

# Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



Sharing the Love of Christ

3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-7131 [mlumc.org](http://mlumc.org)

Reverend Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor [tstrandburg@mlumc.org](mailto:tstrandburg@mlumc.org)

February 13, 2022

8:30 & 10:45

## Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Does it matter if we count our blessings? When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor ... the hungry ... and those who weep," he's telling us God will bless us if we have faith. God will bless us through our time of need, and may even bless us with what we most desire. But it's not the final balance sheet of blessings that's important. It's the blessing itself that counts.

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ...

\*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

**Prelude**

*Improvisation on a Spiritual*

## Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

Pastor: Now is the moment of grace.

**People: This is the hour of blessing.**

Pastor: Today is the day of salvation.

**People: Here is the path to new life.**

Pastor: Already joy is abounding,

**People: And love is flowing.**

Pastor: For this is the day God is making.

**People: Let us rejoice and sing.**

## ... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

\*Opening Hymn

"This is a day of new beginnings"

UMH383

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

Let us open our hearts and minds to the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. May God's Spirit be here, leading us toward a more mature faith, nurturing our hope and embracing us in love. Lord, remind us that the Scriptures proclaim to us of God's abiding and forgiving love. Remind us, Lord, that you have called us to be peacemakers. Our world is so divided and troubled. Now we need your great and worthy guidance to take up the message and practice of biblical peacemaking. May we be persons of redeeming love and reconciling peace. In the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

**\*Silent Prayer**

**Response**

**"Now the Silence"**

**UMH619**

**Seminary Scholarship Awards (10:45)**

**A Lesson for Young Disciples (10:45)**

*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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6:17-26

Blessings and Woes

**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**                                      “The Blessing that Counts”                                      Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

**At the Offertory**

<b>8:30</b>	<b>“And can it be that I should gain”</b>	<b>UMH363</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<i>Come Sunday</i>	Duke Ellington (1899-1974)
		Timothi Williams, soloist
	<i>(The text can be found at UMH728.)</i>	

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

**... TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!**

**\*Closing Hymn**                                      “We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder”                                      **UMH418**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**                                      “Rondeau” from *Symphonie des Fanfares*                                      Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

**Today’s Services**

**The flowers on the altar** are given by Pete and Beth Santore in loving memory of Richard and Marilyn Santore.

**Acolytes** Jacob and Joseph Lowe (Boy Scout Sunday)

**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 6:17-26**

<sup>17</sup>He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

### **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

### **Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Carolyn Dagg, Baptist Home

May Frederick, Baptist Home

Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village

George Lindow, Friendship Village

Ed Reichard, Providence Point

Priscilla Utzig, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jaskiewicz

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James Iantelli, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jaskiewicz,

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

*Deanna Baird shares a letter sent to our congregation from Pastor Christian and our German partner church:*

## **Greetings from Zwickau and Pastor Christian to Our Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Mt. Lebanon!**

We are living in challenging times. The pandemic also has our country in its grip--some things just aren't possible. However, faith remains, community remains, and being there for each other remains. We celebrate services and try to stay in contact as much as possible. Some new work efforts have begun--we continue to learn new things. In our congregation there have also been various corona cases--we are thankful for the gift of the vaccination and believe that we as a congregation can overcome these big hurdles. One death of interest to MLUMC that was not related to corona was the death of Monika Dressel, who died on September 27, 2021, at the age of 79. Monika was known by all those who traveled to Zwickau since she usually hosted our work efforts in her created Garden of the Senses. Although she was totally blind, she always managed to get to know us.

We hope to see you soon!

## Livestream Video and Audio Training Sessions

Training sessions for operating the recently installed cameras and upgraded sound system in the Sanctuary have been scheduled.

Basic livestream and sound system training will be held at the following times:

Sunday, Feb. 20                      9:30 to 10:30 AM

Sunday, Feb. 27                      9:30 to 10:30 AM

This training will give volunteers a chance to understand and practice with the equipment. We will cover operating the system, basic camera adjustments, and scene selection.



Advanced training is also scheduled. It includes how to set up the system for a new service:

Saturday, Feb. 19                      8:00 to 9:00 AM

The new video and audio systems make it possible for people to join our services from their computers, phones or devices. That includes people who cannot attend services in person because of sickness, immobility or location, as well as church seekers who are curious and want to see what MLUMC is all about. Your help is needed to ensure that we can offer our livestreamed service to these people every week.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to sit in the balcony any Sunday during the 10:45 traditional service to observe the system in use. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kirk Lowe, [klowe1@gmail.com](mailto:klowe1@gmail.com) or Monica Kao, [mkao@mlumc.org](mailto:mkao@mlumc.org).

### 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!

## Special Terrific Tuesday Series for Lent - Beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>

We will hold a special series of Terrific Tuesday gatherings during the Lenten season, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and concluding on March 29<sup>th</sup>. As usual, activities will be provided for the entire family, beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Asbury Center, followed by age-appropriate activities at 6:45 p.m. We will finish each evening at 7:30 p.m.

### March 1<sup>st</sup>: Shrove Tuesday Celebration

Join us on the eve of Lent for an evening of fun and frivolity for all ages. A sausage and pancake supper will begin the night, followed by fun and games around the tables.

### March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, & 22<sup>nd</sup>: Lenten Study, The Passion Play

Recognize your own place in the story and Passion of Jesus. With few exceptions, the Oberammergau Passion Play has been presented by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany every 10 years since 1634. The play is a staging of Jesus'

Passion story, covering the final period of his life from his visit to Jerusalem to the journey to the cross..



#### **THE PASSION PLAY** Living the Story of Christ's Last Days

Inspired by the Oberammergau Passionspiele



In his book and study, *The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days*, author and pastor Rob Fuquay follows the biblical story of the Passion and how it has been experienced through the centuries against the backdrop of this amazing play. As you may have heard, the 2020 version of the Passion Play has been rescheduled to this year in Oberammergau.

Perfect for Lent, this study takes you on a journey to the origins of the Passion Play and helps you understand how the play has been used through the centuries. Each week, we will "travel" by video featuring author Rob Fuquay filmed on location in Oberammergau, Germany.

### March 29<sup>th</sup>: A Musical Celebration of the Life & Work of Charles Wesley

This date will be the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Charles Wesley in the year 1788. Our Pastor and Director of Music will lead us through this special celebration of his incredible life and work.

*W PA UMC Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi is leading a European educational tour this fall that includes a visit to the Oberammergau Passion Play. For information on the trip, go to "Join Bishop for Alpine Odyssey" on the website of the Western PA UMC Conference: [www.wpaumc.org](http://www.wpaumc.org) .*

## **A Presentation and Discussion on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

***Building the Beloved Community: How Everyone Can Play Their Part*** will be presented by educator, writer, and facilitator for equity and racial justice, Dr. Ali Michael. The Mt. Lebanon community-sponsored discussion is on Sunday, February 20, at 6:30 pm in the auditorium of Mt. Lebanon High School. The entire community is invited and encouraged to participate.

### **CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

#### **SUNDAY 2/13**

8:30 am	Youth Soup pick up	
8:30 am	Worship	Sanner Chapel
8:30 am	The Gathering	Asbury
9:30 am	Sunday School	Various
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary

#### **TUESDAY 2/15**

7:00 pm	Troop 23 Meeting	Wesley
7:00 pm	Troop 9023 Meeting	Network

#### **WEDNESDAY 2/16**

2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting	Zoom

#### **SATURDAY 12/16**

11:00 am	Dorothy King Memorial	Sanctuary
2:30 pm	Jean Lusk Memorial	Sanctuary