

**January 23, 2022 8:30 & 10:45**

**Third Sunday After the Epiphany**

The body of Christ is brought into focus for this world one tiny dot at a time. For each of us who can manage to reproduce the image of Christ through the way we "love and serve the Lord" in all we do and say, that picture of Christ grows a little clearer, a little sharper each day. What kind of dots are you making? Are you producing dots that lead people to see Christ, or is your life and lifestyle painting a different picture for the world? What are people seeing in the dots of your life?

**WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME …**

\*Asterisk indicates to rise in body or spirit

**Prelude** *8:30*“Great is thy faithfulness” John Esaias, piano, Mitchell Stecker, organ

*10:45* Prelude from *Prelude and Fugue in G*, Op. 37 Felix Mendelssohn (1807-1847)

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Pastor: We have come to worship God, the living God,

**People: Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.**

Pastor: We have come to praise God, the almighty God,

**People: Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.**

Pastor: We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,

**People: Who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope. All glory to God!**

**… TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD …**

**\*Opening Hymn “Lord, speak to me” UMH463**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Spirit of the living God, we praise and adore you for empowering us to claim membership in the body of Christ, a gift received through the fullness of your grace. Empower us anew, we pray, with tongues of fire and hearts of love to proclaim the reconciling word among people. Remind us that we are all members of the one body and if one member suffers, we all suffer. May we, as the body of Christ in this place, be the best evidence of your love by declaring and witnessing to this as the year of the Lord’s favour for all people. We give thanks that all of us are Christ’s body, and rejoice in each one being a part of it. Accept our adoration and praise for these great gifts, we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Silent Prayer**

\***Response “Let there be peace on earth” UMH440**

**TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH …**

**A Lesson for Young Disciples**

All children are invited to come forward at the invitation of the pastor. After the children’s message at the 10:45 service, children ages 3 - 3rd grade may attend **Kids Praise**. Children will be escorted to and from Kids Praise by teachers. They will return to the sanctuary near the end of the service. The congregation will sing, as the children depart:

***Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;***

***Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:***

***Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,***

***Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.*** (UMH#277, stanza 1)

**… TO HEAR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED …**

**Scripture Reading**

**A Lesson from the Gospels**

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus announces good news to the poor

**Response**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**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. 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.**

**Sermon** “Connect the Dots” Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

**Offertory**

**8:30 “Here I am, Lord” UMH593**

**10:45 “Father, in whom we live” from *Wesley Songs* Glenn L. Rudolph**

**Text: the Rev. Ch. Wesley**

**\*Doxology** "**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"** UMH94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Closing Hymn** “Forth in thy name, O Lord, I Go” UMH438

**… TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

\***Benediction**

\***Postlude *Psalm 19 (“The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”)* Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)**

Today’s Services

**The flower arrangement provided for worship** today is given by the Lonsinger family in loving memory of Dick Lonsinger, who died January 21, 2015.

**Acolytes** Jacob Lowe and Lucas Giles

**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. To donate 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. Pastor Tom Strandburg and Pastor Scott Miller contribute podcasts of Sunday sermons on a rotating basis. 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 Scriptures**

**Luke 4:14-21**

14Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**COVID-19 Precautions at MLUMC**

Based on CDC recommendations and Allegheny County reaching substantial community transmission levels, we encourage everyone, regardless of vaccination status to wear a mask when gathering inside the church building.

We are grateful for the ability to worship together both in person on Sunday morning and online. We encourage you to continue to participate in worship in whatever way you feel comfortable. You are a part of the MLUMC community regardless of where or how you attend. Stay connected via the web site, [www.mlumc.org](http://www.mlumc.org/) for the most up to date information

Pastor Tom Strandburg

**Keep in Prayer**

**Hospitalized**

Mark Lewis, St. Clair

**Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Carolyn Dagg, Baptist Home

May Frederick, Baptist Home

Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village

Dorothy King

George Lindow, Friendship Village

Ed Reichard, Providence Point

**Convalescing at Home**

Shirley Baker, Bishop George Bashore,

Jean Boyer, Susan Lichtenfels,

Carol Van Sickle

**In the Military**

Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,

**PFC William Dilla III**

**Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,**James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz

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S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Sgt. Brendan Lamport, Matt Lewis, USMC,

Sgt. Matthew McConahan, Thomas Orda,

David Poncel, Sgt. Steven Reitz,

LTC Scott B. Rushe,

Pvt. Max Siergert,USMC

Pastor Rick Townes, Maj. Azizi Wesmiller,

Maj. Matthew C. Wesmiller,  
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,

Sgt Michael Zimmerman

**Be An Instrument of Hope & Compassion** Consider sending greeting cards to church members and friends who are in the hospital, a care facility, or at home convalescing from illness. Let’s shower our friends with cards and pray for God’s healing touch.

Ed Reichard is in the Healthcare unit at Providence Point. Cards for Ed can be sent to his wife Betty Lou:

Ed Reichard

100 Adams Avenue

Apt. 632

Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Mark Lewis is in St. Clair Hospital at the time of this writing, having recently spent time convalescing in Concordia. Cards for Mark can be sent to his wife Judy:

Mark Lewis

908 Valleyview Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15423

**Terrific Tuesday – A Lenten Experience for March**

**Due to the present COVID-19 surge, Terrific Tuesday has been rescheduled. It is starting on Tuesday, March 1 and will continue through March 8, 15, 22 and 29, that is starting the day before Ash Wednesday and ending on the fourth Tuesday in Lent. At that time, church family and community members of all ages are invited to Asbury Center from 6 to 7:30 PM for dinner, activities and discussion.**

**Postponed and Rescheduled - Boy Scout Troop 23 Spaghetti Dinner**

Troop 23 has rescheduled their dine-in or take-out spaghetti dinner for Saturday, March 26 at MLUMC. Check back here closer to the March date for information.

**Children and Youth Activities**

All in-person youth and children’s activities at the church have been suspended for the month of January, to be resumed in February.

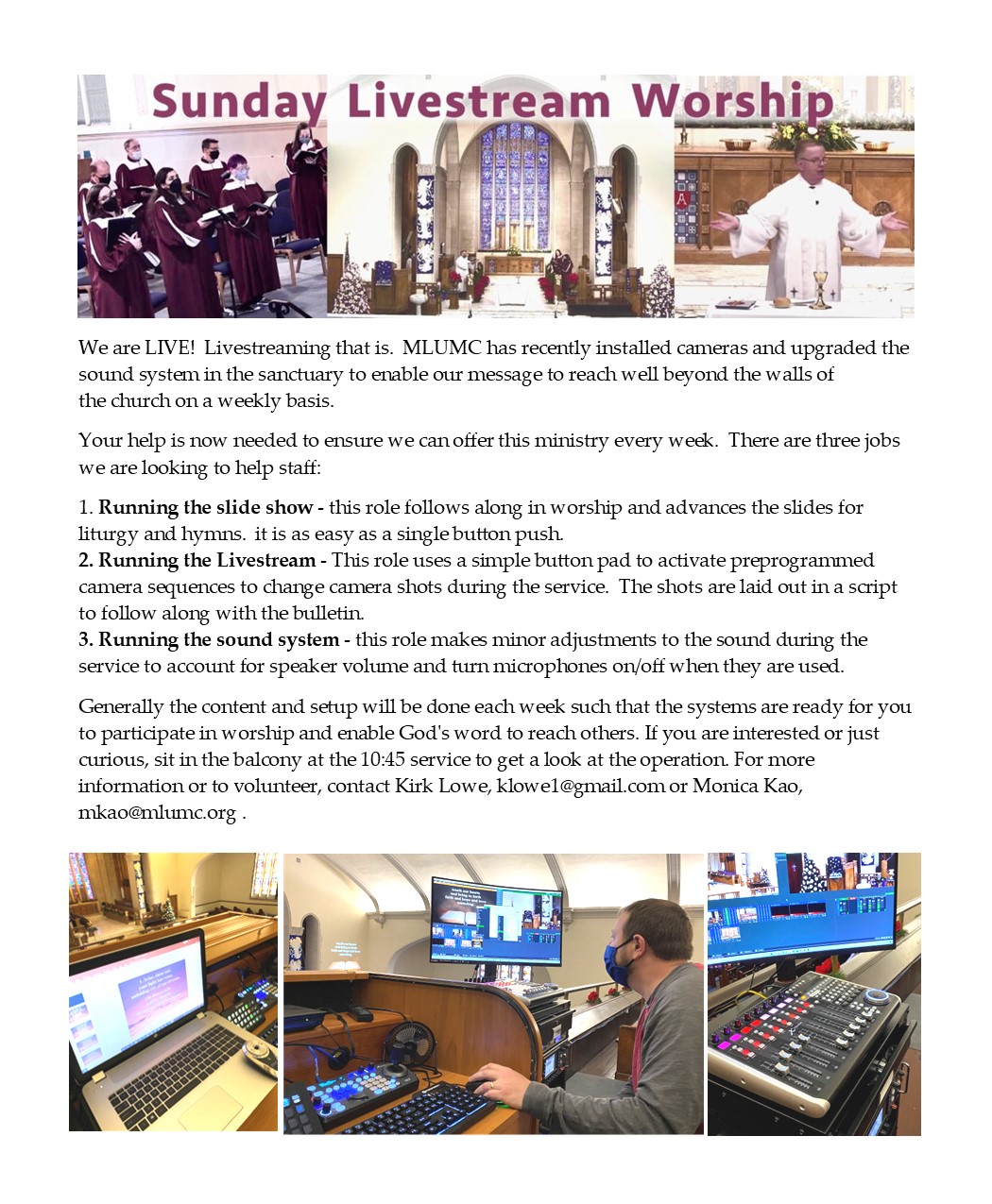
**Pastoral Care/Social Advocacy through Black and White Eyes**

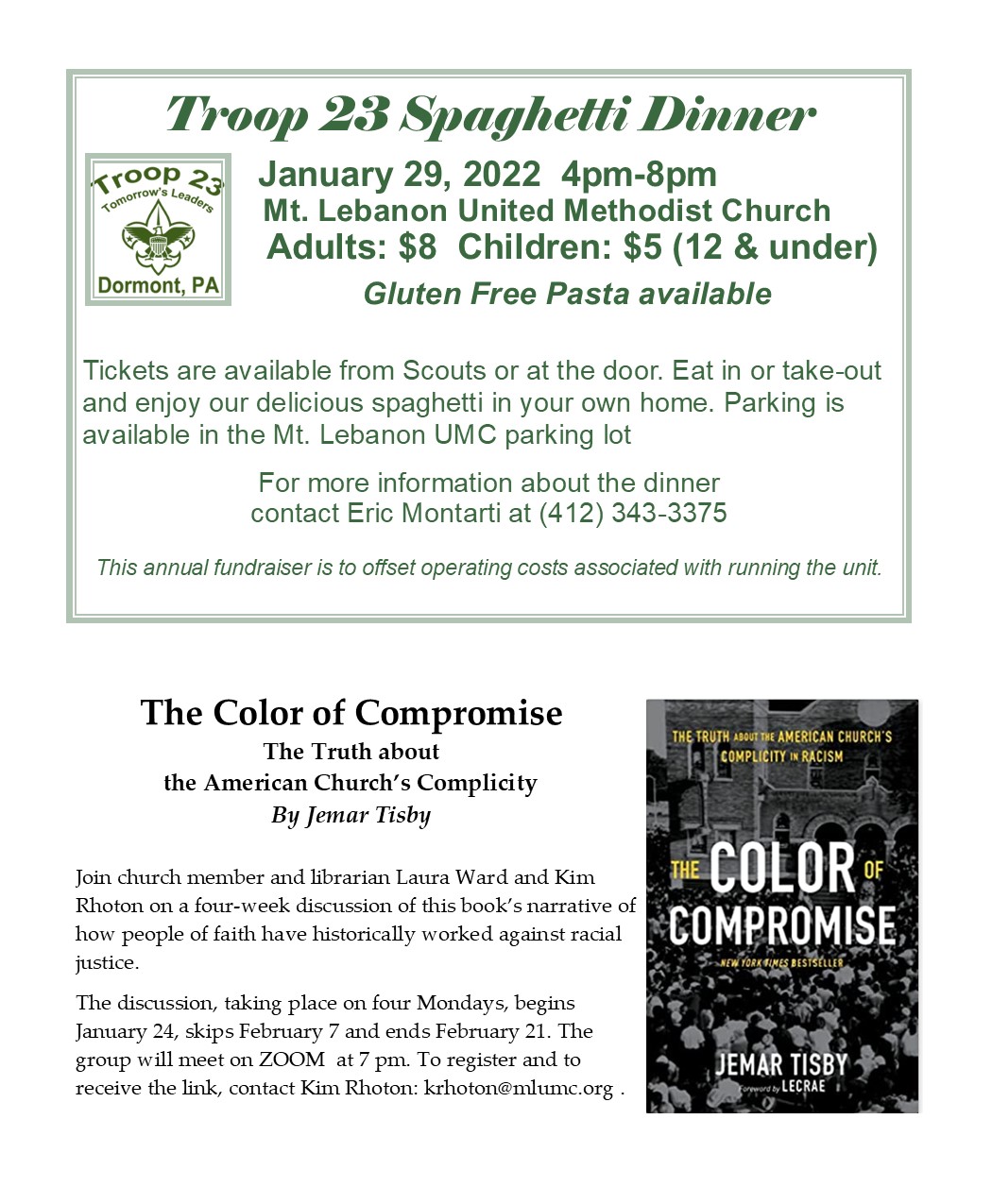
**MLUMC member and seminary student David Seitz is speaking on ZOOM on Thursday, January 27 at 7 pm on “Pastoral** Care/Social Advocacy through Black and White Eyes.” His talk will be contrasting and comparing different paths to social action as presented by Edward Wimberly in his African American Pastoral Care and Counseling: *Politics of Oppression and Empowerment* and Ginger Gaines-Cirelli’s *Sacred Resistance*.

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86091383849?pwd=RnlpVUxWUloxUDVhWEtGU0RsbHkvZz09>  
Meeting ID: 860 9138 3849  
Passcode: 72175

**Note to Our Livestreaming Viewers**

**If you are reading this bulletin and announcements while or after viewing the 10:45 service online, please consider sending the church an email telling us what you think of our livestreaming service. For you, how does it compare to attending a service in-person? Were you satisfied with what you saw and heard? What improvements would you like to see? Send your comments to** [info@mlumc.org](mailto:info@mlumc.org) . **Thank You!**

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**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, JANUARY 23 THRU SATURDAY, JANUARY 29**

**SUNDAY 1/23**

8:30 am Worship Sanner Chapel

8:30 am The Gathering Asbury

9:30 am Sunday School Various

10:45 am Worship Sanctuary

6:00 pm Youth Zoom

**TUESDAY 1/25**

7:00 pm Troop 23 Meeting Wesley

7:00 pm Troop 9023 Meeting Network

**WEDNESDAY 1/26**

2:00 pm Women’s Bible Study Zoom

7:00 pm Bear, Tiger, and Wolf Den Meetings Various

**THURSDAY 1/27**

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary