

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

April 3, 2022

8:30 & 10:45

Fifth Sunday in Lent

If you've faltered in your Lenten disciplines, you may feel guilty for failing to do what you promised yourself — and God — you'd do. Wouldn't it be nice to have a reset? Isaiah, speaking for the Lord, promises something new. And Paul reminds us to forget what lies behind and look to what lies ahead.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ...

*Asterisk indicates to stand as able

Prelude "The Cross – Pt. II" John Esaias & Mitchell Stecker, piano

Announcements

*Call to Worship

Pastor: One step on the path, drawing closer to God.

All: We are returning home.

Pastor: Seeing the errors we've made, knowing more about ourselves.

All: We are turning toward home.

Pastor: Trusting in God's embrace,

All: We are coming home.

... TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD ...

***Opening Hymn** "We'll understand it better by and by" (vv.1-3) UMH525

***Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Loving God, patient Friend, walk with us this Lent and help us to see our desire to be known, praised, and admired for what it is. Help us to see how we have bought into believing that our worth comes from what we do and how we are noticed. Remind us that faithfulness is often hidden, humble and simple. Give us a generous dose of self-confidence mixed with humility. And when we get confused and out of balance, bring us home to our true selves and set our eyes upon Jesus, our companion and guide. Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

Response "We'll understand it better by and by" (v.4)

UMH525

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 Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 43:16-21 The Lord is doing a "new thing"

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 "Always a New Day"

Rev. Thomas Q. Strandburg

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

At the Offertory

8:30 "O food to pilgrims given"

UMH631

10:45 *Jesu, grant me this I pray*

C.H. Kitson

***Doxology**

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH95

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following

words . . .) Therefore, with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven, we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following

words. . .) Through him, with him, in him, in all the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

[Musical Setting E, U.M. Hymnal, p. 25]

AMEN.

Giving the Bread & Cup

Hymns During Communion

8:30 & 10:45

“Eat this bread”

UMH628

10:45

“O food to pilgrims given”

UMH631

Prayer following Communion

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

*Closing Hymn

“Pass me not, O gentle Savior”

UMH351

*Benediction

*Postlude

Preludio e Fuga in c

Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778-1837)

Today's Services

The flower arrangement provided for worship today is given by the Street and Diller families in loving memory of Jency Street.

Acolytes Abby and Emma Purtill **Cross Bearer** Rob Spicher

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 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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, 1st Lt. Jaskiewicz
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch, USMC,
James Iantelli, 1st 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,
LTC Matthew C. Wesmiller,
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski,
Sgt Michael Zimmerman

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.

Do No Harm Meeting: Ambiguous Loss Sunday, April 10th at 7 p.m

Come join the discussion on Ambiguous Loss Sunday, April 10th at 7 p.m. The monthly Do No Harm meeting will explore the concept of Ambiguous Loss in our personal lives, as well as in our community and world. Our conversation will include how societal inequity, our Methodist denomination schism, climate grief and pandemic losses have led to unresolved losses for all of us and how we as individuals and a church can move forward in this new world.

Join us in person in the Welcome Center or on Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, contact Francie Robb at francierobb@gmail.com.

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 15th, 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. Pastors Tom and Scott will also be available to serve communion in person to anyone desiring such. Offering communion will again be a great enhancement to the overall Good Friday experience.

The menu, although streamlined due to cost and COVID concerns, will nonetheless be more than plentiful. Cod (baked or fried), French fries, Cole slaw, Macaroni and Cheese, Hush Puppies, a Sandwich roll, and a Cookie packet will accompany all meals. Those eating in will also have access to beverages, fruit, and desserts.

We are working on having a COVID 19 vaccination clinic available during the Fish Fry for any attendees (or volunteers) who wish to be vaccinated. More particulars will be provided 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, APRIL 3 THRU SATURDAY, APRIL 9

SUNDAY 4/3

8:30 am	Worship	Sanner Chapel
9:30 am	Sunday School	Various
10:45 am	Worship	Sanctuary

MONDAY 4/4

7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	Wesley
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TUESDAY 4/5

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

WEDNESDAY 4/6

1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Welcome Center
2:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom

THURSDAY 4/7

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

FRIDAY 4/8

7 :00 pm	PK870 Arrow of Light	Epworth
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SATURDAY 4/9

10 :00 am	Eggstravaganza	Church lower level
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