

**GALATIANS: The Freedom of Christ**

Summer Sermon Series

The focus of this sermon series is on the six essential claims that are made by the Apostle Paul pertaining to the Christian life. He deliberately exaggerates each one in his writing to drive home their importance for our faith. In each case, the focus is on the essential, unique, and irreplaceable gospel: the gospel of human freedom in Christ and ultimately the freedom of the Christ who, for the sake of freedom, has set us truly free!

**August 11, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

8:30 **Gathering Music** **Hymnal 467 Trust and obey** *Trust and obey*

**Greeting**

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me,

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

 *Psalm 34:3*

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: You are the salt of the earth.

**People: May we season the world with faithfulness, O God.**

Leader: You are the light of the world.

**People**: **May your love shine through us, O Christ our Savior.**

Leader: You are a city built on a hill.

**People: May your vigor make us bold witnesses, O Spirit of the living God.**

*Worship & Song*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 173 Christ, whose glory fills the skies**  *Ratisbon*

**\*Opening Prayer** (in unison)

**Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. Lord, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; let there be moments when your presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder: How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it: “Blessed is the Eternal One, the holy God!” Amen.**

*Worship & Song*

**\*Silent Prayer**

**\*Worship & Song 3146 O Breath of Life** (stanza 1) *Adieu*

**O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,**

 **revive your church with life and power.**

 **O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,**

 **and fit your church to meet this hour.**

 **TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**\*The Sign of Peace**

 Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
 People: And also with you.

Gathering Song

 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 near the end of the service.

**Hymnal 189 Fairest Lord Jesus** *St. Elizabeth*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**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 8:30 Joeta D’Este 10:45 Bob James

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Galatians 2:1-21 Paul’s leadership and the issues at hand

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

**… TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TO DEDICATE OUR LIVES …**

**Offertory Solo** Cry no more *Dan Forrest*

\***Hymnal** **94 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow** (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!**

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**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “It Is No Longer I” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 567 Heralds of Christ** (stanzas 1-2) *National Hymn*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 567 Heralds of Christ** (stanzas 3) *National Hymn*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement provided for worship today** is given by Jean Boyer in loving memory of her husband Dale and in honor of what would be their 66th wedding anniversary on August 15th.

**Greeters 8:30** Judy Phelps **10:45** Dick and Andrea Sherwin

**Guest pianist** is Cori DeLuca, a member of this church and a very active piano teacher in the area.

**Soloist this morning** is Robert Mallery, an active member of this church and a retired principal in the Mt. Lebanon School District.

**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 $33 for the altar, narthex, or columbarium arrangements, and $66 for the chancel flowers.

**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.

Today’s **Scripture**

**Galatians 2:1-21**

2Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2I went up in response to a revelation. Then I laid before them (though only in a private meeting with the acknowledged leaders) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure that I was not running, or had not run, in vain. 3But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. 4But because of false believers secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might enslave us— 5we did not submit to them even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might always remain with you. 6And from those who were supposed to be acknowledged leaders (what they actually were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) —those leaders contributed nothing to me. 7On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel for the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel for the circumcised 8(for he who worked through Peter making him an apostle to the circumcised also worked through me in sending me to the Gentiles), 9and when James and Cephas and John, who were acknowledged pillars, recognized the grace that had been given to me, they gave to Barnabas and me the right hand of fellowship, agreeing that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. 10They asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do.

11But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; 12for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. 13And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?” 15We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. 17But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. 19For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; 20and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

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**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

 **August 11th Galatians 2 “It is No Longer I”**

 **August 18th Galatians 3 “Out of One, Many”**

 **August 25th Galatians 4 “Born of the Spirit”**

 **Sept. 1st Galatians 5 “The Only Thing That Counts”**

 **Sept. 8th Galatians 6 “Everything!”**

***Join us in worship or through the online podcast each week!***

**Called By God -- Gifted to Serve**

Hasn't it been a wonderful 65th anniversary season for Faith for Today? Let's keep the momentum rolling right into the fall! A special combined adult Sunday School class will be offered on Sunday, September 1st, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., in Wesley Hall. The theme will be "Called By God - Gifted to Serve." Pastor Tom will lead the class in a study of the gifts of the Spirit, as described in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12. We'll consider how each gift is intended by God for the building up of the Church,

the Body of Christ. Join us for this challenging and informative hour.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

Isabella (Langston) Field, St. Alphonsus Medical Center, Boise

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Reagan Rizzo, Renfrew Center, Philadelphia

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

**Convalescing at Home**

Bishop George Bashore, Jean Boyer,

Mary Caldwell, John Dean,

Joseph Festor, Leon Grant, Jr., Dave Lewis,

Susan Lichtenfels, George Lindow,

Carol Van Sickle, Jinny Sheppard,

Ruth Seip, Arlene Stewart

**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

**ACHTUNG: Zwickau Up-Date!**  Thirteen members of our partner church (Friedenskirche) in Zwickau, Germany, will arrive on Sunday, October 13, and stay until the 22nd.

**Our Goal:** Meet as many of them as possible and have great conversation and interactions

**Our Theme:** Expand Our Mission Eyes

**Sign-Ups for Group Activities:**  September

Our Zwickau Committee has been hard at work planning a variety of activities that will show our guests our mission work and also acquaint them with our church and with Pittsburgh. There will be several **opportunities for church-wide participation**: church-wide all-American picnic at South Park, local mission work, Terrific Tuesdays supper with Zwickau discussion, Heinz Field tour, and a Hop On Hop Off bus tour of Pittsburgh. Sign-ups will begin in September. Stay tuned for more info!

Questions? Contact Deanna Baird (fraubaird@aol.com) or ask a committee member : Kathleen Amant, Dan & Lori Barr, Berni Bowes, Mary Garber, Betsy Harkins, Stephanie & Kirk Lowe, Mike & Mary Paine, Eric & Kim Palmer, and Pastor Tom and Kathy Strandburg.

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 THRU SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**

**SUNDAY 8/11**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Faith for Today Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

**TUESDAY 8/13**

10 am Weekday Ministries Chapel Sanner 6:30 pm Family Promise Board of Directors Meeting Library

 7 pm Board of Reviews Network

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

 7 pm Cub Scout Committee Planning Meeting Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 8/14**

 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting Welcome Center

 7 pm Bear, Lion, Webelos, Tiger, & Wolf Den Meetings Various

**SATURDAY 8/17**

4-7 pm Community Barbecue Asbury