

# Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



Sharing the Love of Christ

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

March 20, 2022

8:30 & 10:45

## Third Sunday in Lent

Although Covid-19 has made it hard to throw parties in the past two years, parties still happen. Fancy parties usually require an RSVP to an invitation. Online responses can range from staid to amusing to hilarious. Today's Isaiah text is an invitation. Will we "joyfully accept"? Or are we even remotely interested?

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

\*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

**Prelude**      *Prelude in e*      Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**Introit**

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Loving Christ, you are our gentle Shepherd.

**People: We are your people; we long to know your will and to live in your way.**

Leader: Keep us safe and secure in your compassionate hands.

**People: Lead us, gentle Shepherd, lead us into new paths of love and service.**

Leader: As you lead and guide us, touch our hearts and minds in this worship time,

**People: So that our spirits may be refreshed and our lives filled with joy and praise.**

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

**\*Opening Hymn**

**"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

**UMH474**

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

O Lord, increase our faith, renew our courage, and by your spirit make us victors over the things that beset us by giving our utmost to the highest. May your blessing rest upon all who give cups of cold water to others because they belong to Christ. Show us that in every way you are still with us, that in every sorrow you are still loving us, even unto the uttermost. And may our faith stand firm in your faithfulness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Silent Prayer**

**Response**

**"Great is Thy Faithfulness!" (v.1)**

**UMH140**

**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 Hebrew Scriptures**

Isaiah 55:1-9 Invitation to the feast

**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**

**"R.S.V.P."**

**Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg**

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

**At the Offertory**

8:30

**"Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing"**

UMH400

10:45

*Soul of Christ (Anima Christi)*

Philip Stopford

**\*Doxology**

**"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

UMH95

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

**\*Closing Hymn**

**"O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice"**

UMH391

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Was Gott tut, das ist Wohlgetan* (Krebs-WV549)

J. L. Krebs (1713-1780)

Today's Services

**The flowers on the altar** are given by William Timmons in loving memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert G. Timmons.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given in loving memory of Ed Reichard by Bette Lou Reichard and family.

**Acolytes** Silas and Asher Ward    **Cross Bearer** David Seitz

**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

### Isaiah 55:1-9

55Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**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 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

### 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

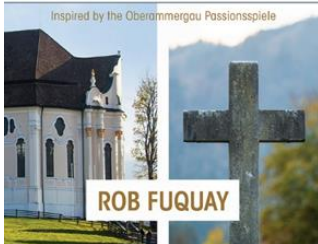
Jason Boyer, SPC Natalie Brown,  
PFC William Dilla III  
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,  
James Iantelli, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jaskiewicz  
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,  
James Iantelli, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jaskiewicz,  
S. Sgt. Keith Kimmell, Sgt. Brendan

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



## THE PASSION PLAY

Living the Story of Christ's Last Days



### Special Terrific Tuesday Series for Lent

We are holding a special series of Terrific Tuesday gatherings during this Lenten season. This Tuesday is our last study of The Passion Play, based on the book by Pastor Rob Fuquay, *The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days*. The play is about the final period of Jesus' life, from his visit to Jerusalem to the journey to the cross, as it is staged in the Oberammergau Passion Play, presented by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany.

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 at 7:30 pm.

### Terrific Tuesday on 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.



## COMMUNITY FISH FRY DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 4-7 PM

ASBURY CENTER

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT



### Good Friday Fish Fry – The Tradition Continues

This year's Good Friday Fish Fry will be on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, from 4pm to 7pm. As has been the case in prior years, there will be no charge for the meal, although donations will be accepted. Both eat-in and take out will be offered, as well as limited delivery to Food Pantry clients. Safety protocols will be in place to ensure that all are comfortable, notwithstanding the continuing presence of COVID 19.

As was the case in 2021, pre-packaged communion elements and a written message from Pastor Tom will be provided to those who wish to have them. Included with the message will be instructions as to how to take the elements. Offering communion will again be a great enhancement to the overall experience.

Although the menu has not yet been finalized, expect staples such as Cod (baked or fried), French fries, Cole slaw, Macaroni and Cheese, and Hush Puppies. More specifics will be provided on the menu in the coming weeks.

We plan to feed the masses on Good Friday and hope you will be among them. Thank you in advance for your support of this special Lenten event.

Rob Spicher, Community Events and Outreach Committee Chair

**CALENDAR – SUNDAY, MARCH 20 THRU SATURDAY, MARCH 26**

**SUNDAY 3/20**

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 3/21**

10:00 am	WDM CPR Training	Wesley
7:00 pm	Special Charge Conference	Zoom
7:30 pm	Community Events and Outreach	Zoom

**TUESDAY 3/22**

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

**WEDNESDAY 3/23**

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

**THURSDAY 3/24**

6:45 pm	Lenten Prayer Service	Sanctuary
7:30 pm	Chanel Choir Rehearsal	Sanner Chapel

**SATURDAY 3/25**

4:00 pm	Troop 23 Spaghetti Dinner	Asbury
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