

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



Sharing the Love of Christ

3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-7131 mlumc.org

Reverend Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor tstrandburg@mlumc.org

November 11, 2018

8:30 & 10:45

Open our Hearts - Commitment Sunday

Mark 7:35 tells the story of Christ's healing of a man born deaf. As he placed his hands upon the man, Jesus exclaimed, "Be opened!" This morning we conclude our fall worship series, in which we have been challenged to open our lives to God's transforming power through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, as a concrete expression of our thanksgiving to God.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ...

Gathering Music

8:30 Hymnal 557

10:45 Promise Bells

Blest be the tie that binds (seated)

Songs of America

Dennis

arranged by Douglas Wagner

Greeting

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

People: **and let us exalt God's name together!**

Psalm 34:3

Announcements

Call to Worship (in unison)

**Bless the LORD God, the God of Israel –
the only one who does wondrous things.**

Bless God's glorious name forever;

let God's glory fill all the earth!

Amen and Amen!

Psalm 72:18-19 (Contemporary English Bible)

Introit 10:45 A Prayer of Desmond Tutu

James Whitbourn

Goodness is stronger than evil,

Love is stronger than hate,

Light is stronger than darkness,

Life is stronger than death,

Victory is ours through him who loved us.

... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

Hymnal 73

O worship the King (standing)

Lyons

A Litany for Those Who Serve

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: Almighty God, as we remember these your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence.

The Armed Forces Chaplains' Board, Washington, DC

Silent Prayer

Worship & Song 3094

Come to me (stanza 1, standing)

Come to me

**Come to me, come to me, weak and heavy laden;
trust in me, lean on me. I will give you rest.**

... 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 & 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 ...

Handbell Anthem 10:45

Materna
Chapel Bells

arranged by Betty B. Garee

Scripture Reading

8:30 Joeta D'Este 10:45 Linda Minnotte

A Lesson from the New Testament

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Final instructions for the faithful

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation:

Celtic Alleluia (standing)
Alleluia (repeat 6 times)

James Chepponis

Scripture Reading

A Lesson from the Gospel

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus heals ten men with leprosy

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

Howard Helvey

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon; where there is doubt, let there be faith;
where there is anguish, let there be hope; where there is darkness, let there be light;
where there is sadness, let there be joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born into eternal life. Amen.

text attributed to St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

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

“Six Habits of Faithful Followers”

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

... TO GO REJOICING IN GOD'S NAME!

Open Our Hearts (standing, sung to the music of Open My Eyes, Hymnal 454)

Open My Eyes

**1. Open our hearts that we might pray,
Asking our Lord to show the way.
Give us the strength to follow your will
Bid us your calling while we're still.**

**2. Open our minds to see your way,
Making our presence on this day.
And as we worship in this great church
Realizing this is where to search.**

(Chorus)

**Silently now we wait for thee
Ready our God your will to see
Open our *hearts*, illumine us
Spirit divine.**

(Chorus)

**Silently now we wait for thee
Ready our God your will to see
Open our *minds*, illumine us
Spirit divine.**

3. Open our lives and freely give
So that your loved ones freely live.
And as our gifts spread through all the Earth
May the receivers gain new birth.

(Chorus)

Silently now we wait for thee
Ready our God your will to see
Open our *lives*, illumine us
Spirit divine.

4. Open our hands to serve you, Lord,
Serving the church on your accord.
And while we work for those so in need,
Our faith in Christ will grow indeed.

(Chorus)

Silently now we wait for thee
Ready our God your will to see
Open our *hands*, illumine us
Spirit divine.

5. Open our *mouths* to witness love
Spreading the news of God above.
Give us the strength to glorify you,
In all our conversations, new.

(Chorus)

Silently now we wait for thee
Ready our God your will to see
Open our *mouths*, illumine us
Spirit divine.

Benediction

Hymnal 665 Go now in peace (standing, sing as a canon with pulpit side first) *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 Marjorie Ehni in honor of all military personnel and veterans.

The flowers in the chancel are given by Tom and Sharon Diller and John and Wanda Street in honor of all veterans and most especially William J. Street.

The rosebud on the altar is in celebration of the birth of Nolan William Knabb, son of Sara and J.J. Knabb, born November 2.

Special Music at the 10:45 service is provided by the Promise Bells and the Chapel Bells, directed by Nancy R. Lutz; and the Chancel Choir, conducted by Richard Minnotte, with the Rev. Thomas Strandburg, reader; Kathleen Whittaker, soloist; and Richard Minnotte, percussion.

Greeters 8:30 Kathy Karns 10:45 Joyce Magill

Acolytes Anna Rhoton and Tre Nagle

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 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹²But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. ²⁵Beloved, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ²⁷I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Keep in Prayer

Convalescing in Care Facilities

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point
Ed Clarke, Asbury Place
John Katshir, Asbury Heights
Pat Seitz, Concordia
Carol Van Sickle, Marian Manor
Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor
Jane Rulong, Asbury Heights

Convalescing at Home

Bishop George Bashore,
Jean Boyer, Mary Caldwell,
Mark Cleveland, John Dean,
Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr.,
Dave 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,

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

Condolences

Sympathy is offered to the family of long-time church member Grace Gullborg, who died Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the age of 88. A memorial service was held for her on Saturday, November 10 in the church sanctuary. Prayers of comfort can be sent to her husband and family at the following address:

William Gullborg
402 Waterside Drive
McMurray, PA 15317

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.

At this time, the church is accepting flower donations for the month of December. Consider the unique gift of honoring or remembering a family member or dear friend with an Advent, Christmas or holiday flower donation. To donate 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. Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request. of the service are available upon request.

CALENDAR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 THRU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Family Promise Week – Sunday 11/11 thru Sunday 11/18

SUNDAY 11/11

8:30 am	Worship	Sanner Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School for All Ages/Coffee Café	Various/ Brookline Parlor
10:45 am	Worship	Asbury Center
	Kids Praise	Welcome Center
11:45 am	Youth Choir	Choir Room
12 pm	Youth Lunch & Simmons Farm Trip	Asbury Center

MONDAY 11/12

7 pm	Chapel Bells Rehearsal	Bell Room
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TUESDAY 11/13

10 am	Weekday Ministries Chapel	Sanner Chapel
6 pm	Terrific Tuesday	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 11/14

7 pm	Bear, Tiger, Wolf Den Meetings	Various
7pm	Koinonia	Asbury Center
7:30 pm	Finance	Mixers Room

THURSDAY 11/15

11 am	Rebecca Circle	Wesley Hall
6:30 pm	Promise Bells	Bells Room
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

FRIDAY 11/16

4 pm	Lay Servant Ministry Classes	Various
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SATURDAY 11/17

9 am	Lay Servant Ministry Classes	Various
10 am	Food Distribution & Food Lift Free Market	Food Pantry