

**16th Sunday After Pentecost**

*Six Practices of Faithful Followers*

Each week, we come to church, hoping to grow in our Christian discipleship. What are the essential practices of a faithful follower of Jesus Christ? The first can be found in the Sermon on the Mount – “And when you pray,” Jesus said. Prayer – talking to God – was a practice that Christ assumed would be lived out by his disciples.

**September 29, 2019 8:30 & 10:45**

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** **Hymnal 496 Sweet hour of prayer** *Sweet Hour*

**Hymnal 505 When our confidence is shaken** (stanzas 1-2) *Grafton*

**Greeting**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

 *Psalm 118:24*

**Announcements**

\*10:45 **Introit** *Douglas E. Wagner*

I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

 O the Lord is in his holy temple: all the earth keep silence before the Lord.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: When the world divides us:

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, make us one.**

Leader: When the world calls us orphaned:

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, make us family.**

Leader:When the world leads us astray:

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, call us home. Come and fill this place!**

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 89 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee** *Hymn to Joy*

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

**Lord, open our hearts. Make them places of peace and our minds harbors of tranquility this day. Sow in our souls true love for you and for one another; and root deeply within us friendship and unity, and concord with reverence. So may we give peace to each other sincerely and receive it beautifully. Amen.**

*Adapted from a Native American prayer*

**\*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 to the sanctuary near the end of the service.

**Hymnal 492 Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire** *Campmeeting*

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

Scripture Reading 8:30 Scott Miller 10:45 Hazel Cope

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 James 5:13-18 The ministry of prayer

**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.**

**\*Celtic Alleluia: Alleluia.** (sing 4 times) *James J. Chepponis*

**Scripture Reading**

**\*A Lesson from the Gospel**

 Matthew 6:7-15 Jesus’ teaching on prayer

**Response**

 Leader: The Word of the Lord.

 **People: Thanks be to God**.

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

10:45 **Offertory anthem** Assurance  *John Ness Beck*

 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

 This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long*.*

 Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my savior am happy and blest,

 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

 This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

 This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all my life long.

\***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** “Discipleship Practice #1: Talk to God” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\* **Hymnal 505 When our confidence is shaken** (stanzas 1-3) *Grafton*

\***Benediction**

\* **Hymnal 505 When our confidence is shaken** (stanza 4) *Grafton*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Rob Spicher in celebration of the birthday of his wonderful wife, Jane.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Susanne Sommer in loving memory of her mother, Emma Bruce Blair, and her sister, Holly Blair.

**Acolytes** Anna Rhoton and Jacob Lowe

**Greeters 8:30** Judi Phelps **10:45** Frances Graham

**Special music at 10:**45 is provided by the Chancel Choir with pianist Cori DeLuca, a member of the church who teaches piano in the area.

**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.

**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.

**Today’s Scripture**

**James 5:13-18**

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

**Matthew 6:7-15**

7“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11Give us this day our daily bread. 12And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. 14For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; 15but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

**Zwickau Partners Visit October 13—22** Thirteen members of our Zwickau partner church will be here October 13 – 22. The Zwickau committee has planned several events that can involve YOU! Sign-up tables in the narthex have the following activities:

Tour of Heinz Field

($10 adults, $7 seniors) Tuesday, October 15, 2:00

Pittsburgh tour with Hop-On Hop-Off bus ($35.)

Friday, October 18, 9:00

K.O. football game Fri., Oct. 18, 6:45 at stadium

Tour of Oliver Miller Homestead at South Park ($2)

Sunday, October 20, 2:30

All-church picnic at South Park, Sunday, October 20, 3:00

Work visits and social calls to MLUMC members, Monday, October 21, 1:00

Other non-sign-up events to get to know the Germans include:

 Terrific Tuesdays (Oct. 15)

 Community Harvest festival/Oktoberfest (Oct.19).

Questions? Contact Deanna Baird (fraubaird@aol.com) or committee members Kathleen Amant, Lori Barr, Berni Bowes, Mary Garber, Stephanie Lowe, Mike and Mary Paine, Kim and Eric Palmer, and Tom and Kathy Strandburg.

**Care Packages for Partnership Experience**

During the Zwickau partnership visit we will be visiting the New Hope church on the North Side with the Germans to prepare and serve lunch.  During the visit we will also be delivering 100 care packages that we and the Germans will have prepared here for the homeless population. Please consider donating the following items for our care packages:

1. Socks, preferably thermal, men's size 9 - 11

2. Lip balm

3. Monetary donations made out to MLUMC.  Please write "Zwickau" on the lower left of your check.

Donation boxes marked "North Side" are located in the Education Wing and the Main office. Questions?  Contact Lori Barr or Deanna Baird (fraubaird@aol.com).  Many thanks from the Zwickau Committee!

**Keep in Prayer**

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Bishop George Bashore, Asbury Heights

Bonnie Amos, Providence Point

Ed Clarke, Asbury Heights

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

Steve Howard, Loma Linda University Hospital, Loma Linda, CA

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,

Arlene Stewart

**In the Military**

Matt Lewis, USMC,

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**

 Condolences are offered to the family and friends of church member Ruth Barr Seip, who died on Sunday evening, September 22, 2019 at the age of 94. Ruth was the wife of the late Robert Seip, Jr. and mother of Rebecca, Robert and Kathleen Seip.

 All are welcome to attend her memorial service, scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 11:30 am in Sanner Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that a contribution be made to the United Methodist Women of MLUMC.

 Prayers and words of comfort can be sent to the family:

 Seip Family

 c/o Laughlin Memorial Chapel

 222 Washington Rd.

 Pittsburgh, PA 15216

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 THRU SATURDAY, OCROBER 5**

**SUNDAY 9/29**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 9:30 am Sunday School Various

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 11:45 am Youth Choir Choir Room

 12 pm Dr. Watson’s 90th Birthday Celebration Asbury

 5 pm Youth Group Wesley

 7 pm Troop 23 Leadership Meeting Wesley

**MONDAY 9/30**

 7 pm Chapel Bells Bell Room

**TUESDAY 10/1**

11 am Staff Meeting Welcome Center

6 pm Terrific Tuesday Resumes Asbury

7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley

**THURSDAY 10/3**

8:30am Northside Lunch Prep Asbury Kitchen

 9 am Hands & Hearts Epworth

 12n pm TNT Asbury Heights

6:30 pm Promise Bells Bell Room

 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**SATURDAY 10/5**

10 am Blessing of the Animals Park

 10 am Food Pantry/Food Lift Free Market Food Pantry