgh District UMW would like to collect any of the listed specific items for UMCOR’s Cleaning Buckets and/or Hygiene Kit. Copies of the extensive list will be available to pick up in our MLUMC church office. Items will be collected at the meeting and will be taken to the Mission Barn for packaging.

  

*Hygiene Kit* *Cleaning Buckets*

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**SUNDAY 9/9**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 Kids Praise Welcome Center

 3 pm TNC Sewing Party Asbury Center

 5 pm Youth Group Kick Off Wesley Hall

**MONDAY 9/10**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Rehearsal Bell Room

**TUESDAY 9/11**

 6 pm UMW Meeting Asbury Center

 7 pm Boy Scout Troop #23 Wesley Hall

 7 pm Boy Scout Board of Reviews Room 105

 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 9/12**

 **\***6 pm Homebuilders’ Potluck Asbury Center

7 pm Bear, Tiger, Wolf Den Meetings Various

7:30 pm Finance Wesley Hall

**THURSDAY 9/13**

 6:30 pm Promise Bells Bells Room

 7 pm Education Meeting Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 9/14**

 1:30 pm Memoirs Group Wesley Hall

 7 pm Arrow of Light Epworth

**SATURDAY 9/15**

 9 am Boy Scout #23 Car Wash Parking Lot

 10 am Food Distribution & Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry

 3 pm Harkins-Brown Wedding Sanctuary

***\*****Homebuilders will continue their potluck dinners through September on Wednesdays at 6 pm. From October through May, the dinners will be held the 1st Wednesday of each month.*