

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



Sharing the Love of Christ

3319 W. Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-531-7131 mlumc.org

Reverend Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor tstrandburg@mlumc.org

February 20, 2022

8:30 & 10:45

Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

When Jesus says that we should love our enemies, and do good to those who hate us, we might agree and nod our heads, and concede that this would be a good thing. It's part of our creed. The idea of loving the unlovable is a thread that has been woven into the fabric of our religious attire since we were old enough to recite "God is love" (1 John 4:7). But the harsh truth is that we have a hard time believing it. And further, it is fair to say that most Christians don't practice loving their enemies.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ...

*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

Prelude

Deep River

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our self-centered thoughts.

People: And open our eyes to see our neighbor in worship.

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave at the door our feelings of exclusiveness.

People: And open our minds to the possibilities of inclusion.

Leader: As we come to worship, let us leave outside our notion of generosity.

People: And open our hearts to the possibility of giving beyond our typical gift.

All: As we come to worship, let us open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to what can be instead of what is. For all of our gifts and for all possibilities, let us lift our voices in praise!

... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

*Opening Hymn

"Be thou my vision"

UMH451

*Opening Prayer (in unison)

Jesus, we claim to be your followers and we say that we are your disciples. Are we really living as you would have us live? Give us boldness to share your truth. Give us hearts that are willing to turn from our own desires to follow yours. Give us courage to love our enemies. Give us faith that triumphs doubt. If we are truly your followers, truly your disciples, please show us what that really means and let us not be afraid to live it out. Amen.

*Silent Prayer

Response

"O Spirit of the Living God" (vv.1-2)

UMH539

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 - 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 6:27-38

Love for Enemies

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

“Unreasonable Love”

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

At the Offertory

8:30

“Jesus, thine all-victorious Love”

UMH422

10:45

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
(Text available at UMH133)

Luigi Zaninelli (b.1932)
Kirby Dilworth, soloist

*Doxology

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

UMH94

... TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME!

*Closing Hymn

“Take my life, and let it be”

UMH399

*Benediction

*Postlude

Sortie-Improvisation

Today’s Services

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Johnathan Heath College by John, Donna, and Shannon College and Lauren.

Acolytes Emily and Evan Shoff

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. Sermons also will be posted to iTunes. Full recordings of the service are available upon request.

Today's Scriptures

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”



Ash Wednesday Services March 2

7:00 - 7:30 a.m. - Service of Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary, with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. - Individual Communion and Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary, with organ accompaniment. Come as you are able.

7:00 p.m. - Service of Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary, with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

Keep in Prayer

Convalescing in Care Facilities

Carolyn Dagg, Baptist Home
May Frederick, Baptist Home
Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village
Mark Lewis, ProMedica Greentree
George Lindow, Friendship Village
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, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
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James Iantelli, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz,
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Sgt. Brendan
Lampont, 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

In Sympathy

Memorial Service

Condolences are offered to the family of long-time church member Ed Reichard, who passed away Sunday, February 13, at the age of 93. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Bette Lou, his sons David and Rev. Timothy, and his daughter Beth. He is preceded in death by his daughter Cindy Lou.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary of MLUMC. The family will host a luncheon in Asbury Center following the service.

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 for the most up to date information

Pastor Tom Strandburg

Personnel Change in the Business Office

Virginia Katinsky has departed her position as our church business administrator, effective February 14th, 2022. We wish her well in her future endeavors. Joanne Dемpe will continue in her volunteer role as Acting Business Administrator until a permanent replacement can be hired. We thank Joanne for her faithful service!

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.

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 or Monica Kao, 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. Thank You!

Special Terrific Tuesday Series for Lent - Beginning on March 1st

We will hold a special series of Terrific Tuesday gatherings during the Lenten season, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, March 1st, and concluding on March 29th. 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 1st: 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.

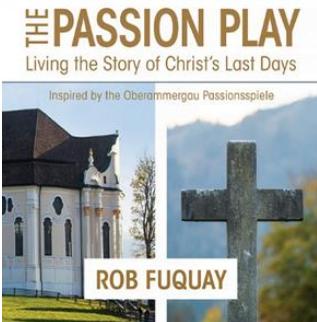
March 8th, 15th, & 22nd: Lenten Study, The Passion Play

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..



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 29th: A Musical Celebration of the Life & Work of Charles Wesley

This date will be the 234th 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 .

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!

CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20 THRU SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

SUNDAY 2/20

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	Wesley

MONDAY 2/21

OFFICE CLOSED – PRESIDENTS DAY

TUESDAY 2/22

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

WEDNESDAY 2/23

2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
7:00 pm	Bear, Tiger, and Wolf Den Meetings	Various

SATURDAY 2/26

Scouts Pinewood Derby