

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 27, 2022

8:30 & 10:45

Transfiguration Sunday

Israel wasn't seeing the blessings of God they were expecting to. They were doing everything they were supposed to do, they thought, but no blessings from God. Isaiah points out to the Israelites that they were simply going through the motions of worshiping and praising God - their hearts weren't in it. We'll talk about that as we move into the Lenten season.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ...

*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

Prelude *We Shall Overcome*

Adolphus Hailstork (b.1941)

Announcements

*Call to Worship

Pastor: We come together today in awe and wonder before the God we worship.

People: We also come burdened down with the worries of the world and the struggles of our individual lives.

Pastor: But in the midst of the worries and struggles is God, our radiant source of love and hope.

People: We worship together today in awe and wonder to worship the God who transforms our lives.

... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

*Opening Hymn

"Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

UMH173

***Opening Prayer (in unison)**

O God, the Ruler of all the universe, we approach Your throne with awe as we consider Your majesty. You, the mighty sovereign of all the world, have established justice and righteousness. We worship at Your footstool and praise Your great and awesome Name. As your Spirit enabled our forebears to see Your glory and then be transformed, so may the Holy Spirit fill us once more. Empower us to come down from the mountaintop to complete the work You have given us to do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

Response

Gloria Patri

UMH71

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 Old Testament

Isaiah 58:1-8

True Fasting

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

"Going Through the Motions"

Rev. Scott Miller

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

At the Offertory

8:30

"O wondrous sight! O vision fair"

UMH258

10:45

Couldn't hear nobody pray

Trad. spiritual

Timothi Williams, soloist

*Doxology

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

UMH94

Prayer of Dedication

... TO GO REJOICING IN GOD'S NAME!

*Closing Hymn

"Lift ev'ry voice and sing"

UMH519

*Benediction

*Postlude

Great day!

A. Hailstork

Today's Services

The flowers on the altar are given by Rob and Jane Spicher in loving memory of their parents: Howard and Marie Spicher and Richard and Bonnie Greene.

The flowers at the columbarium are given in loving memory of Cindy Reichard from her family.

Acolytes Abby and Emma Purtill

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

Isaiah 58:1-8

58Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

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

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,
John Middleton, 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
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,
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.

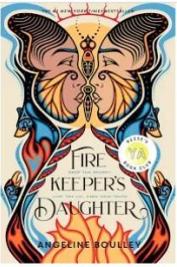
Ash Wednesday Services March 2

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

March Book Discussion Group



In an ongoing effort to discuss how Christians can work to fight racism and other social justice issues our church will continue to host book discussion groups. Please join us Monday, March 14 at 7 p.m. over zoom to discuss *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. Email Kim Rhoton to join krhoton@mlumc.org.

The young adult thriller, Fire Keeper's Daughter, is the story of a biracial Ojibwe teen who goes undercover to save her community.

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 time:

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.

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 Dempe will continue in her volunteer role as Acting Business Administrator until a permanent replacement can be hired. We thank Joanne for her faithful service!

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.

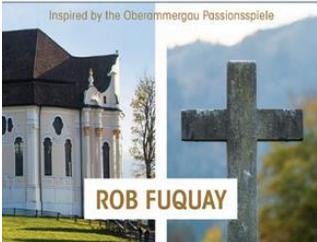
March 8th, 15th, & 22nd: Lenten Study, The Passion Play

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 .

CALENDAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 5

SUNDAY 2/27

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

TUESDAY 3/1

Shrove Tuesday

6:00 pm	Terrific Tuesday	Asbury
7:00 pm	Troop 23 Meeting	Wesley
7:00 pm	Troop 9023 Meeting	Network

WEDNESDAY 3/2

Ash Wednesday

7:00 am	Morning Prayer/Communion/Ashes	Sanctuary
7:30 am	Individual Communion & Ashes	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Welcome Center
2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer/Communion/Ashes	Sanctuary

MLUMC Staff

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg, Pastor
Rev. Scott A. F. Miller, Associate Pastor
Kim Rhoton, Director of Christian Education
Mitchell Stecker, Director of Music
Mettlise Ziegler, Weekday Ministries Director
Monica Kao, Communications Coordinator
Stephanie Lowe, Youth Director
B.J. Collins, Contemporary Music Director
Michelle Rizzo, Church Secretary
Juliette Mariani, Administrative Support

Michael Drabick, Maintenance Manager
Michael Staab, Facility Prep and Setup

MLUMC Volunteer Staff

Bishop George Bashore, Bishop-in-Residence
Dr. David H. Watson, Pastor Emeritus
Nancy R. Lutz, Director of Handbells
Joanne Dempe, Financial Secretary
Kirk Lowe, Multimedia/Sound
Natalie Miller, Multimedia/ The Gathering
Ethan Von Hedemann, Sound