

**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. As of today, we’ve considered the first five:

1. There is no other gospel. (1:7)
2. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. (2:20)
3. You are all one in Christ Jesus. (3:28)
4. You are born of the Spirit. (4:29)
5. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (5:6)

**September 1, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

8:30 **Gathering Music** **Hymnal 523 Saranam, Saranam** *Punjabi*

**Greeting**

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me,

**People: Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

*Psalm 122:1*

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Those who place their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, never shaken, lasting forever.

**People: Mountains surround the holy city of Jerusalem, and the Lord continually surrounds and protects God’s people.**

Leader: The Lord’s favor is ever with those whose hearts are in the right place.

 **People**: **May peace be always with God’s people!** *Psalm 125*

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 67 We, thy people, praise thee** *St. Anthony Chorale*

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

**God of compassion: We talk about being faithful to your love, while our hearts go after other desires. Our love for you and for others often fails, while we devise complex rules and regulations for judging others. We want to be yours, but harmful thoughts carry us away from your purposes. In spite of our faults, enable us to be people of your own heart. Cleanse the meditations of our hearts, that our thoughts may reflect your goodness. Keep us from envy, greed, and deceit, and remake us in the image of your love. Amen.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

**\*Worship & Song 3146 O Breath of Life** (stanza 3) *Adieu*

**O Breath of love, come breathe within us,**

 **renewing thought and will and heart.**

 **Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us;**

 **revive your church in every part.**

 **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.

8:30 **Hymnal 385 Let us plead for faith alone** *Savannah*

10:45 **Solo** Lead, kindly Light *Arthur S. Sullivan*

**… 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 Bob James

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Galatians 5:1-26 Two different ways of living

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

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

10:45 **Offertory Trio** They shall soar like eagles *Laura Manzo*

\***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** “The Only Thing That Counts” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

**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 508 Faith, while trees are still in blossom** (stanzas 1-4) *For the bread*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 508 Faith, while trees are still in blossom** (stanza 5) *For the bread*

**Today’s Services**

**The flower arrangement provided for worship today** is given by Phillip and Nancy Koch in loving memory of Nancy Agnew who passed away September 2, 2017.

**Greeters 8:30** Paulette Colonna **10:45** Lavisa Ward

**Musicians at 10:45** are soloist Robert Richards, an engineer; Kathy Whittaker, a psychologist; Kirby Dilworth, a librarian; and flautist Alyssa Pysola. Ms. Pysola’s presence with us is made possible through contributions to the Friends of Music Fund.

**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 Scripture**

**Galatians 5:1-26**

5For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 2Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.3Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. 4You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.5For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love. 7You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? 8Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. 10I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. 11But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

13For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. 14For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,21envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

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**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Blood Pressure Screenings Today** Stop in to Brookline Parlor after the 10:45 service for a blood pressure check from the MLUMC Health Ministry (WHOM). The ministry team nurses offer screenings the first Sunday of every month.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Bishop George Bashore, Shadyside

Sandra Clarke, St. Clair

Dawn Lonsinger, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

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

John Katshir, Asbury Heights

Pat Seitz, Concordia

Doris Trimble, Providence Point

Olivia Woods, Baptist Manor

Ezra Gibson, Memorial Sloan-Kettering

 Cancer Center, New York City

**Convalescing at Home**

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

**Looking to send a card?**

 **Here are some helpful addresses:**

UPMC Shadyside

5230 Centre Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Concordia Health Center

1300 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

St. Clair Hospital

1000 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**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

Asbury Heights

700 Bower Hill Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Providence Point

500 Providence Point Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Baptist Homes

493 Castle Shannon Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15234

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

**SUNDAY 9/1**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Summer Sermon Series Asbury Center

 10:45 am Worship Asbury Center

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 12 pm Blood Pressure Screening Brookline Parlor

**MONDAY 9/2**

 **LABOR DAY/OFFICE CLOSED**

**TUESDAY 9/3**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**WEDNESDAY 9/4**

 5 pm Home Builders Covered Dish Wesley

**THURSDAY 9/5**

 8:30 am Northside Lunch Prep Asbury

 9 am Hearts and Hands Epworth

12 pm TNT Asbury Heights

 6 pm Choir potluck Wesley

 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 9/6**

 5:30 pm Albright Society Dinner Wesley

**SATURDAY 9/7**

 10 am Food Pantry/Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry