

**GALATIANS: The Freedom of Christ**

Summer Sermon Series

The focus of this sermon series has been the six essential claims that are made by the Apostle Paul pertaining to the Christian life. Today, the series concludes with #6:

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)
6. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! (6:15)

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

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Gathering Music** **Hymnal 528 Nearer, my God, to thee** *Bethany*

**Greeting**

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me,

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

*Psalm 122:1*

**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: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: Day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.**

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.**

Leader: More to be desired are they than gold.

**People: Sing to the Wisdom of the ages.**

Leader: Join the heavens in telling the glory of our God.

 **… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

\***Hymnal 159 Lift high the cross** *Crucifer*

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

**Eternal God, you have placed the cross of Christ squarely between the old and the new, between flesh and spirit, between the law of stone and the gospel of freedom. How blessed are those who seek you! In this hour, and in the grace of your Spirit, help each one here to seek you in humility, to test our own work, to find joy in the discovery that we share in all good things with you, our true Teacher, and to experience in the cross everything needful, a new creation – *everything!* – so that we might never grow weary in doing what is right, in Jesus’ name.**

*Timothy Matthew Slemmons*

**\*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 163 Ask ye what great thing I know** *Hendon*

**… 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 Barbara Watson

**A Lesson from the New Testament**

 Galatians 6:1-18 Caring and sharing

**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** Psalm 139 *Allen Pote*

 Lord, you have searched me and known me. O Lord, You know everything I do.

 When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through.

 Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say,

 Your presence follows me day by day.

 Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away?

 If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there.

 Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart.

 See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

\***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** “Everything!” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

 **… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Hymnal 297 Beneath the cross of Jesus** (stanzas 1-2) *St. Christopher*

\***Benediction**

\***Hymnal 297 Beneath the cross of Jesus** (stanza 3) *St. Christopher*

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Betty Lou Albright in loving memory of her husband, Pat Albright. September 5th would have been their 66th wedding anniversary.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Steve and Amelia Dean in loving memory of the Rev. Dr. H. Pat Albright, whose 88th birthday would have been today.

**Greeters 8:30** Marsha Manke **10:45** Spencer & Gayl Radnich

**Special music at 10:**45 is provided by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by Cori DeLuca, an active piano teacher in the area and a member of this church.

**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 6:1-18**

6My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. 2Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. 4All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor’s work, will become a cause for pride. 5For all must carry their own loads. 6Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.7Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.8If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. 10So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

11See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! 12It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. 14May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.15For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! 16As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. 17From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. 18May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

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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.

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Sandra Clarke, St. Clair

Dawn Lonsinger, St. Clair

**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

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:**

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 8 THRU SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**SUNDAY 9/8**

 8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

 10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

 10:45 am Kids Praise Welcome Center

 5 pm Fall Youth Kickoff Wesley

 6:45 pm Do No Harm Welcome Center

**MONDAY 9/9**

7 pm Church Council Meeting Wesley

**TUESDAY 9/10**

9:30 am UMW Executive Board Meeting Network

 10 am Weekday Ministries Chapel Sanner Chapel

 6 pm UMW Meeting Asbury

 6:30 pm Family Promise Board of Directors Meeting Library

 7 pm Scouts Board of Reviews Network

 7 pm Boy Scout Meeting Wesley 7 pm Cub Scout Planning Committee Meeting Epworth

**WEDNESDAY 9/11**

 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting Welcome Center

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

**THURSDAY 9/12**

 7 pm Education Committee Meeting Brookline Parlor

 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

**FRIDAY 9/13**

 7 pm Troop 23 Arrow of Light Epworth

**SATURDAY 9/14**

 2 pm Strandburg/Kurta Wedding Sanctuary