

**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 4, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

8:30 **Gathering Music** **Hymnal**  **436 The voice of God is calling** *Meirionydd*

**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: Throughout the ages, disciples have said, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

**People: Lord, give us the freedom to follow you in the ways of love.**

Leader: We come from busy homes, filled with little time to consider Christ in our lives.

**People**: **Lord, give us the strength to follow you in the ways of peace.**

Leader: Today, we celebrate the Holy Spirit, who shows us the joy of following God.

**People: Lord, give us the patience to follow you in the ways of faith.**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 679 O splendor of God’s glory bright**  *Wareham*

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

**Gracious Lord,
you have blessed us with freedom—
freedom to follow or to turn away;
freedom to love or to hate;
freedom to heal or to hurt.
You ask only that we follow your ways,
loving our neighbors as ourselves.
In the midst of our turbulent lives,
help us find teachers
to show us the gifts you set within us.
And help us claim these gifts today.**

**\*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 …**

**Sacrament of Baptism** (10:45) page 39

*Jason Frederick Florian,*

*son of Derick and Lizzie Florian*

***Congregational Response:***

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life

and include *Jason Frederick* now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news
     and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround** *Jason Frederick* **with a community of love and forgiveness,
     that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him,
     that he may be a true disciple,**

 **who walks in the way that leads to life.**

10:45 **Hymnal 191 Jesus loves me** *Jesus loves me*

**\*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.

**… 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 Scott Miller 10:45 Chris James

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Galatians 1:1-24 The gospel is challenged in Galatia

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

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

10:45 **Offertory Solo** Assurance *Bach, Beck and Courtney*

\***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!**

adapt. © 1989 The U. Methodist Publishing House

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sermon** “No Other Gospel” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

**Worship & Song 3167 Feed us, Lord** (stanza 1) *Feed us*

**Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the broken bread, be revealed again.**

 **Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.**

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**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

 **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

 **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(The pastor continues in prayer)*

**Giving the Bread & Cup**

**Prayer following Communion (in unison)**

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 178 Hope of the world** (stanzas 1-4) *Vicar*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 178 Hope of the world** (stanza 5) *Vicar*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement provided for worship today** is given in loving memory of Bill and Jency Street and in celebration of their great-grandchild, Jason Florian, whose baptism is today.

**Greeters 8:30** Fran Travis **10:45** David and Barbara Watson

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

**Special music for the 10:45 service** is provided by our tenor soloist, Kirby Dilworth. Kirby just celebrated his 40 anniversary as Music Librarian at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

**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 1:1-24**

1Paul an apostle—sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2and all the members of God’s family who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

6I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! 9As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed!

10Am I now seeking human approval, or God’s approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. 11For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; 12for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. 13You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. 14I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. 15But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased 16to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, 17nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. 18Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; 19but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord’s brother. 20In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! 21Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, 22and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; 23they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.”24And they glorified God because of me.

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**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

 **August 4th Galatians 1 “No Other Gospel”**

 **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!***

**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

**In Sympathy**

The congregation offers condolences to the family of church member James “Jim” Morris, who died this past Monday, July 29, 2019 at the age of 67. Sympathy is additionally offered to his companion, Margaret Rodzwicz, also a member of the congregation. Jim was the long-time owner and operator of Morris Landscaping. Prayers and words of comfort can be sent to family and friends at his business address:

 Morris Landscaping

P.O. Box 62

 Presto, PA 15142

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 THRU SATURDAY, AUGUST 10**

**FAMILY PROMISE SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 10**

**SUNDAY 8/4**

 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

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

 7 pm Do No Harm Welcome Center

**TUESDAY 8/6**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 8/7**

**OFFICE CLOSED 11 AM – 2 PM STAFF TRAINING OFF SITE**

5 pm Home Builders Covered Dish Wesley

**THURSDAY 8/8**

 7 pm Education Committee Meeting Brookline Parlor

**FRIDAY 8/9**

 7 pm PK 8770 Arrow of Light Epworth

**SATURDAY 8/10**

8 am Reveille Mt. Lebanon E.P. Church