



## Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Come home, home to the embrace of God.

**People: We are walking the Lenten path from past errors to future possibilities.**

**We are walking from haunting memories to a new day.**

**We are walking from troubling fears to a new hope.**

Leader: Come home, taste the goodness of God, hear the love of God, feel God's tender grace.

**People: We are walking toward wholeness.**

**We are on the path of joy, and our hearts are filled with thanks and praise.**

Leader: Come home this day; dwell with Christ in this holy place and in God's amazing grace.

... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

**\*Opening Hymn**            **"Faith, while trees are still in blossom"** (vv.1-4)            **UMH508**

### \*Opening Prayer (in unison)

O Divine Whisper, we listen best with our hearts. We hear the wisdom of the trees and the truth that whistles through the canyons. We hear the tears of a hurting friend and feel the joy of a kind word. We walk in Lent with our heads bent to hear your holy whispers. We journey with hearts open wide to receive your tender grace. We sojourn in Lent with hands outstretched to grasp your pull toward a future of justice and peace. With all our senses and with an open heart, we travel in the springtime of your love and follow the path to Easter joy. Amen.

### \*Silent Prayer

**Response**                    **"Faith, while trees are still in blossom"** (v. 5)                    **UMH508**

### 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 13:31-35                      Sorrow for Jerusalem

**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, deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Sermon**

"Your Future Self"

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

**At the Offertory**

**8:30**

"Above the hills of time"

John Esaias, Soloist

**10:45**

*His Voice as the Sound of the Dulcimer Sweet*

trad. American tune  
arr. David W. Music

*Christ's voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet is heard through the shadows of death;*

*The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet, the air is perfumed with his breath.*

*His lips as the fountain of righteousness flow, that waters the garden of grace;*

*From which their salvation the nations shall know, and bask in the smiles of his face.*

*O thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom in affliction I call;*

*My comfort by day and my song in the night: my hope, my salvation, my all.*

*Where dost thou at noontide resort with thy sheep, to feed on the pastures of love?*

*Say why in the valley of death should I weep, or lone in the wilderness rove?*

*The roses of Sharon, the lilies that grow, in the vales, on the banks of the streams,*

*On his cheeks in the beauty of excellence blow, and his eyes are as quivers of beams.*

*His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet is heard through the shadows of death;*

*The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet; the air is perfumed with his breath.*

\*Doxology                      "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"                      UMH95

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

\*Closing Hymn                      "What wondrous love is this! O my soul"                      UMH292

\*Benediction

\*Postlude                      *Variations on "Wondrous love" - var. 5, Toccata*                      R. Lau

Today's Services

**The flowers on the altar** are given in celebration of Joachim Alexander's 5th birthday from Mama, Papa and the guys (Addison, Agnes, Theodore, and Gideon). There are no birthday gifts as glorious as the one God gave to us all on this day when you were born. Happy birthday!! We love you very much.

**Acolytes** Emily and Evan Shoff                      **Cross Bearer** Bradley 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.

**Today's Scriptures**

**Luke 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## UPDATED COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

With the recent change to CDC masking recommendations, the Church Council asks that everyone make a decision for mask wearing based on their own personal needs. Therefore, masking is now optional in the large common spaces in our church, including for services of worship. Please extend grace and understanding to those who need to continue masking due to health concerns for themselves or those they care for. Due to the more confined spaces in our Educational Building, we ask that all of our children, youth, and teachers come to Sunday School prepared to mask, as circumstances warrant. Other small groups may make similar decisions for themselves, and Council supports them wholeheartedly.

### **Keep in Prayer**

#### **Convalescing in Care Facilities**

Carolyn Dagg, Baptist Home  
May Frederick, Baptist Home  
Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village  
Mark Lewis, Sunrise, Upper St. Clair  
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, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jaskiewicz  
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,  
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

#### **Memorial Service for Ed Reichard**

*Condolences are offered to the family of long-time church member Ed Reichard, who passed away Sunday, February 13, at the age of 93. 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.*

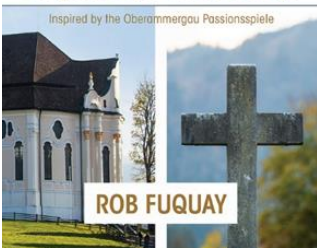
## Special Terrific Tuesday Series for Lent

We will hold a special series of Terrific Tuesday gatherings during this Lenten season. As usual, activities will be provided for the entire family, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. in Asbury Center, followed by age-appropriate activities at 6:45 p.m. We will finish each evening at 7:30 pm.

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



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



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. The 2020 version of the Passion Play has been rescheduled to this year in Oberammergau. 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

6,500 hymns! That's quite a contribution that Charles Wesley has made to Christianity, particularly to Methodism and its devotion, instruction, proclamation and public worship. According to UMC Discipleship Ministries, the Wesley hymns give our denomination a sense of identity and unity during this period of theological, liturgical and political diversity.

MLUMC's musical celebration on March 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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.

## Lenten Prayer Services Thursdays, 6:45 in the Sanctuary

**The Liturgy of Evening Prayer will be offered on the following Thursday nights from 6:45 - 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary - March 17, 24, 31, and April 7.** You are welcome to attend either in-person or remotely, the service will be livestreamed on our website, Facebook and YouTube

## 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, March 13            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](mailto:klowe1@gmail.com) or Monica Kao, [mkao@mlumc.org](mailto:mkao@mlumc.org).



**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 13 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

**SUNDAY 3/13**

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 3/15**

6:00 pm	Terrific Tuesday	Asbury
7:00 pm	Troop 23 Meeting	Wesley
7:00 pm	Troop 9023 Meeting	Network
7:00 pm	Scouts Court of Honor and Reception	Sanner/Welcome Center

**WEDNESDAY 3/16**

2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
5:30 pm	UMC Antiracism	Welcome Center
7:00 pm	Trustees	Zoom
7:00 pm	Cub Scout Meeting	Wesley

**THURSDAY 3/17**

6:45 pm	Lenten Prayer Service	Sanctuary
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**SATURDAY 3/19**

4:00 pm	Troop 23 Spaghetti Dinner	Asbury
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